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CREIGHTON

A STATELY EVENING
Powell, Albright
Deliver Creighton 140
Presidential Lecture
In a wonderful holiday tradition, an excited crowd of students, faculty, and staff once again gathered around the steps of St. John’s Church recently to celebrate Christmas at Creighton and delight in the annual lighting of the campus mall.

This time of year is often filled with much activity, particularly here on campus as our students busily prepare for final exams, finish projects and papers, and make plans for the upcoming break.

At the same time, this season invites us to deeper reflection, and offers an opportunity to pause and give thanks for our many gifts. Indeed, at Creighton, we have much for which to be grateful.

This fall, we set a record for total enrollment (8,910), while welcoming the largest freshman class (1,155) in our University’s history. The Class of 2022 included our first cohort of Creighton Global Scholars, with 23 students beginning their first semester of studies at the University of Sydney.

We also welcomed the AJCU International Education Conference to campus this fall — recognizing Gabriel Pérez Alcalá, PhD, a visionary educational leader and the current and inaugural rector (chief academic officer) of Universidad Loyola Andalucía, a Jesuit university founded in 2010 in Spain, with an Honorary Alumnus Award.

(See photo below)

Our Creighton 140 Presidential Lecture Series celebrated our 140th anniversary. Following a spring address by Chuck Hagel, former U.S. senator and secretary of defense, we hosted Dominican-American writer and author Julia Alvarez in September and former Secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell in October. These esteemed national speakers offered insightful and thoughtful discussion.

In September, we joined our health care partners in Arizona to announce construction of a new Creighton health sciences campus in midtown Phoenix, with a new approximately 200,000-square-foot facility scheduled to open in 2021.

While we remain committed to enhancing our excellent health sciences programs here in Omaha, with our partner CHI Health, I am excited about growing our programs in Phoenix and working to meet the increasing demand for health care professionals in that region.

Jacque Chadwick, MD, a family physician with a distinguished career in medical education, administration and advocacy, has been named the inaugural vice provost of our Arizona health sciences campus, and also serves as executive director of the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance.

We were pleased to once again be ranked No. 1 in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report, in its 2019 "America’s Best Colleges" edition. This marks the 16th consecutive year we have been so honored.

And, finally, in September, we celebrated the ribbon-cutting for our new School of Dentistry building — a state-of-the-art, high-tech facility that will allow us to educate more students and serve more patients.

Thank you for your continued support of Creighton University. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas, happy holidays, and wonderful new year.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President
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**AMY REIDON, a sophomore neuroscience major, who was one of four Creighton students to participate in Catholic Relief Services’ Med Humanitarian Ambassadors Leaders Together (SALT) Summit.

“Being aware of what we do, what we consume, what we buy, what energy we use, what we waste, those things we do here have a connection to what happens in the rest of the world. The whole idea of the conference was to take what we learned and connect it back to our campuses.”

**CREIGHTON ALUMNI NEWS**

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Creighton’s inaugural Global Surgery Fellow, Kelly Shine, MD, has added a few procedures to her repertoire. "All things that most general surgeons do," says Shine, who learned them on her international rotation. "I feel fortunate to be able to start this fellowship for Creighton. But the real hope is that this isn’t just a year or two. We want this to blossom and to be a learning experience not just for the people we serve, but for the surgeon, too."

Filipi coordinated teams from all over the globe to respond, using ILAC as a staging site and supply center. "It’s classic Africa," Shine says. "The soil is all red we’re just at the end of the wet season so the vegetation is quite green. We’re surrounded by agriculture—sunflower seed and coffee plantations—and then you a half-hour from the hospital and you’re in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. I don’t see much wildlife from the hospital grounds, but we have had the Cape buffalo wounds and a few people bitten by baboons." Shine says the hospital itself is small but has a dedicated staff. "In many ways, much of the work of the fellow is to train staff in new practices and procedures. Shine, with 15 years practice experience and several stints abroad, including work with Filipi’s Hernia Repair for the Underserved, was selected out of several applicants and was an ideal candidate. "I feel fortunate to be able to start this fellowship for Creighton," Shine says. "But the real hope is that this isn’t just a year or two. We want to build long-term relationships with the sites where we work abroad. We want this to blossom and to be a learning experience not just for the people we serve, but for the surgeon, too.”

"I’m glad it’s something Creighton could have a global impact. With the creation of the Creighton Global Initiative, we were able to see the need for surgeons, because we didn’t have a surgery option there initially, but then a surgery center was built, and we organized a hernia surgical team and started performing surgery there. For a physician, as much as the patient, it’s a life-giving, heart-opening experience."

The Lancet Commission estimates 143 million people require additional lifesaving or disability-preventing surgical procedures annually, but lack access to necessary surgical care. But it wasn’t so much those big numbers that initially inspired Charles Filipi, MD, to create the Global Surgery Fellowship. In 2001, his son, a Creighton undergraduate, took a study abroad trip to Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC). "It was a life-changing experience for him," says Filipi, the fellowship program director and an emeritus professor of surgery in the School of Medicine. "He said, ‘Dad, you’ve got to go down there.’"

Filipi’s desire to see Creighton live out its mission through a surgical post that could have a global impact. With the creation of the Creighton Global Initiative, we were able to see the need for surgeons, because we didn’t have a surgery option there initially, but then a surgery center was built, and we organized a hernia surgical team and started performing surgery there. For a physician, as much as the patient, it’s a life-giving, heart-opening experience.

Seeing the dire need for surgeons, even in a relatively prosperous nation like the Dominican Republic, Filipi started a nonprofit organization to send surgical teams to countries throughout the western hemisphere in need of surgical care, especially for hernia. When a massive earthquake shook Haiti in 2010, Filipi coordinated teams from all over the globe to respond, using ILAC as a staging site and supply center.

From those experiences, it was Filipi’s desire to see Creighton live out its mission through a surgical post that could have a global impact. With the creation of the Creighton Global Initiative, we were able to see the need for surgeons, because we didn’t have a surgery option there initially, but then a surgery center was built, and we organized a hernia surgical team and started performing surgery there. For a physician, as much as the patient, it’s a life-giving, heart-opening experience.

After 10 weeks in Tanzania as Creighton’s inaugural Global Surgery Fellow, Kelly Shine, MD, has added a few procedures to her repertoire. "All things that most general surgeons do," says Shine, who learned them on her international rotation. "I feel fortunate to be able to start this fellowship for Creighton. But the real hope is that this isn’t just a year or two... We want this to blossom and to be a learning experience not just for the people we serve, but for the surgeon, too."
“Global health and global surgery are something that has always been close to my heart, and it’s amazing to see the benefit exponentially. Moreover, the fellowship seeks to enlighten Creighton students at all levels to understand the desperate need and respond how they can. While the numbers of those lacking care may be daunting, there is a feeling the educational opportunity is one physicians are seizing upon.”

“It seems like a drop in the bucket when you’re talking about tens of millions of people to one surgeon,” Filipi says. “But if we can spread knowledge as widely as possible, the more, the better.”

Filipi, Shine and Straughan are hopeful the fellowship will create an important acute-care global surgery model where lives are saved, in-country providers are trained and thereby extend the benefit exponentially. Moreover, the fellowship seeks to enlighten Creighton students at all levels to understand the desperate need and respond how they can. While the numbers of those lacking care may be daunting, there is a feeling the educational opportunity is one physicians are seizing upon.

Joe Ecklund, PhD, director of Global Engagement Office (GEO), says there has been “astronomical” growth in study abroad programs at Creighton. In 2013, there were only four study abroad programs offered; today, there are 17 and counting.

“The campus is getting used to the mobility of the student,” Curran says. “It won’t be so odd for a group of students to come back.”

Next up: The Global Scholars will spend either the fall or spring semester of their sophomore year at Creighton’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic.

