40 years ago, Creighton alumnus Leo Ryan was murdered on a tiny airstrip in Guyana. This is his story.
Omaha community officials and Creighton University leadership celebrated and blessed the new pedestrian bridge spanning the North Freeway this spring. The bridge connects the west end of Creighton’s campus and The Atlas, a new residential retail development housed in the former Creighton University Medical Center. Construction on the 700-foot span, which rises 50 feet over the highway, began in December.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ
President
CREIGHTON

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

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

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

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

22nd president, who died
Morrison, SJ, Creighton’s
by the Rev. Michael
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We are an interactive, comprehensive publication dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be stimulating, the most inspirational feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most influential people who have already been displaced by the effects of climate change and the hundreds of millions who will be displaced in the coming decades and centuries.

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Health Care, Science and Ethics

BY RICK DAVIE, B.A. ’88

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

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

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

In 1979, after earning a bachelor’s degree in biology from Cornell University and entering the Society of Jesus, Fr. FitzGerald came to Creighton University and entering the Jesuit formation.

That same year, men’s soccer became an officially sanctioned sport at the University. Having played soccer in high school, the 24-year-old Jesuit laced up his cleats, tried out and made the roster.

“It was a lot of fun,” Fr. FitzGerald says of that reality. He recorded six shutouts and had a 1.54 goals-against average as the Bluejays finished the season 12-5-1.

But a life of science and the Jesuits called. He left after that year to pursue graduate studies in philosophy and human genetics at Saint Louis University.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

Fr. FitzGerald has traveled the world and been featured in the media, speaking on human genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, personalized...
medical and ethical issues in biomedical research and medical genomics. He shares his expertise on two Vatican councils — the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Pontifical Council for Culture.

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

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

He and his colleagues have found that certain plants, seems to enhance the effectiveness of tamoxifen and reduce its side effects.

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

“It’s very exciting,” Fr. FitzGerald says. “It’s an amazing project.”

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

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

“Everybody always says it’s going to benefit us. My question always is, ‘Who is the us?’

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

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

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

Marcus Zegarowski, a freshman guard from Hamilton, Massachusetts, said the event was special for him — as a guard from Eudora, Kansas, gave a fist pump and yelled, “Hey, nice shot!”

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

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

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

Doreenkamp added: “My passion is working with kids. I hope to be a pediatric physical therapist someday so this event broadened my horizons and gave me more experience working with kids of various needs.”

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The Creighton University-Arizona Alliance to Oversee Graduate Medical Education is an alliance between some of the most respected names in health care in Arizona. It will become one of the largest providers of graduate medical education in the state.

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

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

**TITLE OF RESEARCH**

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

**STUDENT RESEARCHER**

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

**FACULTY MENTOR**

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

**WHAT IT MEANS**

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

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

Art professor Rachel Mindrup first learned of Shrestha two years ago through a Facebook post that included his photo. Wearing a beautifully patterned knit cap and a snug, green-and-gold checkered shirt, Shrestha’s face was shrouded by a massive tumor leaving only one eye visible over a distended nose and cheek.

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

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

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

Thanks to this support, Shrestha received treatment. Funds are currently being raised for a second surgery at gofundme.com/ashok-shrestha-surgeries.

Global Scholars Program Takes Flight

Creighton’s new Global Scholars Program officially set sail (figuratively speaking) in July. Out of nearly 200 applicants, 23 incoming freshmen were chosen for the program. They will spend the fall semester at the University of Sydney, Australia, returning to campus for the spring semester.

Among the inaugural cohort is Lauren Ramaker of Omaha. One of nine siblings — and the third Ramakerer to attend Creighton, after her grandfa ther and father — she says she “just about cried when I heard I got selected.”

“When I applied,” she says, “I thought, ‘No, my goodness, it would change my life if I could do this.’” The budding biology major aspires to be a pediatric nurse. Global Scholars felt like a fit because of her interest in travel and service, she says.

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

JOIN OUR NETWORK

of THRIVING ALUMNI.

What will your story be?

Choose from more than 40 graduate degrees and certificates.

business.creighton.edu/graduate-programs

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a rich academic, social and service expe-
rience through which participants build
networks with other students, faculty and
alumni from around the world. Creighton
Global Scholars will complete four study
abroad trips, to four
different countries, over the course of
their undergraduate career.
Candidates completed both an
application and an interview. The 23
students selected represent 12 states,
from California to North Carolina and
Wisconsin to Texas.
Ramakers says she is more than
ready for the adventures to come.
Although, admittedly, Sydney is a long
way from home to spend your first
semester of college.
What is she most excited about?
“Seeing how well I can stand on my
own two feet,” she says.

Boredom, Thrill-Seeking May
Influence Drug Addictions
Creighton psychological science
professor Dustin Stairs, PhD, and his
team of undergraduate researchers are
making inroads into the neuroscience
of addiction and the power of social
settings to help overcome a drug habit.

“Most people try drugs,” said Stairs,
who has researched and written exten-
sively on the biological underpinnings
of the abuse of such drugs as cocaine,
methamphetamine and nicotine.

