

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

CREIGHTON

Can We Save Our Common Home?

Reflections on the Pope's
Historic Encyclical



**Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J.,
Installed as Creighton's
25th President**

**Saint John's Bible:
Old Meets New in Stunning
Bible on Loan to Creighton**

**While the World Watched:
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**Survey Says:
Results of Creighton-Gallup
Survey**

The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. *1943-2015*

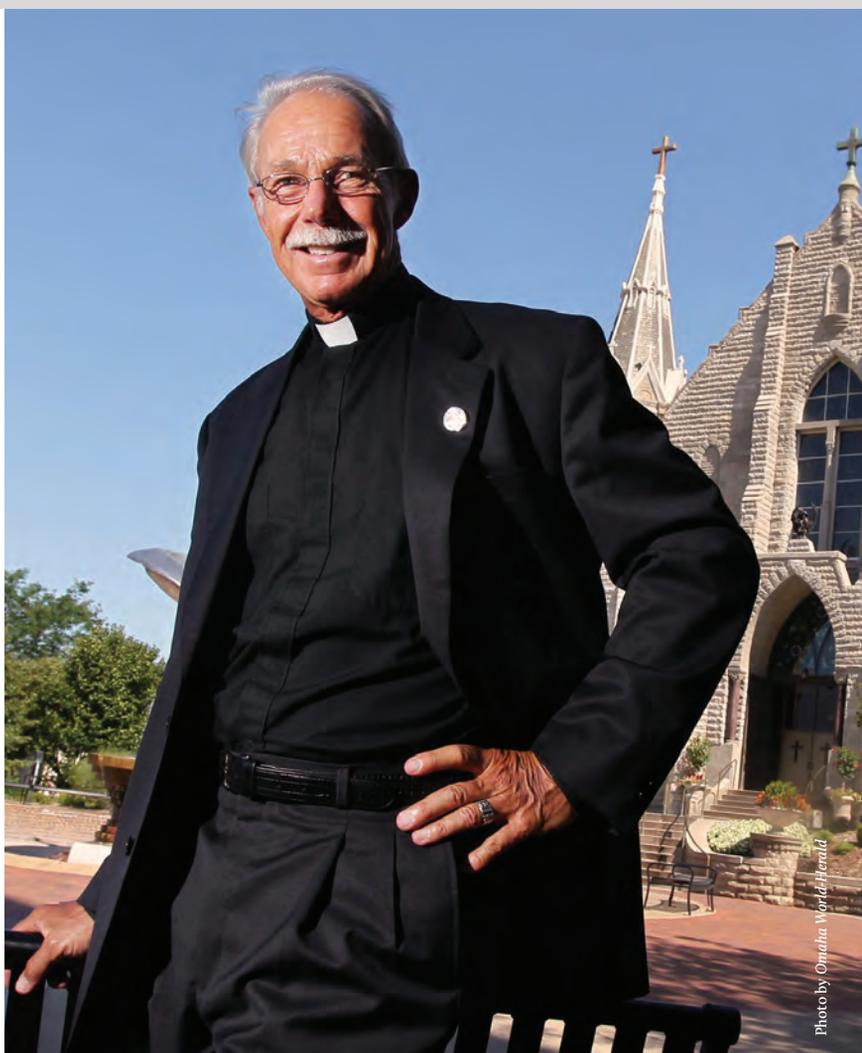
Creighton University fondly remembers and celebrates the life and spirit of its 23rd president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., who died of pancreatic cancer on Nov. 15 at the age of 72.

A passionate supporter of Catholic and Jesuit education, and friend to Creighton students, faculty, staff, alumni, benefactors and the greater Omaha community, Fr. Schlegel served as Creighton's president from 2000 to 2011.

Creighton University experienced much success and growth under Fr. Schlegel's leadership. His expansion of the campus — in terms of space and new facilities — provided a modern living and learning environment that spurred enrollment growth and enriched students' experiences.

He reinforced Creighton's Jesuit, Catholic identity, strengthening ties with the Omaha Archdiocese and merging the University's faith-based identity with its academic missions of teaching, research, scholarship and service.

A memorial website has been established at creighton.edu/schlegel.





A Supportive Community

Friends and classmates of Yoselin Deleon, Jennifer Guzman, Akuel Majouk and Mariana Ramirez gather together following a memorial Mass at St. John's Church on Oct. 25. The four young women, three of whom were current students and one a former student, were killed in an automobile accident on a stretch of highway near Beatrice, Neb., after swerving to avoid a deer. "We gather tonight in remembrance of our classmates, our students, our sisters, our daughters, our friends," Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., said during the memorial. "We do so in sadness, but we do so in solidarity. We are Creighton. And we are community."



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Creighton University Magazine's Purpose

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



Message from the President

I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received in returning to Creighton University and my home state of Nebraska. It is truly an honor to serve as the 25th president of this great institution.



I am humbled by this opportunity, and I am excited to partner with constituents across the University, especially our alumni, to build on the legacy of leadership of past presidents Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., and John P. Schlegel, S.J., and all of those who have made and continue to make Creighton such a unique and special place.

I grew up in Fremont, Neb., about an hour from Creighton's campus. I studied as a Jesuit scholastic in Creighton's Jesuit Humanities Program in the 1996-97 academic year, and I returned in 2000 to teach for three years in the Philosophy Department. Those years at Creighton University were wonderfully formative experiences. I gained a deep appreciation for the dedication and commitment of Creighton's faculty, and I was impressed by the inquisitiveness, openness and work ethic of Creighton's students. I'm proud to say that in my first few months returning as president, I have found those attributes continue to thrive and flourish here at Creighton University.

Under Fr. Lannon's leadership, I also had an opportunity to serve on Creighton University's Board of Trustees. Combined with my service on the boards of Boston College and Xavier University, these experiences have provided unique insights into the issues and complexities of Jesuit higher education.

As I expressed in my inaugural address, there is a real need to study and attempt to better understand the conditions and realities of those around us — whether these "neighbors" are living next door in a residence hall, in our community or halfway around the world. And then we need to provide opportunities for our students and ourselves to reflect on those realities and our role within them, so that we may offer a just response that uplifts humanity and deepens our relationship with God.

We, at Creighton, realize that this is not an easy journey. As I challenged our incoming freshman students at Academic Convocation, this is a time for them to break the boundaries of the familiar and friendly and go beyond their comfort zones. It is a time to search for self-understanding and to reflect on the challenges confronting our communities, nation and world.

I am confident that this freshman class — the largest in the history of Creighton University — will pick up this mantle, as have generations of Creighton students and alumni before them.

As I begin my first year as president, I encourage and welcome our alumni and friends to walk this path with us — to accompany Creighton University on a journey to an even brighter future.

Jesuit priest and poet Gerard Manley Hopkins indicates that our world is trod, seared, and bleared, and that social and global malaises can seem daunting. But his poetry reminds us that the world is also graced by God, and that each of us is called to dimensions of greatness.

May God be with you and your family during this holy season. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy new year!

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

Laudato Si: A Look at the Papal Encyclical on the Environment 16

Seven Creighton faculty members — from business to theology — reflect on Pope Francis’ 184-page encyclical on climate change, *Laudato Si*, and its messages and challenges for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.



With Poetry, Purpose & Prayer 24

The imagery-rich words of a 19th century Jesuit poet resonated across the decades to inspire nearly 2,000 members of the Creighton community and guests at the inauguration of the University’s 25th president, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J. Two former Creighton presidents were among those gathered.



Old Meets New in Stunning Bible on Loan to Creighton 28

A Heritage Edition of the Saint John’s Bible, the first handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible created by a Benedictine monastery in 500 years, is currently on loan to Creighton University. This distinctive seven-volume Bible combines spectacular modern-day imagery with meticulous Old World craftsmanship.



While the World Watched 34

The roots of international law trace back 70 years to Courtroom 600 in the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany, and the prosecution of Nazi war criminals who perpetrated the Holocaust. Today, Creighton law students stand in that very room and ponder issues of worldwide law and justice.



Survey Says 38

In late 2014, alumni participated in a survey jointly conducted by Creighton and Gallup, Inc., which was designed to discover the true value of a CU degree. The conclusions shed light on the ways in which Creighton delivers results that last a lifetime and revealed how the University stacks up in comparison with alumni of other universities nationally.



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View the magazine online at:
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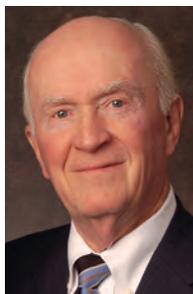
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alumninews@creighton.edu | 800.334.8794
or mail to University Relations, Creighton University,
2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178

Creighton Remembers Charles Heider

Friend, accomplished business leader, alumnus, generous benefactor. Creighton University remembers the life and spirit of **Charles “Charlie” Heider, BSC’49, HON’10**, who died July 30 at the age of 89.

“The Heiders’ generosity to Creighton has benefited our University in countless ways, and has strengthened our Jesuit,

Catholic foundation, in the mold of our original founders, the Creighton family,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.



Heider

In 2013, the Heider College of Business became the first named school at

the University — recognizing the ethical business leadership of the Heider family.

“Charlie was an amazing man, a real gentleman, and a very dear friend,” said Anthony Hendrickson, Ph.D., dean of the Heider College of Business. “We shared a passion of providing a business education experience that was grounded in a Jesuit, Catholic tradition.”

Charles and his wife, Mary, also established two endowed chairs at Creighton, one in cancer research and another recognizing Jesuit faculty. They also have established scholarships for students, and Heider Hall recognizes their generosity.

Heider served on Creighton’s Board of Trustees for 17 years and had emeritus status on the Board since 1997. In 2002, the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus bestowed on him and his wife the first Ignatian Leadership Award from the Jesuit Council of Omaha. He received Creighton’s Alumni Achievement Citation in 2003, and, in 2010, Charles and Mary received Creighton honorary doctorates of humane letters.

Hause Named Professor of the Year



Photo by Dave Weaver

Jeffrey Hause, Ph.D., a professor of philosophy and Classical and Near Eastern studies, was named the 2015 Nebraska Professor of the Year. This is the third consecutive year that a Creighton faculty member has been named professor of the year.



Watch a video about Jeffrey Hause at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

Cancer Centers Named for Creighton’s Lynch

CHI Health announced in September that the cancer centers at two of its hospitals — Immanuel Medical Center and Bergan Mercy Medical Center — would be named the Henry Lynch Cancer Centers in honor of the longtime Creighton University physician and researcher.

Holder of the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, Lynch has studied the cancer histories of



Lynch

more than 2,900 families in his more than 50-year career tracking the genetic linkages in certain forms of cancer. His name has been given to a syndrome in which defective genes that cause cancer — including cancers of the endometrium,

ovaries, brain and colon — are passed, one generation to the next.

Lynch, chairman of Creighton’s Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health and president of the Hereditary Cancer Institute, began his career in the early

1960s and came to Creighton in 1967.

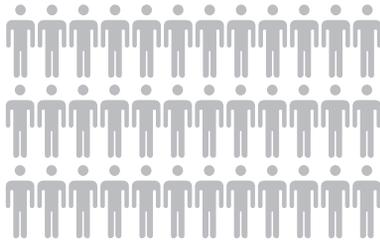
Lynch syndrome was first identified by the budding geneticist in the early 1960s. But, Lynch said, he had a hard fight on his hands to convince anyone of his findings.

“Nobody believed me,” he said. “At that time, cancer was all thought to be caused by environment. Exposure to chemicals. But I knew we had something here. I knew we could potentially save lives.”

Until Lynch syndrome was officially recognized in the 1980s, Lynch traveled and researched almost ceaselessly.

“Dr. Lynch has captained the hereditary cancer ship for 50 years, but the journey is far from over,” said Robert Dunlay, MD’81, dean of the School of Medicine. “The Henry Lynch Cancer Centers will serve as a platform that will ensure that Henry’s legacy of excellence in service to others continues here at Creighton University.”

Class of 2019 A snapshot of Creighton's undergraduate freshmen

1,068 

FRESHMEN IN THREE COLLEGES

College of Arts and Sciences

672

College of Nursing

115

Heider College of Business

281

No. 1

largest class in Creighton's history

37%

ranked in the top 10% of high school class

>30

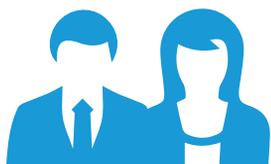
24% scored 30 or greater on the ACT

45%

come from more than

400

miles from Omaha



44%
male

56%
female



22

international freshmen

LARGEST MAJOR



213

BIOLOGY

first-generation college students

18%

students of color

30%

involved in church/service organizations

78%

were in honors/leadership organizations

44%

interested in CU professional programs

56%

Creating Art, Influencing Lives

Alumna and fine art professor Amy Nelson, BFA'97, MFA, earned the 2015 Midlands Mentoring Partnership Mentor of the Year award, while Creighton University was named the organization's 2015 Advocate of the Year. Nelson mentored high school students in the Kent Bellows program at the Joslyn Art Museum. She found the program allowed her to be "a mentor not only with art, but with life." Read more about Nelson at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.



Photo by Dave Weaver

The Gift of the Examen

By the Rev. Patrick Gilger, S.J., BA'02, and Kyle Lierk, BSBA'99

Let's turn and face some uncomfortable questions, the kind that we normally just let hover unnoticed at the periphery of our vision.

Is there a meaning to our lives? Some particular thing we are supposed to be doing? Is there a path we're supposed to be walking? And if there is, how can we find it? And how do we stay on it?

Speaking as Creighton alumni ourselves (one of us now a Jesuit priest, the other Creighton's director of Campus Ministry) these are more than run-of-the-mill questions. We think about them all the time when we're talking with the students who breathe life into the campus these days. We think about them when we're talking to one another, planning a retreat or a homily. We think about them when we're talking, reminiscing about our own time as students at Creighton University.

Having the space to think about how we are living our vocations, to listen to our students as they work to discover their path, their calling, is one of the best gifts we've received in returning to work at Creighton.



Photo by Dave Weaver

Fr. Patrick Gilger, S.J., left, and Kyle Lierk

It's a great gift. But — and this is the strange thing about gifts — it can't just stay here. It has to be given again.

We hope you'll find it fitting, then, that we have a gift for you, one that helps us

answer those uncomfortable questions. Not surprisingly, it's a traditional gift in that it comes from Creighton's Jesuit tradition. Wrapped neatly by the faithful hands of a saint nearly 500 years ago, it is a gift that has been passed along by countless Jesuits and lay people. It is a gift that is meant to be opened and re-gifted daily. The gift is none other than the *examen* as penned by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

The best and most powerful thing about this gift, we think, is that it lets us notice other gifts; it opens us to receiving gifts that we've been given but didn't accept because we didn't know they were there. This is how Ignatius experienced it in his own life, at least.

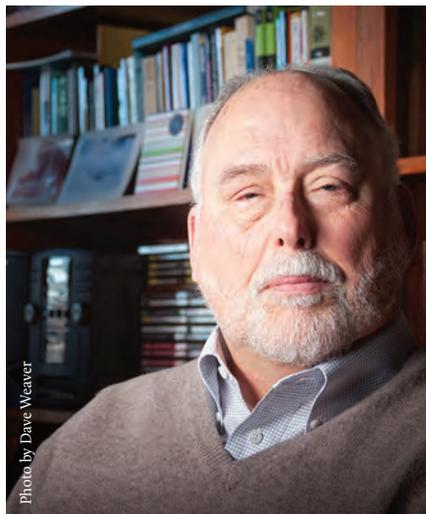
Ignatius was a soldier, born to a noble family in northern Spain. He was a devil-may-care daydreamer, a swashbuckler not given to facing uncomfortable questions. While convalescing from a grave injury suffered in battle, he had a spiritual experience. It wasn't a voice from the heavens, but a subtle thing that took the forced quiet of recuperation to notice. What was it? St. Ignatius noticed that some of those daydreams he was having would leave him, as he put it, "dry and discontented," wanting more. Other thoughts, he noticed, left him "content and happy even after having left them aside." In other words, lying in his

Wunsch Named First Holder of Schlegel Professorship

James Wunsch, Ph.D., professor of political science, has been selected as the first holder of the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Distinguished Professorship in Politics and Government.

Wunsch, whose areas of specialty touch comparative politics, public policy, and political thought and development, said he would like the professorship to focus on problems of global poverty and state performance, especially in Africa. Wunsch also noted that Fr. Schlegel was a valued mentor early in the professor's career.

Wunsch has done extensive field research,



James Wunsch

consulted and lectured throughout West, Southern and East Africa. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Ghana in 1971-72. He has published three books and more than 40 articles, chapters,

monographs and reviews focusing on issues of state performance and poverty.

"There is no individual at the University more richly deserving of this inaugural position than Dr. Wunsch, the senior-most member of the department and a faculty member whose leadership has helped to transform the College of Arts and Sciences," said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Bridget Keegan, Ph.D.

Fr. Schlegel was president of Creighton University from 2000 to 2011, and was also an assistant professor of political science at Creighton before taking on a succession of leadership roles, including serving as assistant vice president of academic affairs at Creighton, academic dean of Rockhurst University, dean of Arts and Sciences at Marquette University, and executive and academic vice president at John Carroll University. Fr. Schlegel served as president of the University of San Francisco from 1991 to 2000, when he returned to Creighton.

sickbed, Ignatius was finally able to notice that God was speaking to him less in words than in joyful, sustaining desires. If we are willing to take note, perhaps we can do the same.

The gift of the *examen* is really nothing more than the method Ignatius used to practice noticing his deep and sustaining desires. Ignatius made this a habit for himself, often pausing once at noon and again at the end of the day to notice where he had accepted and moved toward his sustaining desires and where he had chosen to move away.

In teaching the practice to others, he would recommend five steps. Today, when we teach it to the students here at Creighton or practice it ourselves, we describe them like this:

1. **Invite:** Begin by inviting God to be with you, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you. Especially ask that you be able to notice and experience again the memories that come.
2. **Remember:** A review of the day's events follows. Trusting that the Holy Spirit is with you, let your minds roam. Let images, scenes, people, interactions bubble to the surface.
3. **Notice:** Often there is one scene, one person, one feeling that seems most important or tugs at your

attention most strongly. Maybe it was an argument with a colleague or a spouse, maybe a smile of support given by a friend. Whatever it is, the invitation in this third step is to remember and to notice the gratitude or sadness, the joy or frustration.

4. **Share:** Then turn to God, sharing with God how you feel about that moment, that person. Was it a time when you said yes to a sustaining desire in you? Maybe you are moved with gratitude and want to celebrate or say thank you. Was it a time you said no and turned away toward fleeting joys? Give yourself a chance to feel that sadness and frustration — and to invite in some healing.
5. **Ask:** End by looking to the afternoon or to tomorrow. Tell God how you feel about what is coming and what you need to remain in your sustaining desires as it comes. Is there a presentation you've been anxious about giving? Ask for calm. A friend coming to visit who you haven't seen in a long time? Share with God your excitement.

We hope these steps are helpful — maybe it's helpful to tick them off your fingers —

but don't let them trip you up. The point is not to complete a task, it's to notice where God is opening a path for you by showing you what your deep desires are — and being honest about when we say yes to those desires and when we say no.

With time, we think you'll find the *examen* to be a gift that keeps on giving. It will be easier to face the uncomfortable questions with confidence that God is with you now, pointing out to you a path of life.

Examen Videos

In the spirit of gift-giving, we got together and made a series of videos where the two of us walk through an *examen* together and then prompt you to try it yourself. We hope this helps you notice the gifts — the sustaining desires — that God is already placing in your life.

View the videos at
creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

A Powerful Legacy

By Danae Mercer, BA'09

A scholarship honoring the legacy of Creighton graduate Terri Lynn Criner answered Anissa McGee's prayers



Anissa McGee, BS'12, works with a patient at Health-South Desert Canyon Rehabilitation Hospital in Las Vegas as part of her occupational therapy studies fieldwork.

During her second year studying occupational therapy at Creighton University's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, **Anissa McGee, BS'12**, finished a call with her parents and then checked her email. What she read changed her Creighton education.

"I was worried about finances, and being able to pay for school," remembers the 25-year-old student. "We were talking about my budget and how to handle my loans."

The email gave her good news: McGee was the recipient of the Terri Lynn Criner "That's What Friends are For" award for the 2015-2016 academic year. "I didn't believe it," she explains. "It was as if God was listening to my prayers and granted me this wonderful opportunity."

The scholarship honors the legacy of a woman who excelled, even while facing challenges. Criner was a single parent and the sole supporter of her household while completing Creighton's Bachelor of Science degree program in occupational therapy. She graduated in 1994 and went on to a successful career as an occupational therapist in Nebraska before her tragic death from a blood clot in 1997.