Oberst says he would highly recommend the program to future students. “It is a great opportunity to be with amazing people and make a close group of friends before you get onto campus.”

Curran and her colleagues in the GIO are already preparing to select the next Creighton Global Scholars cohort. For more information about the Global Scholars Program, visit creighton.edu/global/scholarsprogram.

“Mobile Phone-Based Electrochemiluminescent Detection of Biogenic Amines”

STUDENT RESEARCHER
Nic Heckenlaible, junior, majoring in chemistry with a minor in computer science; Sioux Falls, South Dakota

FACULTY MENTOR
Erin Gross, PhD, professor of chemistry

WHAT IT MEANS
Heckenlaible’s research involved mobile phone technology for detecting biogenic amines in food. Biogenic amines are compounds that are found in spoiled food and can cause illness; typically, analysis in a laboratory is necessary to detect the illness-causing elements. Electrochemiluminescent (ECL) detection has been successful in laboratories, but recently a mobile phone camera ECL system, which would eliminate the need for a lab, has shown promise. A Ferlic Summer Scholarship allowed Heckenlaible to study and improve upon this new technology. He designed, 3D printed, implemented and evaluated a light-tight casing for a phone-based detection system. Development of a fully portable phone-based field kit could provide lifesaving prevention of food-borne illness, especially in developing countries.
Peck is the only physical therapist who has worked at the clinic, allowing him to really get to know his patients. If a patient comes in for an evaluation, Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the patient before.

“I get this longitudinal viewpoint of rehab,” Peck says. “It’s a unique view of patient care, it’s more like a small family than anything else.”

On his weekly clinic visits, Peck brings two physical therapy students. He says it’s a great experience for the students to get to practice and see real-world applications of what they learn in a PT lab.

The clinic does not have diagnostic imaging, which means no X-rays, MRIs or CT scans. Instead, Peck’s evaluations are based on clinical signs and symptoms, medical history and years of experience.

Several years ago — wanting to learn more about traditional Native American health care — Peck asked Leff to if he could participate in a sweat ceremony, a sacred ceremonial tradition for some Native American populations.

“He allowed me to (participate) because I was providing a great service for their people,” Peck says. “It was a great honor!”

Peck says the clinic experience has enriched his view of physical therapy services and opened doors for PT students.

“It is an extremely gratifying facility to work in, with a population that I feel has been disenfranchised,” he says. “(The clinic) is phenomenal. I love it.”

The clinic is enriched by its namesake, who died in 2012. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is unique in that it has a clinic named after a tribal leader. Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the clinic’s namesake, who died in 2012. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is unique in that it has a clinic named after a tribal leader. Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the clinic’s namesake, who died in 2012. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is unique in that it has a clinic named after a tribal leader. Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the clinic’s namesake, who died in 2012. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is unique in that it has a clinic named after a tribal leader. Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the clinic’s namesake, who died in 2012. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is unique in that it has a clinic named after a tribal leader. Peck can reference his notes from when he treated the clinic’s namesake, who died in 2012. 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Julia Alvarez, an award-winning writer whose family fled to the United States from the Dominican Republic in 1960 to escape the dictatorial regime of Rafael Trujillo, believes stories have the power to survive as a human family on this planet. “Come on in,” her favorite writers seemed to be saying to me. I found what we had come looking for in the United States — a truly welcoming world of stories.”

As part of the Creighton set Presidential Lecture Series, presented in collaboration with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) program at Creighton, Alvarez focused her talk on activism and storytelling — weaving together stories from her own life.

After fleeing the Dominican Republic with her family when she was 10, Alvarez found the transition to the United States difficult. She recalled being bullied at her weekend school in New York because of her accent. She felt homociskick and lost. But then her sixth-grade teacher gave her a list of books to check out at the library.

A sixth-grade teacher, a librarian. They put books in my hands,” Alvarez said. “What an amazing world this was. What freedom. What’s more, the world of stories was a truly welcoming place.”

Come on in, my favorite writers seemed to be saying to me. I found what we had come looking for in the United States of America in between the covers of books.”

Alvarez’s passion became sharing stories of her own — stories that shed light on injustice and uplift our shared humanity. As story-tellers, we have an important role to play in bringing about the changes that must happen if we’re going to survive as a human family on this small planet of diminishing resources,” she said.

Alvarez’s work spans genres. Her novels include How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent and In the Time of the Butterflies. She has also published poetry, nonfiction and books for younger audiences.

Her work has earned her numerous awards, including the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award and the Hispanic Heritage Award. In 2013, she received the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama.

Alvarez and her husband, Bill Eichner, have also been active in humanitarian projects in the Dominican Republic.

The couple purchased land in the Dominican Republic and started growing their own coffee with an organic and fair-trade label. Naming their farm Alta Gracia (or “high grace”), they used proceeds from coffee sales to start Foundation Alta Gracia, which funds local literacy projects.

They have also been involved in Border of Lights, which commemorates the 1937 Haitian Massacre, in which thousands of Haitians living in the Dominican Republic were systematically murdered by government soldiers.

In a case of life intertwining with art, Alvarez said. “The reason I write is there is a pebble in my shoe. I learn about my struggles, and it is a good feeling to share that. I used to think that those from other countries were better than I am, but I know that we are equals.”

Discovering Peru is one of 19 Faculty-Led Programs Abroad (FLPA) offered at Creighton through the Global Engagement Office. Selected students travel to Peru and participate in academic-service-learning and community engagement during the month of May.

The program, which began in 2011, partners with a local parish and its social ministries to place students at a health clinic and elderly outreach program. Students also work with community-based organizations, providing academic and nutritional services to primary- and secondary-aged school children.

Another essential element of the program is the stays with local host families.

Faculty mentors Thomas Kelly, PhD, professor of theology, and sociologist Kyle Woolley, PhD, say the ultimate goal of Discovering Peru is to take students beyond providing service — to what Pope Francis has called the “art of accompaniment.”

“In this sense, we have built a global academic-service-learning program rooted in the idea that the ‘encounter’ with the other is a sacred space — and that something to learn and grow from,” Woolley says.

“Students often think of the Global South as a place that they can ‘help’ or ‘fix.’ They often want to do something concrete,” Kelly adds. “However, Roxana’s testimonial emphasizes her experience with Creighton students as one based in reciprocity through accompaniment and a focus on being with rather than doing for.”

For more on Discovering Peru, visit creighton.edu/peru.
**Creighton's Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs has been awarded more than $3 million grant, through the Health Careers Opportunity Program, to fund a new Pipeline to Success Program. The program will help students from disadvantaged backgrounds in the Omaha community and around Nebraska, access and complete the education and training necessary to become health professionals.**

**“There is a paucity of minority representation in the health care professions in the nation,” says Dr. Luso-Lusali, MD, associate vice provost for Health Sciences and professor of surgery (ophthalmology), and principal investigator on the grant. “This award will help Creighton to continue on its mission of increasing the racial minority representation in its health sciences schools.”**

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**Altman, Korver Named to Athletics Hall of Fame**

Former Creighton men’s basketball coach Dana Altman and All-American Kyle Korver, BA’03, were inducted into the Creighton University Athletics Hall of Fame on Aug. 25.

Altman served as coach from 1994 to 2014 and remains the program’s all-time wins leader with a 327-176 mark. He is currently the head coach at the University of Oregon.

Korver played at Creighton from 1999 to 2003 and remains the only men’s basketball player in program history to play in four NCAA tournaments. He currently plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

During the induction ceremony, Creighton announced that Korver’s No. 25 jersey would be retired, joining No. 25 Portman, BA’69, Paul Silas, BSBA’64, and No. 25 jersey would be retired, joining Creighton to continue on its mission of increasing the racial minority representation in its health sciences schools.

