AN EQUATION FOR SUCCESS: $10 MILLION GIFT, PLUS OUTSTANDING SCIENCE PROGRAMS, EQUALS INFINITE POSSIBILITIES
The Creighton community gathered in St. John’s Church for the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit, invoking the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for the new academic year. The worldwide Jesuit tradition began in 1548 in Messina, Italy.

Message from the President

I n this annual season of thanksgiving, I am indeed grateful for our supportive alumni and friends, dedicated faculty and staff, and exceptionally talented students. Our University continues to attract record numbers of students, receive national recognition for academic excellence, and engender tremendous support from our alumni and donors.

In September, we announced a transformational $10 million gift from longtime Creighton friends and supporters George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, to build and enhance academic programming in the College of Arts and Sciences. I am thankful for George and Susan’s generous commitment to Creighton, and excited about the many opportunities it will offer our students and faculty.

I am also grateful for our spirit of community on campus, which lifts us up in helpfulness and comforts us in times of tragedy. At the beginning of the academic year, we gathered in prayer and support after a four-vehicle crash claimed the life of one of our bright, young students, and injured three others. An alumna traveling in a separate car also was injured.

Joan Ocampo-Yambing, the 19-year-old computer science major from Rosemount, Minnesota, who died in the collision, was remembered on campus as a bright light, a loving friend, and an outstanding student. She is greatly missed.

We also mourned the passing of several faculty and staff, along with two former members of our Board of Trustees: Bill Fitzgerald and Bill Kizer, both graduates of our business college, left a legacy of corporate and community leadership, generous philanthropy, and service and dedication to Creighton.

This fall, we welcomed the newest members of our campus community—the class of 2021. These 1,119 students represent the largest freshman class in Creighton’s history, and pushed our total enrollment to an all-time high of 8,654.

U.S. News & World Report continued to recognize Creighton in its annual listing of America’s top colleges. Creighton was ranked No. 1 in the Midwest for the 15th consecutive year, and was the only Catholic school recognized for undergraduate research opportunities.

Our Creighton Global Initiative—now in its second year of funding—continues to offer significant opportunities for students and faculty, with $2.5 million in seed-funding supporting 47 projects. In addition, this year more than 400 students will study abroad and more than 200 international students will study at Creighton.

My hope is that this global perspective and understanding can bring to greater reality that traditional holiday message: Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

Finally, please enjoy our newly redesigned Creighton magazine. We hope that you find within these pages the fullness of the Creighton experience. Best wishes for a blessed Christmas, happy holidays, and wonderful new year.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ
President
Our Gift to You

Every Christmas Eve, I climb into the crawlspace and pull out the four-foot-tall lighted Santa, the foldable manger scene, the reindeer with the nose that glows and the small garland Christmas tree that my mom made with the kids years ago. I place these and other “heirlooms” around the living room as my wife finishes putting freshly wrapped presents under the tree. And then we turn off the living room lamps, plug in the Christmas lights and stand back. The glow washes over us. It refreshes our spirits. It’s peaceful, comforting and inspiring. The scene is familiar, but somehow excitingly new — as the lights, time and personal experiences illuminate different perspectives.

I have similar feelings as we unwrapping our newly redesigned Creighton magazine. It remains steeped in tradition, but with a fresh approach that we hope illuminates new, fresh angles on the Creighton experience that will surprise, excite and inspire you.

Unlike my Christmas shopping (which sometimes begins on Christmas Eve), we began preparing for this issue during the summer. In the ensuing months, we have been busily checking off to-dos and touting together compelling stories, artwork and photographs.

Along the way, Creighton received a gift of its own — a $10 million gift from George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, that will build and enhance academic programming in the College of Arts and Sciences. We couldn’t wait to unwrap some of the possibilities. In this issue, we share how previous initiatives established by the Haddixes are enhancing faculty research, getting students involved in scientific discovery, and providing scholarships to students from a local high school. We expect this new gift to build on that tradition and illuminate new opportunities for students and faculty.

As we prepare for the holidays, I’ll admit that I have a sweet tooth for Christmas cookies. I have my favorite (the round pretzels filled with chocolate and topped with a peanut M&M, in case you’re eagle eye) but I like being surprised with a good sugar cookie or something more exotic.

Likewise, we have flavored this issue with a variety of tantalizing stories — minus the calories, of course. We dive into the changing state of democracy worldwide, and share the fascinating story of an alumna in Alaska who is pioneering a unique approach to occupational therapy (hint: it involves a trapeze). And there’s more. How does one become an official saint? Read about Creighton’s foremost saint candidate. And there’s more. How does one become an official saint? Read about Creighton’s foremost saint candidate.

The glow washes over us. It renews our spirit. It’s peaceful, comforting and inspiring. The scene is familiar, but somehow excitingly new — as the lights, time and personal experiences illuminate different perspectives.

Thought-Provoking, Mission-Focused.

That not only reflects our goals and aspirations for Creighton magazine; it also describes the work of those responsible for bringing you each issue. From left are, front, Adam Klinker, public relations manager; Cindy Murphy, McAlon, B’74, associate director of communications; Emily Rust, communications specialist; Rick Davis, B’98, director of communications; back, Jim Berscheidt, chief communications and marketing officer; Glenn Antonucci, senior director of communications; Sheila Swanson, associate director of communications; and Amanda Brandi, B’14, social media and content strategist.

The cover — a cross section of the multitude of facets and disciplines that compose Creighton University — which stands to benefit from a $10 million gift from George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, to the College of Arts and Sciences — is depicted in this illustration by Jasu Hu, whose work has appeared in The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Washington Post and elsewhere.

ATTEND AN ALUMNI EVENT

For the latest on alumni gatherings, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 402.282.5867 or visit alumni.creighton.edu.

MAKE A GIFT

Contact the Office of Development at 402.314.8794 or visit gift.creighton.edu.

RECOMMEND A STUDENT

Contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office at 402.282.5353 or email admissions@creighton.edu.

READ US ONLINE

You can read this issue and past issues of Creighton magazine online at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine.

CONTACT US

Send Letters to the Editor to creightrongazette@creighton.edu and alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) to alumni@creighton.edu

Address mail to Creighton University, University Communications and Marketing, 800480 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0480.

Follow us on social media

Creighton — @Creighton Facebook — Creighton University Instagram — @Creighton1878

ALUMNI GIVE-BACK

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
FALL 2017 Volume 33 Issue 3

Contents

IS DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS? Political scientists, including two at Creighton, are concerned about signs that democracy may be in danger worldwide.

A SHINING LIGHT A professor and professor emerita play key roles in furthering the cause for sainthood of the founder of Boys Town, the famed organization for at-risk youth based in Nebraska.

THE MINIMALIST MANAGER A Creighton business professor says minimalism can bring more meaning to the workplace.

Voices

Heard on Campus

“When we help medical students understand leadership, we help them to not only be strong scientists, but we help them to artfully lead teams.”

JENNIFER MOSS-BREEN, PhD, associate professor and program director for Creighton’s interdisciplinary SCSJ, who along with John Schmidt, president of the Student Community Service and Justice (SCSJ) at Creighton, was named 2017 Most Publishable Leadership Education Paper Award winner by the International Leadership Association.

“If I'm inspired semester after semester by all the students who not only have a desire to serve others, but who also want to learn about the justice issues facing communities across the country and around the world.”

JEFF PEAK, BAYA, MAYS, associate director for the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice (SCSJ), on the 240 Creighton students who visited 30 sites nationwide during fall break as part of the SCSJ’s Service & Justice Trips.

“I am excited that The Landing project will serve as an important gateway to Creighton, but also for the communities surrounding the development to connect in many ways.”

TODD HEISTAND, president of NuStyle Development, which is overseeing the former Creighton University Medical Center and is forming a development called The Landing, with apartments, retail spaces and a pedestrian bridge over U.S. Highway 75 that will link to Creighton's main campus.

“This is the way of the future, to meet people where they are and to provide the services they need most and might be unlikely to otherwise pursue.”

MARGARET HOFFMAN-BEGLEY, PhD, MD, FACP, a family medicine professor and health care educator at the College of Nursing, who is leading Creighton’s partnership with Building Healthy Futures to provide vision screenings in Omaha Public Schools.

What’s on Your Mind?

Let us know what you think of the newly redesigned Creighton magazine and the stories presented inside. One of our hopes is that this magazine will serve as a forum for more conversation with you, our readers. We are eager to hear from you — whether it’s feedback on a story or a special memory from your Creighton days that we’ve sparked. Please send your letters to the editor via email to creightrn@creighton.edu or via postal mail to the address below.

Creighton University
University Communications and Marketing
Attn: Creighton Magazine
780480 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178-0480

Friends of Creighton


Connections

7 Creighton Connections

15 By the Numbers

16 Health Briefs

18 Dialogue

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is discussed from Lutheran and Catholic perspectives by a Creighton professor and administrator.

20 Lesson Plan

Alumni and Creighton’s sustainability coordinator offer real-world advice on living a greener life.

54 Impact

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

64 Creighton Conversations

The University’s vice president for University Relations says this is a “dream job.”

4 Alumni Notes

55 Alumni Notes

64 Creighton Conversations

14 An Equation for Success

A recent $10 million gift to the College of Arts and Sciences from alumnus George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, will enhance research and stoke the passions of the next generation of Creighton scientists.

48AN EQUATION FOR SUCCESS

A professor and professor emerita play key roles in furthering the cause for sainthood of the founder of Boys Town, the famed organization for at-risk youth based in Nebraska.

55 Alumni Notes

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

58 Impact

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

55 Alumni Notes

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

55 Alumni Notes

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

55 Alumni Notes

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.

55 Alumni Notes

From South Korea to Omaha, a nursing scholarship recipient finds Creighton is where she is meant to be.
A Last Wish

BY ADAM BLUMNER

As a private, faith-based institution, Creighton University relies upon the generosity of donors to accomplish its mission in educating future generations in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Most of the donations are monetary in nature and these gifts, if they could speak, might wax nostalgic of college days, life-changing realizations, spiritual enrichment and a final wish to see those experiences borne forward. For Don and Mary Margaret Wolters, who donated to the University in another way, the gift bespoke all three and more.

Don Wolters, MD ’61, died in December 2016 at age 93. His wife of 65 years, Mary Margaret, SCV ’51, died four months later at 88. Both alumni from Creighton’s health sciences programs, they donated their bodies to the School of Medicine’s Department of Biomedical Sciences. “There was never a question that they’d donate their bodies and donate them to Creighton,” says Peter, BA ’74, JD ’78, the couple’s son. “I feel like I’ve known all my life that’s what they wanted to do. We had the option to do something else, but I knew it was always their very strong desire to see themselves, even in death, be of service to people. That’s always resonated for me.”

Don and Mary Margaret met on the first day of Don’s third year in medical school, when the med students went to St. Catherine’s Hospital for the first time. When the nursing students came out to greet the new crop of future physicians, Mary Margaret Bradley caught the eye of Don Wolters.

A native of Atchison, Kansas, Don was a World War II veteran. His undergraduate education at Benedictine College was interrupted when he volunteered for the U.S. Navy’s V-12 officers training program. The advent of the war also cut short Don’s budding baseball career. He’d been invited to spring training with the St. Louis Browns just before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mary Margaret was born in Ubyssey, Nebraska, and grew up in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. She had a few uncles who were doctors and an aunt who was a nurse in Omaha, likely spurring her interest in the medical field.

The couple married Sept. 1, 1941, and after Don Wolters completed a residency in Sioux City, Iowa, he established a practice in Estherville, Iowa, that he maintained until his retirement in 1988. Mary Margaret, with her nursing degree, worked occasionally as a nurse and taught courses at a local community college, but her real occupation was as mother to Peter, who arrived within a year of the couple’s wedding, and daughter Peggy, who the couple adopted five years after Peter’s birth.

We talk at Creighton about finding God in all things and the donation and the anatomy lab is a good place to look. You can see how people, after they’re gone, are helping teach our students to keep us alive and well.

“Life as a small-town doctor suited the boy from Atchison perfectly. Don was an avuncular presence on the streets of Estherville, having delivered many of the children populating the town and the surrounding countryside. He was often found in his garden and admired the work of the farmers who were his patients. Mary Margaret, who also grew up in small towns in Nebraska and Iowa, might’ve gone for a place with a bit more traffic but, as her son said, she knew her love story was destined to bloom where it was planted.”

“I think he would have rather been a farmer himself,” Peter Wolters says. “He was a small-town, rural-area kind of guy. My mother would have gladly moved to Seattle or Omaha, a little bigger city. But she got involved with what was happening in town. She knew this was a fulfilling life.”