The title of the scholarship award — "That's What Friends are For" — was chosen to commemorate Criner's "vast love for helping others in a time of need," says Shirley Blanchard, Ph.D., associate professor of occupational therapy, and one of Criner's former professors who helped establish the scholarship.

"We wanted to let students know that monetary support is just one aspect to being successful in the occupational therapy program," Blanchard says. "Care of the whole person is also important."

While McGee had never met Criner, she was encouraged by her story of optimism and perseverance in applying for the award.

"She was a positive person all through school, and it sort of reminded me of myself," McGee says.

"I always want to be positive and try to help people."

McGee says she chose Creighton because of its Jesuit values, its supportive faculty, its personalized approach to teaching and the example of her father, Halvor Sim McGee, PhD'09.

"In 2009, he was the first African-American male from Creighton University to receive a Ph.D. in the Biomedical Sciences Department," she says. This inspired Anissa to try to become the second doctor in her family — and to do so at Creighton.

As a Creighton undergraduate, McGee immersed herself in the University's opportunities. She worked with 10 other women to establish a multicultural sorority, Sigma Lambda Gamma. She also volunteered in the community, working with Hand in Hand, Creighton Clean Up, the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter and Habitat for Humanity. McGee graduated with a B.A. in exercise science in 2012.

"Anissa lives with the Ignatian value of magis," says Blanchard. "She loves to learn and will be traveling to Hebei Province in China to complete a professional rotation. The interest in exercise science, other cultures and rehabilitation speak to her creating independent learning, and sharing her learning with others."

"I think what makes Anissa unique is her maturity and focus," says Al Bracciano, Ph.D., associate professor of occupational therapy. "She is self-directed and isn't afraid to seek out guidance." McGee would often tutor classmates who were struggling, notes Bracciano, helping in "her quiet, focused way, without limelight or fanfare."

McGee is grateful for the scholarship and all the opportunities she has had at Creighton.

"It feels like a second home to me," she says. "I wouldn't be here without the help from my professors. When I was filled with doubt, my professors encouraged me to never give up."

health briefs

CU-Developed Test May Reduce Need for Dental Fillings

The days of “drill-and-fill” as the standard solution for tooth decay may be numbered if a discovery by a Creighton School of Dentistry professor continues to advance.

Douglas Benn, DDS, Ph.D., has created a simple diagnostic liquid solution that — when applied to the surface of a patient’s tooth prior to a dental X-ray — can show dentists whether a tooth has cavitated decay or is pre-cavity. Pre-cavity decay



can often be treated with new topical products, avoiding the need for drilling and filling and costly follow-up repairs.

With the use of the diagnostic liquid solution, Benn estimates 50 percent of cases resulting in dental fillings could be delayed or avoided. It can also help dentists pick up more infection that could otherwise go unnoticed, he says.

Benn has received funding for this research from the National Institutes of Health and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Agrawal Develops Novel Approach to Coronary Grafts

Creighton researcher Devendra Agrawal, Ph.D., has received a four-year, \$2.9 million National Institutes of Health grant to study the effects of gene and stem cell therapy in coronary artery bypass grafts.

This first-of-its-kind undertaking could transform the procedure, increase survival rates and dramatically reduce the possibility of re-occlusion of the grafted



arteries and veins in the procedure.

“It’s a novel and innovative approach that a number of people in my lab have

worked extremely hard to make happen,” says Agrawal, who has been a professor of biomedical sciences at Creighton for 30 years and has multiple NIH grants to his credit.

“To our knowledge, nobody has done both gene therapy and stem cell therapy, but we’ve seen that you have to have both for the success of the coronary procedure and to take care of the potential for re-occlusion and thrombosis afterwards.”

Agrawal and his team of researchers and surgeons, which included Jeff Sugimoto, M.D., head of cardiothoracic surgery at CHI Creighton University Medical Center, were able to design a procedure whereby the defect in a protein causing the re-occlusion can be corrected before the grafting of the vein. Stem cells, derived from the patients’ bone marrow, are then used to regenerate a layer of cells to strengthen the artery and keep it clear.

North Part of TB Study

Jeff North, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacy sciences at Creighton, and a team of researchers recently received a four-year grant for more than \$2 million from the National Institutes of Health to further study a drug that could revolutionize tuberculosis treatment worldwide.



A course of anti-TB drugs typically takes six months in its shortest form, but research by North and his colleagues might be able to significantly reduce the time it takes to get patients cured of the disease.

“We’ve known for awhile we needed to find a drug with a new way to kill TB,” North says. “If we can take six months and make that four months or even two months, we can greatly reduce the pill burden and lessen the impact of some of the other factors involved, something like a civil war or unrest that can make it hard to get treatment to patients.”

Gene Modulation Could Lead to Hearing Restoration

Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, Ph.D., associate professor of oral biology at Creighton and an

expert in the biology and physiology of the inner ear, has developed a method to temporally modify the expression a gene (retinoblastoma-1, or RB1) in mice that can allow for the regrowth of cells in the inner ear and potentially restore hearing and balance caused by the loss of sensory hair cells.

Sensory hair cells, once lost, are unable to regenerate, leading to hearing loss, deafness and balance impairment. The modulation of gene expression for just a brief period has shown the potential for significant developments in inner-ear sensory hair cell replacement therapy.

“We’re very excited about what this means for inner-ear research,” Rocha-Sanchez says. “Although preliminary, we think the chances are great that this can be eventually translated into human therapies.”

Are Formula-fed Babies More Overweight?

Initial findings in a study by Misty Schwartz, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor of nursing, and Barbara Synowiecki, assistant professor of nursing, shows that formula-fed infants are no more likely to be overweight than breast-fed infants.

“There is this popular belief that formula-fed babies are more likely to be overweight, but we are not finding that to be true in our study,” Schwartz says.

The researchers measured the growth of both breast-fed and formula-fed infants over a six-month period, taking physical measurements that included weight, length, head circumference and skin folds.

The study is unique in its focus.

“There are lots of studies focusing on the benefits of breastfeeding, but there are very few focused on formula-fed babies’ level of nutrition,” Schwartz says.



Encouraging the Faith

By Rick Davis, BA'88

Insurgents Destroyed His Church, But Not His Spirit

The Rev. Peter Uchebo can talk openly about it now. “The first time I told my story, tears streamed down my face,” says Fr. Uchebo, whose gentle demeanor and broad, warm smile belie the horror and the tragedy he has witnessed.

Fr. Peter — as he prefers to be called — was a student in Creighton’s graduate program in Christian Spirituality this summer, and hopes (“God willing”) to return again next summer to continue his studies. Ordained a priest in 2010, he is the pastor of Lady of Fatima Church in the northeast Nigerian village of Bahuli, which, in September 2014, was overrun by Boko Haram militants.

“It was very, very terrible,” Fr. Peter says.

The Islamic terror group is accused of killing more than 5,000 Catholics over a six-year period in Fr. Peter’s diocese of Maiduguri alone.

A report by the diocese also found another 100,000 Catholics displaced, 7,000 widowed and nearly 10,000 children orphaned by Boko Haram-related violence within its boundaries. More than 350 churches in the diocese were the targets of terror attacks, the report states, with a “good number of them destroyed more than once.”

Boko Haram’s most infamous international-headline-grabbing act came in April 2014 when it kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok, which is also in the Maiduguri diocese.

Schools, Fr. Peter says, have been targets of Boko Haram — whose name loosely translates as “Western education is forbidden” — as have Christian churches and villages. Fr. Peter’s village of Bahuli is about 90 percent Christian.

From September 2014 to January 2015, Boko Haram forcefully took control of

nearly 20,000-square miles of northeastern Nigeria, looking to advance its goal of establishing an Islamic state. Many of those who fled came through Bahuli — including those of a nearby village, who told of Boko Haram’s advances.

“I was very scared when I was told that they were coming,” Fr. Peter says. “But I needed to be strong to strengthen the people.”

So the young priest turned to prayer and tending to the spiritual needs of his people.



Photo by Dave Weaver

The Rev. Peter Uchebo helped his people flee Boko Haram militants in Nigeria. Contributions can be made to the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri through Fidelity Bank. The account number is 6060065899, and the swift code is FIDTNGLA.

“I had to celebrate Mass with them and encourage them,” Fr. Peter says. “Some of them relied on me, saying, ‘Father, what is the next step to take?’ We had to pray and ask God to guide us.”

Fr. Peter and his extended flock decided to flee to the neighboring African nation of Cameroon. It was an arduous journey.

“We had to push for many days,” he says, “relying on eating grass, and not having something to drink.”

During their exodus and exile in the refugee camps in Cameroon, he continued to turn to prayer.

“Every night, before I went to bed, I asked

the Good Lord to make me strong, so that I can strengthen the people.”

Fr. Peter returned to Bahuli in December 2014, after the village was resecured by government forces. The militants burned down the church, but they didn’t extinguish the faith. “Right now, we worship under a tree,” Fr. Peter says. “My church is not standing, but my people are deeper in faith. The faith of the people is thriving.” A Muslim leader in the community, tears rolling down his face, would tell him that Boko Haram does not represent his Islamic faith.

The bishop of the diocese of Maiduguri recommended that the 33-year-old

Fr. Peter attend Creighton’s Christian Spirituality Program (CSP), as a way to heal from the trauma and continue to grow in his faith. It was his first trip to the United States. It was painful to tell his story, especially at first.

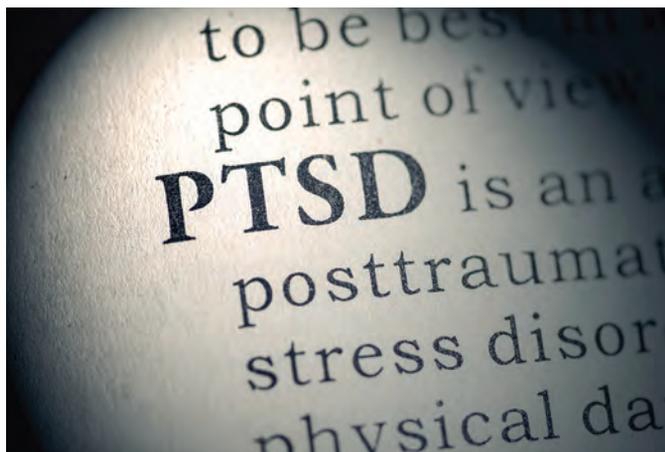
“With CSP, I’ve come to understand that as a priest, you are offering your life as a living sacrifice,” Fr. Peter says.

“I want to return to my people to tell them how God loves them, to encourage them,” Fr. Peter says. Then, reflecting on his Creighton studies, he adds: “I have a lot to share with them, a lot to share with them.”

New Treatment Hope for PTSD?

Creighton psychology professor Amy Badura-Brack, Ph.D., and her team of researchers have found that a seemingly simple computer program — something almost like a game — has opened a new way of understanding the brain's actions and reactions in patients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Their study, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, reports promising results for the treatment of military veterans with PTSD. The researchers hope that Attention Control Training (ACT) — as the program is known — will offer a new and much less emotionally taxing type of treatment for PTSD, which affects about 9 percent of the U.S. population.



How did this study begin?

At Ease USA, a nonprofit agency that supports active and retired U.S. military personnel, announced it was funding a trial on attention training for PTSD, and I jumped at the opportunity. I led the Creighton University team with (then student) Timothy McDermott, BA'15, recent graduate and research coordinator Tara Ryan, BSBA'10, and associate professor of psychology Maya Khanna, Ph.D. Professor Yair Bar-Haim, Ph.D., led a team from Tel-Aviv University in Israel. Daniel Pine, M.D., from the National Institute of Mental Health, was integral in the research as well.

How does your treatment work?

Everyone has a threat-monitoring system, which allows us to distinguish between dangerous and neutral stimuli and respond appropriately. Individuals with PTSD have disrupted threat monitoring that fluctuates between dwelling on and avoiding a perceived threat. Attention Control Training (ACT) is a computerized attention-training program that normalizes these intense fluctuations.

How does the program work to normalize the fluctuations brought on by PTSD?

The program presents two stimuli (one threatening and one neutral) on a computer screen, followed by an arrow pointing left or right. Participants are asked to indicate which way the arrow points. Because the task requires participants to focus on that arrow, rather than the two stimuli, the treatment implicitly teaches participants that potentially threatening stimuli (in a safe environment) are irrelevant to completing the task.

What were the results of these sessions?

After ACT treatment, the veterans' PTSD symptoms were significantly reduced. To offer some context, many veterans described improvements in daily functions, as well as reduced symptoms. For example, during deployments, veterans may experience traumatic combat events while driving in convoys that lead to PTSD. After treatment, these veterans described that, while driving their own vehicles, they were no longer being triggered into intense PTSD symptoms by seeing a rock on the side of the road that reminded them of a potential bomb. The veterans were able to ignore irrelevant, potentially threatening information in a safe environment. Treatment allowed them to stay focused on the task at hand — driving — in this example.

Were there any surprises you found during your research?

Yes, the main surprise was how effective this simple treatment was. In all honesty, I began the clinical trial hoping to find a helpful add-on treatment to traditional exposure therapy for PTSD. I did not initially expect ACT to be a standalone intervention. However, given the results of the trial, ACT — by itself — can reduce symptoms of PTSD below diagnostic thresholds, so I am excited about its effectiveness.

How do you plan to move forward with your research?

I am pleased that At Ease USA has funded a second grant, allowing us to create a Web-deliverable version of this intervention. I am actively working with Dr. Bar-Haim and Dr. Pine toward the completion of this goal. We should begin our next phase of clinical trials to tweak and validate the ACT treatment to maximize effectiveness in 2016. We will also test ACT's effectiveness in PTSD related to other types of trauma as well as an intervention delivered over the Internet instead of in a clinic. After these trials are complete, we expect to offer mental health professionals access to the treatment so that they can prescribe it to their patients.

How do you hope your research will help individuals suffering from PTSD?

I look forward to validating this treatment's effectiveness and then making it available for therapeutic use to help people suffering with symptoms of post-traumatic stress. I deeply hope that the treatment we tested in this research will be supported in the next round of trials. The treatment is quick, easy and effective.

Participants Needed for Upcoming Study

Persons with either noncombat (e.g. sexual assault, motor vehicle accident) or combat-related PTSD who are interested in participating in the next round of clinical trials are invited to contact:

Amy Badura-Brack, Ph.D., at
AmyBaduraBrack@creighton.edu or 402.280.1229

When Students Become Teachers

By Benjamin Gleisser

Creighton medical students participate in collaborative outreach with Omaha's Maya community



Creighton University medical students Aaron Fried, left, and Rob Windisch visit and play with children at the central office of the Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim in South Omaha as part of the Maya Community Health Collaborative.

Alfredo (not his real name) is a typical teenage boy. As he sits quietly in the back of the meeting room, elbows on his knees, looking at the floor, the Maya teen gives off the aloof vibe of someone who would rather be anywhere else this evening.

Yet for some reason, he has come to this discussion on the benefits of exercise and nutrition, an event sponsored by the Maya Community Health Collaborative (MCHC), and led by students from the Creighton University School of Medicine in collaboration with Maya community partners.

The Maya, an indigenous people from Guatemala, Belize, southern parts of Mexico and the western portions of El Salvador and Honduras, began migrating to the U.S. in

the 1980s to escape political upheaval and persecution in their countries. Attracted by affordable living costs and job opportunities, the Maya began settling in Omaha in the mid-1990s.

Pixan Ixim, a Maya community group that promotes culture and education, estimates that about 1,500 Maya live in Omaha. Unfortunately, like many uprooted communities that have been transplanted to a new country, they are facing the challenges of learning to cope with a different way of

life. And many of these challenges revolve around maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Attendance is robust at these biweekly mentoring and health education talks. As this evening's lecture turns into a community forum, many in the audience begin sharing stories of their homeland, and then ask poignant, probing questions of the Creighton medical students.

By the end of the night, Alfredo is sitting upright and listening intently to the speakers. Perhaps Alfredo is imagining a time in the future when he might be a med student, working for the betterment of his people.

Matt Kiblinger, a third-year medical student, is one of the founding members of the MCHC and one of the first co-presidents.

Before entering medical school, he spent several months in Guatemala, living near the home region of many Omaha Maya emigres. His desire to help communities that are medically underserved led him to volunteer with the MCHC.

“In medical school, it’s easy to get lost in your own world,” Kiblinger says. “Working with the MCHC is a way to reach out to people I wouldn’t otherwise meet.”

And as to working with youngsters like Alfredo, “It’s really great to see high school students who, at first, keep to themselves and act like it’s not cool to interact with grown-ups, then begin feeling comfortable and getting involved in discussions,” he adds. “They share stories and sometimes we even get together and play soccer with them.”

Kiblinger and 23 other medical students work with the MCHC, a program collaboratively developed with Maya community leaders Luis Marcos and Lucia Francisco and Creighton School of Medicine Professor John Stone, Ph.D., M.D., a faculty member in Creighton’s Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and co-founder and co-executive director of Creighton’s Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality.

But the MCHC dispenses more than just health advice, Kiblinger says: “We help older kids with things like résumé building, and talk with some of the younger ones about problems that second-generation immigrants face in school, like bullying and whatever they feel is important to talk about.”

Filling a Need

In 2007, Stone and his wife, Janet, began teaching English as a Second Language to members of the Maya community because, “We were interested in helping a community with a disadvantage,” Stone says.

After Marcos met Stone and discovered he was not only a doctor, but served in Creighton’s Center for Health Policy and Ethics, Marcos suggested that the two collaborate on setting up a program in the Maya community that would raise awareness of health needs.

“The Maya is one of the first native First Nations in the Western Hemisphere,” says Marcos, who adds that the culture can be traced back at least 10,000 years to areas in Central America. Marcos says that among the Maya population that has settled in

the United States, “we are seeing a rise in diabetes. We’re also seeing more problems with cholesterol, and alcoholism seems to be high in the community. The MCHC is important because it will establish a comprehensive medical plan for us that will work with our spirituality. We carry with us the resolve to be a self-determination people.”

One difficulty facing the Maya is the language barrier. “Because we have a similar complexion to Hispanics, many people assume we speak Spanish,” Marcos says. In fact, there are more than 23 Maya languages

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“Our spirituality encourages us to get to know and respect other cultures, and meeting Creighton students gives us a way to interact with another culture. It also helps medical students in their education process, because they’re learning to understand what it’s like to work in a multicultural environment.”

**Luis Marcos
Maya Community Leader**

.....

spoken in Guatemala alone, and Spanish is a second language for many Maya people.

“A Maya woman went into a clinic to get treatment for a lung problem and the doctor misdiagnosed her for tuberculosis,” Marcos says, “because she didn’t understand his questions.” Marcos hopes the MCHC will be able to train Maya as interpreters that will accompany patients to doctors’ offices.

In 2013, Stone and Marcos, in collaboration with Creighton’s Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality, developed an introductory training program for Maya community members to become community health workers. Spanish-speaking medical students were invited and volunteered to assist in the training. The students and community members agreed to collaborate in developing health education

programs for the Maya community. Early efforts involved mentoring Maya youngsters and giving presentations on health topics for the community. Nine students volunteered. Today, 24 students are involved in the group.

And in addition to holding the informative health-discussion nights, members of the MCHC have prepared to assist in a Maya community health assessment study to determine which health issues most concern the Maya. Research is currently underway on the three-phase study.

The Two-Way Street

Marcos said the MCHC is a win-win proposition because everyone benefits from the program.

“It’s a two-way street,” he says. “Our spirituality encourages us to get to know and respect other cultures, and meeting Creighton students gives us a way to interact with another culture. It also helps medical students in their education process, because they’re learning to understand what it’s like to work in a multicultural environment.”

Second-year medical student Aaron Fried volunteers with the MCHC because he was a Hispanic studies minor and, as an undergraduate, spent a summer in Guatemala before beginning medical school. Today, he is co-president of the group.

“My trip to Guatemala was a very powerful experience,” he says. “It was eye-opening to see the roots of some prominent attitudes the community has toward health care. For example, we found that many people in the Maya communities avoid health care services unless there is a specific need. A specific need was most often trauma, physical injury or severe pain. This contrasts with here in the U.S., where we encourage health care services on a regular, preventive basis.”

Reflecting on his work with the MCHC, Fried says, “Creighton students value giving service to others, and what I get most out of my work is developing friendships with people and creating an environment that inspires trust.”