“We’ve been looking at the question
of what is it about those people that go
on to addiction. Some of it’s genetic, some
of it’s personality, some of it’s social.”

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

Stairs has found that rats raised in
enriched environments with plenty of
novel objects — and in social situations
with two or more other rats — were less
likely to avail themselves of available
drugs. But in isolation, an increased
interest in high-sensation-seeking in a
rat, the animals readily take more drugs
and more quickly show addictive-like
behaviors.

“Boredom and the need for dishabi-
ition is one of the biggest feelings that
make someone susceptible to addic-
tion,” he said. “We’ve seen the similar
consistent effects in rats models. Give
them an alternative reinforcer when a
drug is available, and they’re less likely
to self-administer the drug.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Get out of your comfort zone. Go on a
Service & Justice Trip, or find a service
opportunity in the community.”
Shannon Mulcahy, BSN’18

“You never get your undergrad years again.
Remember to have fun!”
Sheyla Patel, MD’18

“Always have your door open (in
the residence halls). It’s a way to
meet people and build community.”
Tanner Friedenbach, BS’BA’17

“Be comfortable with change. This is
the time when we grow and find out
who we are, and change is an experience
on its own.”
Gabriel Jara-Mora, BA’18

“Don’t procrastinate. It can be very
stressful!”
Gabriela Granville, MS’17

“Use your resources. A lot of people want
to help out. If you have a bad grade, go
to tutoring or talk to your professor. They
want to see you succeed.”
Sagar Poudel, B.S’15

“Balance work and play. Don’t get burned
out your freshman year, but start strong.”
Ben Williams, BS’17

“Go to as many events as possible. You
only have four years, and it’s a great way
to meet other people.”
Allison Dobberpuhl, BS’17
(December graduate)

“Stop the Bleed” Focus of
Creighton Trauma Symposium

But what if a few students were
selected to represent 12 states,
and the application and an interview.
The 23 students selected represent 12 states,
from California to North Carolina and
Wisconsin to Texas.

Ramakers says she is more than
ready for the adventures to come.
Althought, admittedly, Sydney is a long
way from home to spend your first
semester of college.
What is she most excited about?
“Seeing how well I can stand on my
own two feet,” she says.

“When I was one of those kids who, every day
from the age of 7, had the dream of being a priest,” says Fr. Doll, the Charles and Mary
Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair and inter-
nationally renowned photographer, who cele-
brated the 50th anniversary of his ordination in
June. “I wanted to be a Jesuit, but the priesthood
was so distant, some 15 years in the future.”

Fr. Doll, who has spent 45 of those 50 years
at Creighton and on assignments for
such publications as National Geographic
and the Day in the Life book series, recalls as a
whirlwind the period of discernment in which
he came to the Society of Jesuits and began his
priestly formation.

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

On the drive home, I got to thinking about
it and that night, I couldn’t sleep.” Fr. Doll
says. “The next morning, I went down to Fr.
Fahay and told him what I was thinking. He
said, Sounds like you’re ready, and two weeks
later, I’m in the novitiate. Dad was able to get
the deposit back from Notre Dame.”

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

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

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

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

— BY ADAM KLINKER

A Gift

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

Don’t procrastinate. It can be very stressful!

Gabriel Jara-Mora, BA’18

Shreya Patel, MD’18

Always have your door open (in the residence halls). It’s a way to meet people and build community.

Tanner Friedenbach, BS’BA’17

“Be comfortable with change. This is the time when we grow and find out who we are, and change is an experience on its own.”

Gabriel Jara-Mora, BA’18

“Don’t procrastinate. It can be very stressful!”

Gabriela Granville, MS’17

“Use your resources. A lot of people want to help out. If you have a bad grade, go to tutoring or talk to your professor. They want to see you succeed.”

Sagar Poudel, B.S’15

“Balance work and play. Don’t get burned out your freshman year, but start strong.”

Ben Williams, BS’17

“Go to as many events as possible. You only have four years, and it’s a great way to meet other people.”

Allison Dobberpuhl, BS’17
(December graduate)
Creighton Welcomes New Board Members, Honors Trustees Emeriti

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

The new trustees are:

- Sharon Harper, BA’69, president, CEO, and chairman of The Plaza Companies in Phoenix.
- Wenda Ketoue, executive co-chair of American National Bank in Omaha.
- Darrell Lee, MD’01, president of Hawaii Gastroenterology Specialists and co-founder and board member of Pacific Endoscopy Center.
- Janis Orlofski, MD, chief health care officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, D.C.
- Robert Reed Jr., president and CEO of Physicians Mutual Insurance Company in Omaha.
- Ann Schmacher, president and CEO of CHI Health Immanuel in Omaha.

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

- Mary E. Walton Conti, BS’64, MD’70, a radiation oncologist and entrepreneur from St. Louis, served on the Board since 1995.
- Ronald Gurtan, BSBA’69, president and CEO of Godfather’s Pizza in Omaha, served on the Board since 1995.
- John (Jack) Karales, retired executive chairman of the board of directors for Union Pacific Corporation in Omaha, served on the Board since 1995.
- Deborah Macdonald, BA’72, JD’90, retired president of Kinder Morgan Natural Gas Pipeline Group, served on the Board since 2007.