And so, for the better part of seven decades, Don and Mary Margaret Wolters made a life in Estherville, taking care of patients, raising a family, tending to the needs of their community. But they also remembered that moment at Creighton and what their health sciences education had meant to them, not only as a career path, but in bringing their lives together.

Creighton receives about 90 donated bodies each year for use in its Department of Biomedical Sciences. Bodies typically arrive six months after death and after they have been cleared through the Anatomical Board of the State of Nebraska.

Thomas Quinn, PhD, director of Creighton’s Clinical Anatomy Program, said in the course of a year, just about all of Creighton’s health sciences students will work with or observe work on a donated body, making the program crucial to medical education.

“We generally refer to the donated body as the first patient,” Quinn says. “We encourage the students to use the person’s first name and there’s a form of HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) that keeps medical records private) involved. It’s a lesson in professionalism as well as anatomy.”

After the year the bodies spend in the lab, Creighton hosts a memorial service for families, where students are able to talk with loved ones and share their gratitude for the deceased family member’s donation. For those families not recovering the cremains, Creighton Connections

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Michael “Mike” Zoellner, BS ’84, MBA ’01, of Denver, was named Creighton’s 2017 Board Chair. Zoellner is the managing director of ZF Capital, chairman of the Colorado MultiFamily Housing Alliance and a member of the Urban Land Institute. Zoellner is fulfilling the term of Richard Allen, BSBA ’78, JD ’81, of Denver, who resigned in July after 11 years of service on the Board.

The University in another way, the gift bespoke all three and more.

“What was powerful about the moment was the process of transferring the body as the first patient,” Quinn says. “We encourage the students to use the person’s first name and there’s a form of HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) that keeps medical records private) involved. It’s a lesson in professionalism as well as anatomy.”

After the year the bodies spend in the lab, Creighton hosts a memorial service for families, where students are able to talk with loved ones and share their gratitude for the deceased family member’s donation. For those families not recovering the cremains,Creighton Connections
They’re doing exactly what they wanted to do,” he says. “Both my mother and father had opportunities to give back and took them. It was a big motivation for my father becoming a doctor. For my mother, she always looked for a way to help her community. Donating their bodies to Creighton fulfilled that last wish, that they could still be of service.”

For more information on the body donation program, contact the Anatomical Board of the State of Nebraska at 402.559.6249 or the Creighton Department of Biomedical Sciences at 402.280.2542.

Desert Difference-Makers
Health Care Partnership Expands Creighton’s Service Reach

BY NICOLE PHELPS, BA ’02

as the University expands its academic health care partnership with Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. Creighton alumnus George Starvos, MD ’62, always wanted to do missionary work. In the late 1990s, the Phoenix family medicine physician began seeing patients in his home after church on Sundays. Many of those coming to his door were from Mexico or of Mexican descent.

In the nearly 20 years since, Starvos, along with his church community, developed a medical clinic on two acres of donated land 60 miles south of Phoenix in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico – a town of approximately 40,000. Where fishing and tourism are the main sources of income.

Longtime volunteer and fellow Creighton alumnus Floyd Roberson, MD ’81, said little by little the clinic came together, but at times it was painfully slow. He chuckles as he recalled the first clinic building. “There was no grass, just dirt to a building – no doors or windows. Eventually we would get doors but still no windows, and when we got windows, we didn’t have air conditioning.”

But the patients never seemed to mind. “We’re constantly amazed at how appreciative people are,” Roberson says. “By and large, our patients are humble people who are extremely grateful for any care you can provide.”

Patients are notified of clinic days via flyers and word of mouth. Approximately 150 patients, who otherwise have no access to care, are seen each clinic day. “The need is enormous,” Roberson says. Patients come from the community and the surrounding areas to see physicians, dentists and physical therapists and to have prescriptions filled.

Recently, third- and fourth-year medical students from the Creighton School of Medicine’s Phoenix Regional Campus have started traveling to Mexico every other month for a Saturday clinic. There, students are exposed to a health care system that is consistent with a developing nation. They see patients and assist with the delivery of care. “It’s a wonderful experience and it can be heartbreaking at the same time,” Roberson says.

A student-led clinic was a dream for many since Creighton established a medical campus in Phoenix in 2009. January 2018 will mark the one-year milestone since that dream became a reality.

When medical student Lauren Glaser was considering her last two years at the School of Medicine’s Phoenix Regional Campus, she was interested in volunteer opportunities. While there were many, she was surprised to learn that there was no community clinic that was exclusively tied to Creighton – similar to the student-run Magic Clinic at the Sierra/ Francis House shelter in Omaha. Glaser felt the time was right to change that and was met with encouragement and support along the way.

Feeling the Freedom of the Road (even if it’s a driveway)

Sage Meier, 22 months old, is getting strapped into her bright yellow modified Fisher-Price car when she flashes a slight frown of apprehension.

“I’m going to see my grandparents,” she says.

But when Sage’s father, Tate, flips the car’s battery switch, the grimace is gone. Her hand shoots out and punches the throttle – on the car’s steering wheel – and there’s no stopping her now as she coasts down the driveway through the yard, out to the sidewalk.
A Gift’s True Worth Isn’t Always Apparent

BY THE REV. THOMAS A. SIMONDS, SJ, EdD, Associate Professor of Education, College of Arts and Sciences

One day a man with an unusual talent went to see a talent scout. The man said, “I have a unique talent. I can do very convincing bird imitations.” The talent scout looked the man up and down, and with a dismissive wave of his hand said, “Get out of here—bird imitations are a dime a dozen.” With that, the man flew out the window.

Sometimes we have to wait for a gift to be revealed. Someone’s gift may not be readily apparent to us. The man who flew out the window obviously had a unique gift that the talent scout would have loved to market, but because he did not give the man time to share his gift, the talent scout lost out.

One of the challenges we face at Christmas time is that we receive so many gifts, it is hard to appreciate all of them in a good way. I am not only talking about gifts that are wrapped or stuffed in a stocking. Think of the gift of a new snow, or a song someone sings, or a warm embrace. God gives us so many gifts at Christmas time, the biggest gift being his Son Jesus. How can we possibly appreciate all of them? It is not easy but the key is to keep things simple. If we overdo it, we end up with lots of gifts that we cannot appreciate.

One year I received a Christmas card with a picture of the Magi on the front. Below the picture in large type was the line, “The wise still seek Him.” Now I have had this card for some time, and it is a little bit worn, but the message is clear. The Magi were wise men, ancient scientists and scholars, whose study of astronomy and ancient texts led them to the conclusion that the King of all Kings would be born in Bethlehem of Judah. They were so convinced of their conclusion that they set out on camels to follow a star and find this King of Kings. And when they came to Bethlehem, the City of David, what did they find? A baby nestled with hay in a rough-hewn manger.

If you were Caspar, Melchior or Balthazar, and you came to this little shed or maybe a cave in the side of a hill, would this look like the birth place of the King of Kings? No, it would not. However, remember the story about the flying man. The baby lying in a manger really is the King of Kings, and he really can save your life, if you let him show you his gifts.

The clinic follows the long-standing tradition of Creighton's civil clinic, the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

The clinic follows the long-standing tradition of Creighton's civil clinic, the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

We see the clinic as an extension of Creighton's Jesuit values to be men and women for and with others, reaching out to the most vulnerable among us.

The clinic is partnering with Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees. Charles "Shane" Ellison, legal director for the organization, who also teaches at the law school, will oversee the clinic. Second- and third-year law students working in the clinic will be required to complete a one-hour-per-week course working in the clinic. Second- and third-year law students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.

In addition to Justice For Our Neighbors Nebraska, the clinic will partner with the Nebraska Immigrant Legal Services and the Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees, For Our Neighbors Nebraska, an Omaha-based chapter of a national nonprofit organization specializing in legal services for immigrants and refugees.

Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, in providing representation to the under-served, and where faculty, lawyers and students, recognizing the marginality of immigrants in the legal system, have engaged in legal work on behalf of these new arrivals.
“It’s kind of perfect for me”

With a record-setting 1,179 freshman arriving on campus for the 2017 fall semester, Creighton eclipsed its previous high of 1,068 incoming students, set in 2015. Total enrollment for the 2017-2018 academic year reached 8,654—also an all-time record. Creighton continues to embrace and focus on diversity—and not just demographically, but intellectually and experientially, as well. Students come from all walks of life, bringing with them fresh, stimulating ideas to add to the already vibrant chorus on campus.

The newest crop of freshmen comes from states across the U.S. and well beyond. While a little more than a third come from less than 200 miles away, 20 percent had a decidedly longer trip to campus—more than 1,000 miles.

Freshman Giang “Tiny” Phan, passing here for a photo with Billy Blyeaux amid August freshman orientation activities, has called Vietnam home for most of her life. Why did she #ChooseCreighton? “Quite simply, she says: “It’s kind of perfect for me.”

BY THE NUMBERS

1.56% freshmen students are the first generation in their family to attend college.

256 have a legacy connection to Creighton, through close relatives who also attended the University.

32% of new students ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and 100 graduated at either No. 1 or No. 2 of the class of 2021.

80% of the class of 2021 volunteered during high school.

3.83 median grade-point average.

15 international students joined the class of 2021 from other countries—representing Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South America and points in between—giving the class, and campus, a global flavor.

27% of the incoming class identify as students of color.

100% will receive a top-flight, Jesuit education in the Creighton tradition.

FALL 2017

14

Creighton

15

CLASS OF 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2017

14

Creighton

15

CLASS OF 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2017

14

Creighton

15

CLASS OF 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

FALL 2017

14

Creighton
community, he held leadership roles in more than 28 nonprofit organizations, leading fundraising efforts benefiting religious organizations, health care, elementary and secondary education, the arts and social services agencies.

Kizer, who died Aug. 20, at the age of 92, served on Creighton’s Alumni Council beginning in 1961 and joined the Board of Trustees in 1974. When he stepped down from the Board in 1994, he was named director emeritus. Five of his nine children graduated from Creighton, including his son and current trustee, Dick Kizer, BSBA’71, JD’73.

With the job market for physician assistants booming and demand looking only to strengthen, director Stephane VanderMeulen, an associate professor in the School of Medicine, says the new program comes to the right place, at the right time.

“At Creighton, you learn much more than just the practice of medicine,” she says. “If you are driven by the call to serve others and to positively impact the lives of patients, our program will be a perfect fit.”

Is Coffee Bad for Your Bones?

“I wouldn’t worry about it,” Robert Recker, MD’63, director of Creighton’s Osteoporosis Research Center, told The New York Times. Huge, national studies in different countries have found “no evidence of an increase in fractures due to coffee,” said Recker, who holds the O’Brien Endowed Chair in Health Sciences.

HIV Research: Nano-Therapy, Big Results

Therapies for treating HIV have improved dramatically over the last 30 years. Patients who once needed to take three or four medications, up to five times daily, can now get the same effect through one pill, once daily.

But, even so, getting patients to consistently take their medications is one of the biggest challenges in HIV treatment, says Chris Destache, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice. "For some people,” Destache says, “drugs remind them they have HIV and they get drug burnout. Plus, sometimes when taking the drugs, they just don’t feel good.”

Using nanotechnology for drug delivery may provide a solution. Through his patented formulation, Destache has been able to insert a combination of HIV-fighting drugs into a polymer, which, when injected into the body, breaks down slowly and releases medication gradually. As a treatment option, he says, it would require only one injection every month or so.

Destache also is researching nanotechnology as a way to deliver a gradual release of drugs for preventing HIV. The hope is that patients could be injected with a drug-containing nanoparticle once a month rather than swallowing a daily pill. The National Institutes of Health awarded Destache a $1.5 million grant to further investigate this approach.

No Laughing Matter

Ruth Maher, PhD, is one of four original inventors of innovotherapy, a new, non-invasive treatment for pelvic-floor weakness—a condition that affects one in three women to some degree and results in intermittent urinary leakage, particularly when some women cough, sneeze, exercise or laugh. Maher also is a pioneer in using cricoid pressure to deliver drugs to treat HIV, which she invented.

Using nanotechnology, microscopic drug-containing nanoparticles can be designed to target muscles, organs or bone—a significant advancement in the field of medicine.

Latest Buzz in Tracking Viruses

In the lifespan of viruses, it’s typically only a few days that gets any attention. People become hosts to the virus, sicken and sometimes die. But the vectors—mosquitoes and other organisms—that spread viruses often live with these infectious agents for a much longer period of time, passing the virus from host to host and from one generation to another. The potential for spread is massive. As a result, scientists are constantly on the lookout for ways to discover how diseases spread and how to stop the spread.

