

# CREIGHTON

S PRING 2018 • Volume 34, Issue 1



## JUSTICE IN THE BALANCE

Representing Detainees at Guantanamo

## Springing Forward

**W**e are rapidly approaching the end of the spring semester, with commencement ceremonies set for May 12 — featuring Mae Jemison, MD, the first female African-American astronaut, as speaker. It has been a busy and fruitful year, highlighted by numerous accomplishments, robust initiatives, engaging events and lectures, and planning for our future.

We added eight new academic programs in the past year, many of which are interdisciplinary in nature and include the areas of business, health care, and our Ignatian tradition.

The first cohort of accelerated nursing students at our Phoenix campus began classes in January. There is a critical need for nurses and other health professionals in the Southwest, and we are excited to collaborate with our health care partners in Arizona to address the issue.

We have launched our Creighton Global Scholars Program, with tremendous interest among incoming freshmen for the fall of 2018. We had more than 180 applicants for 20 spots in the program. Read more about this program on Page 7.

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the University's founding. As part of the celebration, we are hosting the Creighton 140 Presidential Lecture Series. Chuck Hagel, former U.S. senator from Nebraska and secretary of defense, delivered the first of these lectures on April 3. A link to the webcast is available on the Office of the President website. Other lectures are being planned for the fall.

With approval from our Board of Trustees, we are diligently implementing our strategic plan, focusing on goals related to three major themes: Achieving academic excellence, thriving in our mission, and engaging the world. We highlight the plan beginning on Page 32.

We also continue to make significant strides in the important areas of diversity and global education. Christopher Whitt, PhD, joined us in February as our inaugural vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (see Page 9), and we recently announced the criteria for our 2018 Creighton Global Initiative Awards, which fund faculty and student projects and programs.

The Jesuit Community at Creighton and the Office of the President have funded 11 four-year, full-tuition scholarships for underserved students beginning with this fall's incoming class. The scholarships are named for the Rev. John Markoe, SJ, a beloved Creighton Jesuit and early civil rights activist.

Finally, with a heavy heart, we said goodbye to a wonderful friend, colleague, and Jesuit, with the passing of the Rev. Richard Hauser, SJ, on April 3. Fr. Hauser served at Creighton for more than 45 years in various capacities, and established the popular candlelight Mass on campus. His warmth, passion, determination, and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

I wish you and your families a safe and pleasant summer. As always, you remain in my prayers.

**Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ**  
*President*



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

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**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**  
We are eager to hear from you — whether it's feedback on a story or a special memory from your Creighton days. Please send your letters to the editor to [creightonmagazine@creighton.edu](mailto:creightonmagazine@creighton.edu) or via postal mail to.

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

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# Voices

## Heard on Campus

"If there is really one thing I would like you to remember, it's this: Climate change can reach crisis levels in a few decades. In fact, all the students who are sitting here, I predict this is the major problem you are going to be facing. So, it's an urgent problem, requiring urgent solutions."

**VEERABHADRAN "RAM" RAMANATHAN, PHD**, popularly known as "the pope's climate scientist," during a campus lecture hosted by the Creighton Global Initiative as part of the Planetary Emergency Lecture Series.

"The work I have tried to do in these last 63 years, I see your University doing the same work. I saw a problem when I was a teenager and I said that becoming a lawyer, I might be able to do something about it."

**THE REV. FRED GRAY**, civil rights icon, attorney and pastor, keynote speaker for the School of Law's 2018 Lane Lecture.

"This has been an incredible year for women. Women have been demonstrating, advocating, working and we have found ourselves again at a turning point where all of us have a role in promoting and achieving justice and equality."

**SHARON ISHII-JORDAN, PHD**, professor emerita of education, one of three honorees at Creighton's annual Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Creighton Awards Luncheon.

"God challenges us to break the silence and to break through anything or anyone who stands in the way of truth and justice. We must be people who stay awake, but also people who break the silence."

**THE REV. STEPHEN THORNE**, director of the Office for Black Catholics of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, keynote speaker at Creighton's annual Unity Prayer Luncheon during Martin Luther King Jr. Week.

## Let's Get Social

**@Nunez\_Ed14:** I don't think that I can talk enough about the amount of love and community that exists between friends here at **@Creighton** which makes this place truly unique. And I'm so grateful for it every day.

**@ayushi\_kaul:** There are currently some pretty awesome people shoveling around campus in this horribly icy/windy weather just so us students can get around safely and I think that deserves a big shoutout **@Creighton**.

**@larkscience:** I am so grateful to **@Creighton** — Every day I apply what I learned and am the educator I am today because of the Jesuit model, my professors, and the energy of such a warm campus **#considergiving #GoJays @CreightonAlumni**.

**@CreightonPres:** Happy New Year! 2018 marks 140 years since **@Creighton** was founded. Please join me in celebrating **#Creighton140**.