Michelle Marieni, a third-year medical student who is a founding member and one of the first co-presidents for the MCHC, says it’s exciting to help empower the Maya people to advocate for themselves. “I hope to incorporate advocacy, education and community health into my career as a physician,” she says.

Laudato Si

By Tony Flott

Chatting with Creighton Associate Professor Richard Miller, Ph.D., about climate change is not for the faint of heart. Director of Creighton's M.A. in Theology program, Miller talks of four-foot rises in sea levels that will spell the end of Miami, New Orleans, Tampa Bay, Charleston and other coastal cities. He talks of permanent drought in the U.S. Southwest and of radical transformation to the economy.

A look at the papal encyclical on the environment



Photo by Massimo Vallecchia/NurPhoto

To him, there will be no return to an idyllic Eden.

“We choose between catastrophes,” Miller says. “That’s our choice at this point.”

For more than 10 years, Miller has reviewed climate reports — every day. He edited *God, Creation, and Climate Change: A Catholic Response to the Environmental Crisis*, winner of a 2011 Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada book award in the faith and science category. He has been sounding the bell that change is coming — and change is needed.

Now he’s got company — the sort Catholic theologians like to keep. In May, Pope Francis released *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, his much-anticipated encyclical on the environment. Named after the hymn on creation by the pope’s guiding namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, the 38,000-plus-word encyclical covers climate change, biodiversity, water, societal breakdown, population growth and much more. It is addressed to the whole world, a change from nearly every past encyclical addressed only to Catholics.

The pope, at times, is no less strident than Miller. In Chapter 4, paragraph 161, the pope writes:

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world.

Laudato Si has impressed numerous Creighton faculty — Catholic or not. “What really amazed me is how comprehensive the encyclical was,” says business professor Peter Gallo, Ph.D. “I felt in the first 40 pages or so, it touched so many things I had studied in different disciplines, from public policy to engineering to business.”

Says Barbara Dilly, Ph.D., an associate professor of cultural anthropology: “It doesn’t have holes in it. You can try to weasel your way out of these things, but if you’re a person of faith and if you’re an educated person, there’s nowhere you can find a hole in it, intellectually, spiritually.”

Theology Professor John O’Keefe, Ph.D., says the pope is preaching ecological conversion — pleading for a change of life at the individual level. “It’s never been applied quite so forcefully to environmental living,” O’Keefe says. “He really thinks the future of the world is at stake. We need to face reality and change the way we live.”

Until now, says Miller, many of the arguments urging action against climate change were scientific or economic in nature.

“What the pope brings to the public debate, which I think is a game-changer, is ethics. Ethics does not require scientific certitude. It requires credible evidence. Here’s a pope who’s the head of 1.2 billion Catholics. That’s a big deal.”

It’s already become a big deal at Creighton,

which has offered a degree program in environmental science for more than 20 years, one of the first Catholic universities to do so. The program boasts several hundred graduates. More recently it has launched a degree program in sustainability.

Given its far-flung reach, Pope Francis’ encyclical offers something for faculty across numerous disciplines.

Here’s a brief look at what seven Creighton faculty got out of *Laudato Si*.

Technology, Markets Peter Gallo, Ph.D.

Peter Gallo had never read an encyclical. Until, that is, he picked up *Laudato Si*.

“It fell into my wheelhouse,” Gallo says. “Maybe I should be reading more encyclicals.”

The assistant professor of strategy and entrepreneurship in Creighton’s Heider College of Business liked what he read. Gallo, whose primary research interest is the integration of social and ecological sustainability principles with strategy and entrepreneurship, was particularly intrigued by the pope’s take on technology and markets.

“I was originally trained as an engineer,” says Gallo, who holds a degree in environmental energy engineering from Stanford University, “and when I had these passions about the environment, I thought I needed to go out and use the technology to solve the problem. That would help save the environment.”

But, he continues, many solutions already are available.

“That’s not what’s holding us back from accomplishing these social and environmental goals,” says Gallo, who grew up in south Florida in the 1970s, a period when the state was experiencing a water crisis. “There’s this sort of mythology of progress that technology always leads to progress and humanity



“There are numerous statements from the Jesuits that actually echo what the pope says in this document. Jesuit schools such as Creighton, it seems to me, at this point can’t avoid this. We have to become more committed if we’re going to be consistent with the leadership we say we follow.” — *John O’Keefe*

will continue to improve through technological progress.”

But, he adds, technology often comes with a price and unexpected consequences. The pope addresses the issue in *Laudato Si*:

Technology, which, linked to business interests, is presented as the only way of solving these problems, in fact proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others.

Gallo also agreed, with some reservation, about Pope Francis’ take on “deified markets.” The pope writes:

We need to reject a magical conception of the market, which would suggest that problems can be solved simply by an increase in the profits of companies or individuals.

Change of Course John O’Keefe, Ph.D.

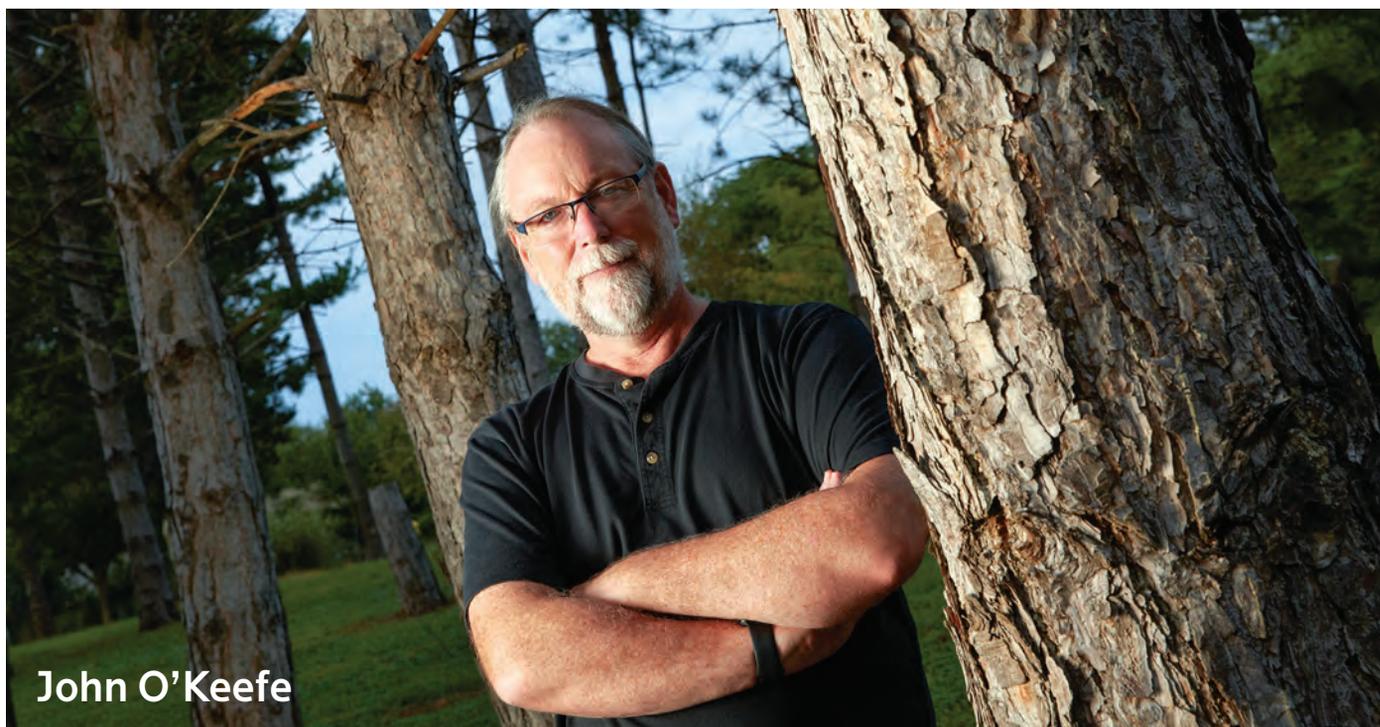
With *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis signals a change of direction, says John O’Keefe, professor of theology and the Amelia B. and Emil G. Graff Faculty Chair in Catholic Theological Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Environmental theologians,” O’Keefe says, have for some time talked of the need to stop thinking about the earth as existing solely for human purposes.

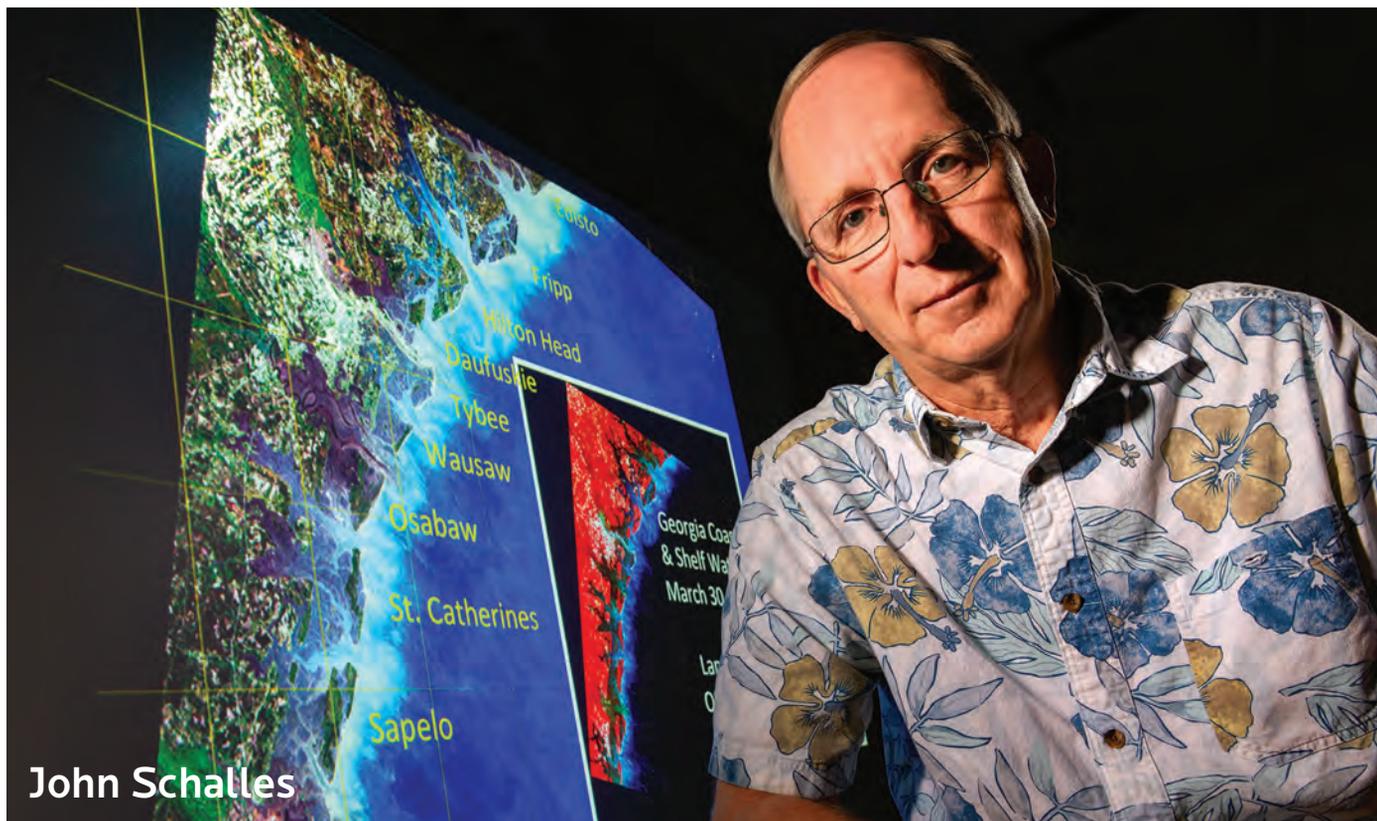
“We have to stop filtering the whole world through an anthropomorphic lens,” O’Keefe says.

Previous papal statements have been anthropomorphic, he says, “But not Francis. He really changes course on that. It’s a pretty big change of direction for theology. I was struck by that.”

The approach, he says, doesn’t mean other creatures are equal to humans, “but that other creatures have intrinsic value in the eyes of God. Once you start thinking



John O’Keefe



about the intrinsic value of other beings on the earth, that they have a right to exist independent of how they serve us, that's a pretty big shift."

O'Keefe has written extensively on the environment and the Catholic Church. And in 2013, he edited the *Journal of Religion & Society* article "The Greening of the Papacy." He says *Laudato Si* differs from previous encyclicals in other ways, too.

"I think it takes more risks. It's less politically cautious. He's more willing to say things that would really irritate some people, and I think in the past there has been a little bit less of that, which may in part be why so many provoke so little reaction."

Most encyclicals are read by theologians or really passionate Catholics, O'Keefe says.

"This one, it feels like everyone has to read it and respond to it. That to me says he was intentionally taking great risks."

The Big Picture

John Schalles, Ph.D.

John Schalles, a longtime biology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, likes looking at the big picture. And that's what Pope Francis delivers, he says, in *Laudato Si*.

Schalles, co-founder and former director of Creighton's Environmental Science Program, uses data from satellites and the International Space Station to investigate changes in

coastal ecosystems, especially in Georgia. That's through the National Science Foundation Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research project.

"In many ways, it's a macroscopic view of our planet that is so important right now," Schalles says. "We can see, literally before our eyes, these changes." He points to 28 years of satellite data examining the Georgia salt marshes that he and graduate student John O'Donnell study at Sapelo Island.

"Changes are obvious in the landscape," Schalles says. "We find evidence that marsh productivity is slowly deteriorating."

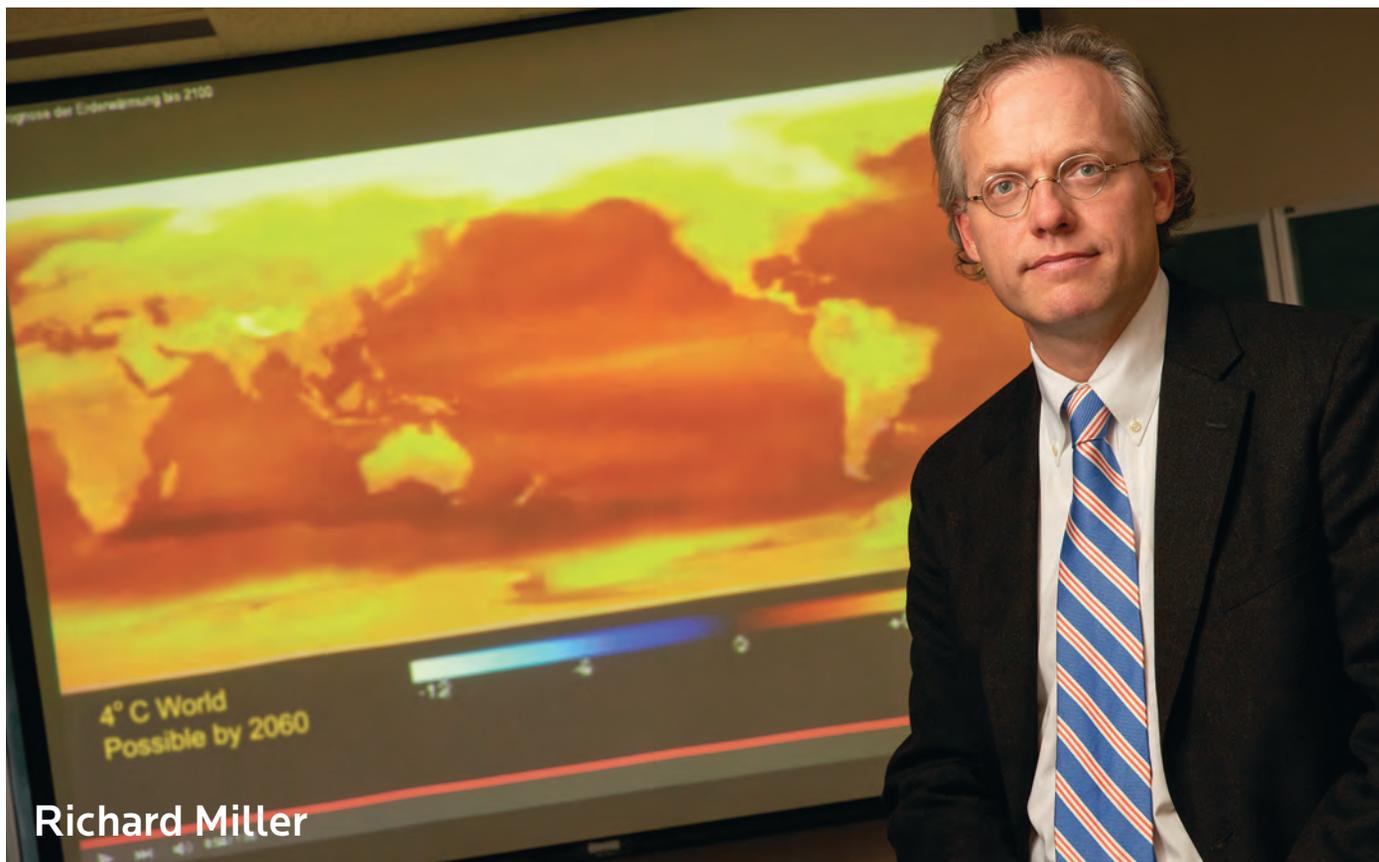
The pope also provides a top-down view in *Laudato Si*.

"The overall scope was impressive," says Schalles, who has taught at Creighton since 1979. "And how well the pope was able to merge science with nonscience topics, especially that relate to religious teaching, philosophy, social science and economics. It's expansive. Yet I think it's cohesive, too. It's a good argument for the complexity of our problems."

That was especially true, says Schalles, as the pope talked of ecosystems and the larger connections in nature.

That ranges from discussion of concerns specific to Schalles' work ("In some coastal areas the disappearance of ecosystems sustained by mangrove swamps is a source of serious concern") to more minute considerations ("the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms").

Says Schalles: "Anymore, it's very clear one cannot practice ecosystem science without considering the human dimension. We cannot visit any ecosystem on the planet and find ourselves removed from human presence or impact."



“What the pope brings to the public debate, which I think is a game-changer, is ethics. Ethics does not require scientific certitude. It requires credible evidence. Here’s a pope who’s the head of 1.2 billion Catholics. That’s a big deal.” – *Richard Miller, Ph.D.*

Finding Facts Amid the Faith **Richard Miller, Ph.D.**

Though he’s director of the Graduate School’s M.A. in Theology program and an associate professor of theology in the College of Arts and Sciences, Richard Miller’s first read of the pope’s encyclical wasn’t for faith, but for facts.

“For me, the big question going in was, would they get the science correct?” Miller says. “Second: Was the tone going to be adequate to what scientists were saying? What you see in the American press corps ... is not close to what the scientists are telling us.”

Miller has his ear to the ground. For about 10 years, he says, he’s been reading the scientific literature about climate change, “very carefully, every day.” And what he’s reading isn’t exactly comforting. It’s summarized in Miller’s email signature that quotes a statement from a synthesis paper penned by 20 winners of the Blue Planet Prize:

In the face of an absolutely unprecedented emergency [i.e., climate change] society has no choice but to take dramatic action to avert a collapse of civilization.

When Miller started reading *Laudato Si*, he wanted to know, “Was the encyclical going to catch that?”

It does, Miller says, in part because the pope leans on previous work done by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and by bishop conferences from around the world.

“He doesn’t overstate the problem,” Miller says. “He gets it about right.” He points to several passages from the encyclical to support that take: “We can see



Barbara Dilly

signs that things are now reaching a breaking point” and mention of the “radical change which present circumstances require.”

“I think the tone of the encyclical was right in line with the science and what we’re facing,” Miller says. “He didn’t overstate it by any stretch, and I think he got it about right.”

An Encyclical that Plants Roots

Barbara Dilly, Ph.D.

Creighton Professor Barbara Dilly is big into fruits and veggies. But she concedes there’s a lot of meat to *Laudato Si*.

“The overriding message that I got is everybody’s got to change,” says Dilly, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Cultural and Social Studies.

In Omaha and elsewhere, she helps make change possible through community gardens.

That includes the Bluejay Community Garden adjacent to the Creighton campus. It’s an example of what the pope writes about as “practical relativism.”

“It argues that we need to put labor in a different relationship with the environment compared to the current perspective that sees labor and nature as something to be exploited in the marketplace for the interests of others,” Dilly writes. “Community gardens place labor in a relationship with nature that is not exploitative.”