Fassbinder-Orth studies the life of viruses in vectors like mosquitoes—their genetics and structures—in the hopes of intercepting the virus life cycle and preventing it from spreading. She studies the structures of viruses and comparing them to a base reference genome—essentially mining massive amounts of genetic haystacks to find a few critical needles.
Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Oct. 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk and theology professor named Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany, beginning an argument concerning practices in the Roman Catholic Church and touching off what became the Protestant Reformation.

Creighton magazine asked the Rev. H. Ashley Hall, PhD, an associate professor of theology at Creighton and ecumenical officer for the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and Eileen Burke-Sullivan, STD, MChrSp’84, a Catholic and Creighton’s vice provost for Mission and Ministry, to talk about what commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation looks like, especially at Catholic Creighton, where the second-largest reported religious denomination is Lutheran.

CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: How is Creighton putting some of the principles of From Conflict to Communion (latest report from the international Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity into practice on campus?
AH: We are hopeful we can do four ecumenical services this academic year at St. John’s—two in the fall, two in the spring. We are trying as best we can to embody what church leaders on both sides agreed to in From Conflict to Communion. Sitting together, praying together, reading Scripture together is where we can find the common ground we share.
EB-S: We are restoring the opportunities on both sides to engage the Spirit and celebrate what we share. We may not be at a juncture where we’re ready to share the Eucharist, but simply being with one another, we are in a position to understand one another.
CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: What are the implications of this effort at ecumenism?
EB-S: We have bigger issues in this country and the world—racism, gender biases, other religious biases among people in the Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities. Work on this dialogue is critically important. If we can’t harvest this fruit, how can we begin to solve the many other bigger problems dividing our nation and our world? We’re simply not as virulent toward one another as we were 500 years ago. I think we’ve seen that there was right on all sides and wrong on all sides. We’ve been willing to adjust the wrongness and seek the rightness. We have been able to get into hard conversations and find ways in those conversations to get to the “and” of engaging the Spirit, rather than “either/or.”
AH: I recently returned from the Luther Congress in Wittenberg, an academic and clerical conference attracting scholars from around the globe. The perspectives delivered in the seminar went toward the idea that to be Lutheran is to be ecumenical. The Lutheran church doesn’t claim to be something separate or other-than, but claims that in its essence, it’s part of the one true, catholic church. The other noteworthy trend in Luther scholarship is an emphasis on Luther and the continuity of tradition. That’s not to say that Lutherians have been Roman Catholics all along, but it does cause us to question this certainty that we’ve drawn: that Luther started the Reformation as an alternative to being Catholic. I think now we’re seeing Luther presented an alternative way of being Catholic.
How to Go Green

BY ASANDRA BRANDT, BA’14

What can we do to foster a more sustainable, cleaner, healthier world? We asked a few alumni and Creighton’s new sustainability coordinator, all of whom are passionately involved in environmental issues – on the farm, on campus, in business to share their best advice. Here’s what they told us.

**PICK YOUR PASSION**

**CATHERINE QUEEN, BS'01**

Queen, a manager of sustainable development at DanoneWave, says finding your passion and focusing on that is the most authentic way to make a difference. Queen was named to the 2017 GreenBiz Global Top 30 Under 30 list for her work in corporate sustainability.

“If you’re passionate about being outdoors, that is the only motivation you need to help the planet.”

**EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE**

**PARKER REVIER, BA’16**

After graduating with a degree in sustainable energy, Revier returned to Olivia, Minnesota, to support sustainable farming practices at his family’s cattle and crop operations.

“You can’t fix a problem if you don’t know it exists. For true change to happen, there has to be a policy change. And unless we change the way that we are thinking about the problem, there’s not going to be that policy change.”

**MAKE DECISIONS**

**STASHA THOMAS, BS’16**

While taking energy science classes at Creighton, Thomas says she learned to think about projects in a holistic way, considering how they can impact people and the environment. Now, she’s pursuing a Master of Architecture degree at Kansas State University and aspires to become an architect who creates sustainably sourced and efficient spaces.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “something you might not think about at first glance.” That can include buying local produce at a farmer’s market (to reduce transportation distances and packaging); being aware of energy usage (and remembering to turn off screens); thinking before you print; and taking public transportation or walking/biking as much as possible.

**SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT**

**BELYNA BENTLAGE**

Bentlage is Creighton’s full-time sustainability coordinator. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, she says small steps and commitments to sustainability in a variety of areas can add up to a big impact.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “you can’t fix a problem if you don’t know it exists. For true change to happen, there has to be a policy change.” A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency. "Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**MAJOR FOCUS**

**LT. CMDR. JEREME ALTENDORF, BS’97**

Lt. Commander Altendorf is an A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

He advises paying attention to what efforts companies are making in the area of sustainability.

“Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**PRINT WISE**

One of the first Catholic universities to begin offering a degree program in environmental science more than 25 years ago, Creighton has since added degree programs in sustainable energy science and sustainability, both of which offer minors and majors.

**MADE PLANTS**

Creighton serves as a demonstration site for working with native plants through an affiliation with the Nebraska statewide arboretum.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Since 2014, Creighton has been working with the local power company and two consulting companies on 10 energy conservation projects that are expected to save the University $1.5 million annually starting in 2018.

**PRINT WISE**

One of the first Catholic universities to begin offering a degree program in environmental science more than 25 years ago, Creighton has since added degree programs in sustainable energy science and sustainability, both of which offer minors and majors.

**MADE PLANTS**

Creighton serves as a demonstration site for working with native plants through an affiliation with the Nebraska statewide arboretum.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Since 2014, Creighton has been working with the local power company and two consulting companies on 10 energy conservation projects that are expected to save the University $1.5 million annually starting in 2018.

**RESEARCH YOUR PURCHASES**

**LT. CMDR. JEREME ALTENDORF, BS’97**

A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency. "Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT**

**BELYNA BENTLAGE**

Bentlage is Creighton’s full-time sustainability coordinator. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, she says small steps and commitments to sustainability in a variety of areas can add up to a big impact.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “something you might not think about at first glance.” That can include buying local produce at a farmer’s market (to reduce transportation distances and packaging); being aware of energy usage (and remembering to turn off screens); thinking before you print; and taking public transportation or walking/biking as much as possible.

**MAKING DECISIONS**

**STASHA THOMAS, BS’16**

While taking energy science classes at Creighton, Thomas says she learned to think about projects in a holistic way, considering how they can impact people and the environment. Now, she’s pursuing a Master of Architecture degree at Kansas State University and aspires to become an architect who creates sustainably sourced and efficient spaces.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “something you might not think about at first glance.” That can include buying local produce at a farmer’s market (to reduce transportation distances and packaging); being aware of energy usage (and remembering to turn off screens); thinking before you print; and taking public transportation or walking/biking as much as possible.

**MAJOr FOCUS**

**LT. CMDR. JEREME ALTENDORF, BS’97**

Lt. Commander Altendorf is an A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

He advises paying attention to what efforts companies are making in the area of sustainability.

“Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**PRINT WISE**

One of the first Catholic universities to begin offering a degree program in environmental science more than 25 years ago, Creighton has since added degree programs in sustainable energy science and sustainability, both of which offer minors and majors.

**MADE PLANTS**

Creighton serves as a demonstration site for working with native plants through an affiliation with the Nebraska statewide arboretum.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Since 2014, Creighton has been working with the local power company and two consulting companies on 10 energy conservation projects that are expected to save the University $1.5 million annually starting in 2018.

**RESEARCH YOUR PURCHASES**

**LT. CMDR. JEREME ALTENDORF, BS’97**

A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency. "Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT**

**BELYNA BENTLAGE**

Bentlage is Creighton’s full-time sustainability coordinator. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago, she says small steps and commitments to sustainability in a variety of areas can add up to a big impact.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “something you might not think about at first glance.” That can include buying local produce at a farmer’s market (to reduce transportation distances and packaging); being aware of energy usage (and remembering to turn off screens); thinking before you print; and taking public transportation or walking/biking as much as possible.

**MAKING DECISIONS**

**STASHA THOMAS, BS’16**

While taking energy science classes at Creighton, Thomas says she learned to think about projects in a holistic way, considering how they can impact people and the environment. Now, she’s pursuing a Master of Architecture degree at Kansas State University and aspires to become an architect who creates sustainably sourced and efficient spaces.

“Sustainability touches all parts of life,” Bentlage says, “something you might not think about at first glance.” That can include buying local produce at a farmer’s market (to reduce transportation distances and packaging); being aware of energy usage (and remembering to turn off screens); thinking before you print; and taking public transportation or walking/biking as much as possible.

**MAJOr FOCUS**

**LT. CMDR. JEREME ALTENDORF, BS’97**

Lt. Commander Altendorf is an A Reserve officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, Altendorf works on a variety of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. In 2010, he worked as the federal resource coordinator managing the Coast Guard’s effort to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Altendorf previously worked for the Environmental Protection Agency.

He advises paying attention to what efforts companies are making in the area of sustainability.

“Do the research, and ask questions.” And, he says, “focus on water and energy conservation and use, as well as consumer life cycle issues, such as how a product was manufactured, packaged, and how well it can be reused or recycled.

**PRINT WISE**

One of the first Catholic universities to begin offering a degree program in environmental science more than 25 years ago, Creighton has since added degree programs in sustainable energy science and sustainability, both of which offer minors and majors.

**MADE PLANTS**

Creighton serves as a demonstration site for working with native plants through an affiliation with the Nebraska statewide arboretum.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Since 2014, Creighton has been working with the local power company and two consulting companies on 10 energy conservation projects that are expected to save the University $1.5 million annually starting in 2018.
A Creighton Tradition

Dance professor and director Patrick Roddy works with Emma Welsh, left, and Elise Beal on the “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy” for Creighton’s biennial production of The Nutcracker. Creighton has been performing the cherished Christmas tale since the 1960s.
Mid-year in 2016, when many Americans were trying to cool off from summer’s sizzle and election rhetoric was heating up, an event quietly rocked the world of many political scientists.

What could alter our understanding of human nature and government began with a simple hypothesis: The future of democracy may be in danger.

A study in the July 2016 Journal of Democracy cited many reasons that democracy—even in developed nations—is approaching a crisis point. The article cast doubt on the accepted theory that once democracies are firmly established, or “consolidated,” they can be presumed to be self-sustaining.

One of the political scientists who was alarmed by the study, as well as a subsequent article in the same journal by the same authors in January 2017, was Erika Moreno, PhD, associate professor of political science and international relations at Creighton.

“Democracy serves as one of the trusses of what political scientists study because, in
part the discipline developed here in the U.S., and the U.S. is one of the more established democracies in the world," Moreno says. "So to talk about democratic deconsolidation in advanced democracies is a radical departure. "It is kind of a given that in new democracies and in the third wave of democratization in the 1980s in Latin America, Africa and Asia, you have seen growing pains and you do see reversals, or deconsolidation," she says. "The study of how democracy functions for the average citizen, especially across Latin America, is Moreno’s area of expertise.

"But we have not spent time on deconsolidation in established democracies," Moreno says. "We...
The Company We Keep

The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) scores nations in five areas for its annual Democracy Index. The countries are then rated into four categories: full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime, or authoritarian regime. The most recent index dropped the U.S. to a flawed democracy.

“Can we in the U.S. and in Western Europe look around and learn the lessons that other countries have had to learn the hard way, and apply them before it’s too late?”

Erika Moreno, PhD

“I’m excited to see what the data say. It’s a new, pretty unexplored research question, so it will be exciting.”

The authors of the Journal of Democracy articles do offer some hope, saying, “Perhaps longstanding democracies have sufficient systemic resources to turn the growing anger of citizens into a force for democratic reform, as occurred in France under Charles de Gaulle or in the U.S. during the Progressive Era,” and conclude in their second article that the survival of liberal democracy may now depend on the will of citizens to defend it effectively against attacks.”

Moreno and Wunsch both believe more research needs to be done to determine whether democratic deconsolidation is indeed happening in advanced countries, and that they say there are fixes available if it is.

“One of the lessons is that these difficult, challenging problems, such as inequality for instance, are not unsolvable. You can enact a handful of policies that tend to undo inequality.” Moreno says, “Can we in the U.S. and in Western Europe look around and learn the lessons that other countries have had to learn the hard way, and apply them before it’s too late?”

“Everything is soluble,” says Wunsch, “there’s just a lack of political will. If we get government moving again on solving problems, that would solve a lot of the alienation.”

Wunsch also says he derives some hope from the next generation he sees in his classes. Creighton students are fun to work with. There’s an intellectual curiosity and there’s a concern with social and world problems, and a desire to understand them and do something about them.”