DAVID POHL

# The Frequent Flyer

BY GLENN ANTONUCCI

## Mankerian-Stem Racks Up Miles on Quest to Recruit International Students

To say Megan Mankerian-Stem travels a lot for her job is an ocean-sized understatement.

As Creighton's director of international enrollment, she logs untold leagues to the distant corners of the world, on a concerted search for future Creighton students from afar.

Just how far? One recent expedition took Mankerian-Stem to India, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Netherlands and Scotland.

Eleven countries, over a span of two and a half months, with stops back to

the states mixed in between.

Talk about a complex itinerary.

In each far-flung country along the way, she meets with high school students and their families, looking for those diamonds with that distinctive (Creighton) bluish hue.

The strategy, she points out, is not simply to recruit more students from abroad, but the right students — those who fit the University's mission and can add to the already diverse tapestry of undergraduates who make up Creighton's increasingly globalized campus.



Mankerian-Stem

"It tends to be a misunderstanding, as far as what I do," she says. "There's often an assumption that bringing in international students only brings in more money."

Rather, she says, "it's about bringing in diversity. And finding those students who want to come and be a part of what we're doing at Creighton."

And that, she says, might mean they make a good fit for a particular prehealth program in the College of Arts and Sciences, or mesh well with the culture of the Heider College of Business and its students' drive to find

internships and, perhaps, a coveted spot with a Fortune 500 company.

"We really want to find those driven students who want to come here, seize on the opportunities available here on campus, and continue to carry the Creighton name wherever they go after college," Mankerian-Stem says.

Arriving at her post — a newly re-envisioned role for the University — in fall 2016, Mankerian-Stem came from a similar position at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

So she's no stranger to living out of a suitcase, nor the nuances of international recruitment. But the Creighton ethos, she says, pays extra dividends in her line of work, as becoming a Bluejay can have an especially strong draw for that special, certain someone from across the sea.

"The things we're especially good at, we do very well," Mankerian-Stem says. "We have opportunities for students that aren't found elsewhere, along with small class sizes and an EDGE office that supports students all the way through their college years.

"I'm able to talk about these things (with prospective international students) and then I can back that up with proof, in terms of Creighton's success rates," she says.

It's a strategy that bridges miles and cultures — uniting Creighton with the world.

### A Life Well-Lived: Remembering Alumnus Wayne Ryan

Renowned Creighton alumnus Wayne Ryan, PhD, BS'49, MS'51, HON'09, died Nov. 3, leaving a legacy of extraordinary accomplishment and enduring philanthropy.

Ryan earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in science from Creighton in 1949 and 1951, respectively, and was recognized with an honorary degree in 2009 for his lifetime of accomplishments in science and business.

"Wayne had a passion for Jesuit education, and inspired many students and faculty with his brilliance as a scientist, scholar and educator," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. "His generosity to Creighton has left an indelible mark that will continue to benefit our students for decades."

Ryan taught in the microbiology and biochemistry departments at Creighton from 1953 to 1964. In 1971, he founded Streck Laboratories, which became a world leader for hematology and molecular diagnostics.

Ryan and his late wife, Eileen, HON'09, left a lasting legacy with the University by funding scholarships and the Fr. Henry W. Casper, SJ Professorship in History, currently held by Heather Fryer, PhD. In 2009,



#### LIGHT-BULB MOMENT

TD Ameritrade co-founder and Creighton alumnus **Joe Ricketts, BA'68**, was recently featured in a *Forbes* 400 article, which asked: What should you major in if you want to be a billionaire? Ricketts responded that his first economics class at Creighton, taught by the Rev. James F. Hanley, SJ, was an eye-opening experience — one in which a light bulb went on and then everything in his life made sense.



◀ WAYNE RYAN

Wayne Ryan, PhD, BS'49, MS'51, HON'09, founder of Streck Laboratories, died on Nov. 3. He and his late wife, Eileen, HON'09, left a lasting legacy at Creighton through the funding of scholarships, a professorship and athletic facilities.

the Ryans transformed Creighton's athletic facilities through their support of the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center, the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Training Center and the Championship Center.

Ryan is survived by his children, Connie, ARTS'75, HON'11, a past member of Creighton's Board of Trustees; son, Tim, DDS'80; daughter, Stacy, JD'05; daughter, Carol, JD'83; and son, Steve, BSBA'88.

### Father on the Floor

BY EMILY RUST

**Moving into Swanson Hall** during Welcome Week, the freshman student was excited to finally be free from living with his parents. And though he was no longer living down the hall from Mom and Dad, he was surprised to see that there was a "father" living on his floor — a Jesuit priest.

"It was my first or second year on the honors floor," the Rev. Ross Romero, SJ, assistant professor of philosophy, said. "I could tell he was horrified living across from me. His mother seemed to like the idea a lot." Eventually, the freshman student and Fr. Romero became friends.