Inside the New School of Dentistry Building

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

Imagine an academic learning environment in which small pods of students are plugged in -- technologically tethered. If you will – to their instructor, to their tablemates and to other classrooms spread across a large, thoroughly wired, state-of-the-art space. And connected even beyond, across cyberspace, to classmates sitting many miles away. Imagine an intricately designed environment outfitted with large video screens, table-mounted monitors, smart cameras and ambient microphones -- and equipped with the requisite networking and accompanying software -- to project the face and voice of the professor delivering instruction, or a student presenting or posing a question.

Imagine a classroom in which content can be pushed digitally to students via their laptops or tablets, in a nanosecond. Where facial recognition and tracking technology built into classroom cameras allows instructors wide freedom of movement, while staying in full view on students’ screens. If it all evokes a sense of futurism, Science fiction, even. But it’s a future that very nearly has arrived at Creighton -- with the September grand opening of the new School of Dentistry building and, concurrently, the christening of what has been dubbed the “active-learning classroom,” one of the cutting-edge marvels that will greet dentistry students this fall.

This two-story, technologically loaded learning space in the facility now undergoing its final preparations on the south side of Omaha’s Cuming Street, on the northern edge of Creighton’s campus, is undoubtedly a lecture hall for the 21st century. The active-learning classroom “blends architecture, technology and pedagogy,” says Matthews LeFebre of the Sextant Group, the lead technology consultant on the project and a specialist in higher education technology design.

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

Brian Halsey of RDG Planning & Design says the School of Dentistry in Omaha offices serves as the lead architect for the new school, overseeing all architectural, engineering and audio/visual aspects of the facility. Halsey characterizes the active-learning classroom, simply, as a way of teaching and learning more effectively.

“It’s an entirely new way of communica
ting with students,” Halsey says, “rather than sitting in a lecture hall, listening and taking notes.”

Instructors — once they get accustomed to the gadgedtry — “tend to really like it,” he says. Creighton’s Laura Barratt, PhD, says the design of the room will help facilitate small group discussions and collaboration among students. Barratt teaches a histology course, and she is hoping the active-learning space will enable her to make the laboratory portion of the course digital and use virtual microscopy rather than light microscopes and glass slides.

And how are students expected to like the new classroom?

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

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

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

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

Inside the new School of Dentistry building and, concurrently, the christening of what has been dubbed the “active-learning classroom,” one of the cutting-edge marvels that will greet dentistry students this fall.

With Dean Mark Latta, DMD, at creighton.edu/creightonmagazine

The active-learning classroom is a key part of what represents the leading edge of dental instruction in our new facility,” says School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta, DMD. “It’s the direction teaching is going, and it helps ensure Creighton is keeping up with — or staying ahead of — our peer institutions, ensuring our students are best prepared for the future.”
Everybody wants to be successful, right? Many in the Creighton community, in addition to being successful themselves, are in the business of fostering success in others. Creighton magazine interviewed two standouts in their respective fields to learn their motivations and insights.

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

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

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

“They have to be gifted athletes to be on our radar,” says Booth. “However, if we know a player has a bad attitude or low character, that is a deal breaker, regardless of talent. “We talk about playing for others and selflessness during the recruiting process, so they know if they don’t think they’ll like that environment, this isn’t the place for them.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How do you build a culture of success?

BY CINDY MURPHY McMAHON, BA’74
This summer, a group of 33 Creighton trustees, faculty emeriti, senior leaders and friends of the University flew to Europe on a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. Spurring from his birthplace in Loyola to the rooms where he led his new order and ultimately died, the pilgrimage provided a renewal of the spiritual journey through which the travelers became intimately familiar with Creighton’s Jesuit roots.

In the Footsteps of St. Ignatius

BY JOHN DARWIN, BA'13

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

Where Ignatius’ spiritual pilgrimage had taken years, ours took just a week. He spent 11 months in the cave at Manresa where he prayed regularly, and a hospital where he managed his growing spiritual Exercises and Ignatius laid down his sword — in front of the Madonna before which Ignatius laid down his sword — in front of the Madonna — in front of the crucifix, a tapestry and a couple of paintings — also approved; the Church and the Jesuits.

Although ground wasn’t broken on the permanent campus until more than a decade after he died, the pilgrimage provided a spiritual and reflective poignancy to our visit to the rooms of Ignatius.

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

On Monday, three days before visiting the room where he died, we visited the mansion at the Loyola Shrine, where Ignatius was born and grew up, before seeing a nearby chapel where he prayed regularly, and a hospital where he ministered to the sick.

Throughout our journey, we also visited sites such as the Benedictine Abbey of Montserrat, home of the Black Madonna before which Ignatius laid down his sword; the example at Manresa where he wrote the Spiritual Exercises; and Our Lady of Pilar, a stop on Ignatius’ own pilgrimage.