The Bluejay Garden includes two projects. One is a flower garden Dilly coordinates and CU students maintain. The other project is Root Down, a garden coordinated with the Refugee Empowerment Center. There, refugees from several areas in Asia grow vegetables during the summer.

It’s not just sustainability being planted. Community gardens help give people “meaning to their labors” and help them “be who they are,” says Dilly. It also connects

“It doesn’t have holes in it.

You can try to weasel your way out of these things, but if you’re a person of faith and if you’re an educated person, there’s nowhere you can find a hole in it, intellectually, spiritually.”

— *Barbara Dilly, Ph.D.*



Graham Ramsden

them to each other, to the surrounding community and beyond. It's something Pope Francis specifically addresses in *Laudato Si*:

Many intensive forms of environmental exploitation and degradation not only exhaust the resources which provide local communities with their livelihood, but also undo the social structures which, for a long time, shaped cultural identity and their sense of the meaning of life and community. The disappearance of a culture can be just as serious, or even more serious, than the disappearance of a species of plant or animal. The imposition of a dominant lifestyle linked to a single form of production can be just as harmful as the altering of ecosystems.

Giving 'Em Something to Talk About

Graham Ramsden, Ph.D.

It's no wonder Graham Ramsden reads *Laudato Si* and thinks politics. Ramsden is, after all, chair of Creighton's Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. "I think in terms of, What's his strategy? What's his angle?" Ramsden says. "Why is he doing it this way?"

Governments trying to improve the environment typically rely on carrots (tax breaks for solar panels), sticks (fines, regulations) or sermons ("shame tactics").

Ramsden sees Pope Francis' encyclical as none of those. Rather, it's a matter of agenda-setting. "There are so many problems facing the planet," Ramsden says. "None of these problems gets solved until they're put on the world to-do list. In a sense, he's saying we need to get this on the agenda, folks, and you can figure out the solution. Get people talking about it such that it becomes a problem that policy-makers have to solve because people are clamoring for a solution."

Ramsden, who teaches a seminar on environmental politics

and policy, spent the summer in Vermont, one of the most democratically liberal and environmentally conscious states. "Up here, he's preaching to the converted," Ramsden says. "They're cheering him on."

More people might do so as the U.S. presidential election campaign continues.

"I think it will be a salient issue in the campaign," Ramsden says. "It's getting on the agenda. It's become more of a salient issue in the next presidential election. He just happened to make it more so, especially among Catholics."

Cause for Hope

Jay Leighter, Ph.D.

Jay Leighter cracked open *Laudato Si* and looked for what he loved. "Part of the beauty of the encyclical is being able to look for a piece that really speaks to you," says the professor in the Department of Communication Studies and director of Creighton's Sustainability Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

And what speaks to Leighter is hope.

With good reason. For Creighton students who feel committed to solving such weighty issues as environmental crises, "that comes with a lot of emotional weight."

"It can be a very discouraging enterprise," Leighter says.

And so Leighter wants to "figure out the ways the Church and things like faith and spirituality can help buoy students when they're feeling down about the gravity of this situation. It's no different than people who work in social work or case workers who do violence prevention for women and people who work on issues of poverty."

He found hope in *Laudato Si* nearly from its start. In the section "A Variety of Opinions" the pope writes:

But we need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair. Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems.

Elsewhere the pope writes:

How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles!

If things get too heavy for Creighton's sustainability studies students, Leighter can point them to *Laudato Si*.

"I'm not a theology professor and I'll probably be referring to it literally for years as a place to understand how to connect biblical teaching and Catholic social teaching with education," he says. "I need to learn as a faculty member a way to kind of balance the gravity of the situation and also feel like students can continue to push forward."



From left to right: Creighton students Garrett Fox, David Rice, Jessica Sheldon and Haley Ourado, along with faculty member Jay Leighter.

With Poetry, Purpose & Prayer

By Cindy Murphy McMahon, BA'74

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., is officially installed as the 25th president of Creighton University



The imagery-rich words of a 19th century Jesuit poet resonated across the decades to inspire those gathered for the inauguration of Creighton University's 25th president.

“I say more,” British poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J., wrote in his poem “As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame,” which the new president, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., had chosen as a theme for the installation ceremony.

Fr. Hendrickson stated in his inaugural address that Hopkins “simply says of any one of us, ‘I say more.’ It is something Creighton has always said.”

The Fremont, Neb., native, who previously has been affiliated with Creighton as a student, teacher and trustee, said it was clear to him that, “Creighton keeps saying, ‘I say more,’ and today, in my new role, and as your new president, I do likewise.”



The Very Rev. Thomas A. Lawler, S.J., provincial of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus and principal celebrant at the Missioning Mass, is flanked by the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., left, and the Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., the twin brother of Creighton's new president. The altar cloth was created by CU staff member Maureen Beat to illustrate the inaugural theme.

Other inaugural events included the Missioning Mass at St. John's Church, which while solemn and uplifting, had its lighthearted moments as well. Fr. Hendrickson's identical twin brother, the Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., associate professor of modern languages and literatures at Loyola Chicago University, began his homily by saying that when his brother asked him to give the missioning homily, he thought, "Boy, I could have some fun with this."

Nearly 2,000 gathered for the Oct. 2 installation. Among those were two past presidents of Creighton, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., who served Creighton from 2000 to 2011, and the Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., president from 2011 to January 2015.

For the Creighton community, it was not only historic but also emotional to witness all three presidents on the same stage. Frs. Schlegel and Lannon placed the presidential chain of office around Fr. Hendrickson's neck in a powerful, symbolic act of transition.

Fr. Hendrickson recognized the former leaders by saying, "Fr. Schlegel, Fr. Lannon — John and Tim — thank you for your service to a place so close to your heart, thank you for giving

your life to the apostolate of Jesuit education, thank you for your fraternity in our shared life, and thank you for being here today."

Speakers included Church and elected leaders, delegates from other institutions and representatives of the many facets of the Creighton community, including faculty, staff, alumni and students. The Most Rev. William Dendinger, bishop emeritus of Grand Island, Neb., and a cousin of Fr. Hendrickson's mother, Mary, prayed in the invocation that the new president be granted "the strength of Samson, the fiery rhetoric of Jeremiah, the wisdom of Isaiah, the listening heart of Jonah and a heart for the Beatitudes of Jesus."

Many of the speakers, in the tradition of higher education presidential installations, offered "charges" to Fr. Hendrickson, with words of congratulations, advice and support.

Mayor Jean Stothert of Omaha, in her charge, noted that, "The neighborhoods around the campus are changing and growing into places of innovation, entrepreneurship and urban living," and told Fr. Hendrickson, "We value your leadership and partnership in this transformation."

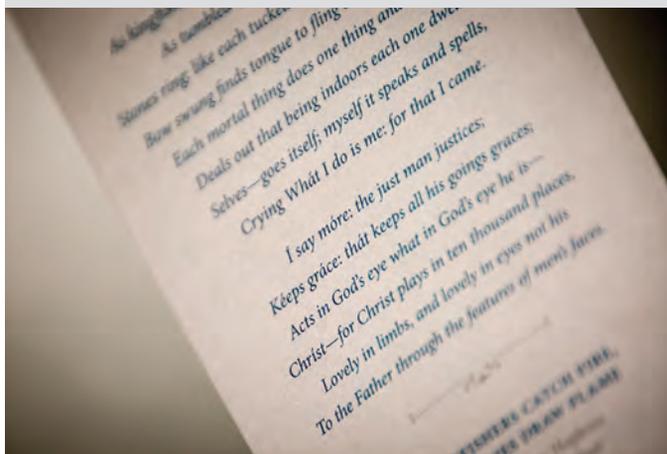
*"Creighton educates experts and professionals
with sound souls and strong hearts."*

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.



‘I Say More’

Watch the video produced for the inaugural, in which members of the Creighton community bring life to Gerard Manley Hopkins’ poem “As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame,” the inaugural theme. Online at: creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.



Students Eleanor Titiml and Troy Rowan, top, carry banners bearing Jesuit values at the Missioning Mass. Above, past presidents the Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., left, and the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., adorn Fr. Hendrickson with the presidential chain of office during the installation ceremony.

Fr. Hendrickson told the crowd that when he thinks of the impact of Jesuit education, he goes back to 1989 and recalls three important realities during his first year in Jesuit higher education.

The events that made an impression upon him as a freshman at Marquette University included reading the biographies of the four Jesuit finalists for the open position of president of Marquette. “Of each of them, I sensed depth and breadth,” Fr. Hendrickson said. “The university made a great choice, and our new president brought fresh perspective and great energy.

“And in the midst of this, in that same first semester, on another Jesuit campus in a different country, at the University of Central America in San Salvador, El Salvador, a different Jesuit president and his Jesuit colleagues — for the work they were doing in Jesuit higher education — were killed. The assassination of six Jesuits and two women shocked us, and what I was learning about Jesuits and my own Jesuit university was placed in new perspective.

“To a new student, suddenly, Jesuit higher learning was global; its pedagogy was even more powerful; and its mission to transform people and places was now prophetic.”

The third event Fr. Hendrickson recalled was that same semester’s Mass of the Holy Spirit. “In the church of Gesu, with the chanting of *Veni Sancta Spiritus* and through clouds of incense, Jesuits streamed in from all sides. In procession with lay collaborators, and in an over-packed university church, I was impacted by an experience I can still see, hear and smell, and I immediately knew that Jesuit education was part of a bigger, grander reality, and I wanted to be part of it.”

He also alluded to three people he called “wisdom figures,” each of whom were present at the installation: the Rev. Albert DiUlio, S.J., the former president of Marquette University he had spoken of; the Rev. William Leahy, S.J., the president of Boston College since 1996 and the chaplain of Fr. Hendrickson’s freshman residence hall; and Megan Laverty, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and education at Teachers College Columbia University in New York, and his dissertation sponsor at Columbia.

He invoked the Rev. Matteo Ricci, S.J., who, in 16th century China, personified the global scope of Jesuit ministry; and the Rev. Pedro Arrupe, S.J., the mid-20th century superior general, who challenged Jesuit educators to be agents of change.

“Ricci and Arrupe are both and at once roots and revolution,” Fr. Hendrickson said, as he tied the two Jesuits’ vision and legacies to the announcement of two initiatives (sidebar at right).

“As I ponder American higher education today, and think of the role of the Jesuit university in particular, Ricci and Arrupe are helpful. The need for us today to study the landscapes of our own lives is prescient, and the need for understanding the conditions and realities of those around us is just as urgent. At an institution like ours, with nine colleges, with programs of expertise in a broad range of health sciences, law, business and the humanities, we are poised to meet such needs.”

He emphasized that the humanities — philosophy, theology, history, language and literature — are essential to Creighton, ensuring that “Creighton educates experts and professionals with sound souls and strong hearts.”

Fr. Hendrickson Announces Global Initiative, Catholic Social Teaching Fund



Megan Murobayashi, BA'13, ARTS'13, right, converses with a Ugandan woman on the 2011 Creighton Backpack Journalism trip.

The **Creighton Global Initiative (CGI)** — the first of the two initiatives the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., announced in his inaugural address — is an effort to animate, enrich and embrace the global focus of the Creighton community.

International education and service are especially imperative to Fr. Hendrickson, who frequently alludes to his own transformative experiences in some 23 countries on nearly every continent.

The CGI is a seed-funding program that creates opportunities for faculty, staff and students to explore global perspectives, embracing Jesuit higher education’s long tradition for building global networks and outreach. Creighton has a remarkable international track record, currently sponsoring 21 academic, service, research, internship and volunteer programs in 17 countries.

Fr. Hendrickson revealed that Creighton alumni and friends have generously given nearly \$4 million to the CGI, and more fundraising is underway. Awards will be granted to faculty, staff and students to pursue projects with an intentional global focus that meet established criteria. To learn more about the CGI, visit creighton.edu/office-president/creighton-global-initiative.

The second initiative involves the **Catholic Social Teaching Fund**, an endowment made possible by two anonymous alumni donors. The effort will fund programs to educate “not just our campus, nor just our city, but a regional sphere of influence in and around the Midwest,” Fr. Hendrickson said, adding that the programs funded will ensure that Creighton continues its leadership in promoting human dignity in its many forms, “thereby strengthening our Jesuit, Catholic mission.”

GLORY TO GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST
HEAVEN,

AND ON EARTH
PEACE AMONG
THOSE WHOM
HE FAVORS!

*To give light
to those
who sit in darkness
and in
the shadow
of death*

BY THE TENDER MERCY OF
OUR GOD, THE DAWN FROM ON
HIGH WILL BREAK UPON US

OLD Meets NEW

in Stunning Bible on Loan to Creighton

By Rick Davis, BA'88

Old World craftsmanship and tradition coalesce with modern technology and current-day imagery in the Heritage Edition of the Saint John's Bible, a distinctive seven-volume Bible currently on loan to Creighton University.

The Saint John's Bible, based on the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, is the first handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in over 500 years.

"I am very excited about having this beautiful Bible on loan to us," says Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, Creighton's vice provost for mission and ministry. "It is such a treasure for the people of the Creighton community to ponder and let the Word find a home in their hearts through the marriage of word and art."

The Heritage Edition of the Saint John's Bible is on loan to Creighton University from Michael McCarthy, chair of the Board of Trustees, and his wife, Nancy. A similar version of the Bible was donated to the Library of Congress in honor of Pope Francis' visit to the United States in September.

"It is the hope of my wife, Nancy, and I that this Bible serves as a source of inspiration, spiritual reflection, artistic value and academic inquiry for Creighton University students, faculty and alumni, along with the wider community," McCarthy says. "I believe that displaying this Bible at Creighton is a wonderful fit with the University's academic and Jesuit, Catholic mission."

Renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson served as artistic director for the Saint John's Bible. Jackson is the official scribe and calligrapher to the Crown Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Creating a hand-illuminated Bible was one of his life's dreams.

Saint John's University and Saint John's Abbey in Minnesota commissioned the project in 1998, and a team primarily consisting of six calligraphers and six artists, including Jackson, began work on the Bible — using quills, handmade inks, gold and silver leaf, and calf-skin vellum.

The original volumes — completed in 2011, but yet to be bound — are housed at Saint John's University when not on exhibition elsewhere.

The Heritage Edition is the fine art version of the Saint John's Bible. Only 299 Heritage Editions were created. Its 1,150 pages, like the original, feature 160 rich and colorful illuminations embossed with gold and silver foil.

In addition to traditional illustrations, the artists also incorporated modern-day themes in an effort to create "a Bible for the times" — with artistic interpretations of the double helix

Facing page, an illumination of the nativity scene, from the first page of the Book of Luke. At left, the opening pages of the Book of Matthew.



Photo courtesy of Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2014



Photo by Dave Weaver

Above, from left, Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J.; his brother, the Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J.; and Creighton Board Chair Michael McCarthy and his wife, Nancy, look over one of the books of the Saint John's Bible following the presidential inauguration Missioning Mass in October. The Bible was on display during the Mass at St. John's Church. A Heritage Edition of the Saint John's Bible is on loan to the University as a gift from the McCarthys. At right, the seven volumes of the Bible are hand-stitched and bound in a handcrafted, embossed red-leather cover with the volume title and number imprinted in gold foil along the spine and finished off with an ornamental silver clasp.



Photo courtesy of Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2014

representing DNA, images of space from the Hubble telescope, New York's Twin Towers and Earth as seen from space.

"It is artistically so modern, so present," Burke-Sullivan says. "It gives us an opportunity to dig deep into the wisdom of the tradition, to have this touchstone in the Word, that allows us to be both ancient and ever-new."

Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D., a biblical expert and the Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization at Creighton, says the Saint John's Bible can inform us of and connect us with the efforts of past generations to preserve and share the sacred Scripture.

"It's a reflection of the fact that the preservation of the biblical text — which is so uniquely authoritative for so many people — ultimately resided in the labor-intensive efforts of scribes, who copied this material from century to century," Greenspoon says. "Everything in the West up until 1453, when Gutenberg invented movable type, was written by hand. It's easy to forget that now."

Burke-Sullivan says the Bible will be incorporated into student coursework in a variety of disciplines and will open up opportunities for research and scholarship. Public displays also are planned.

Sharing the Saint John's Bible with a wider audience is the goal behind the Heritage Edition, says Jim Triggs, executive director of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Program.

Jackson was intimately involved in the creation of the Heritage Edition, which required technically advanced printing techniques combined with Old World craftsmanship. (For instance, Ivelina Seykova, an immigrant from Bulgaria, now working at Roswell Bookbinding in Arizona, was selected to hand-stitch the pages of the Heritage Edition "because of her skills at getting the tension just right," Triggs says.)

He also had the Bibles printed on 100 percent cotton paper, specially designed by a paper mill in New Hampshire, to maintain the look and feel of the original vellum.

Creighton Archivist David Crawford is excited to welcome the Bible to the Rare Books Room in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, where it is on display in a case built by the Abbey's monks to accommodate its large size. (The Bible measures about three feet across when opened.) He expects the Bible to have wide appeal.

"This particular Bible ... resonates on so many different levels," Crawford says. "It inspires people of faith. At the same time, it is moving for people fascinated by art. It engages scientists. Theologians have commented about how they like how this art has brought out particular ideas."

Crawford said he was impressed by the details in the illustrations. He cites the illustration of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse from the Book of Revelation. "In that illustration, there are radiation warning signs," Crawford says, "and there is the structure of a diseased cell."

That attention to detail extended to creating faux "bleed-through." Bleed-through occurs when a faint impression bleeds through to the other side of the page. The paper stock and printing process basically eliminated the bleed-through. "So they took the image from the front side of the page, flipped it



Photo by Mark Rauenhorst, BA'75

Above, from left, at the presentation of a Saint John's Bible to the Library of Congress are Abbot John Klassen; Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.); Librarian of Congress James Billington; Pope Francis; former House Speaker John Boehner; Saint John's University President Michael Hemesath; and GHR Foundation CEO Amy Rauenhorst Goldman.

Picture Perfect

Mark Rauenhorst, BA'75, is a member of the Creighton University Board of Trustees, former president and chief executive officer of the Opus Corporation and current president of Marren Properties, but on Sept. 24, he happily served as amateur photographer as Pope Francis blessed an Apostles Edition of the Saint John's Bible as it was officially presented to the Library of Congress.

"To be a part of this historic event, it was really wonderful," said Rauenhorst, who took the photo above on his cellphone. "But perhaps even more exciting is that we're able to have this contemporary version of the Bible in the Library of Congress."

The Rauenhorst family and their GHR Foundation were early supporters of the Saint John's Bible project. Librarian of Congress James Billington, Ph.D., was also fascinated by the project, Rauenhorst said. With Billington having announced in June that he would retire effective Jan. 1, 2016, and Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States in September, the timing seemed perfect for the gift, Rauenhorst said, which was made possible by the GHR Foundation.

"It was a way to share the Word and this wonderful piece, the Bible, with the American people on the occasion of the pope's visit," Rauenhorst said.

Pope Francis blessed one of the books of the Bible following his address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress on Sept. 24. "He was so gracious," Rauenhorst said of the pope. The Rev. John Klassen, OSB, abbot of Saint John's Abbey, presented the Bible to Billington.

The Saint John's Bible is on display in the entry of the Library of Congress through Jan. 2, 2016, along with the Gutenberg Bible, the first printed Bible.

To the Ends of the Earth, Donald Jackson with contributions from Andrew Jamieson and Sally Mae Joseph, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Psalm 150, Sally Mae Joseph (artist, scribe), Copyright 2004, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Catholic Edition, Copyright 1993, 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Above, left, this illumination offers a contemporary depiction of the message a resurrected Christ shared with his apostles in Acts 1:8, “You will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Above, right, the exquisite calligraphy and artwork found throughout the volumes is also present in the Old Testament Book of Psalms.

At right, five different passages from Exodus are combined into one single illumination. The top half of the page begins with God speaking to Moses at the Burning Bush (“Here I am the God of your father”), and the lower half contains the Ten Commandments, overlapping and dissolving.

and used it as a watermark on the following page,” Crawford says. “So you get the impression that there is bleed-through, just like you would with the vellum.”

The personal, human stories, however, are what strike Crawford most.

He relates the story told to him of a young African-American boy viewing the Bible with his class and seeing the illustration of Adam and Eve, who are depicted as black. “Tears are coming down his cheeks,” Crawford says. “The teachers went over and asked him what was wrong, and he said, ‘This is the first time I have seen myself in the Scriptures.’”

He also appreciates how inadvertently omitted lines of text are handled in an artistic way. “You’ll see a bird holding a rope, and it connects to a banner at the bottom of the page with the missing text, and the bird’s beak points to where the line is supposed to go,” he says.