“So it takes a huge amount of things that come together to bring about a functioning democracy, and one of the biggest proponents of that, underlying all of this, is a support and belief among the public, largely unarticulated, that these sorts of institutions are the way we ought to govern ourselves.”

Confronting this broad, deeply held faith in these aspects of democratic governance today, Wunsch says, is public frustration.

“Frustration that is in some measure economic, following the events of the Great Recession, but in some measure more deeply rooted in the deindustrialization of the United States and other countries. There’s the feeling that democracy doesn’t work anymore, that it became more intense. “The 2016 election started me thinking about the principles and institutions experts see as essential to democracy, and whether any of those were in real danger of deconsolidating.”

“To see this new research focusing on public opinion polls and people’s disaffection with democracy, their openness to authoritarian regimes and military rule, etc., was really striking.”

Fernandez says she and her classmates found it “pretty alarming and horrifying” to think about a possible democratic backlash in countries that have for so long been thought of as some of the strongest democracies in the world.

“It is striking to think that some citizens might be losing faith in democracy and the institutions it is built on, instead of only being dissatisfied with the current government or the representatives in power.” The fact that younger people are especially dissatisfied, she says, simply could be because, “We tend to be a little more critical in general and don’t necessarily appreciate fundamental rights since we don’t know anything else and we take them for granted.”

So, this year, in her Research Methods course, Fernandez will take on a research project to delve further into whether democracies such as the U.S. and Great Britain are indeed in the early stages of democratic deconsolidation, combining both public opinion polls and expert assessments of democracy.

begin to see an almost Darwinian struggle among groups within the same nation, which tends to tear at the fabric of the nation and make it difficult to conduct political discourse in a reasoned and civil tone.”

The national share of American adults in middle-income households decreased from 55 percent in 2000 to 51 percent in 2014, according to Pew data. At the same time, the share of adults in the upper-income tier increased from 17 percent to 20 percent, and the share of adults in the lower-income tier increased from 28 percent to 29 percent.

When Moreno initially presented the Fox and Mounk study to her students, she got a range of reactions.

“Some students were genuinely shaken that young people (in the World Surveys) would be comfortable with a military government,” Moreno says. “Can we in the U.S. and in Western Europe look around and learn the lessons that other countries have had to learn the hard way, and apply them before it’s too late?”

“Frustration that is in some measure economic, following the events of the Great Recession, but in some measure more deeply rooted in the deindustrialization of the United States and other countries. There’s the feeling that democracy doesn’t work anymore, that it became more intense. “The 2016 election started me thinking about the principles and institutions experts see as essential to democracy, and whether any of those were in real danger of deconsolidating.”

“To see this new research focusing on public opinion polls and people’s disaffection with democracy, their openness to authoritarian regimes and military rule, etc., was really striking.”

Fernandez says she and her classmates found it “pretty alarming and horrifying” to think about a possible democratic backlash in countries that have for so long been thought of as some of the strongest democracies in the world.

“It is striking to think that some citizens might be losing faith in democracy and the institutions it is built on, instead of only being dissatisfied with the current government or the representatives in power.” The fact that younger people are especially dissatisfied, she says, simply could be because, “We tend to be a little more critical in general and don’t necessarily appreciate fundamental rights since we don’t know anything else and we take them for granted.”

So, this year, in her Research Methods course, Fernandez will take on a research project to delve further into whether democracies such as the U.S. and Great Britain are indeed in the early stages of democratic deconsolidation, combining both public opinion polls and expert assessments of democracy.

begin to see an almost Darwinian struggle among groups within the same nation, which tends to tear at the fabric of the nation and make it difficult to conduct political discourse in a reasoned and civil tone.”

The national share of American adults in middle-income households decreased from 55 percent in 2000 to 51 percent in 2014, according to Pew data. At the same time, the share of adults in the upper-income tier increased from 17 percent to 20 percent, and the share of adults in the lower-income tier increased from 28 percent to 29 percent.

When Moreno initially presented the Fox and Mounk study to her students, she got a range of reactions.

“Some students were genuinely shaken that young people (in the World Surveys) would be comfortable with a military government,” Moreno says. “Can we in the U.S. and in Western Europe look around and learn the lessons that other countries have had to learn the hard way, and apply them before it’s too late?”

“Frustration that is in some measure economic, following the events of the Great Recession, but in some measure more deeply rooted in the deindustrialization of the United States and other countries. There’s the feeling that democracy doesn’t work anymore, that it became more intense. “The 2016 election started me thinking about the principles and institutions experts see as essential to democracy, and whether any of those were in real danger of deconsolidating.”

“To see this new research focusing on public opinion polls and people’s disaffection with democracy, their openness to authoritarian regimes and military rule, etc., was really striking.”

Fernandez says she and her classmates found it “pretty alarming and horrifying” to think about a possible democratic backlash in countries that have for so long been thought of as some of the strongest democracies in the world.

“It is striking to think that some citizens might be losing faith in democracy and the institutions it is built on, instead of only being dissatisfied with the current government or the representatives in power.” The fact that younger people are especially dissatisfied, she says, simply could be because, “We tend to be a little more critical in general and don’t necessarily appreciate fundamental rights since we don’t know anything else and we take them for granted.”

So, this year, in her Research Methods course, Fernandez will take on a research project to delve further into whether democracies such as the U.S. and Great Britain are indeed in the early stages of democratic deconsolidation, combining both public opinion polls and expert assessments of democracy.

begin to see an almost Darwinian struggle among groups within the same nation, which tends to tear at the fabric of the nation and make it difficult to conduct political discourse in a reasoned and civil tone.”

The national share of American adults in middle-income households decreased from 55 percent in 2000 to 51 percent in 2014, according to Pew data. At the same time, the share of adults in the upper-income tier increased from 17 percent to 20 percent, and the share of adults in the lower-income tier increased from 28 percent to 29 percent.

When Moreno initially presented the Fox and Mounk study to her students, she got a range of reactions.

“Some students were genuinely shaken that young people (in the World Surveys) would be comfortable with a military government,” Moreno says. “Can we in the U.S. and in Western Europe look around and learn the lessons that other countries have had to learn the hard way, and apply them before it’s too late?”

“Frustration that is in some measure economic, following the events of the Great Recession, but in some measure more deeply rooted in the deindustrialization of the United States and other countries. There’s the feeling that democracy doesn’t work anymore, that it became more intense. “The 2016 election started me thinking about the principles and institutions experts see as essential to democracy, and whether any of those were in real danger of deconsolidating.”

“To see this new research focusing on public opinion polls and people’s disaffection with democracy, their openness to authoritarian regimes and military rule, etc., was really striking.”

Fernandez says she and her classmates found it “pretty alarming and horrifying” to think about a possible democratic backlash in countries that have for so long been thought of as some of the strongest democracies in the world.

“It is striking to think that some citizens might be losing faith in democracy and the institutions it is built on, instead of only being dissatisfied with the current government or the representatives in power.” The fact that younger people are especially dissatisfied, she says, simply could be because, “We tend to be a little more critical in general and don’t necessarily appreciate fundamental rights since we don’t know anything else and we take them for granted.”

So, this year, in her Research Methods course, Fernandez will take on a research project to delve further into whether democracies such as the U.S. and Great Britain are indeed in the early stages of democratic deconsolidation, combining both public opinion polls and expert assessments of democracy.
AN EQUATION FOR SUCCESS

$10 million gift, plus outstanding science programs, equals infinite possibilities. BY RICK DAVIS, BA’88

The memory is still fresh in Noah Yoshida’s mind. He’s a senior now, but at the time was only a sophomore. He had just started working in the biophysics laboratory of Patricia Soto, PhD, earlier that year, and now he was facing his fellow student lab partners — giving a presentation.

“I had to explain 13 different algorithms,” he recalls today, a smile crossing his face. “That was a very stressful moment. I remember, at the end, the back of my shirt was just dripping in sweat because I was so nervous.”

Fast forward to February 2017: Yoshida was one of four students from Soto’s lab presenting research posters at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society in New Orleans.

“We got to meet people interested in biophysics from around the world, and they wanted us to explain our research,” Yoshida says.

This time, no sweat. Yoshida and two other classmates plan to attend the same meeting in San Francisco in February.

Now in his third year in the lab, Yoshida feels confident not only in his research abilities, but in pursuing the opportunities that lie ahead — which, for him, include medical school.

“This lab has given me an opportunity to expand on the knowledge I’ve gained in the classroom,” he says. “I’ll learn concepts in cell structure, and then I’ll come to this lab and apply that in a real world way.

“I feel like I can talk about this research both in scientific terms, and at a level that appeals to people who are not as familiar with science.”

The latter includes his own family. His father and sister are musicians with the Omaha Symphony, and his mother, who immigrated to the United States from Mexico, is a Spanish translator at a local elementary school.

“I played jazz drums,” says Yoshida, who graduated from Omaha Central High School. “But my passions really lie with trying to understand the basic sciences and wanting to help people.”
CORNERTONE INITIATIVES

The $10 million gift to Creighton from George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, will be the cornerstone of four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences:

- The Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund. Will include renovation and modernization of the 50-year-old Rigge Science Building and its laboratories.
- The Haddix Faculty Research Incubator. Will afford professors dedicated time to concentrate primarily on research, with fully funded sabbaticals awarded to top-tier faculty.
- The Haddix 24th Street STEM Corridor. Will fund scholarships and other opportunities for 10 top science students from Omaha North High School (George Haddix’s alma mater), Omaha South and Omaha Central annually, along with summer programming and workshops for students from these schools.
- The Haddix Ignation Advising Program. Will support a unique and comprehensive approach to academic advising in the College of Arts and Sciences that affirms Creighton’s Jesuit mission.

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Stoking the passions of the next generation of Creighton scientists is one of the goals of a recent $10 million gift by George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and his wife, Susan, a member of Creighton’s Board of Trustees. It is the largest single gift to the College of Arts and Sciences, and enhancing research in the sciences is a primary focus.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Bridget Keegan, PhD, is excited about the opportunities this gift will provide students like Yoshida and their faculty mentors.

“I’ve been on the faculty here for 21 years, and I’ve seen a lot of great things happen at Creighton, but to my mind, and I think many of my colleagues would agree, this is absolutely a transformational gift.”

BREDDITT KEEGAN, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Soto is a past recipient of grants provided through the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund, which has awarded approximately $660,000 in seed-funding to promising Creighton researchers.

George and Susan Haddix say they are proud of the results. Since the fund was established

4 Patricia Soto, PhD, a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund award recipient, works in her lab with Creighton junior Noah Yoshida.

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Soto is a past recipient of grants provided through the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund, which has awarded approximately $660,000 in seed-funding to promising Creighton researchers.

George and Susan Haddix say they are proud of the results. Since the fund was established

4 Patricia Soto, PhD, a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund award recipient, works in her lab with Creighton junior Noah Yoshida.

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Soto is a past recipient of grants provided through the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund, which has awarded approximately $660,000 in seed-funding to promising Creighton researchers.

George and Susan Haddix say they are proud of the results. Since the fund was established

4 Patricia Soto, PhD, a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund award recipient, works in her lab with Creighton junior Noah Yoshida.

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Soto is a past recipient of grants provided through the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund, which has awarded approximately $660,000 in seed-funding to promising Creighton researchers.

George and Susan Haddix say they are proud of the results. Since the fund was established

4 Patricia Soto, PhD, a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund award recipient, works in her lab with Creighton junior Noah Yoshida.

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the

“STOKING THE PASSIONS OF SCIENCE

Soto is a past recipient of grants provided through the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund, which has awarded approximately $660,000 in seed-funding to promising Creighton researchers.

George and Susan Haddix say they are proud of the results. Since the fund was established

4 Patricia Soto, PhD, a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund award recipient, works in her lab with Creighton junior Noah Yoshida.

in 2011, grant recipients have secured more than $6 million in new additional funding for their research. The success of that fund in part, encouraged the Haddixes in their $10 million gift to the University.

“We look at these things as an investment, so you want to invest in something that is going to multiply,” George Haddix says.

Soto, a native of Colombia who also speaks to Latina high school students and encourages them to pursue opportunities in the sciences, received Haddix grants in 2012 and 2015 for her research into prion proteins. These abnormally folded proteins can lead to degenerative diseases such as Mad Cow disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The molecular mechanism studied in Soto’s lab also may offer insight into other disorders linked to similar protein-misshaping processes, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

“We want to know what triggers this process, this misfolding of proteins,” Soto explains. “The outcome of our research, we hope, will lay the groundwork for the design of diagnostic tools and therapeutics to aid in targeting deadly prion diseases.”

ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Haddixes’ gift will fund four distinct academic initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences: (see box at left.) It will establish the Haddix Faculty Innovation Fund, which will help finance the
renovation and modernization of the Rigge Science Building laboratories; the Haddix Faculty Research Incubator; and the Haddix Ignatian Advising Program. It also will extend Creighton’s outstanding science programs into the community through the Haddix 24th Street STEM Corridor, which targets top students in the sciences from three local public high schools. STEM stands for “science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

“All parts of this gift are exciting to us,” Fr. Hendrickson says. “But this gives us a very special way to say we’re part of Omaha that we impact the city of Omaha, we serve the city of Omaha. It’s part of who we are.”

Dean Keegan is equally excited about the Haddix Ignatian Advising Program, a project she described as “near and dear” to her heart, which will touch all students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Student advising at Creighton, she says, is reflective of the Jesuit tradition and involves not only helping students find an academic or career path, but emphasizes care of the whole person and reflecting on one’s higher purpose. “With this gift, we’re really going to be able to think about that mentoring process in a comprehensive, four-year development way,” says Keegan, which could include expanded advising programming.

In addition to the $10 million gift, the Haddixes previously established the Center for Mathematics of Uncertainty (Fuzzy Math) at Creighton and funded the Omaha North High School Scholarship Program, which supports four students annually at the University. “Most of the kids from North High have been first-generation college students,” says Fr. Hendrickson. “They are amazing kids doing wonderful work. To see more of that, I can’t imagine anything better.”

ABOUT THE DONORS

George and Susan Haddix of Omaha are generous philanthropists and ardent supporters of Creighton University. George grew up in Omaha and graduated in 1957 from Omaha North High School, the same alma mater as his first wife, Sally, who died in 2008. George and Susan, introduced by a mutual friend, were married three years ago.

Susan has been an active volunteer in the Omaha community, with a particular passion for foster care and education. “Education, for me, is the best thing to give to this community to change lives,” she says. Susan is a member of the Creighton Board of Trustees.

George earned a master’s degree in mathematics from Creighton in 1966 while working for the Army Corps of Engineers, and taught math at Creighton from 1969 to 1971. “For two and a half years, I was on the faculty at Creighton,” he says. “I loved it. I was also doing consulting work, and the tail started wagging the dog.” He formed his own consulting company, building mathematical models for everything from “water to garbage systems.” He served as chairman, CEO and president of Applied Communications and president and CEO of U.S. West Network Systems Inc. before cofounding software services companies CSG Holdings and CSG Systems in 1994. He retired after serving as president and CEO of PKWARE Holdings and PKWARE. George was named to the Omaha Business Hall of Fame in 2011 and is a Creighton trustee emeritus. He also received the 2016 Alumni Achievement Citation, the highest all-University award given to Creighton alumni.

George and Susan Haddix’s $10 million gift to the College of Arts and Sciences continues a legacy of giving to science research. In 2011, the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund was established, providing seed funding for promising Creighton researchers. For four consecutive years, Creighton has been honored by U.S. News & World Report for undergraduate research opportunities. Creighton magazine talked to a few Haddix grant recipients, and selected students, about their research and the recent $10 million gift.

STUDYING LEAD EXPOSURE IN CHILDREN

Maya Khanna, PhD, professor and associate chair of psychology, received a Haddix grant in 2014 that funded a yearlong study on the effects of game-like online cognitive intervention programs in improving the cognitive performance and executive function in local children (ages 6-12) who had potentially been exposed to lead. Khanna and psychology colleague Amy Badura-Brack, PhD, are currently among a group of researchers from Nebraska, New Mexico and Louisiana conducting a study involving state-of-the-art neuroimaging to examine the developing brains of children ages 9 to 15 through a four-year, $6 million National Science Foundation grant awarded in 2015. A subset of this research will be the first study of brain function and development in children exposed to lead, Khanna says. “This would help address the question: Does early lead exposure have detrimental effects early on, even when the exposure is happening, not just after the fact?”

SNAIL PARASITES AS ENVIRONMENTAL BAROMETERS

The Rev. John Shea, SJ, assistant professor of biology, received a Haddix grant in 2015, along with Rebecca Gasper, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics, to study snail parasites as indicators of ecosystem health. “The idea is that these parasites have complicated life cycles
that involve multiple hosts,” Fr. Shea says. “So a diverse assemblage of these particular parasites indicates a healthy functioning ecosystem.” The study was conducted on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and involved students from Creighton and Red Cloud High School.

Elizabeth Aulner, a senior biology major from Dimock, South Dakota (population, 125): “One of the great things about Creighton is there are a lot of undergraduate research opportunities. You can approach professors and ask them about their work. And if there is a research opening, you can often set that up directly through the professor.” Aulner, a first-generation college student whose mother is a mail carrier and professor. “You can approach professors and ask them about their work. And if there is a research opening, you can often set that up directly through the professor.”

LOOKING FOR A QUICK REACTION

Kayode Oshin, PhD, assistant professor of inorganic chemistry, received a Haddix grant this past spring to study, with his students, new compounds (catalysts) that could be used to accelerate chemical reactions. “We make compounds that other chemists could use, and we try to make them more efficiently than other methods,” Oshin explains. “These compounds may be used, for example, for propellants or fire extinguishers.”

Oshin on the Haddix gift: “I think it’s a big deal. Really, from my perspective, we’re trying to see how we can get more students in the lab to participate in research, and this donation will allow us to do just that.”

FROM LEFT, Maya Khanna, PhD, works with students Denise Manger, Alex Harrington and Kreydal Hopkins on a study of the relationship between exercise, cognition and verbal processing.

T

Onoma North High School graduates and current Creighton scholar Tristin Taylor reunites with Christopher Wiley, ARTS’75, who nominated Taylor because of his commitment to Creighton.

Tristin Taylor never dreamed he’d wind up at Creighton. Truth be told, the University wasn’t even on his radar. Not for the vast majority of his youth, despite spending most of it in the Omaha area. That changed toward the end of his education at Omaha North High School.

Carrying a high grade-point average, with a class load heavy in advanced placement courses and an active extracurricular life steeped in football, Taylor got the attention of Christopher Wiley, ARTS’75, a guidance counselor at North. “He was an outstanding young man,” Wiley says. “Just waiting for someone to help put things together for him.” Wiley opened Taylor’s eyes not just to the prospect of attending Creighton — his alma mater — but also pushed the idea of taking an uncommon route to the venerable Jesuit university.

Namely, the Omaha North High School Scholarship Program, funded by the Haddix Foundation. Through the program, scholarships are awarded each year to a select few North High graduates.

Taylor says he went along with the idea, but he didn’t really know what to make of it. He couldn’t quite grasp attending school at a place like Creighton. It was a journey he hadn’t imagined for himself. Among his friends and teammates who were considering college, Creighton simply wasn’t in downfield view.

But gradually, the idea of aiming for Creighton — on a full ride, no less — began to take hold.

He started talking to his father about it. A career Air Force man, the older Taylor took a practical stance on the matter. You have to consider it, he told his son. Especially if it’s going to be paid for.

His girlfriend’s older brother concurred. “If you can get the Haddix,” he said, “go for it.”

Go for it, he did. With encouragement from Wiley, Taylor gained acceptance to Creighton and earned one of the coveted Haddix scholarships.

He remembers when he received the double good news in the mail. His mother — also an Air Force veteran — “was ecstatic,” he says. It wasn’t a particularly smooth transition to Creighton’s campus for Taylor, however. During his first two weeks, he wondered if he’d ever fit in. Faculty members were accommodating, he says, but doubt had crept in.

“I thought, ‘This is way different from North,’” he says. “I don’t know if I’m comfortable here.”

Soon, however, he got to know some of the other freshmen on his floor in Gallagher Hall. “Motivated friends,” he calls them, pursuing bigger goals. A different landscape than that from which he’d come.

He then joined a fraternity. Sigma Phi Epsilon. “That extended my group of friends a lot,” Taylor says. And they were motivated, too.

“They embodied everything I wanted to be,” he says. “They were going to be investment bankers, things like that. They rub off on you. They pushed me to consider grad school, pushed me to achieve more than I thought was possible.”

And that, he says, was all made possible because someone believed in him.

“For the Haddixes to devote this much of their resources to me, it’s meant a lot,” Taylor says. “Someone invested in me. That’s something I can’t waste. And it’s made me think more highly of myself.”

Now a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, studying economics and pre-law, Taylor has some advice for the Haddix scholars who will follow in his footsteps. Take advantage of the opportunity: he says. “You don’t realize it right now, but this gift means somebody believes in you. And it will make you aim higher than you did before.”

Taylor’s aim is to attend law school, become a corporate attorney and, eventually set up practice in Omaha to provide legal help in the North Omaha community.

“I look at George Haddix, and I think, ‘I can’t wait to be where you’re at.’ I think that’s kind of his goal, too. To pay it forward.”

MORE THAN I THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE

Haddix scholar Tristin Taylor looks to pay it forward

BY GLENN ANTONUCCI
The Last Frontier

Through twists and turns, a Creighton alumna falls in love with Homer, Alaska, and a unique form of therapy.

BY EMILY RUST | PHOTOS BY DAVE WEAVER
The “Elephant in the Room” was a massive steel aerial rig. And there was the book: The Aerial Circus Training and Safety Manual.

Melissa Gagnon, OTD ’13, had moved into a cabin in Homer, Alaska, with a friend, and the rig was there, in the living room—intriguing and inviting.

She began practicing with it, every day, following along with photos from the book. She eventually got good—carefully controlling her body on the rig’s trapeze bar, her flips and spins mimicking those of the ones she watched from her cabin window. She taught herself moves with names such as “bird’s nest” and “gazelle.”

This wasn’t your traditional circus trapeze, upon which a performer flies through the air. This static trapeze hangs about four feet off the ground, attached to the steel rigging, allowing for a variety of acrobatic moves.

After time, the flipping, twisting, and contorting became Gagnon’s life’s work and an effective therapy tool for children visiting her occupational therapy clinic in Homer—a newly named Cirque Therapy.

There, Gagnon has her own steel rig, but now she teaches children the secrets behind aerial acrobatics using a trapeze and a long piece of fabric called a silk, all while improving their patients’ spatial awareness, social skills and general quality of life.

It’s not an ordinary approach to pediatric occupational therapy, but nothing about Gagnon’s life has ever been ordinary.

A native of New Jersey, Gagnon lived in Philadelphia, Orlando, Florida, and Miami, eager to relocate, Gagnon, with $10 in her pocket, hitchhiked from Reno to work on a sustainable farm in a small Russian village on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska, relying on the kindness of strangers who took her from the deserts of Nevada, through the Canadian Rockies until she reached the Last Frontier. “Money is not going to stop me from doing something,” Gagnon says.

She only intended to stay in Alaska for the summer months, but 13 years later, the once nomad has settled here.

With the shortened Alaskan winter days—when sunlight can be fleeting—Gagnon enrolled in courses at a satellite campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage as a way to keep busy. She mainly stayed in Homer, earning a degree in biological sciences. A few courses required her to move to Fairbanks with her then-infant daughter Zayda, where she lived in a house in which a tree to the bathroom meant going outside in minus-65-degree weather.

“If you don’t have an outhouse in Fairbanks, you don’t see the Northern Lights,” Gagnon says. Realizing many of her co-workers on the sustainable farm had science degrees and were only earning $12 per hour, she knew she needed more education.

A frequent traveler, Gagnon had met a German couple while visiting Laos who were both occupational therapists, a profession she had always considered. “They were like, ‘You should do it,’” Gagnon says. “We love our jobs, it’s satisfying. They totally sold me on it.”

As she finished her undergraduate degree in Fairbanks, she volunteered at an occupational therapy clinic in town, remembering her German friends. A co-worker mentioned a new occupational therapy program administered by Creighton University at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

“There are so many scientists fighting for jobs in Alaska,” Gagnon says. “Occupational therapy is the complete opposite. There are so many jobs and so few occupational therapists. So it made a lot of sense.”

LIFE IN ALASKA

Homer residents are rugged independent yet quick to come to a neighbor’s aid. “You can’t afford to not help someone with a flat tire, because one day it might be you,” says Dylan Smith, a native of Homer and one of Gagnon’s friends. “I can’t leave someone to the elements. With a greater population density, you think someone else can help them. Here, someone else might not come along.”

And along Alaska Route 1, which ends in Homer, that someone might indeed not come along. It’s where the land ends and the sea begins.