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By Friday afternoon I and 29 others spent our first afternoon in Rome, having already visited a number of other important sites in Spain on our pilgrimage, a trip following Ignatius’ own pilgrimage. On display at the rooms of Ignatius and the early Jesuits.

The most important of the rooms of St. Ignatius is striking in its simplicity. The quite perfectly rectangular room has a simple brick floor and is encased by off-white walls. Large wooden beams support the ceiling, and the room is sparsely decorated with a painted crucifix, a tapestry and a couple of paintings of Ignatius at various key moments of his life.

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

Here, more than 450 years after Ignatius died, we were celebrating Mass in the very room where Ignatius prayed, managed his growing order in its early days, penned some 7,000 letters to people around the world, and ultimately died. Lining the walls around our celebrant, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, were members of Creighton’s Board of Trustees, a handful of Creighton leadership, including Provost Tom Murray, PhD, and other friends of the University, many of whom have advised Creighton’s Board or served as members in the past. What everyone in this room had in common is that they had chosen to be there — to offer up their own time and resources in the interest of learning and growing closer to Creighton’s Catholic and Jesuit roots.

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

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

This is Ryan’s story.

by Adam Klinker

PHOTO BY GREG ROBINSON/SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER via AP
By the fall of 1978, a steady stream of constituents and neighbors were coming through the doors and jamming the phonelines of the offices of California congressman Leo Ryan.

Something was not right around the Bay Area district Ryan represented. It started with the Peoples Temple cult, just outside Jonestown on the banks of the Potomac River in Cambodia.

Youths and their families had been mounting a voice for the voiceless, and that’s what led him out here and, ultimately, into the presidency, and Leo Ryan had a new office in the White House to help get George Moscone elected mayor of San Francisco.

As the Great Depression, the family moved frequently throughout the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard, as his parents worked for papers and government agencies in Chicago, New York and Washington. When Ryan was 11, his father died in Boston and his mother packed the whole family up and moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where Ryan attended Bessemer High School.

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Youths and their families had been mounting a voice for the voiceless, and that’s what led him out here and, ultimately, into the presidency, and Leo Ryan had a new office in the White House to help get George Moscone elected mayor of San Francisco.
He wanted your side of the story" Erin says. "It was unusual, even in that day, to have a representative who was willing to take all sides of an argument into consideration and to actively seek people who disagreed with him, but that was what he took to be part of the job."

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

Patricia and Erin Ryan recall their mother watching them and their three siblings early one morning in 1970, putting them in nice clothes and setting out in the family car for Folsom State Prison. Their father had been away for a couple of days but, as a state legislator, the family had grown used to his long absences.

Now, he was spending seven days in the prison to research conditions for inmates. Just as in Watts, Ryan had decided to see conditions firsthand and had asked to be arrested, charged and sentenced to Folsom, where he received the standard-issue haircut, which was strip-searched and had his mugshot taken.

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

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

When Ryan left the prison after a seven-day stay, inmates on death row gave him a gift: a chessboard made of cigarette papers and all those attempting to leave.

Ryan was strip-searched and had his mugshot taken. where he received the standard-issue haircut, which was strip-searched and had his mugshot taken.

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

Things initially seemed to go well. At the same time, some people posted notes to the Ryan delegation, saying they wished to leave Jonestown, and the congressional promise he'd see anyone wanting to return home could go.

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

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

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

Both Erin and Patricia Ryan have become leaders in policymaking and the public interest in their own right, spurred on by the memory of their father. Erin, who earned a law degree, works as a consultant for the California State Senator's insurance committee. Patricia has spent 30 years in behavioral and mental health advocacy, including 12 years as executive director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California. She also serves as volunteer president of the board of the Cult Awareness Network.
BARBARA VITZTHUM Melbourne, BA’85, sat on the steps outside the then-named Administration Building, crying. In her hand was a letter outlining a difficult financial reality. Despite working two jobs and having her parents chip in as much as they were able, she saw no way she could continue to afford tuition.

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

“This doesn’t look good,” Melbourne remembers Fr. Morrison telling her. He sat down next to the sophomore and recognized her as a student Phonathon worker. Fr. Morrison asked her what was wrong, and what she was studying. Melbourne shared her struggles with paying tuition, and told him she was studying philosophy with the ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘Forever Grateful’

Former students fondly remember Creighton’s longest-serving president

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

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

“This doesn’t look good,” Melbourne remembers Fr. Morrison telling her. He sat down next to the sophomore and recognized her as a student Phonathon worker. Fr. Morrison asked her what was wrong, and what she was studying. Melbourne shared her struggles with paying tuition, and told him she was studying philosophy with the ultimate goal of becoming a lawyer.