Fr. Romero is one of six Jesuits who live in Creighton's residence halls. Though he used to physically live on the floor with students, he now lives in an apartment on the first floor, right by the welcome desk.

"I don't engage in disciplinary stuff," Fr. Romero says. "I'm just here to be present. If I can encourage good choices, I do it."

Living in a residence hall has made life come full circle for Fr. Romero, for he had a Jesuit living in his residence hall as a student at Loyola University New Orleans.

"He was one of the main reasons I decided to become a Jesuit," Fr. Romero says. "I wanted to live in a residence hall to become closer to students and

give back some of what I had received.”

For students, having a priest as an instructor is one thing, Fr. Romero says, but seeing them in the residence halls allows for more personal relationships.

Senior Oliver Alonzo has lived in Swanson Hall for three years, and often stops to chat with Fr. Romero.

“People are always afraid to talk to priests,” Alonzo says. “They put them on a pedestal. For students to have that personal connection their freshman year with a priest, I feel like it allows them to make better connections with Jesuits throughout their college career.”

Fr. Romero, a native of New Orleans, hosts students for jambalaya nights in his apartment. He also offers Mass and adoration each week in Swanson’s on-site chapel. When he lived on the ninth floor, he promoted lighthearted fun with the students.

For instance, Swanson Hall has two elevators, and Fr. Romero would challenge students to switch elevators if both opened at the same time, and follow the second elevator wherever it took them. They then had to write a description of the event.

“On the basis of that, I gave out a ride on the ‘golden elevator’ (an elevator in Creighton Hall exclusively for Jesuits),” Fr. Romero says. “Little things to try to make their lives a bit stranger.”

Whether it’s a game of cards, or a need for a mentor, most students like having a Jesuit in residence.

“These years are so developmental,” Alonzo says. “I think it’s beneficial in many ways to 18-year-olds who are trying to find their way in college.”

There’s benefit for Fr. Romero, too.

“It helps me feel more fulfilled in my vocation to be present.”



**J. CHRIS BRADBERRY** ▶  
J. Chris Bradberry, PharmD, has served as dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions for nearly 15 years.

## Creighton Bids Farewell to Dean Bradberry

Following a nearly 15-year career as the dean of the Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, with interim stints at the highest levels of University leadership, J. Chris Bradberry, PharmD, will retire in 2018.

Under Bradberry’s leadership, the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions expanded its reach with the nation’s first entry-level, distance-based doctor of occupational therapy pathway program, a partnership with the University of Alaska at Anchorage initiated in 2008. Hybrid pathway programs subsequently emerged in the greater Omaha area and at Regis University in Denver.

The school also has taken a central role in interprofessional education, research and practice in the health sciences, ushering in a new era in collaborative care among the various disciplines represented at Creighton.

Nearly 3,800 students have graduated from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions under the tutelage of Bradberry, a specialist in clinical lipidology.

“We are profoundly grateful for Dean Bradberry’s leadership at Creighton and his service to the wider world of health care,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. “His tenure has embodied the virtues of gentleness and compassion that are the necessary hallmarks both for the care of patients and the training of the next generation of health care professionals.

We are indebted to Chris for his vision and his unflinching willingness to pilot Creighton into the future of care.”

Bradberry was twice tapped to help lead the University during transitional periods. He served part of 2014 as interim vice president for academic affairs and, in November of that year, with the retirement of then-Creighton President the Rev. Timothy Lannon, SJ, BS’73, served as the University’s interim president until Fr. Hendrickson’s inauguration in 2015.

## Global Scholars Program Begins This Fall

A new, immersive, international undergraduate program will take flight at Creighton at the start of the 2018 academic year in August.

More than 180 prospective students applied for 20 slots in the new Creighton Global Scholars Program — which aims to incorporate study in at least four countries over the course of a student’s University career. Starting with their freshman fall semester at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia, students are off on an academic journey combining international perspectives with the rigors and rewards of a Creighton education.

“Through language immersion, service-learning, research, internships and specialized coursework, Global Scholars will go beyond their comfort zones and embrace both the beautiful and harsh realities of our world,” says Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. “Their experiences will cultivate a unique and rich lens through which to understand and examine the complex cultures and contexts we face every day and see firsthand how their majors can make a real impact.”

The program builds on Creighton’s extant international relationships, including the University’s Dominican Republic campus, which has been an integral component of Creighton’s global work for more than 40 years.

# WAIT...WHAT?

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



### TITLE OF RESEARCH

“Testing quasar outflow mechanisms with accretion disk simulations and SDSS spectra”

### STUDENT RESEARCHER

Mason Rhodes, sophomore physics major; Des Moines, Iowa

### FACULTY MENTOR

Jack Gabel, PhD, associate professor of physics

**WHAT IT MEANS** Rhodes has received a NASA Nebraska Space Grant Fellowship to study high-energy quasar outflow systems using the vast Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) data archive. Quasars are the most luminous objects in the universe, powered by material falling into supermassive black holes at the centers of distant galaxies, thus providing a unique laboratory to study nature in the extreme. Rhodes’ study will lead to a better understanding of the mechanism that drives the high-velocity outflows observed in many quasars. This has implications for understanding how black holes grow and how quasars affect galaxy formation and evolution.