Alaska Route 1 starts in Tok, weaving through Anchorage and down through the Kenai Peninsula until it blends into the Kachemak Bay at the end of a long strip of land called the Homer Spit. Snow-capped mountains, dotted with glaciers, line the coast, a natural beauty that continues to draw inspired artists. The town of Seldovia is known both for its commercial fishing industry and arts scene. Once, the highway into town was just a single-lane dirt road, but as word traveled of easy money from halibut and salmon fishing, the town grew.

Hippies and artists also flocked to Homer, delighting in its natural beauty. It is also the hometown of Jewel, the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter.

“It’s the perfect place for a unique form of therapy.”

In Alaska, we have a lot of people who are very alternative and very hesitant about engaging in medical care,” Gagnon says. “Before I opened my clinic, the only place for pediatric occupational therapy was at the hospital. In Homer, there’s a wait and a lot of parents say, ‘I don’t want to take my kid to the hospital.’”

Cirque Therapy

50-50 Gagnon combined the artistic, holistic spirit of her town with clinical treatments that have proven to be successful. It might look like her therapy is more play than work, but she has found a way to tap into these children’s lives.

Consider Ryan, an 11-year-old, who Gagnon puts on the trapeze. A little wobbly, Ryan looks
Gagnon looks on. Ryan is pouring water as an exercise to work on his fine motor skills by patient, practices lateral stability.

Gagnon holds Ryan, and community education, directly presenting doctor, “Gagnon says. “I really want everybody to enjoy what they’re doing, but I have to challenge them all the time.”

Gagnon sees about 25 patients from one to three times a week. She works with patients ages 2 to 19, and with a contractor for any infants. Homer’s service area is about 40 miles or 13,000 people, so some patients travel an hour for sessions. Her patients have often been diagnosed with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Ryan may have fetal alcohol syndrome, Gagnon says, but the disease is difficult to diagnose. A lot is unknown of the trauma he experienced in the womb, but Gagnon says his birth mother consumed various drugs and alcohol while pregnant. Alcohol abuse is a major problem across Alaska.

Exposure to these adverse child experiences, or ACEs, has a great impact on a person’s life. “Some days he’s thriving and doing so well,” Gagnon says. “Some days, he has serious regression and he’s at a developmental level at [age] 8 or so.

“He doesn’t have a lot of confidence, which is a very common thing in children, especially in my patients. They’ve struggled through life and they want to avoid those struggles.”

For families in Homer, there was always a ready solution for children who were in need of occupational therapy. One reason was because medical clinics in town were not sure how to help. until Gagnon took it upon herself to educate those health care providers.

“When I did talk to them, they said, ‘Great, because we didn’t know who to send these kids to before. We didn’t know what to do for them before,’” Gagnon says.

With new Medicaid laws in Alaska, parents no longer need referrals from a doctor to come to Gagnon’s clinic. Almost all of her clients are on Medicaid.

“Previously, parents would try to get a referral, and there’s a wait list just to see the doctor,” Gagnon says.

Now, Gagnon is able to focus on outreach and community education, directly presenting her practice to parents.

One educational seminar helped Izzy Scott realize her daughter Kelsey needed Gagnon’s help.

“She was hitting buttons with Kelsey that we were recognizing,” Scott says.

Kelsey, 5, may have autism, but has not been officially diagnosed. In her six months with Gagnon, she has worked on sensory processing of “body awareness.” The patient’s academic performance did not pause, thanks to an activity kit Gagnon prepared.

“She goes above and beyond helping the kids as much as she can,” Scott says.

After just three months of working with Gagnon, Kelsey showed more confidence. At a local McDonald’s PlayPlace, for the first time, Kelsey went up the stairs and started climbing around. Before, she wouldn’t play at all.

“I don’t know what we would do without Melissa,” Scott says.

Gagnon says her practice is one of only three in the U.S. that combines circus arts and therapy. During her professional rotations, Gagnon studied with licensed clinical social worker Carrie Heller, the author of The Aerial Circus Training and Safety Manual (the same book Gagnon had found in her cabin) and founder of the Circus Arts Institute in Atlanta.

Children tend to respond better to movement and play than just talking,” Heller says of her practice. Gagnon remembers, during one rotation, working with a patient who was no longer able to participate in gym class because of a lack of “body awareness.” “The patient’s academic performance was correspondingly plummeting.”

Once I got her on the trapeze, she started building up a lot of awareness.” Gagnon says. “It was just awesome. She’s now in gym class; she’s thriving.”

A TOWN SPECTACLE

GAGNON’S LOVE FOR THE CIRCUS extends beyond her clinic, into all aspects of her life. On the first Wednesday of every month, Gagnon and her husband Mark, perform “acrobalance” at Alice’s Champagne Palace, one of Homer’s oldest bars.

“I’d love to perform on the trapeze at age 80,” says Gagnon’s friend Dylan Smith. “That’s the dream, to combine two of your passions, right? And to help people.”

Melissa and Mark return to their table, where their daughter Zayda, now 9, has been watching patiently. Zayda is part of the next generation of circus performers, having started on the trapeze at age 4.

The next morning Gagnon is back at Cirque Therapy the giant steel rig waiting for the next patient. It’s no longer the elephant in the room; it’s as important to her practice as her Cirque Therapy is to the town of Homer.

“It’s a little more rough and tumble,” Smith says. “A little more Alaskan.”

Melissa and Mark Gagnon perform acrobatics onstage at Alice’s Champagne Palace during the First Wednesday Spectacle, a kind of talent show for Homer residents.
A Creighton professor and professor emerita work on canonization efforts for Boys Town founder Fr. Flanagan

By Adam Klinker

Only a select few will see the biography Creighton professor Heather Fryer, PhD, spent three years quietly researching and writing on the Rev. Edward J. Flanagan, the Roman Catholic priest who began the Boys Town mission in 1917, ministering to unemployed men and wayward boys in the streets of downtown Omaha.

Fryer’s biography—which looks to separate the man from the myth—is a key element in the long and arduous process of Fr. Flanagan’s candidacy for sainthood.

“It’s a very interesting way of doing historical research and writing, one that I’ve never experienced before,” says Fryer, who served on the Historical Commission for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Father Edward J. Flanagan.

“But it was a way of helping the (Vatican) Tribunal take its own measure of the man. It’s a history absent interpretation. It does not argue anything, which is not how a historian is trained. But it delves way more deeply into the details of the life and influence of one fascinating person than most projects allow.”

While working on a separate project involving Fr. Flanagan, one looking into the assistance he provided to Japanese-Americans during World War II, Fryer became intrigued with Fr. Flanagan’s life and his larger-than-life persona.

In 2012, when the Father Flanagan League called asking if Fryer would lend her academic expertise to their push for the canonization of Fr. Flanagan, she jumped at the chance.

To begin building the sainthood case, the league needed—along with prayers and what is called a groundswell of devotion—an exhaustive recapitulation of Fr. Flanagan’s life.

At the same time, another Creighton faculty member, Sister Joan Mueller, OSC, PhD, in the Department of Theology, was assigned by the archbishop to chair the Theological Commission, whose charge was to comb through Fr. Flanagan’s writings and homilies, making sure the theological underpinnings of his life and mission were compliant with Church teaching.

“Our job was an interesting one,” says Sr. Mueller, now a professor emerita. “Fr. Flanagan was a unique individual, especially for his time. A very progressive figure. Our job was to find out whether that progressiveness had theological grounding and discernment. Was his work coherent with the teachings of the Church? Did his lived example, as well as his words and writings, signal a faithful, priestly and moral life?”

Along with Fryer’s historical biography, the work of the Theological Commission also was forwarded to Rome, where the final decision rests with the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints and, ultimately, the pope.

Working from a voluminous archive at Boys Town, Fryer began the process of recreating Fr. Flanagan’s life in as granular detail as possible, while also putting into context the times in which he lived.

Living and working in the early 20th century, Fr. Flanagan became a trendsetter in more ways
H is That's right himself 46 have the documents that show how he went time. And for the most part, he succeeded. We around the U.S., that he rejected those ideas deal with children who might not have the of a child were the basic ideas around how to ethnic cleansing. “That and the Edwardian that gave rise to various 20th century efforts this day, although the city has grown around it. countryside west of the city, where it sits to Omaha, he moved his mission out into the ethnicities and religions chafed some people society viewed children and, when his method of community programs, who oversees the than one, says Tom Lynch, Boys Town’s director that gave rise to various 20th century efforts at ethnic cleansing. “That and the Edwardian era notion that you could beat the devil out of a child were the basic ideas around how to deal with children who might not have had the proper parental guidance.

“Boys Town is a direct rejection of those ideas and Fr. Flanagan made it clear, going around the U.S., that he rejected those ideas that were the mainstream philosophies of the time. And for the most part, he succeeded. We have the documents that show how he went about implementing people around the world to do this work, too.”

“I discerned where God needed him and he offered himself to be in the right place and the right time always. That’s grace. That’s extraordinary virtue.”

SR. JOAN MUELLER, OSC, Ph.D
Can Minimalism Bring More Meaning to Your Workplace?

By Rick Davis, BA ’88

More than a mere handful of shirts hang in Creighton business professor Todd Darnold’s closet. He lives in a typically sized suburban home with his wife, Stacy, and their two children. They own two cars. Todd collects baseball cards with his sons. And he subscribes to cable TV—binge-watching recorded Premier League soccer matches when he has the chance.

Yet, Todd Darnold, PhD, is a self-professed minimalist. Further, he believes minimalism’s principles can make us better managers, in the broad sense of the word—offering lessons to all those who provide oversight, from Little League coaches to parents to corporate CEOs.

The minimalist movement is not one-size-fits-all. The art of living with less offers a big canvas. Tiny houses, the 100 Thing Challenge, Project 333 (dressing with 33 items or less for three months) are on one side of the spectrum. “For me, it’s not about having only seven shirts hanging in your closest,” Darnold says. “It’s more about being mindful and intentional about your purchases and behaviors than it is about having less stuff.”

He then stumbled across theminimalists.com, created by Joshua Fields Millborn and Ryan Nicodemus—two young professionals who adopted minimalism after finding financial success and accumulated stuff were not leading to greater happiness.

“It resonated,” Darnold says. He and his family began to embrace the lifestyle—customizing it to fit their situation. A radical purge of possessions, he says, was not the goal. Their focus has been on buying and keeping only those things that bring real value to their lives, and gradually ridding themselves of other “stuff.” It’s about being mindful—purposeful.

**Motivating People**

As an associate professor of marketing and management at Creighton, who also holds the recently established Charles “Mike” Harper Chair in Business Leadership, Darnold thought this concept might also relate to management. Could a minimalist approach help in motivating people?

“We are only really motivated in a long-term way when we are working for a purpose,” Darnold explains. “If we haven’t answered the ‘why’ question in a meaningful way, we are not going to be motivated. And we will quickly find that work is drudgery. We will become dissatisfied and unmotivated.

“The basis of leadership is really about helping your people find purpose in work, and then crafting the jobs and the culture of the workplace to keep people working on that purpose as much of the time as possible.”

Darnold believes minimalism’s “purpose-driven discernment” has benefits for both personal and professional management.

“We manage our lives, our children, our relationships. All of those things need to be purpose-driven. To me, that is at the core of what minimalism is all about.”

**Teams of Human Beings**

He encourages managers to write down their team’s purpose, and then gather together and discuss it. ‘That way everybody is crystal clear.
about why they are there, and what value they bring,” he says. It should happen at all levels. For example, the janitorial staff plays a critical role in ensuring that an organization is a safe, clean and attractive workplace. “That’s really meaningful work,” Darnold says. “We don’t often frame things for people very well. We don’t tell stories very well to help them find meaning.”

While “less” is often a word associated with minimalism, Darnold says that description is incomplete, especially for those who manage people. “It’s really about communicating and facilitating a sense of purpose among individuals and teams. He says, which, for some managers, might mean spending more time with employees to get to know them better—to understand their passions.

Consider this example. A manager learns an employee is building a deck. To recognize that employee for a job well done, that manager gets the employee a gift card to a home improvement store. “That says, ‘I know you as a human being, we care about you, you’re a part of this.’” Darnold says. “It builds relationships. It builds trust.”

Darnold adds that organizations and managers need to understand that employees have purposeful pursuits beyond work, in their personal lives. He says that employees feel more engaged when they see that work is allowing them to do meaningful things at home. “It’s about creating a culture where it’s a team of human beings who have whole lives,” Darnold says.

FINDING OUR PURPOSE
Finding purpose at work is not just a job for management. All of us have a responsibility for discovering our passions and skills, and putting them to best use in all aspects of our lives—including at work.