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

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

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

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

Melbourne, stunned at her sudden renewal of fortune, said “Fr. Mike” went on to explain how the scholarship was funded by the Ahmanson fortune, and how her role as a Phonathon fundraiser for Creighton mattered to the University and its students, and how this endowed scholarship would be helping her and others for generations to come.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BY ANTHONY FLOTT

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

But at the same time, Eichinger’s faith life had morphed into something without form. Something nebulous, Faith, “didn’t seem to fit into my contemporary worldview,” said the artist, who aban- doned his Lutheran heritage at 16 years old. “The Church was causing more problems than I was solving in our culture. I never let go of God or a moral structure inspired by the Bible; I just didn’t see a way to embrace religion that didn’t exclude too many other souls.”

But then Joe Ricketts stepped into his life.

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

“Faith was a gift from God,” Eichinger wrote in a thank-you letter to Ricketts. “I decided to take Communion for the first time in 50 years. It saved me.”

**GOD GLORIFIED**

It’s not the first thank-you letter Ricketts has received from a retreatant — and it most cer- tainly will not be the last. The magnificent Cloisters on the Platte opened in July, offering a gift from God. The lodges and the retreat house. The chapel was designed by Leo A. Daly — the 100-year-old, internationally recognized Omaha firm that was founded by 1911 Creighton graduate Leo A. Daly Sr. The firm also designed St. Margaret Mary Church, which Ricketts attends when in Omaha (he lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming).

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

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

Ricketts used two principles to guide the project. First was to create a quiet environment “really needed for contemplation and meditation.” Second, he “wanted these facilities to last for hundreds of years” and with a timeless design. “I think we have achieved both,” Ricketts says. “The degree of satisfaction I have and the joy I have in seeing it really come to fruition from the dream I had 20 years ago is really quite exciting and satisfying to me.”

Those who have seen Cloisters on the Platte gush with praise. “The first impression when you get on the grounds is that God is being glorified,” says Deacon Tim McNeill, Omaha Archdiocese chancellor. “There is a paintmaking care to wrap all the grounds in beauty, and that makes your heart and mind ascend to God.”

The Rev. Andy Alexander, SJ, director of Creighton’s Collaborative Ministry Office, cited the project’s first-rate quality right down to the hand-carved art on the chap- el’s kneelers. “This will certainly be one of the nicest retreat centers I’m aware of,” he says.

He also calls the Stations of the Cross “a powerful blessing for the people of this area” and praises Ricketts’ long-term vision. “I heard him talking to a group of people about the trees that they were planting. He said, just as an offhand comment, ‘It’s going to be really beautiful in about 200 years.’”

**PASSION PROJECT**

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

A lifelong Catholic, Ricketts maintained his faith while building Ameritrade, but says he might not be Catholic today if not for his wife of 50 years, Marlene, and for Creighton. Of the former, he says, “It’s a little easier to be Catholic when you have somebody helping you as you’re going through those growing up changes.”

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

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

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The first, while he was in high school in Nebraska City, didn’t go so well. “It was terrible,” he says. “I told myself I’ll never go again. The priest was overbearing and dictatorial and demanding. Things as a young man I revolted against. I said to myself, ‘A retreat is not something good.’”
That changed in 1967 when, at the urging of Creighton’s the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, he attended a retreat at Demontreville in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. “I went with a great deal of apprehension,” he says. “I found out it was just what I needed.” He has attended at least 14 retreats at Demontreville since—and has been thinking of how to get others to do the same. Fr. Alexander, who has known Ricketts for more than 20 years, recalls giving a retreat for Ricketts and his Ameritrade leadership team long ago at Creighton’s retreat house in Griswold, Iowa.

Ricketts is so passionate about Cloisters on the Platte that he made personal pitches about it before and after Masses at parishes throughout Omaha and to groups like the Serra Club and That Man Is You. That helped get a core of retreatants who began making Ignatian retreats at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska, and at Creighton’s center in Griswold. Ricketts also provides voice-overs for Cloisters on the Platte videos and, most recently, can be heard on radio commercials hawking Cloisters on the Platte Bread (the first of 10 to 15 Cloisters-branded products whose sales will support the Cloisters on the Platte Foundation).

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

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

**CREIGHTON IMPACT**

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

Fr. Alexander, who is on the project’s board of directors, also was joined by fellow Creighton Jesuits the Revs. Tom Shanahan, SJ, and Richard Hauser, SJ, (who died in April 2018) for a video the Cloisters created about St. Ignatius and his Spiritual Exercises.

“Other Creighton priests will be among those who direct the 4th retreat weekends each year. We have had a wonderful response from Jesuit retreat directors that are in North America,” Ricketts says. “That was a big point of anxiety when we first started. We didn’t know how successful we may or may not be. We’ve been very successful.” In addition, retired and semi-retired diocesan priests will help with Masses, hear confessions and provide individual spiritual direction.

The need to have extra priests on hand testifies to the popularity of retreats. Ricketts anticipates a full house every retreat weekend and says Cloisters soon will have a waiting list. “There is a great degree of interest in this type of spiritual exercises in the marketplace,” he says. Fr. Alexander agrees. When trying to schedule an eight-day retreat for himself this summer, he found most places already were booked. He also points to the success of Creighton’s Online Ministries website and its daily reflections. Last year, he says, it had 70 million hits from 200 countries. “That tells me people are hungry and that they appreciate this spirituality, which is particularly helpful because Ignatius was about helping people find intimacy with God in their everyday life. He called it ‘becoming contemplatives in action’; and I think that kind of spirituality is really appropriate for our very, very busy lives today.”