Global Scholars will spend either the fall or spring semester of their sophomore years at the Dominican Republic campus. Students for the first cohort were chosen in February after intensive interviews.

“We have already started planning events and activities with which students will be involved during Summer Preview and Sydney orientation,” says Lizzy Curran, Creighton Global Programs coordinator. “Creighton has worked very hard to ensure a full, comprehensive experience for these students, and I cannot wait to see what they achieve through their four years of global immersion.”

In addition to the semesters in Australia and the Dominican Republic, Global Scholars will participate in faculty-led study abroad programs during the summers following their sophomore and junior years, as well as specialized on-campus advising, workshops and events to help enrich the international experience.

## Ethical Blind Spots in Business

There’s no Big Brother behind the googly eyes on the desk of the Robert B. Daugherty Endowed Chair in Business Ethics and Society, Beverly Kracher, PhD. But there is a sense that she is being watched, and that’s intentional.

“The googly eyes are an idea we got from psychology research,” Kracher says. “They remind people that we are accountable for what we’re doing.”

Picture this: You’re an off-duty EMT who comes upon an emergency medical scene. You know you’re not supposed to intervene, but can you stay away? Just because your morals may say to dive in, are you ethically supposed to?

“We’re not here to tell you what the right choice is, but how do you think through things so you’re better equipped to make an ethical choice?” says Courtney Mustoe, creative manager for the Business Ethics Alliance. ▶



DAVE WEAVER

## Shh! Don't be afraid to 'listen to your life'

Silence can be golden, but it also can be scary. Just ask the Revs. Larry Gillick, SJ, and Greg Carlson, SJ, two longtime Creighton priests who regularly direct silent retreats.

"When people hear of a silent retreat, they'll say, 'Oh, three days! How could I be silent for three days?'" Fr. Carlson says. "We Jesuits, twice in our formation, make 30-day silent retreats. And people can't conceive of that.

"I think they're afraid of it. I think that's probably in our culture, to be afraid of that much silence."

With a culture that embraces the constant connection offered by the latest technology, it can be difficult to unplug and enter into undistracted silence. But Frs. Gillick and Carlson believe a deeper fear quietly lurks beneath the surface.

"We've had people say, 'I don't want to make a silent retreat because I'm afraid of what I have to see — what I have to face in myself,'" Fr. Gillick says.

Fr. Carlson agrees, adding: "People find silence, and I think prayer, frightening because it's going to bring them face to face with the big questions: What do I really want? Am I being the person I want to be? It can be painful to stop and look at that."

Frs. Gillick and Carlson explain that silent prayer — in fact, all prayer — is really about moving from "doing" to "receiving" or simply "being," which can be especially difficult in a culture so focused on productivity. Fr. Gillick compares prayer to a relationship — which, as it deepens, can move from going out on dates to simply enjoying being in each other's company.

"The standard question in our culture of productivity is: What did you get out of it?" Fr. Carlson says. "That's not always the appropriate question. For instance, after a conversation with a friend, you wouldn't say, 'OK, what did we get out of this?'"

The two priests often find that people are concerned that they are not praying "correctly" — which, again, they say, focuses too much on the doing.

"If you ask anybody about their praying, they will probably say, 'I'm not doing it as well as I should,'" Fr. Carlson says. "And 'should' is the operative word. It's a measurement. You are called to give up that question."

More fruitful questions, Fr. Carlson says, could be along the lines of: Is there something here I can be grateful for? What fascinates and leads me? Where do I find delight and joy?

Frs. Gillick and Carlson add that silent prayer is not about self-improvement — nor is it necessarily about coming to some great insight about Scripture.

"It's about letting God improve you, if that's what God wants to do," Fr. Gillick says.

And it doesn't have to be scary. Start softly and slowly, advises Fr. Carlson. "Try praying once a day quietly. It really is an exercise in listening to your life." — **BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88**

**How to enter into silent prayer:** Frs. Gillick and Carlson suggest imagining yourself in a Bible scene, and examining your thoughts and feelings. While not exactly silent, soft music may help. Or you could reflect on a poem; Fr. Gillick suggests *Sometimes* by David Whyte and William Wordsworth's *Solitude*. Or you can find support and camaraderie through a silent retreat.



DAVID POHL

In 2006, Kracher recognized the need for business ethics programs in the Omaha community. The Business Ethics Alliance, a nonprofit organization, was born from this need.

The Alliance visits a variety of companies to deliver different workshops, including one that focuses on ethical blind spots and provides each participant with "googly eyes."