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**In August, Creighton’s Magis Catholic Teacher Corps sent its largest cohort ever to teach in Catholic schools in seven cities across the U.S., including a new location in Tucson, Arizona.**

The 32 students are gaining valuable teaching experience, while also pursuing a master’s degree in education from Creighton.

In addition to Tucson, Creighton’s Magis students are teaching in schools in Kansas City, Missouri; Kansas City, Kansas; Sioux City, Iowa; Winnebago, Nebraska; Milwaukee; and Omaha. Participants live together in groups of three to eight in intentional Christian communities during the school year, attend a summer spirituality course on campus and participate in retreats throughout the year.

“Those interested in Ignatian spirituality as a young adult in the world today: that’s a big focus of ours,” says Colleen Chiacciero, MTS’14, Magis director.

When Creighton’s program started 17 years ago, with a gift from John Mickle Jr., BS’50 and Ann Louise Mickle, BA’75, it was only open to those who wanted to teach but didn’t have an education degree. Today, the program is open to both those who hold a teaching degree and those who don’t, offering graduate degrees in educational leadership, school counseling, educational specialist, and secondary and elementary education.

Initially only serving financially under-resourced schools, Magis has expanded to send teachers anywhere in the U.S. to teach but didn’t have an education degree.

Creighton looks for applicants with leadership initiative, involvement in service and openness to the calling of teaching.

Not every school is right for Magis. Chiacciero says. Partner schools need a principal who is willing to form new Catholic educators, and who supports the program’s mission.

It has long been evident to him, Fr. Embach says, that there is a spiritual dimension to healing. People want and need more than the medicines and surgeries that help to restore health.

“Many people, he says, “to hunger to know God better.”

Oftentimes patients would want to talk about God or spirituality,” he says. “It would just come up naturally.”

It took a while — he first had to grow confident in his basic ability as a physician to diagnose illness and prescribe appropriate treatment — but he eventually embraced the spiritual yearnings of his patients.

“A relationship with God puts our lives — its joys and challenges — in a different light, and maybe in a different context,” Fr. Embach says.

“When you look at science and medicine, there’s so much complexity in one human being, look at the central nervous system, the cardiovascular system, the gastrointestinal system, the human reproductive system, the blood-clotting system, just how our blood dots is vastly complex and ordered.

“Each individual human being is a profoundly beautiful creation with so much beauty and order, and yet, he says, that complex creation eventually fails, raising the question of the point of it all.

“It makes absolutely no sense for God to create such a beautifully ordered system for us to live in for ‘70, 80, 90 years, and then let it die into nothingness.” Fr. Embach says. “It makes no sense unless it points to something else, to something beyond, to another life.

“To me, it points right to Jesus Christ, and to a God who loves us very much and desires a relationship with us.”

Faith fosters resilience, he says, and resilience is a key factor in overcoming illness.

“Connecting with God gives us the perseverance to press on despite difficulties,” he says. “Through that relationship with God, you begin to realize how God loves you, how God loves each person, how He brought each of us into existence from nothingness and that He will not abandon us.”

Having experienced a lifelong commitment to the spiritual dimension of medicine, Fr. Embach says he is encouraged to note a similar light of understanding in Creighton medical students.

“It’s wonderful to see how God is at work in the students I encounter,” he says. “You can just see the spiritual working. They work so hard to prepare themselves to be involved in health care. What drives that?

“I don’t see money and profit as significant factors. It’s something deeper and more profound — the spirit, you can see the great desire they have to follow Christ, to accompany people in the wilderness.

“It’s a very beautiful thing.” — BY EUGENE CURTIN

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**Magis Catholic Teacher Corps Welcomes Largest Cohort, New City**

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**The desire to heal was Kevin Embach’s constant companion since way back, when he was a child growing up in Detroit as a practicing Catholic in a practicing Catholic family, since those long-ago days when he admired two physician uncles, since he saw his younger Down syndrome brother deal with severe disabilities — since, as he puts it, “the Lord first put it into my heart that the priesthood might be my vocation.”**

Having completed a pro-pre med year at the University of Notre Dame when he first felt the call to priestly service, a call that grew louder as he remained after Mass to pray alone in the crypt beneath the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

After almost 30 years practicing medicine, he has united the vocations of Jesuit priest and physician, as he remained after Mass to pray alone in the crypt beneath the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

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After almost 30 years practicing medicine, he has united the vocations of Jesuit priest and physician, as he remained after Mass to pray alone in the crypt beneath the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.
David Zhi-Zhou He, MD, PhD, professor of biomedical sciences, recently received a $1.9 million grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to research the causes of age-related hearing loss.

He believes this hearing loss could be related to hair cell loss, as hair is what the ear detects sound with. He is investigating inner and outer hair cells—the two types of receptor cells that convert sound into electrical impulses in the auditory nervous system. He will compare the changes at the cellular and molecular levels of hair cells between young and aging mice to determine age-related changes in gene expression, ultrastructure and cellular function.

The research team will look closer at the SU2 gene, or Clusterin, known to play a role in degeneration of neurons in the brain, in order to define if the gene also plays an important role in hair cell aging.

“Loss of hearing in the elderly also can contribute to social isolation and loss of autonomy, and is associated with anxiety, depression and cognitive decline,” he says. “Currently, there is no medication available to treat or postpone age-related hearing loss.”

The private partnership of the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation also funds He’s research projects. Since 2002, the foundation, established by the late Richard J. Bellucci, MD’42, has invested $763,000 in Creighton Biologics Research Group funding.

What Causes Age-Related Hearing Loss?

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Why Entrepreneurship Matters

By Alexei Marcoux, PhD

Evidence abounds that America is less entrepreneurial than in the past. By one measure—business startups—U.S. Census data reveals a four-decade-long decline: After starting just under 600,000 new businesses in 1977, Americans formed new ventures at a fluctuating rate of 500,000 to 600,000 per year until the financial meltdown of 2008. Since 2008, new business formations have dropped to 400,000 to 450,000 per year. Even as we revere the entrepreneurial spirit, fewer of us possess or act on it.

Before lamenting the decline in entrepreneurship, it’s worth taking a step back and addressing a more basic question: Why should we care? Differently put, why does entrepreneurship matter?

The 21st century is Joseph Schumpeter’s world—we merely live in it. The early-to-mid-20th century Harvard economist is the man of the hour because we see all around us the fruits of his entrepreneur: The force behind the “perennial gale of creative destruction” (or what today’s startup culture, following Harvard Business School professor Clayton Christensen, calls “disruptive innovation”). Schumpeter’s entrepreneur is the bringer of innovations that transform our world.

In Gates and in Jobs, in Bezos and in Musk, we see the breaker of routines and the bringer of new products, new business models and new ways of living. Above all, Schumpeter’s disruptive novelty, but as the work of people who bear the uncertainties of enterprise. Facing a five-year failure rate of more than 70 percent (according to Entrepreneur magazine). Knight’s entrepreneur in the person who abandons the relative safety of a regular paycheck, hangs out a shingle and eats what she kills.

In Schumpeter’s world, entrepreneurship matters because it is what will bring us the things else). The way we buy books (and now, almost every Borders into liquidation in transforming the way we watch movies, or the way Amazon obsoleted novelty: Think of the way Netflix transformed our world— we merely live in it. The early- to mid-20th century Harvard economist is the man of the hour because we see all around us the fruits of his entrepreneur: The force behind the “perennial gale of creative destruction” (or what today’s startup culture, following Harvard Business School professor Clayton Christensen, calls “disruptive innovation”). Schumpeter’s entrepreneur is the bringer of innovations that transform our world.

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In Knight’s world, entrepreneurship matters also in a work-focused way. It is a human service to the risk-averse majority, permitting a dignified livelihood insulated from many (though, of course, not all) of the uncertainties of enterprise. Entrepreneurship, then, is a too-often unacknowledged form of caritas in commercial guise.