**FORMING LIVES**

Asked what gift by someone in the Omaha Archdiocese compares to Ricketts’ Cloisters on the Platte, McNeil says, “Nothing.” “Because all this is rooted and grounded in prayer,” McNeil says. “Those people who go and have a conversion experience and have this life-changing encounter with Jesus, they’re going to go back to their neighborhood or workplace, to their parishes and they’re going to share that experience. And the experience is going to be rooted in their persons. They’re going to go back and share about the person they just met who changed their life, and that’s evangelization.”

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

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

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

**An Eye for Detail**

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

“The School that I Love Best” was penned in 1920 by student Stephen Spitznagle, BA’24, who later become editor of the Creightonian.

Oh, good old hills of Omaha,
On thy high summits rise
The proudest dwelling of the West
To meet the stranger's eyes.

But of all the hills of Omaha,
One's higher than the rest,
And on its grass-grown summit is
The school that I love best.

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

She views the close Missouri's shore
And guards the city's marts,
Where soon her youthful sons will go
To play their various parts.

And as with loving tenderness
She gazes from her height,
The work of each is watched with care,
Through each long day and night.

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

Among the innovations and successes achieved by Creighton's students, faculty and alumni are: 1878: School opens; 1920: The School that I Love Best is written by student Stephen Spitznagle; 1938: The first Creighton IRB is established; 1949: University acquires Creighton Medical Center; 1954: Creighton School of Dentistry opens; 1956: Graduate School of Business opens; 1960: School of Law opens; 1970: School of Medicine opens; 1975: School of Nursing opens; 1978: The Creighton University Medical Center is dedicated; 1980: Creighton School of Architecture opens; 1990: The Creighton University Law School enters the top 50 in the nation; 1995: The Creighton University School of Dentistry enters the top 50 in the nation; 2000: Creighton University becomes a university; 2005: The Creighton University School of Architecture enters the top 50 in the nation; 2010: Creighton University enters the top 100 in the nation; 2015: Creighton University enters the top 100 in the nation.

And as we celebrate the past that propels us into the future, we set our sights on Creighton 150.
The first official men’s basketball game, a 30-17 win over Peru State in 1917, was played in front of 200 fans in the newly constructed University Gym (now the Vinardi Center). Today, the men’s team averages 17,000 fans per home game at the CenturyLink Center Omaha (soon to be CHI Health Center Omaha) — the fifth highest attendance in the country.

**TITLES AND MORE**

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

**SURPRISE PARTY**

Did you know a presidential candidate launched her national campaign at Creighton? On May 17, 1940, comedian Gracie Allen, accompanied by her equally famous husband, George Burns, announced her run for the U.S. presidency before thousands of cheering Creighton fans. During an earlier speech at the Washington Press Club, she had said she would accept her party’s nomination — she was representing the Surprise Party — at a convention in Omaha May 15-18, following a whistle-stop tour that began in Hollywood. At Creighton, she told the crowd that she would nominate no vice president, since she would tolerate no vice in her administration, and she urged all Americans to be proud of the national debt because it was the biggest in the world. President Franklin Roosevelt was safely re-elected. Creighton vs. West Virginia, 1938

**FOOTBALL REAL AND IMAGINED**

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

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

**Spiritual Cornerstone**

On June 26, 1887, the cornerstone was laid for St. John’s Church, and 4,000 spectators gathered. The bishop mistakenly dedicated the church to the wrong St. John — St. John-Before-the-Latin-Gate instead of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of John Creighton. It wasn’t until 1977 that St. John’s, the spiritual center of Creighton University, got its steeple.
EDUCATION IN THE FIRST DEGREE
The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions likes to be first. It offered the nation’s first entry-level clinical doctorates in physical therapy (1992) and occupational therapy (1999); the first online-based Doctor of Pharmacy degree (2001); and the first online-based Doctor of Occupational Therapy program (2008).

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

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

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

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

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

Masters of the Mind
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AT THE FOREFRONT
Creighton Jesuit the Rev. John Markoe, SJ, dedicated his life to fighting racial injustice and, so until his death in 1967, advised friends, colleagues and students to "never give an inch" in the struggle against racism. He helped galvanize the De Porres Club of Omaha, which, four years before the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott, launched a similar campaign against the Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company.

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

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

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

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

Diversity Goals
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Reimagining the Liberal Arts
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Struggling to get into medical school, this former immigrant finds success—and a deeper faith—at Creighton University.

BY Rick Davis, BA ’88

ARYAM GBADAMOSI-AKINDELE. MD ’12, has found a home in Omaha—and a special place in her heart for Creighton University.

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

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

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

Her sights were firmly set on medical school, earning a bachelor’s degree in biology in 2006. Her grades were slightly above the median for Creighton’s program.

“Her grades and score on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) did not measure up,” Gbadamosi-Akindele says. “She was crushed.