"We work through scenarios and ask people to identify which of the blind spots are relevant to the situation," Mustoe says.

The 90-minute workshop helps businesspeople remember they can make money with honor, integrity and fairness, Kracher says. The Alliance's goal is to build leaders, strengthen organizations and elevate Omaha through positive, practical business ethics.

"We are inspired when we hear about people who strive to be ethical in



**CHRISTOPHER WHITT** ▶  
Christopher Whitt, PhD, is Creighton's first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

their business dealings," Kracher says. "We depend on these positive examples to maintain our trust in business."

### Whitt Named Creighton's First VP for Diversity and Inclusion

**Christopher Whitt, PhD**, joined Creighton in February as the University's first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Whitt most recently served as an associate professor and chair of the Department of Political Science at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, where he founded and directed the Center for Inclusive Leadership and Equity.

"As a community of learners and leaders whose interests and influences expand every day, and as a local campus surrounded by a diverse community, we look forward to Dr. Whitt's leadership

as we continue to connect Creighton not only with the wider world, but also the one just outside our doorstep," said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. "Dr. Whitt is a proven leader in fostering the integral conversations about diversity and inclusion that serve to make our world a bigger, more accepting place."

In addition to his work with Augustana's Center for Inclusive Leadership and Equity, Whitt was a co-founder of the College's Africana Studies Program and a representative to several faculty and community organizations. He organized Augustana's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Program, and has also convened, led and participated in many seminars, summits and presentations on social justice topics locally, regionally and nationally.

Whitt earned the Fannie Lou Hamer Outstanding Community Service Award in 2017 and the Anna Julia Cooper National Teacher of the Year award in 2013 from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He also received the 2017 Charles Toney Sr. NAACP Civil Rights Hero Award from the Rock Island County NAACP.

### Collaboration Key to Developing Practice-Ready Nurses

**In a longstanding debate** between academics and clinicians on unrealistic expectations for new nurses versus insufficient preparation, College of Nursing Dean Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, advocates for collaboration.

"The issue of preparation of nursing graduates for practice is one that's been around for many years," says Todero, who co-authored "The Academic-Practice Gap: Strategies for an Enduring Problem," which appeared in the journal *Nursing Forum*.

Todero and her co-authors explored the latest practices and identified strategies to bridge the gap. ▶



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JIM FACKLER

They recommend greater use of simulated learning and other active, learner-centered approaches in nursing education, as well as more competency-based skill assessments. And, on the practice side, they suggest more extended orientations for new graduates. They also emphasize the importance of collaborative strategies, such as dedicated education units and academic service partnerships.

“If we’re going to transform health care and prepare professionals for the future, it has to be a joint effort,” Toderò says. “A team of faculty and clinicians together is more effective than either one alone.”

The authors reviewed two main models for collaboration: dedicated education units and academic service partnerships.

Dedicated education units, such as the one established between the College of Nursing and CHI Health in 2012, are student-centered units within hospitals that provide real-world training and

assessment. Academic service partnerships provide opportunities for nursing faculty and clinicians to swap roles — so both can improve their skills as teachers and clinicians.

“Bringing the skill sets of faculty and clinicians together makes for a better learning environment for the student,” Toderò says.

Creighton College of Nursing has been at the forefront of many of the recommendations offered in the journal article — arming graduates with the latest knowledge and theory in combination with the necessary clinical skills to succeed.

### Lab Work: Dog Comforts Students

**Creighton’s Center for Health and Counseling** has added a new, furry face to its staff — Cocoa, a licensed therapy dog. The chocolate lab — owned and handled by Michael Kelley, PhD,

© Creighton students stop by to visit Cocoa, a licensed therapy dog, on one of her trips to the Skutt Student Center.



#CREIGHTON140

This year, Creighton is celebrating 140 years of excellence since the University’s founding in 1878. Share your memories or favorite pieces of Creighton trivia on social media using the hashtag #Creighton140. Learn more about Creighton University’s history at [creighton.edu/140](http://creighton.edu/140).

a psychologist in the department — can sit, and stay, in counseling sessions with students. Kelley says Cocoa can be dog-gone good at calming and soothing distraught individuals, and gives the center a softer, more approachable feel. Cocoa also visits the V. J. and Angela Skutt Student Center through the program Paws to Talk, and students are able to interact with Cocoa in between classes.

### Charcoal on the Grill? Investigating a Toothpaste Fad

A new toothpaste is giving alternative meaning to the notion of throwing some charcoal on the grill.

And a group of Creighton University dental students and faculty is putting charcoal toothpaste through the fire to determine its effectiveness when compared to the more traditional means of cleaning one’s teeth.

“It does seem counterintuitive that

you’re going to put this black toothpaste on your teeth,” says Donal Scheidel, DDS, associate professor in the Diagnostic Services Department. “It doesn’t look like it’s going to do what it’s supposed to do. But there has been huge growth to find better ways to brighten and whiten smiles and this is the latest fad.”