At bottom, the care and feeding of an entrepreneur-friendly polity and culture isn’t about meeting the needs of entrepreneurs specifically—it’s the care and feeding of all of us.

About the Author: Alexei Marcoux, PhD, is a professor of business ethics and society and senior scholar with the Institute for Economic Inquiry at the Pepperdine University. Marcoux is a two-time winner of the Best Paper Award from the Society for Business Ethics, co-author of two textbooks on business ethics, co-editor of The Routledge Companion to Business Ethics, founding co-editor of the Business Ethics Journal, Review, co-editor of the Business Ethics Highlights website, and co-author of the Concise Encyclopedia of Business Ethics.

ILUSTRATION: JOHN TAMCAS
Office Space

As Creighton University’s archivist, a position he has held for the past 12 years, David Crawford serves as the primary steward of millions of historical photographs and other artifacts and oversees rare books and special collections housed at the University. His wife, Sue Crawford, PhD, is a professor of political science at Creighton and a Nebraska state senator. Here, we highlight some items that can be found in his “office” — the Rare Books Room in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library.

Above: This scroll, which measures more than 25 feet long, is a duplication of the classic Buddhist writing “Great Nirvana.” It was copied by a Tang dynasty calligrapher between 618 CE and 907 CE. The piece was a gift to Creighton from Northwest University in Xi’an, China.

Left (held by David Crawford): The late Rev. Carl M. Reinert, SJ, who served as president of Creighton University from 1950 to 1962, was made an honorary member of the Omaha Police Department. He received a badge for this role, which includes his monogram on the exterior carrying case.

PHOTOS BY DAVE WEAVER
A Stately Evening

Two former secretaries of state shared the stage inside Creighton University’s Ryan Center, offering their perspectives on a wide range of issues, as the culminating event in the Creighton 140 Presidential Lecture Series.
and Powell. The lecture was the third in a series that included talks by Chuck Hagel, a former U.S. senator and secretary of defense, in April and Dominican-American poet, novelist and essayist Julia Alvarez in September.

“The lectures in this series have brought esteemed national speakers to our campus and the Omaha-area community, fostering insight into, and discussion about, issues of national and global import,” Dr. Hendrickson said.

SHARING THEIR VIEWS
IN A WIDE-RANGING, 75-minute conversation moderated by award-winning CNN national correspondent Suzanne Malveaux, HON’12 (whose father, Floyd Malveaux, MD, PhD, BS’61, is a Creighton alumnus and an emeritus member of the Board of Trustees), Albright and Powell discussed everything from today’s headlines to the challenges faced by the Founding Fathers in drafting the Constitution. All three had visited with students earlier in the day.

“I congratulate Creighton on its 140th anniversary,” said Albright, a professor of foreign policy at Georgetown University. “It’s a great university, and I enjoyed being with students today.”

Trust and confidence were central themes of the evening’s conversation, and whatever trials the country might face today; there’s one thing to which the pair of former U.S. secretaries of state attested.

“There is no substitute for the United States of America,” said Powell, who served as head of the State Department under President George W. Bush. “We are still the greatest democracy in the world. We are great today. We were great yesterday. We’ll always be great tomorrow.”

“A MATTER OF FAITH
ALBRIGHT AND POWELL next moved into a reflection on one of those elements most tied into personal identity: faith.

Both leaders recounted moments in the White House’s Situation Room and in other crises when answers were unclear and slow in coming.

“We needed to get some of that divine information,” said Powell.

Powell said he remembers clearly a photograph of a mother at a tombstone at Arlington National Cemetery. And at the top of the tombstone, it wasn’t a cross, it wasn’t the Star of David,” he said. “It was the crescent (the religious symbol of Islam). It reminds me that Americans of every faith have seen fit to sacrifice for their country.”

Albright was raised Roman Catholic and did not learn of her Jewish roots until the setting process prior to becoming secretary of state, when it was revealed that she had lost 26 relatives in the Holocaust.

“That obviously made me think about family, but also that faith is not something that divides us. It cannot be,” Albright said. “My faith has meant a great deal to me. It’s something that’s always there.”

Speaking after a week fraught with violence that ended in tragedy with a mass shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue on Oct. 27 that killed 11 people, both Albright and Powell took a moment to reflect on the unassuming America’s national asset and celebration of diversity.

“There’s no way to describe what has been one of the most disappointing, horrible and un-American set of activities that’s taken place,” Albright said of the shooting. “There are divisions in our society that have come about as a result of technology and the downside of globalization, but we need leaders who look for common ground and don’t exacerbate (division).”

LASTING LEGACIES
OF THEIR LEGACIES, both diplomats opined on their humble beginnings that eventually brought them to national prominence and service.

“I hope they might say she worked very hard to defend America’s national interests and made people proud of what America is about,” Albright said. “The concept that if you work hard and get a position that you can do something with, can give back with, that’s an American dream and legacy. I want my legacy to be I’m a grateful American and I tried to give back.”

Dr. Madeleine Albright
"I'm sorry, but I do have to give you a shot," Britain Doolittle, BS’14, says to her patient in the Creighton School of Dentistry’s adult clinic. "I was hoping to get by without that today," her patient says with a laugh. Even with a shot looming, he still has a lot to smile about. The University’s new technology-rich, aesthetically inviting School of Dentistry building provides patients greater access to Creighton’s exceptional care.

Doolittle is smiling too. The 200,000-square-foot facility on the northeast edge of campus will be her academic and clinical home for her fourth and final year of dental school.

“When you walk into the building, I don’t know how you could not want to receive your DDS from Creighton School of Dentistry,” says Doolittle, who is originally from Holdrege, Nebraska. “This isn’t something just Creighton should be proud of, but our community as well.”
A guiding force behind construction of the new facility was to provide the community—particularly marginalized populations and those who otherwise might not receive care—with greater access to Creighton's quality dental services. The school expects to increase the number of people it treats annually, from about 12,000 to 15,000 over the next three years. The facility, made possible through the support of alumni, community foundations and other benefactors, also will allow Creighton to increase its dental school entering class enrollment capacity from about 85 students to 115 students.

Stepping inside the new building, one is struck by the abundance of natural light. A grand staircase flanks the atrium, alongside the dental school’s new admissions office, and floor-to-ceiling windows brighten the adult clinic reception area.

“It has a clean and calm ambiance that will benefit both patients and students alike,” says third-year dental student Brandon Rensch of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Although the building opened to students and faculty in August, a ceremonial ribbon-cutting was held Sept. 15, during Reunion Weekend—a fitting tribute to the many alumni and friends whose gifts help make the facility possible.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ; Mark Latta, DMD, dean of the School of Dentistry; members of Creighton’s Board of Trustees; and other dignitaries were among those who helped celebrate the occasion.

“It is our great hope that this facility will far surpass your expectations,” Fr. Hendrickson told the 250 people gathered for the event, “as we provide an outstanding clinical educational experience rooted in the principles of the Jesuit tradition.”

As impressive as the building at 21st and Cuming streets looks to passersby on the outside, Rensch says the technology found inside provides students with “exposure to some of the latest innovations in dentistry”—including electric handpieces, dental top: A ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the new School of Dentistry building was held Sept. 15.

middle: The active-learning classroom and lecture hall features cutting-edge technology to foster student engagement.

bottom: The Margaret Stanosheck Bongers, BS’43, and Leo Bongers, BS’46, DDS’48, Alumni Lounge was designed specifically for alumni events, such as reunions, celebrations and receptions. It includes a six-screen display featuring School of Dentistry graduates.

right: A sculpture of St. Ignatius of Loyola and quote greet visitors to the chapel.

bottom: The St. Ignatius of Loyola Chapel overlooks the adult clinic waiting area.
mannequins and new digital scanning and milling units. Each clinical-operatory has three monitors, allowing students to show patients exactly where their cavities are — making patient education easier than ever.