“I love the fact that with all the attention to detail, the

beautiful calligraphy and artwork, that there is still this human element. You see that the most talented, gifted, attention-to-detail people still make small mistakes.”

But make no mistake about it, the Heritage Edition is something to be seen. And Jackson, the creative mind behind the project, loves to hear about the ripple effects the Saint John’s Bible is creating.

“He loves to hear the stories about how the Bible is being shared,” Triggs says. “When he handed off the project, he made a really important point. He said, ‘This is not my Bible. This is for the world.’”

Burke-Sullivan says she hopes the Creighton community will take advantage of opportunities to engage with the Bible.

“The opportunity to really gaze upon someone else’s artistic interpretation of the text, along with the text itself,” Burke-Sullivan says, “opens up new ways of seeing and hearing the Word.”

While *the* World Watched

By Adam Klinker

The **Nuremberg Trials** captured international attention, as Nazi leaders were tried for war crimes. **What can we learn from this watershed event in history on this, its 70th anniversary?**

Like any thorough prosecutors-in-training, one of the first things they did was visit the scene of the crime.

There were rooms to see and evidence to examine and a narrative to stitch together out of the mute testimony of walls and floors where the offense was perpetrated. The victims lay here and here. The murder weapon was here and here. Note the scratchings of fingernails on those walls. Someone was desperate to escape.

Later, standing in a courtroom, the lawyers-to-be would think about those frantic scrapings — how some of them were at eye-level, about the height of an adult, trying to claw out of that horror. Some of those markings were considerably lower on the wall, coming up only to an adult's waist or knees.

There were tens of thousands of the scratches. Maybe hundreds of thousands. And in more rooms than just that one. In another room, there are tens of thousands of shoes. In another, thousands of sets of eyeglasses. In still another, huge piles of human hair.

"These are images that will be with me for the rest of my life," says Kimberly Jeter, MS'15, JD'15, who graduated in May from Creighton School of Law's J.D./M.S. in Government Organization and Leadership (GOAL) joint-degree program. "I shut my eyes sometimes and see them very clearly. You walk around Auschwitz and you can't help but be confronted by this weight, this feeling about what happened. People made those marks, children. People filled those shoes — big shoes and little shoes. People like you or me, with families and friends who loved them. And they were killed. They were put into those gas chambers for no real reason."

In the summer of 2014, Jeter was one of a few dozen Creighton law students who participated in the nation's only law school program to go to Nuremberg, Germany, the site of the war crimes trials at the end of World War II. For five years now, students have embarked for a one-month study of the world's largest mass murder and the criminal prosecution that followed it.

A major component of the trip is the time Creighton students spend in Courtroom 600 in the Nuremberg Palace of Justice, where, 70 years ago this fall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson stared down Göring, Hess, Von Ribbentrop and other criminal leaders of Nazi Germany, and carried out the due process of law, even as much of the rest of the world — led by the Americans' erstwhile World War II ally, the Soviet Union, which had suffered losses topping 20 million people — insisted the killers be lined up against a wall and shot.

During this summer's trip to Nuremberg, Creighton students took part in commemorations surrounding the 70th anniversary of the trials, including sessions with a panel of American judges, who summed up the importance of the Allies — particularly the U.S. — invoking the ideals of Western justice in the proceedings.



© Michael St. Maur Sheil/CORBIS



This was the largest room in Crematorium I at Auschwitz, part of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp in operation during World War II. The room was originally used as a mortuary but was converted into a gas chamber during 1941 and 1942.

Couched in those ideals, however, was a potentially more weighty demonstration of American and Allied power in the wake of the deadliest conflict in human history. Justice was at the root of the Nuremberg trials, certainly, but so also was a performance of the victorious powers: an opportunity to say that the world, henceforth, was going to be different and it was going to operate along lines of justice, peace and equality.

The trials were an opportunity unequaled in world history and one that the Allied powers were eager not to squander in the ways it had following World War I and the Treaty of Versailles, an instrument that may be said to have directly created the totalitarian regime in Germany and brought Adolf Hitler to power.

“The whole world was watching,” says Heather Fryer, Ph.D., the Fr. Henry W. Casper, S.J. Professor of History at Creighton. “The question came down to whether to bring justice and stay the hand of vengeance and to take lessons from Versailles. So the trials become a performance. The victims and the victorious Allied nations held center stage and the global community was the audience to a demonstration of how the new postwar world would be arranged.”

Though undertaken in an era before television had established its nearly universal purchase, still the trials captivated the world. In the aftermath of death and destruction on a widespread, industrial scale, the execution of justice in a courtroom of international law applied an initial salve.

And yet, as Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D., Creighton’s Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization, points out, despite the Nuremberg Trials’ adept handling of the crimes and the proof the trials brought to bear for the world to witness and the trials’ ultimate delegitimizing of Hitler’s regime, the courtroom performances — even on the side of the prosecution — largely eschewed mention of the Nazis’ primary victims: Jews.

Greenspoon identifies three distinct periods during which the

Nuremberg Trials have undergone shifts in cultural perception by Jews. In the first period, the five years immediately following World War II, Jewish reaction to the trials is mostly mixed along the lines of the trials avoiding direct mention of Jewish victims while also serving as a significant touchstone whereby anti-Semitism, long a scourge of European life that was tolerated if not embraced by most people and governments, was finally punished. The second period, the 60 years between 1950 and 2010, features unattenuated celebration of the trials, especially by American Jews, as evidence of the world’s triumph over Nazism.

The last five years, Greenspoon says, have seen a sharp rise in anti-Semitic sentiment and activities in countries like France, Belgium and Greece and has occasioned a third consideration of the trials. Perhaps the absence of evidence pointing explicitly at Jewish victims of the Holocaust was symptomatic of a larger desire to avoid confronting the magnitude of anti-Jewish feeling among Europeans, a desire that lay dormant until now — after the death of almost all of the victims, perpetrators and those who simply stood by.

“I think there’s no question that the Nuremberg Trials were an incredible turning point in the world,” Greenspoon says. “The world had finally said, ‘Anti-Semitic activities cannot go unpunished.’ This is the way that I would have learned about it in Sunday School. But in this latest look at the trials, people have seen that there is nothing within their framework that has much to do with crimes against Jews, specifically. Look at the transcripts and the terms ‘Jewish’ and ‘Holocaust’ are used sparingly. I think there’s nothing wrong in terms of how the trials were pursued, but none of the defendants was tried on crimes against the Jews. What you have instead is a trial of criminals who, from a Soviet standpoint, were fascists, and, from the American and British perspectives, who perpetrated their crimes against various peoples of various nations. And since the Jews at that time had no nation, they were denied that specific

status accorded the Americans, the Soviets, the British and the French.”

American Jews tried to get a seat at the prosecutor’s table for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, but were rebuffed. In the end, only three Jewish witnesses were called at Nuremberg and, while they provided testimony about what they’d witnessed in Nazi death camps, including Auschwitz, their testimony was largely censored of references to their Jewish identity.

Greenspoon says this turn of events is hardly surprising given most American politicians, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, were aware of the death camps the Nazis had created for Jewish victims, and declined to intervene in ways that might have at least disrupted the Holocaust, such as in the bombing of such camps.

“Nobody was called to testify to anything that had specifically happened to Jews,” Greenspoon says. “But I think all of that speaks to the fact that it couldn’t quite be conceived that human beings could do this to other human beings — that the systematic, industrial dealing of death could go on like this. The same might be true in the trials. Here, you have proceedings taking part just a few months after Soviet and American soldiers discover the camps. Nobody could really grasp the full enormity of the Holocaust yet. And, as a consequence, it may be that the status of Jews was only marginally important in carrying out the prosecutions.”

It took the second wave after the Nuremberg Trials to firmly root the prosecutions in crimes against humanity, but specifically against the whole of European Jewry, with 6 million victims perishing at the hands of the Nazis.

“By the 1970s, if not before, certainly the people who took part in the trials for the prosecution, were regarded as heroes,” Greenspoon says. “These were the people who had made certain there would be punishment for those who orchestrated the

Holocaust. By no means is it a bad thing that the Nuremberg Trials came about. Whether Jews are mentioned or not, the prosecution sought to bring some order to what was otherwise inconceivable chaos, and to see to it that punishment came to those who deserved it. Justice was done.”

Soviet efforts for a summary execution of the Nazi leadership notwithstanding, the trials, in addition to serving as a performance and an attempt to secure justice for the victims of Nazi crimes, be they Jewish, Polish, Russian, Roma, Communists or otherwise contemptible to Nazi racial ideologies, were an effort to do something never before tried in world history: create an international court of law.

“That was the thing that struck me most,” says Billy McCroy, a third-year law student on the 2014 trip. “Because we have different rules, because we have an adversarial system, because we have due process, Justice Jackson almost single-handedly convinced people that we were not going to simply execute victors’ justice. Even Hitler and Himmler, if they had been alive, would have faced this. We were going to have a trial and evidence was going to be presented and a defense was going to take place for the accused and the entire world was going to witness it. Because it was the right thing to do. And there were acquittals. This thing had a chance that it might not work and that some of these guys would go free, but that’s the chance you take in the American system. The prosecution has to do its job. Standing there, in Courtroom 600, where Justice Jackson had done this, it sounds trite, but I was proud to be an American. I just got a feeling about what had happened, that we had done this.”

In addition to the time spent in Courtroom 600, taking courses in international criminal law and participating in a moot court competition centered on human rights abuses, students



Hermann Göring, founder of the Gestapo and former head of the Luftwaffe, stands in the prisoners’ dock to make his final statement to the court at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He was convicted of crimes and sentenced to death, but killed himself with a concealed poison capsule just hours before he was to be hanged.

also take trips to the concentration camps of Dachau and Auschwitz. They visit Adolf Hitler's Eagle's Nest, perched high in the Bavarian Alps.

They also see international law in action with a trip to The Hague, Netherlands, the headquarters for the world's courts of criminal justice. The summer 2014 traveling cohort arrived in The Hague during trial proceedings for Ratko Mladić, a military officer accused of genocide during the Bosnian War, including the systematic killings of 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica in 1995.

"We watched from behind this thick glass as Mladić would turn to relatives of some victims and do the throat-slitting motion," McCroy says. "He looked over at us a couple of times and it gave you chills. He winked at some of the women in our group. We were face to face with someone the world considers pure evil, but here was the true measure of justice at work: that someone accused of such horrific crimes and so seemingly unconcerned about it, was still entitled to a defense in a court of law."

Creighton's Nuremberg trip is the design of law professor Michael Kelly, associate dean for faculty research and graduate and international programs. The program began in 2011 as Kelly and Creighton hosted Gabriel Bach, an Israeli prosecutor who helped lead the case against Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1961.

"It was the 50th anniversary of Eichmann's prosecution and that engendered such huge interest from the students," Kelly says. "We thought going to Nuremberg to see what Justice Jackson had done and what it meant to show the world what a democratic system of justice looked like was an experience that every legal scholar should have. In truth, it's an experience all of us, as human beings, should have — to go to Auschwitz and to see what happened there and then to go to Nuremberg, the cultural heart of Nazism, and stand in Courtroom 600 and be reminded of what Justice Jackson said when he took a year's leave from the Supreme Court to be the prosecutor: We do this because we have to demonstrate to the world that we are not them. It's very impactful."

The Rev. Joseph Simmons, S.J., who is currently studying theology at Boston College after having taught philosophy at Creighton, accompanied the law school "From Nuremberg to The Hague" trip in 2014 and found the trip to speak deeply to Jesuit notions of justice and peace. Kelly says students bonded with Fr. Simmons as he helped them emotionally and spiritually reflect on their experiences in a way that professors sometimes tend to solely intellectualize.

"In my estimation, the program highlights the best of Jesuit education — a multidisciplinary study of history, an engagement with present-day complexities, with an eye toward transforming societies to be more just in the future," Fr. Simmons says. "From Nuremberg to The Hague' made me proud to work at Creighton, and prouder still to be a Jesuit."

The trip especially leaves an impression because, as Fryer notes, since birthing the notion of international law at Nuremberg, the U.S. has elected to hold itself out of most international proceedings, including those at The Hague.

"I think there's no question that the Nuremberg Trials were an incredible turning point in the world. The world had finally said, 'Anti-Semitic activities cannot go unpunished.'"

Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D.
Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization
Creighton University

Instead, since Nuremberg, the U.S. has often watched and waited on the outcomes of other potential genocides, only issuing apologies in the wake of tragedy.

"What makes the United States exceptional is its ideals — things like justice, peace, equality, meritocracy, individualism," Fryer says. "Those are ideas that we, as Americans, have been willing to export, as we saw at Nuremberg. But since the trials, the U.S. has picked and chosen where and when it has acted to defend those ideals. Rwanda was clearly a genocide: an ethnic group was targeted for elimination by another group. The same thing could be said early in the Balkans crisis.

"Internationally, there has been a determined effort to prosecute the groups that carried out the crimes, but the U.S. was reluctant to intervene and then took no part in prosecution. Prudence is not a bad thing, but it is a problem that the nation that took the lead in bringing the Nuremberg Trials into being has consistently been slow to react to subsequent human rights violations, especially in the face of overwhelming evidence. The 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials is a great time for reflection on the global commitment to justice and a reminder that we don't have to acquiesce to mass violence, just because we've had a huge dose of it."

For the Creighton law students learning and witnessing at Nuremberg, learning the history of the legal efforts there has opened new perspectives on the role of the global lawyer and international prosecution of crimes.

But the experience has gone beyond even that.

While Kelly's students approach Nuremberg and Auschwitz with the specially sharpened minds of lawyers, taking in the crime scene and the evidence there, along with the defendants and the witnesses, he says they also have another purpose.

"One is the human experience of being there, in what is still intact as a crime scene at Auschwitz," Kelly says. "On another level, these students will one day be lawyers. They are being trained to look at evidence and to view a crime scene with a certain set of eyes. Auschwitz is the most extant, most extensive crime scene in the world and it is impossible not to be moved by what you see there, even as legal scholars in training. Perhaps the most teachable moment of my career is standing in a gas chamber at Auschwitz in complete silence. People ask me, 'How can that be a teachable moment, when you're not saying anything at all?' It just is. There's nothing more that can or needs to be said."



A new Creighton and Gallup survey finds CU alumni engaged in their careers and living meaningful lives.

How do you quantify special? Or unique?

Both terms are used by students, alumni and others – with sincerity and affection – to describe Creighton University.

More importantly, how do you describe the true value of a Creighton degree in ways that speak to prospective students and their families?

“We knew that we had consistently high rankings and recognitions from entities such as *U.S. News & World Report* and others, as well as a 97 percent placement rate for new graduates,” said Provost Ed O’Connor, Ph.D., “but we knew Creighton had more than that to offer. That ‘more’ was what we sought to quantify.”

“Anecdotally, we felt there was something special about Creighton, but we had no hard evidence to back it up,” according to Brenda Coppard, Ph.D., special assistant to the provost and the team leader at Creighton working on studying the long-term success of Creighton alumni.

Even as Creighton administrators and admissions counselors were exploring these questions a couple of years ago, a national dialogue was emerging about whether a college degree was worth the investment. In fact, just a mile from Creighton’s campus, researchers at the riverfront operations headquarters of Gallup, Inc., were refining a survey to measure the most important outcomes of a college education.

Gallup and Purdue University created the survey to examine the long-term success of college graduates as they pursue good jobs and better lives. They conducted a study in early 2014 that

analyzed the lives of about 30,000 U.S. college graduates with at least a bachelor’s degree.

Leaders at Creighton recognized that the Gallup-Purdue Index measured many of the variables that they wanted to study among Creighton’s alumni. So the University began a partnership with Gallup and became the first faith-based university to partner with the research firm in using the new tool to evaluate the impact of a college degree.

This survey uses a set of measures that quantifies college graduates’ engagement in their careers, attachment to their alma mater and well-being in five key elements: purpose, financial, social, community and physical.

The Creighton study, the “Creighton-Gallup Alumni Survey,” was launched in late 2014. Gallup emailed an invitation to participate in the survey in late November and early December 2014 to over 35,000 Creighton alumni who held at least one degree from Creighton and

44% of CU alumni **strongly agree** that their school prepared them well for life after college compared with **27%** nationally

All statistics courtesy Gallup, Inc. | Copyright © 2015

graduated between 1975 and 2014; over 5,000 responded. In order to be able to compare the Creighton undergraduate alumni results with the national study, respondents who exclusively held advanced degrees from Creighton were removed from the results. The resulting sample of undergraduate degree holders numbered 3,447.

While Creighton administrators were not surprised by the results shared in the report, "Great Jobs, Great Lives: 2014 Creighton University Alumni Outcomes," they were pleased.

"We found that more Creighton graduates are engaged in their work than the national average," said Valerie Calderon, Ph.D., senior educational research consultant at Gallup. "And Creighton graduates are also leading other college graduates in living great lives."

Workplace Engagement

Although Gallup has been measuring Americans' attitudes and behaviors for more than 75 years, it has placed a special focus on workplace engagement during the last 30 years. Gallup defines employee engagement as being intellectually and emotionally connected to one's job and work team.

Employees who are engaged at work are more loyal and more productive than those who are not engaged or who are actively disengaged. Gallup's research shows that only about 30 percent of Americans are engaged in their jobs; the organization says the U.S. workplace is missing out on huge economic benefits and that higher education may be failing to meet students' expectations if degrees don't lead to engaging employment.

The Creighton study found that half (50 percent) of the University's graduates who are employed full time for an employer are engaged at work, compared with 38 percent of graduates nationally. Only 6 percent of Creighton grads were found to be actively disengaged in their work, compared with 12 percent nationally.

An interesting tangential finding is that the employment rate for Creighton alumni outpaces the national average — 72 percent of CU alumni in the

Well-Being

In the area of well-being, about twice as many Creighton alumni as graduates of other universities are **thriving in all five elements studied** (purpose, financial, social, community and physical).

16%
of CU grads are thriving
in all five areas

compared
with

8%
just
of graduates nationwide

Purpose well-being

"I like what I do every day and I learn or do something interesting every day."

64% thriving vs. 48% nationally

Financial well-being

"I have enough money to do everything I want to do."

49% thriving vs. 37% nationally

Social well-being

"Someone in my life always encourages me to be healthy. My friends and family give me positive energy every day."

58% thriving vs. 46% nationally

Community well-being

"The city or area where I live is a perfect place for me. In the last 12 months, I have received recognition for helping to improve the city or area where I live."

54% thriving vs. 43% nationally

Physical well-being

"In the last seven days, I have felt active and productive every day. My physical health is near-perfect."

43% thriving vs. 32% nationally

Creighton University promises its graduates a ‘one-of-a-kind experience,’ and the results from the alumni study show it has uniquely set up its graduates to succeed in most areas of their lives. This success is measured not only by salary or title — which with their higher employment rates, Creighton graduates are more likely than other graduates nationally to have — but also in the strong, personal relationships that so many of their graduates have with other people and with their communities.

Much of this success relates back to Creighton’s focus on developing the whole person, and the support that faculty and staff give students that makes them feel cared about as people, even years after they graduate.

“Great Jobs, Great Lives: 2014 Creighton University Alumni Outcomes” Report
Gallup, Inc.

survey reported working full time for an employer, compared with 66 percent among college graduates nationally. For Creighton alumni who graduated between 2010 and 2014, the rate is even higher at 86 percent.

In the national study, the odds of being engaged at work more than doubled for graduates if they recalled having ...

- > Professors who cared about them as a person,
- > At least one professor who made them excited about learning,
- > A mentor who encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

Creighton scored high on all three factors. Creighton alumni are significantly more likely to strongly agree that they had each of these three experiences individually — and to have experienced all three. In fact, “feeling cared about as a person” was one of Creighton’s strengths — 40 percent of Creighton alumni strongly agree they had this experience, compared with 27 percent nationally.

Well-Being

In the area of well-being, about twice as many Creighton alumni as graduates of other universities are thriving in all

five elements studied (purpose, financial, social, community and physical). Sixteen percent of CU grads are thriving in all five areas, compared with just 8 percent of graduates nationwide.

The study found that Creighton graduates have higher well-being than their national counterparts in each of the five elements, and, even in Creighton’s lowest area, physical well-being, 43 percent are thriving compared with 32 percent nationally.

Of the five elements, Creighton alumni are most likely to report thriving in purpose well-being: 64 percent like what they do each day and learn something interesting every day. Forty-nine percent are thriving financially, 58 percent are thriving socially and 54 percent report thriving in their community.