Touted by such celebrities as actress Gwyneth Paltrow and rapper Drake, charcoal toothpaste is the beauty-product-du-jour among the Hollywood set and at prices upward of \$7 a tube, there’s still not much information on how well it works.

### Serving a Critical Need

*Pediatric dental care was her calling; it’s flourished at Creighton*

**Working as an intern** and later a dental hygienist in a family-run pediatric dentistry clinic in Bismarck, North Dakota, for six years, Katrina Goebel found her calling.

“I fell in love with it,” says Goebel, a Creighton dental senior, who made 200-mile trips to Bismarck during breaks from her undergraduate studies at Minnesota State University-Moorhead to work at the father-and-sons practice.

It became family — literally. She worked with Drs. Mike Goebel and his sons, Bryce and Drew, and eventually married the youngest Goebel son, Micah.

At Creighton, Goebel participates in the dental school’s outreach with Nelson Mandela Elementary and Sacred Heart Elementary School. She is the lead organizer at the latter school, coordinating services and volunteers. Creighton students and faculty provide dental education, screenings, fluoride and sealants to the elementary students.

“It’s critical for prevention to be able to reach kids and parents at the elementary school level,” she says. “It’s been the best experience I could’ve had.”

In January, Katrina and Micah Goebel welcomed their first child, Brooks. Katrina spent the preceding summer and fall terms on double-time with

# A Soft Spot for the Old Hardwood

The “Old Gym” (Vinardi Center) — a 103-year-old campus fixture at 24th and Burt streets whose recent rebirth as a high-tech Pharmacy Skills Lab was featured in the fall 2017 *Creighton* magazine — now has something unique to offer from its previous life.

The old floor’s wooden planks, harkening back to the days when they served as home court for basketball games and more, have been harvested and transformed into one-of-a-kind Creighton keepsakes.

Designed to retain the vintage look of the old flooring (blue and white paint remnants and all, in many cases), the keepsakes range from keychains and coasters to high-end drink trays and tables.

Reclaimed Enterprises, an Omaha firm that promotes the reclamation and reuse of sustainably sourced materials, is crafting and selling the mementos, with a portion of the proceeds going back to the University.

The project is a labor of love for the firm’s founder and president, Jason Gilbreath, BSBA’98.

“To be able to see this through for my alma mater, and then give something back on top of it, has just been such a thrill for me,” he says. “These literally are little pieces of history, with some great old stories to tell.”

Visit [creightongymfloor.com](http://creightongymfloor.com) for more information.



DAVE WEAVER

## UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

**TOP 20**

nationally in providing valuable internship opportunities, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*

**Zero**

number of other Catholic colleges or universities on the list

**73%**

of 2017 Creighton graduates completed an internship or participated in academic research

**55%**

completed more than one internship

**over 600**

number of internships completed by 2017 graduates

**21 & 3**

number of states (21) and countries outside the U.S. (3) in which students participated in internships

**16%**

of internships resulted in a full-time job offer (39% for Heider College of Business grads)

**TOP 5**

internship employers: Union Pacific, Creighton, CHI Health, Kiewit, TD Ameritrade (other notables include Blue Cross Blue Shield, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Conagra Brands, Gallup, Homeland Security, Mayo Clinic, NASA, Nike, United States Olympics, Walt Disney World and Yahoo, just to name a few)

her course and clinic work to ensure she could take maternity leave and still be ready for the activities at Sacred Heart this spring.

After graduation in May, Goebel will take on a pediatric dentistry residency at the University of Iowa, after which she hopes to return to North Dakota and continue working with children, particularly those in vulnerable populations.

“Creighton encourages us to use our skills and talents to help the community,” Goebel says, “and seeing to it that children learn good habits young and get proper care is something we can do as dentists.”

### Medical Match-Making

Whether it's surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry, anesthesiology or any of the 16 specialty areas into which the 146 future Creighton University School of Medicine physicians were matching residencies on March 16, the members of the Class of 2018 have been thoroughly schooled



#### FUTURE OLYMPIANS?

**Terry Grindstaff, PhD**, an associate professor of physical therapy who wrestled collegiately, served as a medical volunteer for USA Wrestling at an international competition in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. “These are elite athletes,” said Grindstaff, who has a shot at World Championship and Olympic medals.

in a special kind of family medicine, too.

“We’re a really tight class, always have been,” said Sarah Pietruszka, who matched into an obstetrics and gynecology residency at Wake Forest University. She was part of the 97 percent of Creighton students who matched into their first specialty of choice. “The people you see here are like my family, both my classmates and the faculty.”

### Researchers Collaborate on Sandhills Conservation Projects

BY CHARISE ALEXANDER ADAMS

The storied Nebraska Sandhills region, with its sand dunes and lowland valleys, stands apart as one of the most unique biophysical ecosystems in North America.