“Technology keeps advancing, and Creighton dental is right there along with it,” Doolittle says.

Photographs from the collection of the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, adorn the walls, and prints from the Heritage Edition of The Saint John’s Bible hang in the adult clinic reception area. (The full volumes of this limited edition Bible are on loan to the University from Board of Trustees chair Mike McCarthy and his wife, Nancy.)

Jutting out slightly above the adult clinic’s reception area is the St. Ignatius of Loyola Chapel. Dee and Martin Halbur, DDS’76, of Carroll, Iowa, provided funds for the chapel in honor of their friend the Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, SJ, B’73. Former president of Creighton, Fr. Lannon played an instrumental role in the early development of the new building.

A dedication ceremony for the chapel was held on Aug. 17. Fr. Hendrickson and Fr. Lannon were both in attendance, as was Omaha Archbishop the Most Rev. George Lucas, who blessed the altar. The chapel includes a tabernacle from St. John’s Church.

Also upstairs is an active-learning classroom, which allows for more interactive small-group learning and lectures through cutting-edge technology, along with an alumni space with interactive media and lecture halls outfitted with the latest audio-visual systems.

The new technology allowed Kim McFarland, BA’83, DDS’87, a professor of community and preventive dentistry, to display the effects of tooth decay on the big screen, mirrored at each workgroup station. Now students can clearly see detailed imagery on a screen right in front of them.

“Our program will now have the physical tools and space to innovate our teaching, to bring simulation and small-group learning to our pedagogy and, most crucially, to significantly expand our oral health services to patients,” Latta says.

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Mark Latta, DMD
Dean, School of Dentistry

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MARK LATTA, DMD
Dean, School of Dentistry
The philosophers — both ancient and not-so-ancient — handed down some legendary lessons to the devotees of their day. Those lessons are still being passed down. In the East and West alike, it was inspired, revolutionary stuff. In the extreme, it lit incendiary fuses of enlightenment. In some cases, it founded religions. Notably — and perhaps this is a point that can get lost in historical hindsight — their devotion to living and acting in a way that fit their own philosophies was, and still is, most inspiring. Even cursory consideration of the philosophers’ teachings would weave like tentacles through the subsequent history of human thought. Without a doubt, their contributions were profoundly influential and have endured through the ages — though not without some significant mutation along the way.

Indeed, there’s something very different about how this ancient wisdom, as studied in philosophy classrooms, has come to be perceived today. The vast majority of us encounter philosophy as abstract, the domain of academia and well-removed from the hustle of our daily lives. It is largely the province of problems and puzzles. And yet, many of the great philosophers considered themselves dispensers of practical advice on achieving happiness and improving one’s life. The Stoics, the Buddhists, the Ancient Skeptics and representatives of other such “way-of-life” traditions were mapping methods meant to directly improve the lives of those who embraced their systems.

To say they were the self-help set of their day isn’t quite accurate. The point is, these philosophers committed to practicing what they preached, as a path to the good life.

What happened along the way, to relegate such practicality to the realm of the abstract? Why do we think of philosophy nearly exclusively in terms of lofty “problems” — the problem of free will, for example, or Descartes’ mind-body problem? Elapsed time is perhaps the easiest explanation. Pierre Hadot, in his 1995 book, Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault, delves further, discussing such ideas as “contamination” — how Jewish, Greek, Roman and Christian systems of thought mingled and transposed over the centuries. In the resulting mash-up, philosophies and ideologies — along with art, literature and politics — smeared together in the mixing bowl of time and translation, and the original messages often lost their once-individualized definition.

While this contamination, or transposition, tells part of the story, another factor is the exposure of the Gospels to the philosophical cultures of the ancient world. Those cultures were influenced substantially by evangelization and, conversely, the Gospels were given a philosophical framework within which to develop.

A Guide to the Good Life?
Scholars Look Anew to Ancient Philosophy

“Live your life as though your every act were to become a universal law.”
IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804)

“When I walk along with two others, they may serve me as my teachers. I will select their good qualities and follow them, their bad qualities and avoid them.”
CONFUCIUS (551-479 B.C.)

“Develop the mind of equilibrium. You will always be getting praise and blame, but do not let either affect the poise of the mind: follow the calmness, the absence of pride.”
GAUTAMA BUDDHA (CIRCA 563-483 B.C.)

“The life of money-making is one undertaken under compulsion, and wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking; for it is merely useful and for the sake of something else.”
ARISTOTLE (384-322 B.C.)

“Develop the mind of equilibrium. You will always be getting praise and blame, but do not let either affect the poise of the mind: follow the calmness, the absence of pride.”
GAUTAMA BUDDHA (CIRCA 563-483 B.C.)

“Live your life as though your every act were to become a universal law.”
IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804)
The study of philosophy shifted to the esoteric. Practical advice sifted out of the equation. Such is the state of affairs that undergraduate philosophy students have encountered in the classroom, to one extent or another, for nearly the last half century.

Hador’s work reminds us, however, that philosophy is still, at its core, a vital key to interpreting the world around us — and our place in it.

Increasingly, modern-day scholars across the country are embracing this return to philosophy’s proverbial roots.

# Philosophy is not just a discipline to study systems of thought, or big ideas. The ancients show us that it was a way of life. A way to live well.

REV. ROSS ROMERO, SJ, Ph.D

The ancients show us that it was a way of life. A way to live well.

In its utility as a code — or codes — of conduct, philosophy is a love of philosophy. And, of course, an interest in its utility as a code — or codes — of conduct, passed on by its ancient originators. "The role of philosophy in a certain way is to be able to ask about the question of the 'good.'" he says. "And in a way. I think my discipline has gotten away from that. It's become kind of a technical discipline that sort of tries to emulate the sciences."

"Especially at a school like Creighton, where science is definitely good, and we have really good training in it, the question of what is really good training in it, and what is the good life that a scientist leads, or a doctor leads, or a lawyer leads, those are key questions to be asking for our students, because they're the ones who are going to be living these lives going forward."

"Philosophy is not just a discipline to study systems of thought, or big ideas," Fr. Romero says. "The ancients show us that it was a way of life. A way to live well."

Institute participants took an intensive group tour through Confucianism, Buddhism, Stoicism, Ancient Skepticism, Existentialism, Marxism and more, and spent time reviewing both Hador’s seminal text and John Cooper’s Pursuits of Wisdom: Six Ways of Life in Ancient Philosophy. From Socrates to Plotinus. Pursuits of Wisdom: Six Ways of Life in Ancient Philosophy is put the question of the good life more at the forefront.

"What can philosophy do to continue to ask that question, and what role does God have in the good life?" he says. "What role do others have in the good life? Is this way that’s being proposed to live a good life, or should I live another way? I think we do take it for granted what the good life is."

# People want a way of being able to know: for themselves. Is this a good life? Is this way that’s being proposed to live a good life, or should I live another way? I think we do take it for granted what the good life is.

T he NEH institute was designed in part to send participants home with ideas for teaching their students this lapsed aspect of philosophy. It also examined how philosophy can itself contribute to the formation of students.

Fr. Romero says the institute exposed him to some "creative and bold" ways in which colleagues from elsewhere are teaching this practical aspect of philosophy, yet remaining faithful to its traditions.

"There's less sense today of family unity and community mindedness, " he says. "You get a sense of a set of values from your group, and that's not as prevalent any more.

"The plus side is, people now have more opportunity to discover other ways of life. But the negative side is, they haven't engaged in a philosophical search for the good life. We have a lot of ways of life, but what is the good life?" he says.

"This is a spark of hope that we are called to something bigger."