Alumni Attachment

Significantly, 40 percent of Creighton respondents strongly agreed that “Creighton was the perfect school for people like me” (the national response was 31 percent for graduates of other institutions), and 32 percent strongly agreed they “can’t imagine a world without Creighton University” (compared with the national response of 23 percent).

Gallup noted in its report, “Given that

The majority of alumni strongly agree that the Jesuit tradition is central to Creighton’s mission and purpose.

47%

believe it is their responsibility to use what they learned at Creighton to help or serve others less fortunate than them

32%

strongly agree they were taught it is important to seek justice for those who may not be able to seek it for themselves

40%

strongly agree they were constantly encouraged to think critically about what they were studying and that their professors expected them to share their ideas in class

45%

strongly agree that they grew a great deal in their understanding of themselves during their time at Creighton



Students interact with faculty member Jorge Zuniga, Ph.D., assistant professor of exercise science and director of the 3-D Research and Innovation Laboratory.

Creighton graduates are more likely than graduates nationally to be thriving in well-being and to be engaged at work, it makes sense that they are also more likely to be emotionally attached to their alma mater.” More than one in four Creighton alumni (27 percent) are emotionally attached to CU, compared with fewer than one in five graduates (18 percent) nationally.

Jesuit Values

In addition to the core questions that came from the national study, the Creighton-Gallup Alumni Survey included custom questions to measure the effect of Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic values and principles on graduates’ lives. These questions were designed with input from focus groups.

Following the main portion of the study, respondents were queried on the Jesuit themes of commitment to service and justice, the practice of critical and thoughtful reflection and more. These

findings showed that the majority of alumni strongly agree that the Jesuit tradition is central to Creighton’s mission and purpose. Specifically:

- > Nearly half (47 percent) believe it is their responsibility to use what they learned at Creighton to help or serve others less fortunate than them.
- > Nearly one in three (32 percent) strongly agree they were taught it is important to seek justice for those who may not be able to seek it for themselves.
- > 40 percent strongly agree they were constantly encouraged to think critically about what they were studying and that their professors expected them to share their ideas in class.
- > 45 percent strongly agree that they grew a great deal in their understanding of themselves during their time at Creighton.

“I had at least one instructor who made me excited about learning.”

Strongly agree

71% Creighton University

64% national

“My instructors cared about me as a person.”

Strongly agree

40% Creighton University

27% national

Creighton plans to do additional analyses and reflection on these results and that of future studies, to gain a better understanding of which aspects of the Jesuit educational experience are crucial to graduates’ overall well-being and sense of purpose.

The University will continue to administer the Creighton-Gallup Alumni Survey to specific alumni groups and is currently conducting the study with alumni who graduated in the last five years.

“This enables us to learn our own best practices,” Coppard said, “allowing us to replicate what we are doing well and improve where we need to.”

She added, “And we can say to prospective students and their parents that we are actually following through with what we promise.”

Tracking a Killer

By Nichole Jelinek

A Creighton alumnus' life is forever changed after stumbling across newspaper clippings of his grandfather's murder.

During his 84 years, one man has lived as Frank Dryman, Victor Houston and Frank Valentine. To Clem Pellett, DDS'80, Dryman (his real name) is the man who murdered his grandfather, and forever changed life for him and members of the entire Pellett family.

In 1951, Clarence Chester Pellett, 59, a husband, father of six and a well-liked owner of a small café in Shelby, Mont., offered a ride to a young man who was hitchhiking in the cold weather. During the ride, the then 19-year-old Dryman would shoot Pellett seven times, mortally wounding him, and then flee in the stolen car to Canada.

A manhunt ensued for the suspect, described as a James Dean look-alike. Dryman was caught, confessed and convicted. He was sentenced to death by hanging, which was to be carried out on June 1, 1951. The Galloping Gallows, as they were known, would be trucked from Missoula to Shelby and constructed on a hill outside the small Montana town.

Following the sentencing, a committee formed seeking clemency for Dryman and fighting against what they called frontier-style justice. Over the next four years, the Dryman Clemency Committee, along with an attorney connected to the Communist Party, would file four appeals to the Montana Supreme Court. In February 1955, a change of venue for a second trial was granted and Dryman was sentenced to life in prison.

In January 1969, Dryman was granted parole and allowed to leave Montana to live in California with his brother. Less than a year later, he stopped reporting to his parole officer and disappeared. In 1972, the state of Montana and the FBI declared Dryman a fugitive and issued warrants for his arrest.

During the next 38 years, Dryman would work, volunteer and marry, living hidden in plain sight. He is known to have lived and worked out of his truck in the U.S. Southwest, under the alias Victor

Houston. In the late 1970s, he lived as "Vic" in Arizona and ran a wedding chapel. He was known as a charming deacon, was on the board of the local Moose Lodge, volunteered for local civic clubs and graduated from the sheriff's citizens' academy. He had married, for the fifth time, and the couple had a child.

Clem Pellett, an only child, was born two years after the murder of his grandfather. His father, Marion Pellett, DDS'55, was the youngest of the six Pellett children. Clem says the murder of his grandfather deeply affected and splintered the family.

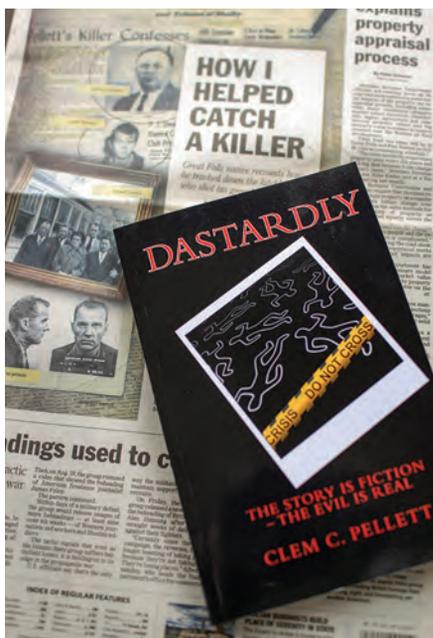
"The loss was so painful for my father that he never spoke of it," says Clem. Marion died in 1968 when Clem was 14 years old.

Clem would know nothing about the murder of his grandfather until 2009, when his mother died. While going through her keepsakes, Clem discovered a box of old newspaper clippings. He was shocked at the headlines: "Foul Play Suspected," "Murderer Sentenced To Hang," and "Whatever Happened To The Infamous Frank Dryman, The Cold-Blooded Murderer?"

In 2010, Clem was diagnosed with kidney cancer, and during his treatment and recovery, he began to further research his grandfather's murder. What started as a hobby to fill time eventually turned into much more.

"My extended recovery allowed me to focus on my cause célèbre full time, not just between patients, and made it possible to coordinate all of my research," says Clem, who had graduated from Creighton's dental school in 1980 and had been working as an oral surgeon in Bellevue, Wash. "I couldn't deny these series of events."

Clem made a full recovery, and although he briefly returned to oral surgery, he eventually decided to retire and take on a new role as a private investigator on the Dryman case. His search led him to the Montana Historical Society, where he requested records from the Montana



Dastardly is Pellett's fictional novel, based on his real-life cold case research and his experiences in the hunt for his grandfather's murderer.



Clem Pellett, DDS'80, with the image of his grandfather, Clarence Chester Pellett, whom he never met.

Department of Corrections and parole board.

"I discovered that Dryman had never been recaptured, and I set out to find out if he was still alive," says Clem.

With the help of a private investigative team, Clem tracked down a man known as Victor Houston, who was working as a sign painter around Arizona City, Ariz. The unique "L-O-V-E" tattoos on Houston's right hand were a tip-off. They matched Dryman's description in the 1972 police report.

When Montana's longest running fugitive was captured on March 20, 2010, there was an avalanche of news coverage and interest in the case. The A&E Channel produced a documentary ("The Kid with the Hollywood Haircut"), and news sources such as CNN, CBS, the *Huffington Post* and the *Washington Times* profiled the story.

For the Pellett family, there was a sense of closure. Old family wounds, created by the murder, began to heal. With the support of his wife, Cynthia, Clem agreed to meet with a then unknown cousin,

Dorothy, who had reached out to him.

"I can still see Dorothy with her arms open, tears streaming down her face," says Clem. "We embraced, sobbed and then smiled."

For Clem, there were other new beginnings. He sold his health care practice and pursued his dream of becoming a writer and private investigator. In 2012, he graduated from Boston University with a certificate in private investigation. He is also a public speaker and author.

His presentation, "Montana Justice," focuses on the affirmation of family and belonging, and his fictional book, *Dastardly*, is based on his research in the Dryman case. Although the novel is fiction, it is based on some of the actual events and real witnesses Clem discovered during his investigation.

Clem says that he has found his research, writing and speaking engagements to be therapeutic.

"I've come to know my grandpa Clarence," says Clem. "My research transformed from

an interesting history lesson to seeking justice for him and my family."

Upon his capture in 2010, Dryman's parole was revoked and he was sentenced back to life in prison. He is now an inmate at a geriatric Montana State Prison infirmary in Lewiston, Mont. In May 2015, Clem and his family again gathered for another of Dryman's parole hearings to share their story and their pain. Clem says he has never seen remorse or empathy from Dryman. Dryman's 2015 parole was denied, and his case will be reviewed again next year. Clem plans to attend, and will once again speak on behalf of his grandfather.

Clem is currently interviewing screenwriters and planning to produce a nonfictional film about the Dryman case. He also continues to put his investigative skills to use, speaking for those who no longer have a voice.

"My P.I. work has revealed that Dryman was likely involved in circumstances surrounding multiple persons who went missing while he was on the lam," says Clem. "I'm working to reopen these cases."

AlumniNotes

55 Connie Kostel Spittler, BS, Omaha, signed her new mystery/women's fiction book at the American Library Association Conference in San Francisco in June. Her book, *The Erotica Book Club for Nice Ladies*, uses quotes taken from classic authors such as Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Jane Austen.

58 Robert J. Whitaker, BS, Springfield, Mo., became professor emeritus of physics at Missouri State University at the end of July 2014 after teaching there since 1974.

64 Dr. Francis B. "Bernie" Rang II, BA, Burbank, Calif., retired from El Camino College in Torrance, Calif., after 31 years. Rang served as president of the El Camino Federation of Teachers (local 1738), and as president of the California Language Teacher Association and also of the Modern and Classical Language Association of Southern California.

66 Clarence L. Shields, MD, Los Angeles, was the recipient of the National Medical Fellowships (NFM) Distinguished Alumni Award in June.

70 Dr. Michael J. Foy, BS, Colorado Springs, Colo., was elected to serve a three-year term as the Speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Association of Orthodontists.

71 Mark F. Murray, MD, Sacramento, Calif., participated on a committee from the Institute of Medicine as a contributing writer for the consensus study "Transforming Scheduling and Access: Getting to Now." The manuscript focuses on waits and delays in health care with a specific focus on the recent challenges in the Veterans Administration.

72 Randy P. Lukasiewicz, BSBA, Omaha, was inducted into the Nebraska Baseball Hall of Fame in Beatrice, Neb., for distinguished service. He also had a part in the world premiere of "Cowles

Scrimmage Anthology," a Nebraska fact-based baseball play incorporating the lives of Willa Cather, William Jennings Bryan, Cy Young, Dazzy Vance and Clarence Mitchell.

74 David J. Beacom, BA'69, JD, Broomfield, Colo., is running for re-election to the city and county of Broomfield Council, Ward 5. **Dr. Thomas J. Dworak, ARTS,** Papillion, Neb., was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology in May. **Thomas L. Ludwig, BS'69, DDS,** Harlan, Iowa, currently serves as president of the Iowa Dental Association. His term is for 2015-16.

75 Harold N. Amer, MD, Los Angeles, recently announced his retirement after 30 years at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center as medical director of the pediatric ICU and vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

76 Connie Jo Weihs Booth, BSN, Boone, Iowa, retired in May after 33 years at Des Moines Area Community College where she was Boone Campus Nursing Program chair. **John K. McCaa, BA,** Irving, Texas, earned a Ph.D. in humanities-history of ideas from the University of Texas-Dallas in May. **Daniel E. Monnat, JD,** Wichita, Kan., of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, has been named by Chambers USA 2015 as one of Kansas' top litigators in white-collar crime and government investigations. In addition, Monnat & Spurrier recently launched a twice-monthly podcast, "Just in Case," featuring brief analyses of the just-in criminal law cases decided by the Kansas Appellate Courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Podcasts can be found at Monnat.com/podcast.

77 Robert J. Greenwood, BSPHa, Waterloo, Iowa, was installed as the 136th president of the Iowa Pharmacy Association in June.

79 Antonio M. "Tony" Audino, BSBA, Bellevue, Wash., was appointed as the new chair of the Fulcrum Foundation board of trustees in May. **Robert E. Mundy, JD,** Omaha,

Listen. Think. Act. Innovative Solutions to Poverty in Africa

By Ann Freestone, BA'89

If it wasn't for the 11th hour, **Jamie Van Leeuwen, Ph.D., BA'96**, would be a surgeon, but instead, he's saving lives in a much different way. As a second-grader and growing up, he thought he would be a "fabulously wealthy" doctor.

Fast forward, however, to his senior year as a pre-med student at Creighton. Van Leeuwen had doubts about his career path. Gilles Monif, his Creighton mentor, suggested a graduate degree in public health before medical school and that put him on a trajectory of first helping young people on the streets of Denver to now running the Global Livingston Institute (GLI), a Denver-based nongovernmental organization. Thanks to his last-minute career change, this 41-year-old globetrotter has traveled to more than 90 countries and saves lives by focusing on innovative solutions to poverty.

With a bachelor's degree in psychology and German from Creighton in 1996, he went on to New Orleans for a master's degree in sociology and then international public health, topping off his classroom education with a Ph.D. in public policy. His experiences at Creighton still influence him today. "Dr. Gary Leak in the Psychology Department continues to mentor and support the research I am doing to this day," says Van Leeuwen. "He has had a very significant impact on my life and the way I think about the world."



Jamie Van Leeuwen interacting with children in the village of Kisiizi in southern Uganda.



Do you have alumni news to share?
Please send to alumninews@creighton.edu.

His first full-time job working on poverty issues was at Urban Peak, a street outreach program for the homeless and at-risk youth in Denver.

“I learned more from the kids on the street than they learned from me,” he says of his work, which included providing such services as substance abuse and mental health treatment, employment support and housing. Through Urban Peak, he learned at a grassroots level the value of building relationships to help the poor connect to services that would transition them into employment and stable living. Fundraising rounded out his job as well.

Urban Peak set the stage for Van Leeuwen in 2006 to start serving as the executive director for Denver Road Home, the city’s 10-year plan to end homelessness, a tall order.

“In the 1960s, what if JFK came on TV and said, ‘We are going to go halfway to the moon?’” Van Leeuwen explains. He says people need to think big and think differently about how we bring people to the table to solve complex social issues. “The whole point was to end homelessness, so how do we get bolder about what we do?”

Again, Van Leeuwen built relationships to impact change: over six years, Denver Road Home raised almost \$50 million, built 3,000 housing units and decreased chronic homelessness in Denver by approximately 70 percent. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recognized the program as one of the top six homeless programs in the country.

“It’s about the value of personal relationships,” he says. “Without them, I don’t know how you get anything done.” He took this idea to heart.

In 2006, he was awarded the Livingston Fellowship and traveled to Uganda and Rwanda. In Uganda, he saw firsthand the urban slums of Kampala, the effects of children serving as soldiers in Lira and poverty in rural Kabale. He also traveled to Kigali, where he saw the impact of the Rwandan genocide. Three years later, he founded GLI as he became aware of the many people and nongovernmental organizations taking actions in East Africa without truly understanding the community’s needs.

GLI’s approach turns charity work on its head. “Our whole concept is to listen and think before we act,” says Van Leeuwen. “We tend to act first, but you first have to get to know the people. When having the conversation, the first thing you build is relationships.”

Today, GLI’s vision is dedicated to improving communities globally. Its mission is to educate students and community leaders on innovative approaches to international development and empower awareness, collaboration, conversations and personal growth. After listening and thinking in East Africa, the acting piece is significant and varied. Examples from work in



Photo by Cyrus McCrimmon, Denver Post

Jamie Van Leeuwen, Ph.D., BA’96, established the Global Livingston Institute (GLI) in 2006. GLI’s vision is dedicated to improving communities globally.

East Africa range from a music festival where 5,000 attended and 800 were tested for HIV to buying a semitrailer to move supplies from city to city and to helping women learn candle-making to earn income.

In August 2013, GLI opened Entusi, a resort and retreat center in Kabale, Uganda, on Lake Bunyoni, a hidden paradise, to bring students and community leaders from East Africa and the U.S. around the table. Completely run by Ugandans, the center employs 18 individuals who have never had a full-time job. According to Van Leeuwen, employment opportunities are the most valuable thing we can develop — and most sustainable.

So far, 400 people, including four Creighton professors, have traveled to Uganda and Rwanda with GLI. “In the spirit of Jesuit teaching, we have built community together with our Ugandan partners to address complex social issues,” explains Van Leeuwen. He says GLI is partnering with Creighton where there are many ways to engage students and faculty in building strategic partnerships between the U.S. and East Africa.

Needing only three to four hours of sleep a night, Van Leeuwen spends 40 percent of his time working on GLI, and 60 percent working for Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper as his senior advisor after almost four years as deputy chief of staff and director of community partnerships.

Recipient of Creighton’s 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Merit Award, Van Leeuwen credits Creighton with helping set the foundation for his life’s work. “Creighton was about social justice, making sure we understood the broad perspectives, such as the social sciences, and not only understand them, but then act on them. This is all very important to me, and I’ll spend the rest of my life serving the poor. It’s all about how you channel your work and passion; it’s all about how you listen and think and act.”

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has earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy designation. Mundy is president of Mundy and Associates/Coordinated Planning, Inc., in Omaha.

80 Mark A. Gilger, BA'76, MD, San Antonio, was named a 2015 Health Care Hero by the *San Antonio Business Journal*. **Randy K. Newby, DDS,** Wichita, Kan., has had several articles published in the *Journal of the American Orthodontic Society (JAOS)*: "Exploring the First Two Keys of Class II Correction: Maxillary Arch Development and Maxillary Molar Position" (fall 2014); "Understanding and Applying Mulligan Mechanics in the Horizontal and Vertical Planes of Space" (winter 2015); "Face, TM Joint, and Teeth Considerations When Performing

Orthodontic and Orthopedic Therapy" (spring 2015); "Key Three in Class II Correction: Proper Overbite and Overjet: Part 1" (summer 2015); and "Key Three in Class II Correction: Proper Overbite and Overjet: Part 2" (fall 2015). **Kimberly A. Yelkin, JD,** Austin, Texas, an attorney with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, has been recognized by Chambers USA 2015 in the insurance regulation area. In addition, Gardere Wynne Sewell's Government Affairs Practice Group, which is led by Yelkin, topped the Texas Lawyer Lobbying Scorecard after representing more clients and reporting more compensation than any other firm in the state during the 84th Texas Legislature. Yelkin also was selected for inclusion in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

82 G. Mark Rice, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, was recognized by Chambers and Partners in its 2015 attorney rankings in the area of corporate/mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance - Iowa.

83 Stephen A. Donato, JD, Fayetteville, N.Y., an attorney with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC in Syracuse, N.Y., was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2016*. Donato is co-chair of the firm's business restructuring, creditors' rights and bankruptcy practice. **A. Art Kaslow, BA'78, DDS,** Solvang, Calif., has retired from the United States Army Reserve Dental Corps after 37 years of service. Kaslow started his Army career as an ROTC cadet at Creighton in 1974, served five years active duty and obtained the rank of colonel. He served in tours/mobilizations to Germany, Central America and the U.S. In the last decade of his career, he served as the commander of various dental units while deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Kaslow has maintained a general dental practice in Solvang for the last 31 years. **Charles R. "Chuck" Walker, JD,** and **Angela K. Walker-Weber, MBA'97, JD'02,** Prescott, Ariz., were featured in Prescott's *The Daily Courier* on June 21 (Father's Day). The father and daughter are partners at Walker & Walker, Attorneys at Law, PLC, in Prescott.

84 Rita D'Agostino, BSBA'82, JD, Leawood, Kan., has joined Spencer Fane LLP's Kansas City office as of counsel in the firm's governmental affairs and real estate practice groups.

85 Mark F. Duren, BSBA, Bennington, Neb., has been elected managing shareholder of Lutz, an accounting and business solutions firm in Omaha.