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

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

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

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

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

TURNING TO FAITH

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

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

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

As I was reflecting—on this Jesuit, Catholic university—my faith as a Muslim was getting stronger because it was a sensitive period in my life when I needed faith, or divine intervention,” Gbadamosi-Akindele says.

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

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

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

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

A PROFOUND MOMENT

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

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

“But, I was like, ‘I’m going to be a doctor’ Now I was like, ‘I’m really enjoying being a doctor.’ I’m loving this.”

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

“That was an important event for me. The success is not just for me now. It represents the lessons she’s learned with others. To her medical residents and students, she poses a simple—but profound—question: Why are you here?

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

“Long as I’m serving others for the greater good, that’s what drives me. And I think I learned that here at Creighton. That is a core Jesuit value.”

She also believes it’s important to be a role model for the wider community—particularly as a black, Muslim, immigrant woman.

Gbadamosi-Akindele recalls a general health talk she gave to a group of refugees in Lincoln, Nebraska, as a medical student.

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

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

It’s a lesson she looks to share with her young children. Her message: “Find a career that’s fulfilling. Make sure it’s meaningful to you. Make sure you are passionate about it. And be good at it; try to be the best at it. To me, that will launch you into success.”

BEING A ROLE MODEL

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

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

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

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Feeling at Home

BY DAVE WEAVER
Pushing the Limits

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

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

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

Originally, Taylor thought she would be an engineer, having always loved science and math. But after talking to local business leaders in her hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado, she knew business was her best choice.

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

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

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

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

“I do something that’s very innovative and creative. And to focus on exploration, challenge and problem-solving as a community,” Taylor says.

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

Outside the classroom, Taylor is a member of the club soccer team, Alpha Kappa Psi, a professional business fraternity, and Alpha Phi sorority. She is also minoring in Spanish, professional business fraternity, and Alpha Phi sorority. She is also minoring in Spanish, with the intention of becoming a thoughtful, responsible and ethical leader in her community.

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

BY EMILY RUST

Alumni Notes

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

Dr. Donald P. Kohn, BS, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, earned the Professor Emeritus Award from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks for his service as the president of the North Dakota Small Business Administration SCORE (Senior Corps of Retired Executives) and ACE (Active Corps of Executives) Organization, which serves small business entrepreneurs, and his development of an undergraduate and graduate marketing education program.

Sr. Grace Swift, BST, MA, Maple Mount, Kentucky, is celebrating her 50th year of religious life. Sr. Swift was an elementary and high school teacher in Kansas and Oklahoma from 1969 to 1985. She served as a history professor at Loyola University in New Orleans from 1986 to 1998. She was selected to the Ursuline Council (1998-2002), and now cares for grapevines and blackberries at the Motherhouse in Maple Mount.

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

John G. Manesis, MD, Chicago, Illinois, was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Colorado for outstanding lifetime contribution to religion, profession and community. After graduating from Creighton, Manesis earned his law degree in 1973. She continues to practice law and is involved with canine search and rescue and social justice issues.

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

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

Dr. C. Curtis Barr, BSPha, Fort Collins, Colorado, received the Distinguished Alumni Service Citation from the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions for making a lasting contribution to his profession, his community and his alma mater. Barr has served at Creighton as associate professor of pharmacy practice, assistant dean for alumni relations and associate chaplain.

Send Us Your News

Penned your long-awaited novel? Traveled around the world? Received that fancy promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones by emailing us at alumni@creighton.edu.
A special liturgy of gratitude for the life of the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, SJ, will be celebrated during Reunion Weekend Saturday, Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. at St. John’s Church

DeAnthony Bowden, BS’18, sat with his mother in the office of then-head men’s basketball coach Dana Altman as his mother made a promise.

“She told Dana, ‘My son will graduate from Creighton.’ Bowden says. Seventeen years later, Bowden has fulfilled his mother’s wish, graduating from Creighton’s College of Professional Studies in May.

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

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

His first season at Creighton, the Bluejays advanced to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 12 seed and would face No. 5 seed Florida in the first round of the Midwest Regional in Chicago. A native of Hammond, Indiana, it felt like a home game to Bowden. Before the game started, Bowden and his teammates visited the statue of Michael Jordan outside the United Center for a bit of inspiration.

Creighton called with a 10-2 run in the final two minutes to tie the game at the end of regulation. The game was tied again after the first overtime. A large Illinois crowd, coming to see the Illini in the next game, had joined Creighton fans in cheering for the underdog Bluejays.

Then, with less than a second left in the second overtime, Bowden’s teammate, Terrrel Taylor, knocked down a three-pointer for a dramatic Creighton win.

“Everybody in the arena was rooting for us,” Bowden says. “The place was so loud.” It would be one of the last games Bowden’s mother attended before she died of cancer in 2006. With his NCAA eligibility up, Bowden went into the 2003 NBA draft. He went through several training camps and played in the NBA summer league for five years. His basketball career then took him overseas — to east Asia and Canada — and to minor league teams in the U.S. After 14 years of professional basketball, Bowden was hired by a team in Canada as its assistant general manager. But he realized he wanted something more.