**Yes. Fr. Romero says. But that’s not terrific news, and particularly not at Creighton. Making the study of philosophy more engaging to students is already baked into his and his Creighton colleagues’ curricula. The new twist is putting the question of the good life more at the forefront.**
CREIGHTON EXPANDS IN THE SOUTHWEST

WHY PHOENIX?
WHY NOW?

BY CINDY MURPHY MCMANMON, BA’74
The new Creighton campus addresses Arizona’s looming shortage of health care professionals and will include a four-year medical school and nursing, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy and physician assistant schools, as well as an emergency medical services program.

The health care demand in Arizona is expected to increase substantially due to growth in the region. U.S. Census data ranked Arizona among the top 10 states for population growth and, as a popular retirement destination, the state also has one of the fastest-growing populations.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Arizona ranks 32nd out of the 50 states for active physicians, 38th for active primary care physicians and 45th for active general surgeons. The Survey of Health Care Employers in Arizona: Hospitals, 2015 showed that the state’s hospitals forecast employment growth in nearly every hospital occupation, especially nursing.

In announcing the new venture, Creighton’s president, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, said the University is preparing for an exciting new era in Phoenix, “...that combines our tradition for educational excellence in the health sciences with our distinctive Jesuit, Catholic mission.”

He emphasized that programs in Omaha will not be impacted and that Creighton will continue to move forward in its partnership with CHI Health, supporting and building programs to enhance health sciences education and patient care locally and regionally.

With the Phoenix announcement, he noted that the University already has strong connections to the Arizona health care community, with more than 250 Creighton-educated physicians practicing there and its partnerships in the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. Fr. Hendrickson said the University looks forward to “expanding our impact by educating many more exceptionally qualified health care professionals to serve the community moving forward.”

The campus will be in an iconic area, called Park Central, that is undergoing revitalization. Sharon (Culhane) Harper, BA'69, Creighton alumna and trustee and president and CEO of Plaza Companies — which is redeveloping Park Central in partnership with Holyoka Companies — says Creighton is an ideal fit for the project.

Harper, who grew up in Minnesota, relocated to Phoenix in 1977 with her husband, New York native Olive “Ollie” Harper, MD’70. “We fell in love with this beautiful state and all of the opportunity here,” she says.

“Creighton is already established here and is viewed as a prestigious university that brings a unique, person-centered approach to health care education,” Harper says. “I hear from the doctors in the hospitals that there is something special about Creighton students.”
Arizona. Creighton’s new health sciences programs will bring an influx of clinicians who hopefully will stay and serve the health care needs of Arizonans for decades to come,” Alameddin, who graduated from Creighton in 1996 with a degree in history, participated in Creighton’s ILAC program in the Dominican Republic in the spring of 1995. “I witnessed the incredible work Creighton health care professionals brought to the Dominicans who had no other access to health care services.”

Her D.R. experience sparked her interest in health care delivery systems and policy. “Not being a clinician, there is still a role for people to effect change in health care in a really important way, through effective policy and advocacy in health care,” she says.

“What’s interesting about the new health sciences program in Arizona is that it’s a result of strategic collaboration between Creighton, two hospitals — Maricopa Integrated Health System and St. Joe’s — and a large physician group, DMG. Each entity is bringing what they do to the table — excellence in clinical education, rotations and programs in hospitals, physician preceptors.

“Together they are leveraging their collective expertise to create something exceptional. We are seeing more strategic collaborations and partnerships in health care, and I think that’s exciting.”

She says she is thrilled about Creighton’s increased presence in Arizona. “Creighton’s focus on patient-centered care — taking care of the body, mind and spirit of patients — is so important for the kind of health care community we all want to be a part of.”

Ann-Marie Alameddin, BA’96, JD, is general counsel and vice president for strategy at the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association.
A Voice of Diversity

The University Chorus, under the direction of Adam Witte, an instructor in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, performs the works of female composers during an October concert in St. John’s Church. For the 2018-2019 season, the University Chorus and Creighton University Chamber Choir are highlighting artists from underrepresented groups. “We’ve been looking at proactive ways to ensure the choral classroom is a place for everybody and ways to represent all of these composers in some way,” says Barron Breland, DM, associate professor and chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. For concert dates and ticket information, visit creighton.edu/ccas/fineandperformingarts.
‘Creighton Took a Chance on Me’

ROBERT MCCULLOCH, BS’79, MD’83, had no interest in attending college. The Phoenix native was more interested in blue-collar work and started an electrician apprenticeship the summer after graduating from high school. But then the economy went south, and McCulloch was laid off.

September came, and McCulloch scrambled to find a college to attend. After a year at a local school, he applied to Creighton on a whim. He wasn’t a top student, but he had a good ACT score. “Creighton took a chance on me,” McCulloch says. “I wasn’t college material at the time.”

McCulloch’s father, a Korean War veteran, suggested he do something with his hands. McCulloch was tinkering with the projects, and Dr. Carnazzo noticed how great McCulloch was with play with her younger brothers, helping them McCulloch took Carnazzo’s advice and enrolled in the Creighton School of Medicine, studying microsurgery to become an ophthalmologist. Today, he works at Horizon Eye Specialists and Lasik Center in the Phoenix area, where he practices surgery and manages a team of doctors.

“I always thought I’d become an electrician, I wanted to be a business owner because I enjoyed the business part,” McCulloch says. “I was attracted to sciences and helping people.”

Over the years, he’s watched as Creighton has expanded its health sciences into the Southwest. “It’s a good thing for Creighton, but also the country,” McCulloch says. “We’re experiencing doctor shortages. One of the largest cities in the U.S. (Phoenix) didn’t have a medical school here.”

To help Phoenix build its medical workforce, McCulloch has established a scholarship for Creighton students pursuing medicine in Arizona. The scholarship will cover $10,000 per year for four years of medical school. “My hope is to look for a student like me, from a blue-collar family,” McCulloch says. “Keep them out of debt.”

“It’s a way to give back to Creighton. It’s really understanding this financial burden on medical students,” McCulloch says. He hopes with this scholarship, students will have the freedom to choose the path best for them when they graduate medical school, instead of solely focusing on one that repays their debt.

“It really takes people like me, alumni, others who care about where medicine’s going,” McCulloch says, “to step up, give money, to not have this crushing debt burden.”
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Earn two degrees in record time.
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Jasen A. Ford, JD, Lincoln, Nebraska, had his first novel, A Cure for Nightmares, released by Mascot Books. After being a trial attorney for 28 years, Ford is now mediating civil cases and focusing on writing. His book is the first in a trilogy that explores common childhood fears.

Melissa De La Garza, JD, Las Vegas, was elected justice of the peace in June 2018 by the citizens of Las Vegas. Her career has included eight years as a deputy district attorney, three years as a public defender where she was on the homicide unit, five years as a public defender where she was the homicide unit, and two years as a prosecutor.

Stuart M. Youmans, DDS, Casper, Wyoming, received the prestigious diplomate status at the American Board of Implantology/Diplomate, symbolizing the highest level of competence in implant dentistry. This was the culmination of many years of rigorous implant surgery: reconstruction and education. There are fewer than 500 diplomates worldwide, and Youmans is the only diplomate in Wyoming.

Dr. Kimberly K. Rodda, BSN, RN, Kirkwood, Missouri. She currently is a family nurse practitioner at Providence Seaside Hospital in Seaside.

Subject of Alumnus’ Book

BY TONY FLOTT

"The moment I stepped off the plane and saw the conditions I would work under and how we would have to live, I realized this was going to be a life-changing adventure," says Sims, who arrived in Nome with his pregnant wife and 2-year-old daughter. "I threw right for the bar but I would write a book about this journey, so I began keeping a journal and started making tape recordings of our life and my thoughts."