86 John E. Hisel Jr., DDS, Kuna, Idaho, was recently inducted as president of the Idaho State Dental Association. Hisel will serve as president from June 2015 through May 2016. He also was selected into the Pierre Fuchard Academy, an honorary organization recognizing outstanding dentists and their achievements. **L. Kris Munk, DDS,** was recently appointed director of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine in South Jordan, Utah.

87 Paul A. Racioppi Jr., BS'82, DDS, Brooklyn, N.Y., was named president of the Bay Ridge Dental Society in Brooklyn.

88 Jeffrey T. Harvey, JD, San Antonio, an attorney with Jackson Walker L.L.P., was named to *S.A. Scene's* 2015 "Best S.A. Lawyers" in general litigation, PI defense: general. **Reinaldo Pascual, JD,** Atlanta, was elected vice chair of the Syracuse University board of trustees. He was also elected to the board of trustees of the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta. Pascual is a partner of Paul Hastings, LLP, a leading global law firm, and serves as managing partner of the firm's Atlanta office.

90 Alexander G. Calfo, JD, Los Angeles, joined King & Spalding LLP's San Francisco office in July. Calfo is a partner and member of the firm's litigation department.

92 Frank W. Ierulli, JD, Peoria, Ill., has been reappointed to serve as a member on the Standing Committee for the Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission and the Standing Committee on Judicial Advisory Polls within the Illinois State Bar Association. Ierulli is an attorney at the Peoria office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC.

93 Brenda Maloney Shafer, BSN, Earlysville, Va., was appointed as vice chair of the Military and Veterans Health Law Task Force for the American Bar Association Health Law Section. Shafer is a partner at the Washington, D.C., firm of Quarles & Brady LLP and is a member of the firm's health law practice group. **Karen L. Tidwall, JD,** Shorewood, Wis., was named to *Wisconsin Law Journal's* 2015 Women in the Law, which honors the top Wisconsin women attorneys and judges for their outstanding leadership and achievement. Tidwall is a litigation shareholder in Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek's Milwaukee office where she co-leads the business and commercial litigation and trust, estate and fiduciary litigation teams.

94 Capt. Mark F. Klein, BA'91, JD, Alexandria, Va., received the Public Service in the Military Award in June. In July, Klein took command of Region Legal Service Office Southeast, the Navy JAG Corps' largest command. **Dennis G. Peatrowsky, JD,** Omaha, recently joined Manarin Investment Counsel in Omaha as a wealth adviser.

95 Sarah Perl Monzu, BS, Omaha, was a 2015 recipient of the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award, which recognizes Omaha Public School (OPS) teachers (K-12). Monzu has been with OPS

'A Snowball Effect for Goodness'

Alumnus' Gift Seeks to Further Humanism in Medicine

James Laumond, MD'64, is filled with gratitude toward Creighton, especially the School of Medicine. The family practitioner says Creighton gave him "the tools to lead a most satisfying professional and personal life."

The retired physician prioritizes his gratitude to God, parents and family, Creighton, friends, staff and associates through the years.

He says his time at Creighton made a big difference in his attitudes toward life and medicine: "Creighton's excellent education gave me the knowledge, know-how and confidence to compete and succeed in my profession at any level; and, my time in Omaha and Nebraska added stability and confirmed the importance of being a friend to all. My stay also initiated my lifelong passion for farming and ranching."

Laumond has shown his appreciation to Creighton by making a number of gifts to the School of Medicine over the years. His latest and most significant is 205 acres of ranchland in the golden hills of California near San Jose, and is designated for an endowed faculty chair to promote "more humanism" between the physician and patient.

"In giving to the medical school, I know it's going for a good cause. There's a great snowball effect for goodness. What better legacy than to make better doctors, whose efforts will impact the



James Laumond, MD'64, on his California ranchland. He recently gifted some of that land to endow a faculty chair at Creighton.

lives of many souls for many years," he says.

School of Medicine Dean Bo Dunlay, MD'81, says Laumond's gift and intentions could not be more in line with Creighton's mission. "We are revising our curriculum to ensure that Ignatian values guide the formation of our medical students as they prepare for a lifetime of spiritual, emotional and professional growth.

"Dr. Laumond spent many years caring for people from all stations in life and understands the challenges our students face. His gift will help enhance the ability of health care providers to connect with the people they serve."

Laumond is guided by the conviction that practicing medicine is more than book learning and that the relationship between the doctor and patient lies at the heart of good medicine. He wants to help Creighton

continue to educate "more complete and better-performing doctors." And he wants to help those doctors have enjoyable lives as well as thriving practices.

To him, humanism in medicine means giving physicians the tools to practice medicine "more comfortably, so they are informed on how to enjoy their lives and families and do a good job in the caring of, and the relationships with, their patients. This is the essence of the doctor's life."

He also believes medical students should have a basic understanding of the situations they will face with their patients, including how to deal with the dying patient.

"Father Vince Decker's class in medical ethics had a profound influence in my professional life," he says. "Evaluating a patient's quality of life and applying ordinary care, as opposed to extraordinary care, in death and dying. The political, ethical and legal debate surrounding physician-aided death is only one issue among many that must be addressed by Creighton in medical education."

He recounts one time when he called a priest for a dying patient. The priest told him it was comforting to find a physician who was as interested in treating the patient's soul as well as his body. "Calling the priest for a dying patient is a no-brainer. In every case, it gives comfort to the patient, the family, and, yes, to me too," Laumond says.

A better understanding of the "art of medicine" will, in Laumond's opinion, give students a "leg up" in establishing a better rapport with their patients. "As a Creighton doctor, I feel my Creighton education gave me a little more, and that's why I'm giving back a little more."

for 13 years. **Jennifer Magnuson-Stessman, BS**, Omaha, was a 2015 recipient of the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award, which recognizes Omaha Public School (OPS) teachers (K-12). Magnuson-Stessman has been with OPS for 20 years.

96 Angela Goldsmith-Cordes Bergman, BS, Valley, Neb., was one of 108 mathematics and science teachers from across the

country to receive the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Bergman teaches at Westside High School in Omaha. **Shad E. Sumrow, JD**, Dallas, was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2016*. Sumrow is an attorney in the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight LLP.

99 Dr. James A. Mello, MBA, Steubenville, Ohio, executive director of institutional

effectiveness at Franciscan University of Steubenville, has been included in *Teaching as a Human Experience: An Anthology of Contemporary Poems*, released in June by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. The poems in the anthology deal with the real life worlds of professors, instructors, lecturers, teachers and others working in education and cover contemporary teaching experiences in education.

00 James P. Clements, BA, Omaha, was named the executive director of the Heart Ministry Center in June. The Heart Ministry Center provides food, clothing, health care and a way forward for people severely affected by poverty in the Omaha area. **Kathryn Greene Jacob, BSW**, Dallas, was named president/CEO of SafeHaven of Tarrant County, Texas. SafeHaven provides 24-hour care at



Show Your Bluejay Pride

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



1. Baltimore Orioles Alumni Event – Katie Larson, DPT'09, BSHS'09, Elin Nordquist, Shannon Nordquist, BS'04, DPT'09, and Jeremiah Nordquist, BA'04; **2. Black Alumni Reunion** – Tisha Holland, BS'83, MS'91, Bridget Hadley, BSBA'88, and Lynette Green Morris, BA'88; **3. Homecoming** – members of the School of Medicine class of 2005 at the Block Party.

#bluejayworld



4. Twin Cities Alumni Club Twins Event – Diana Dalsin, Becky Smith, BSBA'95, Ben Lowndes, BA'09, and Jenna Cheese Lowndes, BSN'09; **5. Recent Alumni Pub Crawl** – John McCoy, BA'15, and David Black, BSBA'05; **6. Jays on the Hill Networking Event** – Jessica Gil, JD'13, Joy Haugen, BA'07, Washington, D.C., Alumni Board president, and Jana Steenholdt, BSBA'09; **7. Forever a Bluejay 2015** – Brooke Wigen, BSW'15, Megan Rogel, BS'15, Brooke Stephens, BSBA'15, and Laura Renner, BA'15; **8. Twin Cities Alumni Club Twins Event** – Mary McCollum Brenny, BSN'64, and Dennis Brenny, DDS'64.



Alumna Soars in Position at StratCom

By Sarah Smith, BA'07

As a member of the Senior Executive Service, Creighton alumna **Kerry Kelley, BS'84**, is one of the highest-ranking civilian leaders at U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom).

Located at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, StratCom is one of nine unified commands operated by the Department of Defense — with personnel from all four branches of the military. Its responsibilities range from space operations (such as military satellites) to global missile defense; cyberspace operations; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; global strike and strategic deterrence operations; and combating weapons of mass destruction.

Kelley has worked at StratCom for nearly 30 years in various departments, including operations research, budget and communications. She entered the Senior Executive Service in 2007, and currently serves as director of Command Control Communications, director of the Joint Cyber Center and chief information officer. It's intense work, but Kelley likes the challenge.

"I like the fast pace," she says. "I do enjoy that."

Kelley deals with a variety of communications and information issues involving cyber security, satellite communications, GPS information and capabilities, and global missile defense.

Most days begin with a 7 a.m. meeting to discuss world events of the past 12 hours and how they affect StratCom. She travels frequently, often to the Pentagon for meetings, and has recently been to Europe and Australia.

Kelley says one of the most challenging aspects of her work is keeping up with the rapidly evolving nature of cyber security and communications issues, and trying to anticipate those changes.

"More and more vulnerabilities in



Creighton alumna Kerry Kelley, BS'84, has worked as a civilian employee at U.S. Strategic Command near Omaha for nearly 30 years.

cyberspace are becoming more apparent," she says. But it's also rewarding work, she says, to play a role in the national security of the United States.

"It's very meaningful work," she says. "You know the work you're doing is impacting some of the highest levels of government. I think that's very rewarding."

Kelley was involved in the \$445 million Wideband Global SATCOM 7, an advanced military communications satellite that launched in July from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. She was on hand as the satellite blasted into space aboard a Delta IV rocket.

"It was incredibly satisfying," she says, especially considering the commitment of so many people who worked on the project. "The people here are just awesome. You can just see their dedication."

Kelley earned a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Creighton in 1984. She then earned a master's

degree in operations research from Northwestern University, before joining StratCom as an operations research analyst in 1985.

Kelley has earned several major awards and decorations for her service, including the Presidential Rank Award (2012), Air Force Special Act/Service Award (2006 and 2007), the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award, and numerous Air Force Superior Performance Awards.

She served as the StratCom representative to the Nuclear Weapons Council Senior Steering Group and was co-chair of the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review Force Structure Panel that contributed to the New START treaty, a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the U.S. and Russia.

2015 Alumni Merit Award Recipients

Creighton University congratulates these outstanding graduates who were recognized with Alumni Merit Awards during Homecoming.

Read more about the recipients at alumni.creighton.edu.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson, BA'79



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Tammy Williams, BA'09



SCHOOL OF LAW

Hon. Joseph Bataillon, BA'71, JD'74



HEIDER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

J. Patrick Curry, BSBA'78



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Jeff Thompson, MS'10



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Robert Troia, MD'79



COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., BSN'79, MS'93



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Dennis Higginbotham, DDS'67



SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Robert Albers, BA'71, BSPha'76

two emergency shelters in Arlington, Texas, and Fort Worth, Texas, to families fleeing violent situations.

02 Rebecca Stephens Falcasantos, BACLS, Providence, R.I., received her Ph.D. in religious studies from Brown University in May. Her dissertation was awarded the Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award in the Humanities. She began a position as visiting assistant professor of theology at Providence College in August. **Adam G. Franzen, JD,** Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has been inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates, one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the U.S. Membership is limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. Fewer than one percent of U.S. lawyers are members. **Kurtis T. Morrison, BA,**

Denver, was appointed by Gov. John Hickenlooper as director of legislative affairs and assistant legal counsel for the State of Colorado Office of the Governor. **Angela K. Walker-Weber, MBA'97, JD,** and **Charles R. "Chuck" Walker, JD'83,** Prescott, Ariz., were featured in Prescott's *The Daily Courier* on June 21 (Father's Day). The father and daughter are partners at Walker & Walker, Attorneys at Law, PLC, in Prescott. **Gregory J. Walther, JD,** Seattle, opened Emerald Search Partners, a legal recruiting company in Seattle specializing in placing attorneys and staff with law firms and corporate legal departments.

03 Jason F. Knoblauch, BSBA, Wilmington, N.C., was promoted to vice president, finance, with Pharmaceutical Product Development.

04 Jaimie Thompson Mansfield, BSBA, St. Louis, joined the law firm Armstrong Teasdale's St. Louis office in May. Mansfield is a member of the firm's financial and real estate services practice group. **Angela C. Nastase, JD,** Omaha, is the deputy Title IX coordinator at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

05 Philip B. Katz, JD, Omaha, was named one of the Top Ten Attorneys Under 40 for the state of Nebraska by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys. Katz is an attorney with Koenig Dunne Divorce Law in Omaha. **Robert A. McLean Jr., BA,** New York, recently joined the team at CNNMoney in New York as an overnight multi-platform editor.

06 Christopher M. Barr, BA, La Grange, Ill., received his MBA from the University of Chicago

Booth School of Business in June. **Dr. Justyna A. Dobrowolska, BS,** Chicago, received her Ph.D. in neurosciences from Washington University in St. Louis in 2013.

08 Sezai Hakan Armagan, MS, Omaha, recently spent several months in New Zealand as a Fulbright Scholar where he conducted research on energy and environmental sustainability, including the social and cultural side of energy use with the Māori (indigenous New Zealanders). Armagan is a teacher at Burke High School in Omaha.

10 Robert J. Forrest, BSBA, Omaha, recently started a financial advising practice with Mutual of Omaha. **Daniel C. Knauff, BSBA,** Bloomington, Minn., passed the third and final level of the

Magis Medal Honoree Inspired to Give Back



Thomas

Creighton graduate **Charles Thomas Jr., MS'09, EdD'14**, was named one of 100 recipients of Alpha Sigma Nu's Magis Medal — honoring outstanding members of the Jesuit honor society. Thomas grew up on the tough streets of Flint, Mich.; his best friend was fatally shot at 24. Thomas' journey inspired him to give back. [Read his story at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.](http://creighton.edu/creightonmagazine)

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam in June.

12 Taylor Jensen, BA, St. Louis, received her law degree from Saint Louis University in May. She also received a Leaders of Tomorrow Award at the 2015 Women's Justice Awards in April. **Mamie J. Sparacino, BA**, Davenport, Iowa, was named Aide-de-Camp for Brig. Gen. Stephen Farman, Joint Munitions Command and Joint Munitions Lethality and Life Cycle Management commanding general at Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill.

14 Daniel M. Manning Jr., BA'11, JD, Des Moines, Iowa, joined the Lillis Law Firm in Des Moines as associate attorney. His areas of practice include corporate law, real estate matters and litigation.

Weddings

77 Laurie Onofrio Rock and James A. Collier, MD, Aug. 1, 2015, living in Newport Beach, Calif.

85 Mary Ellen McLean, DDS, and Paul M. Ganz, May 3, 2015, living in South Lyon, Mich.

04 Alaina M. Stedillie, BA, and Doug Hall, June 28, 2015, living in Casper, Wyo.

06 Kristi L. Woodard, BA, and Matt Wittry, June 13, 2015, living in Bellevue, Neb.

08 Brenda Reed and Daniel R. Gray, BS'06, MEDS, Sept. 20, 2014, living in Omaha.

09 Bridget C. Noonan, BA'07, BSN, and Judd Cornell, June 5, 2015, living in Omaha.

10 Katie L. Krueger and Robert J. Forrest, BSBA, Nov. 12, 2013, living in Omaha. **Elizabeth C. Hassebroek, MD**, and **Amandeep S. Mahal, MD**, Sept. 21, 2013, living in San Jose, Calif.

12 Angela C. Brichacek, BS, and **Patrick B. Murray Jr., BA**, July 11, 2015, living in Omaha.

13 Lauren M. Steck, BSN, and **Colin A. McDonald, BA**, June 20, 2015, living in Columbia, Mo.

14 Elizabeth J. Hall, BA, and **Michael V. Hall, BS**, July 18, 2015, living in Berkeley, Calif.

15 Shannon M. Kern, BA, and Adam Braun, June 27, 2015, living in Minneapolis.

Births

97 Justin J. Iverson and Wendy Zerzan Iverson, BSN, Papillion, Neb., a son, Andrew Joseph, Nov. 21, 2014.

99 Abe Sandquist and Susan Botos Sandquist, BA, Woodbine, Iowa, twins, Botos Behr and Lucy Larraine, Jan. 4, 2015. **Dr. Timothy J. Strigenz, BS**, and Dierdre Strigenz, Niceville, Fla., twins, Evelyn Davies and Grace Walker, June 26, 2015.

02 Stephen P. McAvoy, BS'98, MD, and **Heather Sorensen McAvoy, BA'01**, New Berlin, Wis., a daughter, Margot Elizabeth, May 22, 2015. **Jacob M. Steinkemper, JD**, and

Molly Wickham Steinkemper, JD'03, Omaha, a daughter, Samantha Kelle, Dec. 4, 2014. Maj. Travis C. Swan and **Dr. Angela Morrison Swan, BA**, Litchfield Park, Ariz., a daughter, Eden Sophia, May 19, 2015.

04 Justin Schmidt and Debra King Schmidt, DDS, Chicago, a son, Dylan James, July 20, 2015. Brett Selk and **Melissa Unruh Selk, BSN**, Crescent, Iowa, a son, Hudson Robert, April 2, 2015. **Joseph P. Tippins, BSBA**, and **Jennifer Wede Tippins, BSBA**, Chicago, a daughter, Maren Catherine, May 8, 2015.

05 Ryan M. Brennan, BA, and **Rosemary Ryan Brennan, BS'03**, Independence, Mo., a daughter, Maryanne Hope, Feb. 16, 2015. **Damien A. Gang, JD**, and **Alicia B. Feldman, MD'04**, Fort Collins, Colo., twins, Heath Dillon and Keira Sasha, April 9, 2015.

06 Jason J. Biss, JD, and **Jill Tyner Biss, BS**, Lafayette, Ind., a daughter, Keira Rose, Jan. 3, 2015. **Daniel M. G'Sell, PharmD**, and **Marie Halbur G'Sell, BS'02, DDS**, Carroll, Iowa, a son, Samuel Martin, Aug. 6, 2015. Mark D. Huber II and **Kate DeCleene Huber, OTD**, Indianapolis, a daughter, Merna Catherine, June 25, 2015.

08 Daniel R. Gray, BS'06, MEDS, and Brenda Gray, Omaha, a son, Aidan Reed, June 16, 2015. Todd Reinke and **Jennifer L. Eisma-Reinke, JD**, Inwood, Iowa, a daughter, Vivienne Lynn, Feb. 21, 2015.

Let us know how we're doing ...

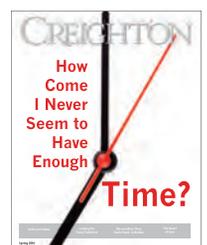
Creighton University is working through the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) to get **your opinions about this magazine.**

The online survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

The results will be reported to Creighton in aggregate form only, and you will not be identified.

bit.ly/magazine_survey

Thank you in advance for helping to make Creighton University Magazine even better!



Dedicated to Patients, Colleagues, Students and Creighton

By Eugene Curtin

Gift from family and friends honors the late School of Medicine faculty member Edward Horowitz, MD'78

The ripples of a much-admired life that ended tragically a little over a year ago continue to wash over Creighton University.

Family and friends of **Edward Horowitz, MD'78**, have committed a total of \$500,000 to the Creighton School of Medicine, to be presented in \$100,000 increments in each of the next five years.

Mel Horowitz, Edward Horowitz's older brother, said the gift reflects his brother's affection for a school that gave him the opportunity to pursue a medical education when others rejected him because his undergraduate education was in mathematics and not the biological sciences.

"Ed was a very grateful person who appreciated what people had done for him, and he used his abilities to give back to people," Horowitz said. "He was very loyal to people, and wanted to give back to Creighton. I'm certain he would have appreciated that we have marshaled the resources of friends and family to do some good in his memory."

Ed Horowitz, who graduated from the School of Medicine in 1978, spent his entire medical career at Creighton. He completed an internship, his residency, a chief residency, a fellowship in infectious diseases, an associate professorship of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and a secondary appointment in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, all at Creighton institutions.