Gallup polling found that in 2016 only 33 percent of U.S. workers considered themselves engaged in their work, while 51 percent labeled themselves as “not engaged” and 16 percent as “actiely disengaged.” Engaged employees are those who are involved in, enthusiastic about and committed to their work. Gallup’s research shows that employee engagement is strongly connected to business outcomes essential to an organization’s financial success.

“I think a lot of people just kind of get trapped,” Darnold says. “There’s that old song, everybody’s working for the weekend.”

Honest reflection is critical. What makes you happy? What are you good at? Then you can begin to find a career path that matches it. It could mean starting your own business, joining a big company or going back to school.

REDEFINING SUCCESS
For those still restless searching for that perfect job—with a high-paying salary—it might require a redefinition of success.

“I think that is the broad theme under all of minimalism,” Darnold says. “Success is when we achieve purpose.” He says that isn’t defined by income level or an accumulation of things.

For Darnold, a Christian, minimalism carries a spiritual dimension.

“Am I striving toward ... achieving the purpose that I believe was God-given? I believe God put me on earth to do something. If I’m making progress toward that, I’m successful.”

MINIMALISM, MILLENIALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

After graduating from Creighton in May with a degree in sociology, Marika Svolos found her dream job making $125 an hour per month.

“I’m not worried about making money,” says Svolos, who works as a volunteer at Jerusalem Farm, a Catholic community in Kansas City, Missouri, dedicated to prayer, community, service and simplicity.

She shares a home—a converted convent—with nine other adults and two children near Kansas City’s downtown loop. The nonprofit farm has a garden, fruit trees, thickets, honeybees and a large compost pile. The community hosts spiritual retreats, provides homes for homeless veterans and weekly curbside composting to its neighbors.

Svolos serves as house manager. She gets groceries for the community, which includes accepting some recently expired items from the store so they won’t go to waste; she canning; she helps cook and clean; she meets those on retreat. It’s a simple life. And she loves it.

“My life is full of joy and grace,” she says. “I wouldn’t want to live any other way.”

But she does not consider herself a minimalist.

“I don’t think of my lifestyle as minimalist, even though it is very simple,” Svolos explains. “I think a lot of people just kind of get trapped. There’s that old song, everybody’s working for the weekend.”

Honest reflection is critical. What makes you happy? What are you good at? Then you can begin to find a career path that matches it. It could mean starting your own business, joining a big company or going back to school.

The Ancient Minimalists
The minimalist lifestyle isn’t a new cultural or philosophical phenomenon, says Creighton philosophy professor Bill Stephen, PhD. In fact, he says, the first minimalist might have been Diogenes of Sinope, who roamed the streets of Athens nearly 2,500 years ago with one cloak, a staff and a pouch.

“Read more online at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine”
Preflight Check

Creighton men’s basketball players and coaches pause during a preseason practice at CenturyLink Center Omaha to check out this year’s game-day video. The theme: Let it fly. Find the latest Bluejay schedules, scores and news at gocreighton.com.
Growing up in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, Kelly Kim’s life revolved around school and studying. After a full day of traditional school, Kim would head over to “cram school” for private tutoring and wouldn’t return home until around 10 p.m.—facing at least an hour of homework to complete for the next day.

And this was elementary school. “South Korea is too competitive; it’s all about studying,” says. “There’s no space for extracurricular opportunities.” At age 12, Kim moved in with a family in Canada—the mother was a friend of her parents’ who had previously taught English in South Korea. She studied for eight months in Mississauga, Ontario, before returning to South Korea.

“It was a different life because we were going swimming, we were going to drama club,” Kim says.

Disillusioned with the educational environment and the competitive college-admission and job-search climate in South Korea, Kim’s parents decided that she and her brother would move with their mother to the United States. After a short stint in Chicago, Kim’s family moved to be with other family members in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she went to high school.

“I love that the United States is all about individuality and the person’s own uniqueness,” Kim says. “South Korea’s more about conforming.” In high school, Kim finally was able to participate in things other than studying. She was a cheerleader and played flute in the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra. As she began her college search, Kim discovered Creighton’s great health care programs. She also received the Diane McCabe Endowed Scholarship.

“I thought that God was calling me to come here,” Kim says.

Her father’s career as a surgeon inspired Kim to enter the medical field. She wanted a hands-on experience and found it with nursing and its undergraduate clinical rotations. “Even from junior year, we have clinicals facing at least an hour and a half of surgery and the person’s own unique health needs. Kim says. “Nursing is so spiritual for me.”

And despite the years of intense studying in South Korea, Kim has come to enjoy visiting the books.

“Though I really am studying what I love.”

—by Emily Rust

FIND YOUR PASSION

God was Calling Me Here

Scholarship Recipient from South Korea Finds Her Passion in Nursing

George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS, Surripite, Arizona, was honored by the city of Cincinnati on June 22, 2017, when Mayor John Cranley issued a proclamation declaring the day to be “Dr. George Blue Spruce Day.” The announcement was made as the city hosted the 27th conference of the Society of American Indian Dentists. Blue Spruce founded the organization and served as president for 16 years. He now serves as president emeritus. Blue Spruce has made significant contributions to the field of dentistry. As the first American Indian dentist in the U.S., he has been a tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion in the profession. He considers his life’s work to be encouraging people of American Indian heritage to consider careers in dentistry and the health professions.

John G. Manesis, MD, Fargo, North Dakota, has written a collection of his baseball poems.

John M. Laflamme, JD, Buffalo, New York, has been named in each edition of The Best Lawyers in America since 1987. He has been selected in each edition of Super Lawyers—Update New York Edition since 2008.

Frederick B. “Rick” Allen, JD, Lincoln, Nebraska, retired from his position as director of the Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program. Allen’s successor is Christopher B. Aupperle, BBA’89, JD’92, of Omaha.

Mark A. Weber, BA’74, JD, Omaha, was acknowledged by the Omaha Community Foundation for his work with the Charitable Advisor of the University of Nebraska Foundation. Weber also published a book, The Legacy Spectrum, for affluent individuals preparing their estate plans.

Kant iwill, MS, Omaha, has written Explorations of a Common Adventurer, a tale of many adventures encompassing the seven continents of the world.

Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, has been ranked in the top tier of Kansas attorneys in the Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations sector by Chambers USA 2017. Monnat also received Lifetime Achievement Designations from America’s Top 100 Attorneys in the practice areas of appellate law, criminal defense litigation and white-collar criminal defense. In addition, Monnat was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for the 30th consecutive year in the legal sectors of criminal defense; general practice; white collar criminal defense; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate defense.

Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, has been ranked in the top tier of Kansas attorneys in the Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations sector by Chambers USA 2017. Monnat also received Lifetime Achievement Designations from America’s Top 100 Attorneys in the practice areas of appellate law, criminal defense litigation and white-collar criminal defense. In addition, Monnat was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for the 30th consecutive year in the legal sectors of criminal defense; general practice; white collar criminal defense; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate defense.

Joseph M. Laflamme, JD, Buffalo, New York, has been named in each edition of The Best Lawyers in America since 1987. He has been selected in each edition of Super Lawyers—Update New York Edition since 2008.


Kant iwill, MS, Omaha, has written Explorations of a Common Adventurer, a tale of many adventures encompassing the seven continents of the world.

Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, has been ranked in the top tier of Kansas attorneys in the Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations sector by Chambers USA 2017. Monnat also received Lifetime Achievement Designations from America’s Top 100 Attorneys in the practice areas of appellate law, criminal defense litigation and white-collar criminal defense. In addition, Monnat was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for the 30th consecutive year in the legal sectors of criminal defense; general practice; white collar criminal defense; bet-the-company litigation; and appellate defense.

Mark A. Weber, BA’74, JD, Omaha, was acknowledged by the Omaha Community Foundation for his work with the Charitable Advisor of the University of Nebraska Foundation. Weber also published a book, The Legacy Spectrum, for affluent individuals preparing their estate plans.
list in the field of bankruptcy law. Donate is an attorney in the Syracuse, New York, office of Bond, Schoeneck & King. He is chair of the firm’s bankruptcy reorganization, creditors’ rights, and bankruptcy practice. Melanie Henney, ART’76, JD, Omaha, received the Nebraska State Bar Association’s Visionary Award at the fluorescent’s Film in March for her work on the Law Help of Nebraska interactive website.

Stephen B. Shapiro, JD, Greenwood Village, Colorado, was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2018 for his work in insurance law. Shapiro is managing partner of Denver-based Shapiro Biagiing Barber Ottosen.

September D. Williams, MD, Mill Valley, California, published her first novel, Chasing Mercury, as an ebook. The book was written to support the recently ratified United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury.

John W. Nepi, BSBA, Omaha, has been appointed chief financial officer at Green Plains in Omaha.

Lawrence H. Necheles, BA’66, JD, Pontiac, Illinois, was appointed as a hearing officer for the Illinois State Police Merit Board.

Dr. James G. Taylor VI, BS, Oakton, Virginia, was appointed director of the Center for Sickle Cell Disease atHoward University College of Medicine to address asthma and allergic diseases, leading initiatives that are improving care for children.

Howard University College of Medicine to address asthma and allergic diseases, leading initiatives that are improving care for children.

With the roar of cheering fans still ringing in his ears months after his Golden State Warriors won their second NBA Championship in three years, Arming the Warriors —-

Glick says team ownership decided to build the complex for two reasons: The Oracle is one of the oldest sports arenas — it recently celebrated its 55th anniversary — and the Warriors want to generate a greater fan experience. “Sports marketing is evolving. Not only did we want to build an arena, we wanted to create a sports stadium center.”

“I also loved politics and in 1968, presidential candidates (Richard) Nixon, (Hubert) Humphrey, (Eugene) McCarthy and (Bob) Kennedy all came to speak at Creighton. I was always a strong supporter of Bobby Kennedy, and his death was a real shock to me.”

After graduating with an accounting degree, Glick earned a graduate degree in finance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He also is a certified public accountant and chartered accountant (Canada). Glick served on the management teams of Levi Strauss, Genentech, Theravance and Peals Surgical before joining the Warriors in 2011. He was named special advisor to the team’s ownership in 2013. — BY BENJAMIN GLEISSER
Igboanusi, who earned his master’s degree in counseling, credits his Jesuit, Creighton education for providing him with the tools to do his job well when the going gets tough. “My counselor education training prepared me well to work with military personnel and their families in the areas of spiritual and family counseling, trauma, PTSD, grief, loss, and to respond to all emergencies,” he says. Igboanusi has continued to expand his knowledge and skills through Creighton’s doctoral program in interprofessional leadership, in which he is currently an EdD candidate. “In my doctoral courses at Creighton, I learned how to lead and develop in a pluralistic military environment,” Igboanusi says. “Prayer was the hallmark of my education at Creighton and is the center of my work today. Prayer helps me to speak to the lives of my soldiers and remind them of who they are in Christ. When soldiers come into our office for help, I ask for their permission to pray with them. Ninety-nine percent of the time they say yes and if they are non-Christians, I ask them to agree in their own tradition.”

“Such an invitation often changes the dialogue and opens up a deeper level within an already existing relationship. That is the beauty of being a chaplain and an officer. Other officers cannot do that due to the separation of church and state. Army chaplains, however, are given the authority to explore spirituality through the First Amendment clause of our Constitution and Army Regulation 65-1, which guarantees the free exercise of religion.”

Igboanusi says the Army is very proactive when it comes to the mental health of service members. “The Army also places a high priority in honoring fallen heroes,” he says. “For this reason, all Army chaplains are asked to be in a 24/7 state of readiness for death notifications, military funerals and memorial ceremonies. My service uniform and pastoral care kit are always packed and ready to go in case the calls come.” – BY LISA FOSTER, BASV

Laura Francik Happe, PharmD, Creighton University, North Carolina, was named chief pharmacist at Rollins Brothers Inc. Happe also is the editor in chief of the journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy. Emily Oslan, BSPh, Atlanta, was awarded the 2017 U.S. Pharmacological Award to study epidemiology in Florida. Her research focuses on survival and risk factors among adolescent health-risk behaviors and disparities in violence victimizations. Victor C. Padini, BACLS/79, JD, Omaha, was named general counsel for Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha.

Michelle Remnek Beypoura, BS, Cadillac City, California, was named a 2018 Religious Education Award Teacher of the Year. Of the nearly 20,000 education and formation leaders, Arizona Army National Guard as commander of Headquarters and Cadets Command and Cadets Command (HCC) of the LDEF Chemical Battalion. Jessica E. Thomas, JD, Omaha, joined the state of California Teacher the Year competition. She teaches math at Desert Hot Springs High School in Desert Hot Springs, California.