Writers, artists and scientists alike have found themselves drawn to this 20,000-square-mile expanse, including three Creighton professors, from diverse

disciplines, who are collaborating on sustainability-related projects through grants from Creighton’s Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund and NASA.

Mary Ann Vinton, PhD, associate professor of biology; Jay Leighter, PhD, associate professor of communication studies; and John O’Keefe, PhD, professor of theology, are each seeking answers to the question: What is the long-term stability of the Sandhills in the face of increased stress on the area’s natural and social systems?

These stressors include natural ones such as drought, compounded by challenges to the social systems, brought on by steady population decline and dependency on the cattle-ranching industry.

Vinton, who has several family members who are Sandhills ranchers and has spent much of her career studying soils and grassland ecology, will examine biological resources by using remote-sensing technology and other tools. She seeks to document how drought and other extreme climate variations affect the vegetation. Those changes could have far-reaching effects. These grasses sustain the cattle roaming the hills, providing a livelihood for ranching families and food for other parts of the country.

“I am interested in how humans maintain a healthy existence in the face of environmental change,” Vinton says. “What are some adaptations that we can make in the face of change to be resilient?” There is no simple — or single — answer to this question. That’s where Leighter and O’Keefe come in.

Leighter, an expert in cultural communication and sustainability, is employing interviews and observation to discover the cultural meaning of the place-based term “The Sandhills.” He aims to see how ranching practices may work with conservation measures such as grazing, watershed protection and renewable energy production.

Leighter advises that those wanting to participate in conservation efforts for the Sandhills must first learn what



## CREIGHTON

About 35 years ago, the Rev. Greg Carlson, SJ, associate professor of classics, began collecting fable books and objects. Today, the Carlson Fable Collection at Creighton includes more than 9,000 books in 64 languages and thousands of diverse objects. This past winter, two exhibits were presented — one at the Lied Education Center for the Arts at Creighton and the other at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. Below is a listing of some of the unique pieces displayed on campus.

- 1 Bronze tea pots from China (copies of ancient pots)
- 2 Royal Winton Tableware in porcelain from England, c. 1920
- 3 Knife rests by Benjamin Rabier, bronze with gold plating, from France, c. 1930
- 4 Molas (handmade material that forms part of the traditional outfit of the Guna people): Kuna mola depicting *The Wolf and the Crane*, Panama, c. 1970, and mola depicting *The Tortoise and the Hare*, Panama, c. 1960
- 5 Ties: French tie depicting *The Fox and the Crow*, Hermès, c. 1980; American tie depicting *The Tortoise and the Hare*, Brooks Brothers, c. 1990
- 6 French needlepoint depicting *The Fox and the Stork*, 18th century
- 7 *Aesop's Fables the Smothers Brothers Way*, read by Tom and Dick Smothers, c. 1965 (pictured above)
- 8 Board game depicting *The Tortoise and the Hair*, c. 1978

View images of the items listed above at [creighton.edu/creightonmagazine](http://creighton.edu/creightonmagazine).

the place means to the people who live there. “With problems like these, we need to see other worldviews for any hope of addressing those challenges successfully,” he explains.

He hopes that his research can help facilitate informed conversations about environmental concerns within and between local governments, businesses and other groups.

O’Keefe, a documentary filmmaker as well as a theologian, is exploring the aesthetic and spiritual aspects of the Sandhills. He seeks to capture the unique relationship between the people and land, interwoven with highlights from Leighter and Vinton’s work, in a documentary. O’Keefe is also capturing drone footage — little of which exists of the Sandhills — for the documentary and Vinton’s analyses.

The NASA-funded portion of the project includes a strong undergraduate research component. Students will conduct fieldwork, including collecting plant samples, recording interviews and shooting documentary footage.

### Tackling Climate Change on Sapelo Island, Georgia

BY LISA FOSTER, BA’92

**Climate change is upon us.** Just ask John Schalles, PhD, biology professor in the College of Arts and Sciences. “It’s everywhere,” he says. “Ecologists are finding the signals in places they study.” For Schalles and his students, finding the effects of climate change involves studies in the coastal and near-shore ecosystems of the northern Gulf of Mexico and southeastern Atlantic regions. Their main — but not exclusive — area of focus is the salt marshes at and near Sapelo Island, Georgia.

“With the help of a recently expired 15-year NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Educational Partnership Program) grant and continuing funding from the NSF (National Science Foundation) ☞



## Hoop Dreams

© Members of the Creighton women’s basketball team celebrate during the Bluejays’ first-round NCAA Tournament win over Iowa. Creighton is one of only six schools to have its men’s and women’s teams play in the NCAA Tournament in both 2017 and 2018. (The others are Duke, Florida State, Gonzaga, Miami and UCLA.)

Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research), we documented a serious decline in the growth of *Spartina alterniflora* — more commonly known as marsh cordgrass — on Sapelo Island,” Schalles says. “Four students are currently helping me with the research, but I’ve taken about 200 students to the University of Georgia Marine Institute at Sapelo for field courses and research since the 1980s.