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

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

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

While he was overseas playing professionally, Bowden received a call from teammate Larry House, BS’12, a fellow junior college transfer. House had returned to finish his degree.

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

So, once he retired from professional basketball, Bowden made a call to Creighton’s College of Professional Studies and enrolled online.

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

“It made them respect me more knowing that I stand by the motto that if you start something, you must finish,” Bowden says. In May, he walked across the stage at the CenturyLink Center Omaha and received his Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in business management and entrepreneurship with a minor in marketing. His family cheered him on in the audience.

He and his family reunited the Championship Center and met up with coach McDermott and Patty Galas, longtime administrative assistant for the men’s basketball program. In Galas’ hands was the 2002-2003 men’s basketball media directory. She handed it to DeAnthony Jr., Bowden’s 10-year-old son, who loved seeing his father on the cover.

“I’m glad to be an alumnus,” Bowden says. “Who wouldn’t want to be a Bluejay?”

—BY EMMY BUST
But it’s what he’s accomplished since retiring from coaching that in 2015 Komori thinks will be his legacy.

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

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

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

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

“arliest priority was to develop champion athletes of character first, and great tennis players second,” says Komori, who earned multiple coach of the year honors, including several at the national level. “I feel like success is the byproduct of the leader, and those principles and discipline of the leader, and those qualities he or she instills in the team.”

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

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

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

“Every day I wake up and think, ‘What am I going to do today to help people, to inspire and motivate them to reach their maximum potential?’” — by Amanda Brandt, BA’14

Dr. Rusty Komori, BA’91, right, with legendary tennis student Ashley Ishimura. Ishimura is a member of the Creighton women’s tennis team and played No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles in 2007-18.

Character First

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

Jeffrey Baker and Rebecca Sheparks Baker, BS, Des Moines, Iowa, a son, Benjamin Andrew, Jan. 27, 2018.


**DEATHS**

Kamila Marion, Feb. 11, 2018.


Lilia Carys, Minnesota, a daughter, Feb. 20, 2018.

Tacoma, Washington, a daughter, Owens Glynn, BSN, Simon Tiegs, DPT, Brian L. Tiegs and Creighton.

Dallas, a daughter, Rebecca Lake Phoenix, Emily 11, 2018.

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Clayton Ryan, BA, Omaha, March 6, 2018.

Bernice Decker, Iowa, a son, Reed James, Feb. 1, 2018.

Aubrey Claire, Jan. 21, 2018.

Danielle Ternes Schwieterman, DDS, Bozeman, Montana, a daughter, Feb. 15, 2018.


Donald S. Ruscio, MD, Omaha, May 15, 2018.

Robert H. Heidward, MD, Vallejo, California, April 5, 2018.


Frances J. Gross, ARTS, ARTS, Omaha, May 19, 2018.

John A. “Jack” Dickson, MD, Omaha, April 24, 2018.


Jean Carmichael Kinski, SN, Omaha, Feb. 20, 2018.

John R. Neary, BS, Omaha, May 14, 2018.


Dr. Richard P. Clemens, ARTS, Omaha, April 16, 2018.


Dorothy Lawler Barton, ARTS, Boise, Idaho, April 14, 2018.

B. Lee Neuber, BS/PhD, Colorado/Springs, Colorado.

RECENT GRADUATE IS NAMED NEBRASKA MOTHER OF THE YEAR

**ALUMNI PROFILE**

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

In 2007, she founded the Janissen’s Foundation, which is dedicated to raising awareness and funding for Janissen’s metaphyseal chondrodysplasia, a rare skeletal disease that affects her and her two sons. Nizar also was named the rare disease ambassador for Nebraska and was involved in the nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day in February by the National Organization for Rare Diseases.

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

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

— BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA ’74
Helping Amputees in Haiti

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

At an orphanage, on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, that became a makeshift operating room, members of the Creighton community got involved to help the earthquake victims. “It became clear to me at that point that there was a major need on the island for prosthetics services,” Tessier says.

In May, the ILAC Prosthetics Lab received a Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities Grant, allowing the team to continue working with those in need. More than 180 prosthetics and braces have been fitted each year for people with cerebral palsy, fractures, stroke victims and amputees. “There’s a lot of poverty, a lot of indigents,” Tessier says of the island. “If you’re a ‘have not’ in Haiti or the DR, it’s a terrible place to be an amputee.”
It’s kind of ironic that Christopher Whitt, PhD, Creighton’s first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, works at a Jesuit university. Growing up in Baltimore, he attended Mount St. Joseph High School, which is affiliated with the Xaverian Brothers. When it came to athletics, the nearby Jesuit school was their biggest rival.

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

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

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

What have you learned over the years working in this area?

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

How can alumni help?

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

What are some of your initiatives?

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What do we mean by diversity and inclusion?

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WE WELCOME GRADUATES OF ALL YEARS TO COME HOME TO CREIGHTON

creighton.edu/reunionweekend