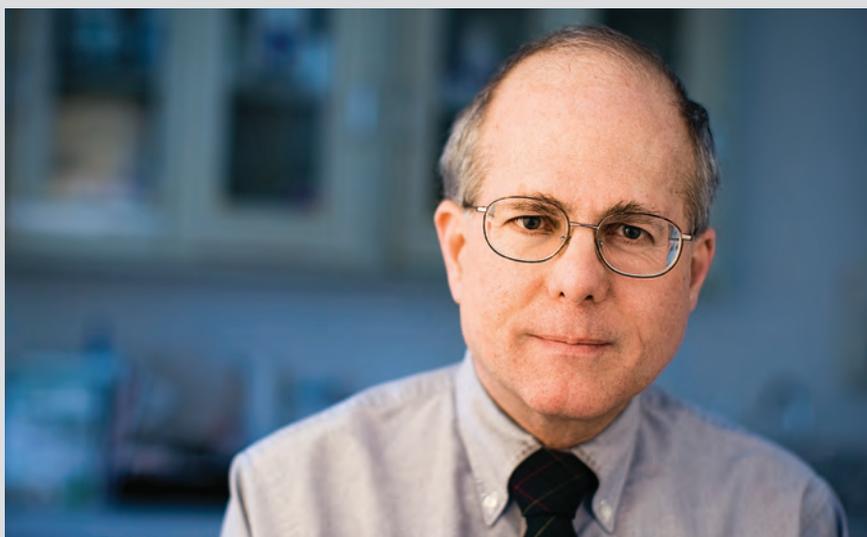
He died June 23, 2014, when a vehicle struck him as he was crossing a street. The perpetrator was found to be driving with a blood alcohol content triple the legal level.

Mel Horowitz said his brother

exemplified his wider family's commitment to providing medical care to people regardless of economic standing. His father, now 97, is also a physician, as well as three uncles, and Mel said his brother's work

"He was a very eclectic man, a true Renaissance man, up to date on everything happening in the arts, politics, sports, classical music," Kenik said. "He was a passionate L.A. Dodgers fan, a very good tennis player and devoted to medicine in all its aspects — caring for patients, teaching and, of course, the Magis Clinic and the students there."

Robert Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the School of Medicine, said Horowitz's commitment to people living in poverty



The late Edward Horowitz, MD'78, pictured above, spent his entire medical career at Creighton.

with Creighton's Magis Clinic, which serves the homeless and uninsured, as well as his earlier involvement with Omaha's Indian-Chicano Health Center (now OneWorld Community Health Centers) and the La Plaza Health Center reflected a lifelong concern for the underprivileged.

Few were as close to Horowitz as Creighton rheumatologist Jay Kenik, MD'75, who played tennis with him.

Kenik said Horowitz, who he came to know when Horowitz was a student and Kenik a resident, was essentially part of his family.

"To my kids, he was Uncle Ed," he said. "He was there from the day they were born and that's who he was."

Like others who spoke about Horowitz in the days after his death, Kenik describes a man who was deeply social despite being unmarried, and who was knowledgeable in a wide array of fields.

was well known and that the \$500,000 gift will be used to support medical students whose academic achievements qualify them but who cannot afford medical school.

"One of the things about Ed that always stands out in my mind was what an advocate he was for people living in poverty," Dunlay said. "This will be a great memorial to him."

That the money will be used to help disadvantaged students gain a medical education would have pleased his brother, Mel Horowitz said.

"I think I can say without contradiction that his patients, his colleagues, his students, the other professors all knew that Ed wanted only to be part of the team and to improve health care in the community," he said. "That's really the way he lived his life."

10 **Amandeep S. Mahal, MD**, and **Elizabeth C. Hassebroek, MD**, San Jose, Calif., a son, Samson Mahal, Nov. 6, 2014. **Joseph M. Niederee, JD**, and **Maura Manning Niederee, BS'11, MS'14**, Omaha, a son, Nicholas Richard, March 21, 2015.

13 Jake Miller and **Ashley Shrader Miller, MA**, Papillion, Neb., a son, Oliver, Dec. 15, 2014.

15 **Brett A. Pietig, BSChm'09, PharmD'15**, and **Anna Halbur Pietig, BA'09, PharmD'13**, Carroll, Iowa, a daughter, Lena Renee, June 10, 2015.

Deaths

38 **Charlotte Kuhl Nelson, SJN**, La Crosse, Wis., May 12, 2015.

43 **Daniel P. O'Connor, BA**, Roxbury, Conn., April 8, 2015.

45 **Florence Britt Delhey, BA**, Delavan, Wis., May 1, 2015.

46 **Donald R. Lasnier, ARTS**, Topeka, Kan., June 26, 2015.

47 **Mary Stalp Kelly, SJN**, Roswell, N.M., May 3, 2015. **Anne Scolla Ranks, MA**, Fallston, Md., May 2, 2015. **Grace C. Sobczyk, SJN**, Omaha, July 14, 2015.

48 **Elaine Renter Dinslage, SCN**, Clarkson, Neb., May 20,

2015. **Brig. Gen. Edwin F. Dosek, JD**, Crofton, Md., April 28, 2015. **John A. Durkan, BSC**, Omaha, Aug. 5, 2015. **Norma Hansen Shoberg, SJN**, Omaha, July 2, 2015.

49 **Charles F. "Charlie" Heider, BSC, HON'10**, Omaha, July 30, 2015. **Dr. John A. Mack, BS**, Beatrice, Neb., July 15, 2015. **Lawrence A. Marty, LAW**, Green River, Wyo., June 16, 2015. **Monica Reiter Slevin, SJN**, Spalding, Neb., April 19, 2015. **Eugene M. Twohey, BS**, Omaha, June 14, 2015.

50 **Hugh A. Gibson Jr., BSPha**, Omaha, Sept. 18, 2014. **Evelyn Gamler Hassett, SJN**, Fort Collins, Colo., April 22, 2015. **Donald N. Petersen, BSC**, Denver, April 20, 2015.

51 **Francis J. "Joe" Cosgrove, JD**, Sioux City, Iowa, July 1, 2015. **Francis C. "Frank" Goodell, BA'50, MA**, Omaha, July 31, 2015. **Shirley J. Maun-Tuck, SJN**, Omaha, Jan. 27, 2015. **Eugene C. "Gene" Rose, BSC**, Fort Wayne, Ind., June 22, 2015.

52 **Paul R. Bruckner, BSPha**, Schuyler, Neb., July 13, 2015. **Bernadine Heiman Chapman, SJN**, Largo, Fla., June 23, 2015. **Frank E. Garrett, MD**, Rochester, Minn., April 22, 2015. **Meryl L. Leiferman, BSC**, Danville, Calif., April 28, 2015. **Ruth Spear Thuente, SCN**, Algona, Iowa, May 3, 2015.

53 **Lennis W. Baker, BSC**, San Jose, Calif., July 27, 2015. **Sr. M. Marlene Breimhorst, BS'47, MS**, Mankato, Minn., May 23, 2015. **Sr. Mary Mechtilde Hill, MS**, Omaha, July 17, 2015. **James P. Jensen, BS'51, MA**, Omaha, July 18, 2015. **Alice Hatchett Mullin, BSN**, San Jose, Calif., June 1, 2015.

54 **Arthur T. Matte Sr., DDS**, Albuquerque, N.M., July 1, 2015. **Maurice E. "Moe" Waring, BSC**, Omaha, July 18, 2015. **Deloris R. Wheeler, BSPha**, Montello, Wis., May 12, 2015.

55 **Coleen A. Donovan, SJN**, La Jolla, Calif., July 25, 2015. **Joseph R. Heese, BSC**, Omaha, July 26, 2015. **Joan Sweeney LaChapelle, BS**, North Bend, Ore., July 24, 2015. **John P. McCalla, MD**, Kansas City, Mo., May 1, 2015. **Thomas A. McCarville, BUSAD**, Florence, Ore., June 11, 2015. **Bernard J. McGrath, BSC**, Omaha, July 26, 2015.

56 **Mary Spies Sully, BS**, Fort Calhoun, Neb., April 29, 2015.

57 **Michael F. Callaghan Sr., MD**, Laguna Niguel, Calif., May 26, 2015. **Dr. Warren G. Kneer, BS'52, MA**, Omaha, May 1, 2015. **Lee T. Magee, JD**, Prairie Village, Kan., April 20, 2015. **James H. Moylan, BS'52, JD**, Omaha, May 21, 2015. **John S. Spelic, ARTS**, Las Vegas, March 25, 2015.

58 **Frank G. McGreevey, DDS**, Ronan, Mont., July 7, 2015.

59 **Bernard P. Rudis, MD**, San Juan Capistrano, Calif., April 22, 2015.

60 **Fred A. Celsi, DDS**, San Jose, Calif., April 5, 2015. **Ronald K. Minnehan, BSBA**, Westlake Village, Calif., April 17, 2015. **James G. Vetter Jr., JD**, Dallas, May 17, 2015.

61 **Dennis G. Carroll, BS**, Clermont, Fla., April 14, 2015. **Daniel A. Martin, BA'59, JD**, Elkhorn, Neb., July 24, 2015. **S. Frank Meares, BS'58, JD**, Newport, R.I., June 5, 2015.

62 **John A. Gubbels, BSBA**, Omaha, Aug. 4, 2015.

63 **Wallace Berg, BSPha**, Bakersfield, Calif., July 10, 2015. **Ronald J. Eischeid, BSBA'60, JD**, Murfreesboro, Tenn., June 14, 2015. **Karen Humlicek Sedlacek, SJN**, Gulfport, Fla., April 21, 2015.

64 **Robert S. Jacobsen, DDS**, Hiawatha, Iowa, July 24, 2015. **Wesley G. Wilhelm, BSPha'54, MD**, Omaha, May 20, 2015.

67 **Gary A. Epstein, DDS**, Omaha, April 21, 2015. **Philip J. Griswa, BSRT**, Fresno, Calif., April 24, 2015.

68 **John F. Cogley, BSBA'65, JD**, Sioux Falls, S.D., April 23, 2015. **Charles F. Damico Jr., MD**, Omaha, May 29, 2015. **Dennis E. Penna, DDS**, Nine Mile Falls, Wash., June 10, 2015.

69 **Robert J. "Jim" Lawson, BSBA**, Wahoo, Neb., July 30, 2015. **Michael T. McKim, JD**, St. Paul, Minn., May 28, 2015.

71 **Joan Fangman Bergquist, MA**, Omaha, May 13, 2015. **James F. Herbert, BA**, Omaha, June 10, 2015.

72 **Timothy R. Fangman, MD**, Omaha, June 6, 2015. **Lt. Col. Donald R. Hedgpath, MSEdu**, Claremore, Okla., July 1, 2015. **Wayne B. Henry, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 9, 2015.

73 **Michael F. Alvord, DDS**, Bozeman, Mont., July 31, 2015.

74 **Florence Holcomb, BS**, Omaha, May 21, 2015.

76 **Michael J. Schumacher, BSBA**, Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug. 7, 2015.

78 **Joseph P. Steven Jr., DDS**, Wichita, Kan., May 22, 2015.

80 **Rebecca E. Hall, BSN**, Lubbock, Texas, April 21, 2015. **Elizabeth Girardot Smoot, BSN**, Santa Barbara, Calif., April 11, 2015. **Karen Schaefer Stein, BSN**, Underwood, Iowa, July 7, 2015.

81 **Ret. Lt. Col. Jeffrey R. Goodlett, MS**, Bellevue, Neb., April 23, 2015. **Clark J. VanSkiver, JD**, Omaha, May 30, 2015.

84 **Ret. Lt. Col. Horace H. "King" Reynolds III, JD**, Bellevue, Neb., June 19, 2015.

87 **Barry J. Tobin, JD**, Seattle, July 6, 2015.

91 **Ret. Maj. Daniel B. Greenwood, JD**, Elkhorn, Neb., Aug. 3, 2015. **Robert G. Kirschner, JD**, Madison, Wis., Aug. 1, 2015.

95 **Kevin M. Donovan, BSBA**, Park City, Utah, July 26, 2015. **Michael T. Emdin, BSBA'93, JD**, Aurora, Colo., July 2, 2015.

06 **Katherine Coffey Olechoski, DDS**, Omaha, June 4, 2015.

08 **Ryan C. Durham, JD**, Santa Clara, Utah, May 20, 2015.

In Remembrance

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

Alfred W. "Al" Brody, M.D.

Professor emeritus of medicine and biomedical sciences, School of Medicine; April 12, 2015

David Dworzack, M.D.

Professor emeritus of medicine and medical microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine; May 24, 2015

Thomas Nitsch, Ph.D.

Professor emeritus of economics, Heider College of Business; May 31, 2015

Alicia Vanden Bosch, Pharm.D.

Assistant professor of pharmacy practice, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions; Aug. 17, 2015

Ernst Brehm, Ph.D.

Professor and former chair, Department of Classics and Modern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences; Sept. 12, 2015

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

Wishing our alumni and friends
Merry Christmas,
Season's Greetings and a
Happy BLUE Year!



Show your Bluejay colors in your community, across the nation and around the world. And **share photos** in your Creighton gear on Twitter and Instagram, with the tag **#bluejayworld**.

Visit the **Creighton Bookstore** online, *creightonshop.com*, and **receive \$10 off any purchase of \$25 or more** when you enter the promo code **BLUECHRISTMAS.**

Valid 11/01/15 – 12/31/15. May not be combined with any other offer. Valid online only on an apparel and/or gift item purchase. Excludes textbooks and gift cards. Does not include shipping and handling.





Amy Nelson (standing) works with students in the Kent Bellows program at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha.

Creating Art, Influencing Lives

Creighton professor earns 2015 Mentor of the Year award

The ostensibly ethereal idea of making art can be intimidating for some budding creators and seem a wholly solitary pursuit for others.

What Creighton University fine art professor Amy Nelson, BFA'97, MFA, wants to impart to young artists, however, is that art exists to make a difference — not only by letting an artist's own vision live, but making it come to life for the wider world.

"I really enjoy helping students with that part of their art and their lives," said Nelson, who, as a mentor with the Omaha-based Kent Bellows Mentoring Program, earned the 2015 Midlands Mentoring Partnership (MMP) Mentor of the Year award. "Because what you discover is that, yes, you can help them learn a little more about their art and how art gets done, but you can also show them how art works in their lives and the lives of the people around them. You're a mentor not only with art, but with life."

Nelson became involved with the Kent Bellows program at its inception shortly after the death of Bellows, a renowned Omaha

artist, in 2005. Through a partnership with the Joslyn Art Museum, and the Kent Bellows Studio, the program matches high school students with art professionals for a semester-long experience learning the workings of the art world.

Nelson assisted with organizing the program and, in 2010, became a mentor herself and has since mentored 35 creative teens from around the Omaha area.

"If I had had something like this when I was in high school, I think it would have greatly prepared me for my college experience and also my career," Nelson said. "The program gets them thinking about service-learning opportunities and how art works in a community."

Weston Thomson, community outreach manager at the Joslyn Art Museum and former executive director of the Kent Bellows Foundation, nominated Nelson for the MMP award in part because he was looking to integrate a ceramics program into the studio and the mentoring program.

What he got with Nelson, Thomson said, was a dynamic, multi-talented artist who also had a spirit for service and educating the next generation of artists.

"Amy inspired the whole ceramics program at Kent Bellows Studios," Thomson said. "But as a teacher at Creighton and a mentor, she's a really great example of someone who grew up interested in art and wanted to find a way to extend her art to a number of different areas and to more people. The students she mentors see art isn't just a hobby. It's a way of connecting with people and with the community."

As a Creighton professor, Nelson's mentorship has also helped students bridge the gap between high school and college and afforded her mentees a look at what being an arts major at a university could look like.

"Her students get a different level of rhetoric in the mentoring program," Thomson said. "They get to visit a college art studio, they get to see what being a ceramics major might look like. Amy meets the teens where they are in their high school careers and she makes mentoring a part of her professional practice. She's a leader."

In addition to mentoring and teaching studio art courses in ceramics, Nelson also leads a course in art and civic engagement, taking students to serve at the Siena/Francis House homeless shelter. Each December for the past five years, she's organized the Empty Bowls Project, with her Creighton ceramics students making bowls which are then sold for \$10 apiece and the money donated to help feed the area's hungry. The project has raised more than \$25,000.

Nelson's honor underscored Creighton's own recognition as a mentoring partner in Omaha. With 132 students, staff and faculty actively mentoring in nine programs associated with MMP member organizations, Creighton earned recognition as the MMP's 2015 Advocate of the Year.

"For me, it's humbling to earn the award and I feel really honored," Nelson said. "But I've always been blown away by what Creighton does in giving back to the community, too. It's inspired me to find ways that I can serve and try to make a difference in other people's lives."

Magis Medal Honoree Inspired to Give Back

By Rick Davis, BA'88

Charles Thomas Jr., MS'09, EdD'14, wears a three-piece suit — with a bow tie — when he first meets with students at the Fairfax County Jail in northern Virginia to teach them life skills through a nonprofit outreach program.

“It’s just to let them know that I’m credible enough and battle-tested enough to teach there,” Thomas says.

But by the third class, it’s basketball shorts and T-shirts — and exposed tattoos — as he begins to deepen the connection.

“They say, ‘You know what Dr. C? You’re just like us — minus the green jumpsuit,’” he says with a laugh.

“I’ve never been in jail, but I understand their journey,”

Thomas says. “I know what the streets are like, but I wasn’t consumed by the streets. I’ve never claimed to be a thug, by any means. I’ve never sold drugs, but I have an appreciation of what that world is like because I grew up there.”

Thomas grew up in Flint, Mich. His best friend and high school track teammate, Akil Goodman, was shot and killed outside a Flint nightclub in 2006, at the age of 24.

At the time, Thomas had earned an undergraduate degree from Notre Dame and was beginning graduate school. The news hit him hard. He would turn to alcohol for relief. Everyday life was a struggle.

But the two had a shared dream of life beyond what they knew. He couldn’t let his friend down.

He returned to school — earning an MBA from UT-San Antonio in 2007; a master’s degree in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution from Creighton in 2009; and, in 2014, an Ed.D. in leadership from Creighton.

Thomas is proud of his Creighton education and considers the faculty family. He says the Ed.D. in Leadership Program “opened up a whole new world to me.”

“The people I met, the books that we read, the knowledge that I gained in the subject matter of leadership, it completely changed the nature of how I engage with other people.”

He has been teaching the life-skills class since 2013 through Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources (OAR) of Fairfax County, Inc. — a nonprofit restorative justice/human services organization that assists inmates so that they can rebuild their lives once they leave jail. This summer, Thomas was named the organization’s board chairman.

Thomas tries to establish a personal connection with the students.

“I know what it’s like to have friends die,” he says. “I know what it’s like to have family in jail. I get all that. So when I speak, I speak with an authority that transcends the theoretical.

“I also know what it means to achieve. I know what it means to compete. I know what it means to be resilient. I know what it means to stand in the middle of a storm and say, ‘Do your worst because when this is over, I’m going to still be here.’”

The OAR classes focus on life skills, such as communication, financial literacy, decision-making and mental health. But Thomas, who turned 35 in May, expands the curriculum beyond those pillars.

“We talk about things from Aristotle and Plato to negotiation and conflict management to what happened in Ferguson, Mo. (with the racial unrest),” he explains.

Thomas excelled in the classroom at Creighton. In 2013, he was inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society. And, this year, he was named one of 100 recipients of Alpha Sigma Nu’s Magis Medal — which honors outstanding

members in celebration of its centennial anniversary.

He’s also been active in his community. In addition to his work with OAR, he’s involved with the Future Fund, a local philanthropic organization, and serves as the treasurer of the board for Leadership Fairfax, a community-based leadership development organization.

The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce honored Thomas as the 2015 Emerging Influential Leader of Year in northern Virginia; *The Network Journal*, a quarterly publication for black professionals and business leaders, named him a national 40-under-40 honoree; and he was the keynote speaker at this year’s Ed.D. new-student orientation event at Creighton.

He works full time as a project leader at LMI, a government consulting firm headquartered in Tysons, Va. And, in 2012, he published a memoir, titled *Scars, Exile and Vindication: My Life as an Experiment*. He visited some 10 states on a book-signing tour and gave talks on the book, but the best part, he says, was that it brought him closer to his dad, who was recently diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease.

“We had like a three-and-a-half hour talk,” after the book came out, Thomas said. “My dad told me he loved me and was proud of me that day. I had never heard him say that before.”

One of Thomas’ favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou: “When you learn, teach. When you get, give.” He also finds inspiration and motivation in the directive of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, to “Go forth and set the world on fire.”

“With whatever time we have on this planet, I think we’re obligated to give and to be the best that we can be.”