He delivered babies under Coleman lan- terns and performed surgery without ade- quate anesthesia — often under flashlight illumination. Sims nearly lost his own life traveling across the frozen Bering Sea and at a dog sled, trying to return to Nome after being weather-bound while providing care in a remote Eskimo village.

Sims credits Creighton School of Medicine for giving him the knowledge and clinical experience necessary to be successful in difficult conditions. "Without such medical training, I never could have made it through as I did," he says.

The book received a glowing review from Publishers Weekly, and Sims, who lives in Bend, Oregon, has been busy making TV appearances, giving radio show interviews, and hosting book signings. He also is writing a blog for Psychology Today, titled "Under Extreme Circumstances."

"The book portrays a message of how we, as individuals, no matter what our path in life, can learn to adapt to extreme circumstances if we allow our instincts — based upon our training — to show us what path to follow," he says.

On Call in the Arctic is not Sims’ first book — and not likely to be his last. Sims, who grew up in South Gate, California, an industrial suburb of Los Angeles, wrote his first novel when he was 10. He also wrote for lay magazines and medical journals during his career as a physician. He even penned a medical procedure training manual and a software manual for computer software developed.

On Call in the Arctic came to fruition thanks to a juried memoir-writing conference Sims’ manuscript won that exposed him to literary agents in New York, one of whom came to rep- resent him and who sold the book to Pegasus in a matter of weeks.

Now, Sims retired from medicine, plans to open a private practice. He delivered babies under Coleman lanterns and performed surgery without adequate anesthesia — often under flashlight illumination. Sims nearly lost his own life traveling across the frozen Bering Sea and at a dog sled, trying to return to Nome after being weather-bound while providing care in a remote Eskimo village.

Sims knew he had the makings of a good story the instant he laid eyes on the rugged backwater town that hugs the icy shores of the Bering Sea. There, in the early 1970s, Sims worked under archaic conditions as Nome’s only doctor, with additional responsibility for 13 nearby Eskimo villages. There, in the early 1970s, Sims knew he had the makings of a good story the instant he laid eyes on the rugged backwater town that hugs the icy shores of the Bering Sea.

BY TONY FLOTT

It was anything but an icy reception for THOMAS SIMS, MD’70, late this summer with his release of On Call in the Arctic: A Doctor’s Pursuit of Life, Love and Miracles in the Alaskan Frontier.

Published by Pegasus Books, On Call in the Arctic (OnCallInTheArctic.com) is Sims’ captivating account of his time as a fresh-out-of-school physician on commission with the U.S. Public Health Service and assigned to one of the world’s most isolated and harsh outposts — Nome, Alaska. There, in the early 1970s, Sims worked under arduous conditions as Nome’s only doctor, with additional responsibility for 13 nearby Eskimo villages. Sims knew he had the makings of a good story the instant he laid eyes on the rugged backwater town that hugs the icy shores of the Bering Sea.

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Family is Key to Iowa Supreme Court Justice’s Success

SUSAN LARSON CHRISTENSEN, JD’91, the newest justice on the Iowa Supreme Court, says she isn’t much one for bragging, yet perhaps it was “humble bragging” that got her to where she is today.

The 56-year-old officially took office on Sept. 4, as the third woman in Iowa’s history to serve on the state’s high court. Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds administered the oath of office to Christensen in a public ceremony on Sept. 21 in Des Moines.

Christensen previously served as a 4th Judicial District Court judge in Iowa, as well as a juvenile court judge, where she showed a commitment to children’s welfare issues by serving on Iowa’s Children’s Justice State Council, Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Workgroup, Guardianship/Conservatorship Task Force, CASA-Audubon Family Treatment Court and Child Support Review Committee.

Christensen replaces Justice Bruce Zagar, who announced his impending retirement in May.

“I’m not comfortable doing (humble bragging),” Christensen says in a recorded video interview in July, when she was one of 22 candidates vying for the position. “But perhaps it is the best way I can get my story out to you, to help you understand why I am the best person for this job.”

Christensen’s humble beginnings are rooted in Harlan, Iowa, where she and her husband, Jay, an optometrist, continue to live today. “Even in my new role, we are committed to the people of rural Iowa and staying here. I’ll travel to Des Moines as needed,” Christensen says.

Prior to becoming a justice, Christensen was a prosecutor and family law attorney for 16 years and spent the last eight years as an associate judge and three years as a district court judge.

The Christensens are the parents of five children — Nicolas (Nic), Adam, Rees, Sadie and Cass — who range in age from 16 to 16. They also have four grandchildren.

Susan Larson Christensen, JD’91, was sworn in as an Iowa Supreme Court Justice in September. She previously served as a 4th Judicial District Court judge in Iowa.

At this point, Christensen had also decided that being a legal secretary wasn’t going to be a forever career — she wanted to pursue her own undergraduate education and eventually go to law school to follow in her father’s footsteps.

Christensen’s father is the late former Iowa Supreme Court Justice Jerry Larson, who died in April. Larson served on the court from 1978 to 2008 and holds the record as the longest-serving justice in Iowa. One of Christensen’s siblings, David Larson, went to Creighton law school as well, graduating in 1992. He practices law in Anoca, Iowa.

While law may be in her family’s blood, the way Christensen went about her studies was a bit unusual. She completed her first year of college at USD, but then Jay got a job offer in California and Susan joined him and did her second year at Cal State Fresno.

Already parents to their oldest child with another on the way, the couple started pondering a return home.

“We had our second baby in California, but Nic, our first, had just been diagnosed with cerebral palsy,” Christensen recalls. “Our doctor said to us, ‘You’re both from Iowa — what are you doing out here?’ The University of Iowa is home to one of the best hospitals in the country for treating children with this disorder.”

The Christensens then moved back to the Midwest, where Susan started her third year of undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa and Jay started optometry school in Chicago.

Eventually, Susan joined Jay in Chicago and completed her undergraduate degree in psychology from Judson College, a Baptist-affiliated university, in 1988.

“But I didn’t want to stay in inner-city Chicago,” Christensen says in a recorded video interview in July, when she was one of 22 candidates vying for the position. “Out of necessity, I had to go home to Iowa.”

Christensen recalls. “It was time for Nic to start school — and for me to start law school — and Jay and I wanted Nic to be mainstreamed, not in a special school. I applied to the University of Iowa, Drake University and Creighton University and got accepted into all three.”

While a student at Creighton, Christensen served as a mentor to first-year law students, was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity and graduated cum laude. In October, she was the featured speaker at a reception following Creighton’s Red Mass, an annual service that marks the beginning of the U.S. Supreme Court’s term and colorizes all members of the legal profession.

“What made me choose Creighton was that I could go home to Harlan, attend law school an hour away in Omaha and have family support. All four parents were a big part of my ability to do this,” she adds.

“If Nic were cured tomorrow — if he could walk and talk like other people — I would not want to change how his disability has affected my life,” Christensen says. “I am a better person because of him, and I believe this is reflected in the way I handle myself as a wife, mother, friend or judge.”

At Creighton law school, Christensen was pregnant with the couple’s third child, had her husband finishing his optometry studies in Chicago — with him commuting eight hours on the weekends for two years to see the family — and still graduated with honors.

“You do what you gotta do for family.” Christensen says. “Creighton helped make it possible to reach my career aspirations.” — BY LISA FOSTER, BAV2
It’s not just information. ANTHONY COOK, BA’93, helps Mayo Clinic patients find. For some, he helps them find peace of soul.

Cook makes his living at the Mayo Clinic, where he’s worked for 17 years. There, he’s an education specialist, helping patients find relevant and appropriate health information to facilitate informed health care decision-making. He’s widely known, though, for his voice. Cook regularly volunteers to sing for Mayo patients and for hospice patients at Seasons Hospice in Rochester, Minnesota. That mostly means spirituals and hymns sung a cappella — though he might also throw in some Nat King Cole, John Lennon, George Gershwin, Bob Dylan and others.