Gabriel E. Lapito, MBA, BSBA, Billings, Montana, owner/financial advisor of Strategic Retirement Plans with offices in Billings and Gillette, Wyoming, was named to the Forbes Top 500 Next Generation Wealth Advisors list. Thelist, published online on Forbes.com, recognizes wealth advisors younger than 40 born before 1980. LaPorto is the only advisor in the Midwest and is the center of his work today.

Laura Francik Happe, PharmD, Columbus, North Carolina, was named chief pharmacist at Rollins Brothers Inc. Happe also is the editor in chief of the journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy. Emily Oslan, BSPh, Atlanta, was awarded the 2017 U.S. Pharmacological Award to study epidemiology in Florida. Her research focuses on survival and risk factors among adolescent health-risk behaviors and disparities in violence victimizations. Victor C. Padini, BACLS/79, JD, Omaha, was named general counsel for Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha.

Michelle Remnek Beypoura, BS, Cadillac City, California, was named a 2018 Religious Education Award Teacher of the Year. Of the nearly 20,000 education and formation leaders, Arizona Army National Guard as commander of Headquarters and Cadets Command and Cadets Command (HCC) of the LDEF Chemical Battalion. Jessica E. Thomas, JD, Omaha, joined the state of California Teacher the Year competition. She teaches math at Desert Hot Springs High School in Desert Hot Springs, California.

Gabriel E. Lapito, MBA, BSBA, Billings, Montana, owner/financial advisor of Strategic Retirement Plans with offices in Billings and Gillette, Wyoming, was named to the Forbes Top 500 Next Generation Wealth Advisors list. The list, published online on Forbes.com, recognizes wealth advisors younger than 40 born before 1980. LaPorto is the only advisor in the Midwest and is the center of his work today.

“People also have a high priority in honoring fallen heroes,” he says. “For this reason, all Army chaplains are asked to be in a 24/7 state of readiness for death notifications, military funerals and memorial ceremonies. My service uniform and pastoral care kit are always packed and ready to go in case the calls come.” – BY LISA FOSTER, BASV

Laura Francik Happe, PharmD, Columbus, North Carolina, was named chief pharmacist at Rollins Brothers Inc. Happe also is the editor in chief of the journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy. Emily Oslan, BSPh, Atlanta, was awarded the 2017 U.S. Pharmacological Award to study epidemiology in Florida. Her research focuses on survival and risk factors among adolescent health-risk behaviors and disparities in violence victimizations. Victor C. Padini, BACLS/79, JD, Omaha, was named general counsel for Nebraska Furniture Mart in Omaha.

Michelle Remnek Beypoura, BS, Cadillac City, California, was named a 2018 Religious Education Award Teacher of the Year. Of the nearly 20,000 education and formation leaders, Arizona Army National Guard as commander of Headquarters and Cadets Command and Cadets Command (HCC) of the LDEF Chemical Battalion. Jessica E. Thomas, JD, Omaha, joined the state of California Teacher the Year competition. She teaches math at Desert Hot Springs High School in Desert Hot Springs, California.

Gabriel E. Lapito, MBA, BSBA, Billings, Montana, owner/financial advisor of Strategic Retirement Plans with offices in Billings and Gillette, Wyoming, was named to the Forbes Top 500 Next Generation Wealth Advisors list. The list, published online on Forbes.com, recognizes wealth advisors younger than 40 born before 1980. LaPorto is the only advisor in the Midwest and is the center of his work today.
In talking to ELLEN CUNNINGHAM, BA’86, MD, about her life and the medical and social side effects of homelessness, loneliness, drug addiction, alcoholism, domestic violence, the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the late 1990s—‘these were all places before him and he rose to the occasion,’ says his wife. During that time, Jim accompanied his former high school religion teacher, the Rev. Vincent Biaggi, SJ, a Jesuit and friend, on a service trip to Haiti. Jim came home with a renewed perspective on poverty and serving the needy.

He returned to Haiti in early 2005 after Ellen gathered supporters to fund his trip. He had made connections in Cité Soleil—an extremely impoverished community of over 300,000—and set up an alley clinic with a backpack of medicines and a stethoscope. Ellen later learned that Doctors Without Borders would not even go to Cité Soleil then because it was too dangerous.

The Lamp for Haiti health center officially opened as a nongovernmental organization in 2006. Today, Jim is Lamp’s medical director and board chair. The primary care clinic is staffed by a professional health team, all Haitian, including two physicians. The clinic is open five days a week and sees more than 1,000 patients monthly. Services include a women’s health clinic, child nutrition program and EKG and digital radiology services.

Lamp for Haiti provides physician consultations equal about 25-cents per patient. Lamp also sponsors water and sanitation projects, supports local schools and provides health education and humanitarian aid. Since 2012, Ellen’s fundraisers have celebrated Haitian art and culture. She also helps support Jim’s Haiti trips through their practice in Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

‘My role as the support person became essential for the couple as they sound out the innumerable obstacles to their dream of working with and for some of the most marginalized by providing health care and related services to even more vulnerable communities. The Lamp looks to stay true to its mission of working with and for some of the most marginalized by providing health care and related services to even more vulnerable communities.’—BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA’74

---

EDWARD G. BOUWETT, BS

Helen A. Chamberlain, MS

Edward G. Koay, BS
Henderson, Nevada, Dec. 21, 2016. Majors in Biology, MIS/EDU.

Helen A. Chamberlain, MS

Edward F. Malace, ARTS
Houston, Aug. 11, 2017. Gertrude Pond Tijges, BS
Omaha, Aug. 16, 2017.

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA
Fairfield, Connecticut, Aug. 9, 2017. John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA

John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA

John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA

John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA

John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS

Dr. King J. Dyelman, BA

John A. Fischer, MD

John W. Kennedy, JD
Omaha, June 17, 2017.

Edward F. Gutekanst, BSBA

Francis J. “Frank” Kudlacz, ARTS
Omaha, June 10, 2017.

Lucia Hower Ruzsaka, SCN
York, Nebraska, May 12, 2017.

William A. Fitzgerald, BS
Omaha, Sept. 1, 2017.

Gary R. Prayson, DDS
Scottsdale, Arizona, July 9, 2017.

Kathleen Rynaski Caldwell, BS
A GIFT THAT PAYS YOU BACK.

Creighton enjoys national prominence for its academic excellence and tradition of service and justice. Alumni and friends who commit to fortifying Creighton’s legacy into the future with a philanthropic investment build and advance our reputation.

When you establish a charitable gift annuity, you provide a meaningful contribution to Creighton and receive a current charitable income tax deduction and regular payments for life.

Your Creighton support offers the powerful gift of education, a charitable income tax deduction and regular payments for life.

When you establish a charitable gift annuity, you provide a meaningful contribution to Creighton and receive a current charitable income tax deduction and regular payments for life.

Your Creighton support offers the powerful gift of education, a charitable income tax deduction and regular payments for life.

Learn how you can link your legacy to Creighton’s future with a charitable gift annuity.

Contact the Office of Gift & Estate Planning for further information. giftplanning@creighton.edu | 402.280.1743 | giftplanning@creighton.edu

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Raymond F. O’Keefe, DDS, associate clinical professor of periodontics in the School of Dentistry, Aug. 2, 2017

Mark J. Widmore, PhD, professor of computer science in the College of Arts and Sciences, Aug. 8, 2017

Bruce J. Malloy, PhD, STD, professor emeritus of theology in the College of Arts and Sciences, Aug. 17, 2017

Richard J. Hallworth, PhD, professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine, Sept. 1, 2017

*Faculty and Jesuits who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Deaths section of the magazine.
“This is a dream job,” says Matt Gerard, who oversees fundraising and alumni relations as Creighton’s vice president for University Relations. He was named to the position in February, but he is no newcomer to Creighton. Gerard worked in various fundraising capacities for the University from 2004 until January 2016, when he accepted a position as vice president for development at Children’s International in Kansas City, Missouri, a nonprofit child-sponsorship organization fighting global poverty.

An Omaha native and avid runner, Gerard earned a track scholarship to the University of Oregon, graduating in 1994 with a degree in journalism. He then completed a master’s degree in secondary education from the University of Nebraska, and taught high school English and coached track and cross country at both the high school and collegiate levels before joining Creighton in 2004. He worked on the highly successful Willing to Lead campaign, and served as the staff lead on the Ignite the Greatness campaign for the Heider College of Business.

Gerard and his wife, Melissa, a physical therapist at the Methodist health care system, have three children, ages 13, 12 and 9. Creighton magazine had a chance to talk with him this fall.

When you came to Creighton in 2004, you initially worked in fundraising for the School of Medicine. What was that experience like?

I was fortunate to have a front-row seat to what makes Creighton different — the way the curriculum is designed and the types of doctors we produce. The medical alumni I worked with shared stories of being exposed to hands-on patient care early in their training, and how this made them better doctors, instilling a willingness to continue volunteering in local shelters and underdeveloped countries. This is just one example that goes to the essence of Creighton. You’re in the community, you’re learning and you’re doing service.

Later, you were involved in the Ignite the Greatness campaign, which included the naming of the Heider College of Business. That project really highlighted the relationship and partnership between Creighton and Omaha. It showed the brain-gain that the business college brings to the city, and spotlighted the tremendous partnerships all of our schools and colleges have throughout Omaha and the region. Because of the transformational gift from Mary and Charles Heider, the college’s enrollment increased by 50 percent, with almost two-thirds of its students now coming from more than 200 miles away to receive a Jesuit-inspired business education at Creighton.

How can alumni lend their support to the University?

There are three areas in which our alumni continually impact Creighton. First, they are our greatest ambassadors in carrying the Creighton message to high school students seeking a Jesuit, Catholic education. Second, they continue to be one of our greatest conduits for internships. We were recognized again by U.S. News & World Report for being one of the top universities for internship opportunities, and our alumni are a big factor. Third, our alumni help guide their alma mater’s future through their incredibly generous philanthropy. The gifts they invest in our students are often the difference that allows someone to pursue a Creighton degree.

What is your priority in terms of fundraising?

The president and the Board have a vision for Creighton’s future. This will happen because of our alumni and friends who believe in what Creighton does for students and the community. There are three areas in which our alumni and friends can make a difference, and I’ll discuss those areas.

1. Catholic education. Second, they continue to be one of our greatest conduits for internships. We were recognized again by U.S. News & World Report for being one of the top universities for internship opportunities, and our alumni are a big factor. Third, our alumni help guide their alma mater’s future through their incredibly generous philanthropy. The gifts they invest in our students are often the difference that allows someone to pursue a Creighton degree.

What is your priority in terms of fundraising?

The president and the Board have a vision for Creighton’s future. This will happen because of our alumni and friends who believe in what Creighton does for students and the community. There are three areas in which our alumni and friends can make a difference, and I’ll discuss those areas.

1. Catholic education. Second, they continue to be one of our greatest conduits for internships. We were recognized again by U.S. News & World Report for being one of the top universities for internship opportunities, and our alumni are a big factor. Third, our alumni help guide their alma mater’s future through their incredibly generous philanthropy. The gifts they invest in our students are often the difference that allows someone to pursue a Creighton degree.

What is your priority in terms of fundraising?

The president and the Board have a vision for Creighton’s future. This will happen because of our alumni and friends who believe in what Creighton does for students and the community. There are three areas in which our alumni and friends can make a difference, and I’ll discuss those areas.

1. Catholic education. Second, they continue to be one of our greatest conduits for internships. We were recognized again by U.S. News & World Report for being one of the top universities for internship opportunities, and our alumni are a big factor. Third, our alumni help guide their alma mater’s future through their incredibly generous philanthropy. The gifts they invest in our students are often the difference that allows someone to pursue a Creighton degree.

What is your priority in terms of fundraising?

The president and the Board have a vision for Creighton’s future. This will happen because of our alumni and friends who believe in what Creighton does for students and the community. There are three areas in which our alumni and friends can make a difference, and I’ll discuss those areas.

1. Catholic education. Second, they continue to be one of our greatest conduits for internships. We were recognized again by U.S. News & World Report for being one of the top universities for internship opportunities, and our alumni are a big factor. Third, our alumni help guide their alma mater’s future through their incredibly generous philanthropy. The gifts they invest in our students are often the difference that allows someone to pursue a Creighton degree.
KNOW A FUTURE BLUEJAY?

Academic excellence
Educational innovation
Global engagement
Forming tomorrow’s leaders

Our alumni are Creighton’s best recruiters. If you know high school or transfer students, encourage them to #ChooseCreighton.

creighton.edu/admissions

No. 1 in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report for 15 years