The impact can be deep. “Music speaks to the soul what words cannot,” Cook says. "It’s not just information. It’s a way to connect with people. It’s a way to express love."

The family of one patient Cook sang for long ago wrote of how their father, lying unresponsive at Seasons Hospice, said the last words to a song he ever sang, the family wrote. “Never doubt that you make a difference in the lives of patients and families.”

Cook, who began singing as a child in his church choir, has a long list of credits in musicals, operas and songwriting, including ones by John Lennon, George Gershwin, Bob Dylan and others. It’s his long list, however, of Mayo patients to whom Cook has sung, that he finds most rewarding. "Singing is how I say God has placed in his heart. Music speaks to the soul what words cannot," Cook says. "It’s a way to connect with people. It’s a way to express love."
ADVANCING YOUR EDUCATION

The University has rolled out more than two dozen of the bite-sized programs in the blossoming world of badges, certifications and credentials.

Creighton, through its newly established Center for Professional and Corporate Excellence (CPCE), now offers badges in professional development areas ranging from communication to negotiation and conflict resolution, and from technology and innovation to project management — and well beyond. The CPCE was envisioned and launched as part of Creighton's strategic plan; it was built on a foundation previously established within the Heider College of Business by Dean Anthony Hendrickson, PhD, and his team.

Credentials — evidence of completing specific training or education programs that is typically valid for a limited number of years — are now offered in project management, finance and Agile/Scrum for product development.

And a slew of certifications in business, health care and education also are available through the CPCE.

Tricia Bruno Sarrar, BA’93, JD’96, vice provost for academic administration and partnerships, leads Creighton’s CPCE. She says the micro-credentialing framework can be seen as a progression. From the professional development point of view, badges lead to credentials and certificates, which in turn can lead to the pursuit of degrees.

“It’s a pipeline into our programs of excellence,” she says.

The trend has gained substantial traction — and credibility. Look no further than Harvard, Northwestern and other such heavy hitters for evidence that a new age of micro-credentials has dawned, Sarrar says. That’s valuable not just for job seekers, she says, but for all professionals looking to develop the skills necessary to gain industry competencies, close the knowledge gap to advance professionally, and “contribute to the ethical leadership in our community, the region and beyond.”

This may not be an entirely new approach to continuing education and professional development, but one of the unique things about this burgeoning trend is the underlying technological component. Badges are verified through a micro-credential management system and can be displayed digitally using LinkedIn, webpages and other methods.

When someone clicks on your badge, a dedicated webpage is displayed that shows you have completed the necessary coursework, along with information about the badge and the requirements for completion.

Badges issued by Creighton are digitally encoded with information using the Mozilla Open Badge Framework. Badges can be downloaded and saved by the recipient without losing their authenticity, making them portable.

Ultimately, micro-credentials are about sharpening and expanding your skill sets, showing employers — current or prospective — that you’re up to the task.

“In a competitive job market,” Sarrar says, “earning these achievements is a great way to differentiate yourself.”

Creighton’s badge, credential and certification program offerings can be found online at the CPCE website, excellence.creighton.edu.

The CPCE strives to cultivate corporate partnerships by collaborating with organizations through which they can develop their workforce, further their mission and attract new talent. More information about partnering with Creighton is available at excellence.creighton.edu.

— BY GLAUN ANTONUCCI

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember Creighton University faculty and juniors who have recently passed:

Dr. Irene Kawakami
Yamamoto, BS, Honolulu, April 2017.

Anne C. Lind, MD, St. Louis, Jan. 11, 2018.

Michael J.M. Callahan, BA
Bettendorf, Iowa, March 22, 2016.

Lori Fickenscher Zacher
BSBA, Phoenix, July 1, 2018.

Derrill Lomonoon, BS, BS

Almes D. Heab, BA, Omaha, June 11, 2018.

Christine Schneider Overkamp, MS
Papillion, Nebraska, Sept. 6, 2018.

St. Joan T. Schricker, CPPS
O'Fallon, Missouri, June 1, 2018.

Owen A. Winsch, PharmD

Bro. John J. Wilson, FSC, MA

Joseph L. High, BSPh’79, PharmD
Corpus Christi, Texas, June 11, 2016.

Sarah Fred Wilcox, BS
Claremore, Oklahoma, March 2, 2017.

Sarah Fred Wilcox, BS
Claremore, Oklahoma, March 2, 2017.

Nathan D. Boone, DPT
Ponchatoula, La., June 17, 2017.

Robert S. Kaminski, BS
Oakwood, Ohio, March 30, 2017.

Carrol Bloom Donics, BSBA

J. Daniel “Dan” Egan, MD

Sarah Fred Wilcox, BS
Claremore, Oklahoma, March 2, 2017.

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— BY GLAUN ANTONUCCI
Creighton University is rising in Phoenix. With strategic partnerships formed with health care providers recognized for a history of service to the greater Phoenix community, Creighton recently announced plans to build a medical campus in downtown Phoenix and to expand its health sciences education in Arizona.

Joining Creighton in the partnership are Maricopa Integrated Health Systems (MIHS), which will become Valleywise Health in 2019; Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center; and District Medical Group (DMG). Together, they form the new Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance. Jacque Chadwick, MD, a pioneering administrator in health sciences education in Arizona, was named the Alliance director in August and vice provost for the new Phoenix campus in October. She is excited to be a part of Creighton’s growing presence in Phoenix.

Leading the Charge in Arizona

Chadwick began her higher education career at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 1992. Chadwick says developing curriculum and serving students is “kind of in my DNA.” “If I can sit down with someone, even across the desk one-on-one, and help them find their area of passion, then it’s a good day,” she says. Creighton magazine had a chance to catch up with Chadwick this fall to discuss the significance of the Alliance.

Why is Creighton an important part of the Alliance?

Creighton’s place in the Alliance is actually crucial. It’s the cornerstone for the Alliance. These other organizations have operated independently and, in some areas, collaboratively over the years with a long history of dedication to education and to service. What Creighton brings to the table is an academic partner. The medical school and the other health sciences schools give clinical entities in Phoenix an additional academic boost. And when that happens, then we see several things as a result.

We see an improvement in the educational environment, we see opportunities for research growth, and we see other opportunities for things such as leadership development and faculty development.

How will the Alliance further Creighton’s mission of service?

It’s already going on now. “These are partners who are dedicated to that mission. The Alliance can help continue that endeavor, continue those efforts, but also enhance them and increase opportunities for students and residents alike. So, likely over time, we’ll even have dedicated positions and part of the website to show learners opportunities of how to give back. It’s already a strong part of the mission and is integrated into the daily activities of each of those organizations.”

Why is it important to expand health sciences education in the Southwest?

The Southwest, Arizona and particularly Phoenix are underserved as far as physicians per 100,000 population and residents per 100,000 population. Also the Southwest is a growth area of the country, and physician growth has not kept up with population growth. This is a way to increase and improves the workforce, and therefore improve access. At the same time, we’re attempting, by having that academic culture added to it, to enhance quality over time.

Where do you see the Alliance in the next five to 10 years?

It’s brand new. So, we have a baby being born here. I’m not sure what this baby’s going to look like as a toddler, much less an adolescent. I think that the Alliance just provides this opportunity that will be strategic in doing all the things included in its goals: enhancing the workforce, placing an academic environment even more in this area, collaborating over the years with a long history of dedication to education and to service. What Creighton brings to the table is an academic partner. The medical school and the other health sciences schools give clinical entities in Phoenix an additional academic boost. And when that happens, then we see several things as a result.

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Save the Date

Giving Day
4.10.19

Creighton University

One day for the Creighton community to make a big difference.