“Some of these stories take decades of data to unravel. You have to be patient to get the answers. I also emphasize to my students that clinical objectivity is vital in ecological research.”

Schalles and current graduate student John O’Donnell discovered,



**HENRY JAMES REVIEW**

The scholarly journal *Henry James Review* will have a new home at Creighton beginning next year. **Greg Zacharias, PhD**, professor of English and director of the Center for Henry James Studies, will serve as the journal’s new editor.

using data from U.S. Geological Survey Landsat satellites, that *S. alterniflora* aboveground biomass decreased by about one-third between 1984 and present. Cordgrass is the dominant species in East Coast salt marshes, and the GCE investigators observe it as one measure of ecosystem health. The changes documented are primarily the result of shifts in climate-related drought and river discharge patterns. Schalles and O’Donnell’s 2016 paper in the journal *Remote Sensing* is spotlighted by NSF-GCE as an example of the project’s transformational science.

The NOAA and NSF-funded coastal work of Schalles and his students involves collaborations with a dozen

universities. The GCE project is funded in six-year increments, and a renewal proposal was just submitted. “I have been a professor at Creighton since 1979, yet I have always found ways to return to Georgia. It is a ‘second home’ to me, as I completed my PhD at Emory University in Atlanta,” Schalles says. “I’ve always been able to have both Nebraska and Georgia’s environments ever-present in my world.”

### Creighton Hosts Japan 360

**Renowned Japanese economist** Koichi Hamada, PhD, spoke at Creighton in March during Japan 360, a two-day

celebration of the friendship and cultural exchange between the U.S. and Japan. Hamada, a special adviser to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, focused on growth in the global economy and the sustained relationship between the two nations.

Other events included a tea ceremony and a panel discussion on economics, along with demonstrations of sushi making, music, dance, ikebana floral arranging and martial arts.

“This was a wonderful demonstration of Creighton’s global reach,” said Maorong Jiang, PhD, professor of political science and director of the Asian World Center, who organized the event.

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#### HEALTH BRIEFS

## Infant Study to Look at Autism

*Could a helmet help us better understand autism?*

Anastasia Kyvelidou, PhD, assistant professor of physical therapy, is hoping a helmet-like device, in combination with other motor and language measures, could be a way to discover early signs of autism and the connection between motor skill delays and social behavior in infants.

Here’s how it works: A cap is placed on an infant’s head, and sensors track where the child’s eyes are moving. Are they looking at the toy in front of them, at other people around them or off into space?

“With this technology, we can pick up those differences really early on,” Kyvelidou says.

The team started its studies early this year. The goal is to develop an early indicator on whether and to what extent a child falls on the autism spectrum and to describe the development of autism in high-risk populations of infants. Currently, the average age of diagnosis is between 5 and 6 years old.

“We are missing an opportunity to intervene,” Kyvelidou says. “We can reduce symptoms of the disorder.”

This summer, Kyvelidou and her team hope to submit a National Institutes of Health grant and expand their study in more infants and more at-risk populations. In the future, this data will serve as the basis for early interventions.

### Looking to Help Parkinson’s Patients Walk

A team of pharmacology researchers in the School of Medicine has earned a two-year, \$412,400 National Institutes of Health grant to help people experiencing gross motor dysfunction in Parkinson’s disease.

The grant, led by Shashank Dravid, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology, will examine the effects of drug therapy on a receptor in nerve cells tied to such activities as walking. The misfiring of the nerve cells, housed in the brain’s *globus pallidus* structure, is suspected to cause difficulty in movement and immobility.

“Serendipitously, many of the drugs that have been recently discovered work selectively on the receptor we are interested in,” Dravid said. “Everything has started, unexpectedly, to go in that direction. We’re hoping to find new drugs or new uses for a drug tied to that receptor that can help correct it and help people get walking.”

### Targeting a Main Cause of Waterborne Disease

Researcher Xian-Ming Chen, MD, a professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine, has received a \$1.8 million National Institutes

of Health grant to find how long non-coding RNA molecules are involved in the host defense in the intestinal tract from *cryptosporidium*.

Cryptosporidiosis is one of the leading causes of waterborne disease in the United States and the common cause of diarrhea in young children in developing countries. Public swimming pools and day cares across the country are closed every year due to the disease.

Most people recover within a couple of weeks. However, for those with compromised immune systems, particularly those with late-stage diagnosed HIV and other immune deficiencies, infection can result in persistent, debilitating and possibly fatal diarrhea and wasting. This research could lead to a new, targeted approach in treating cryptosporidiosis, for which there is currently no fully effective treatment available.

### Banding Together to Fight Obesity

With one in five school-aged children (ages 6-19) in the U.S. classified as obese, the College of Nursing collaborated with two local elementary schools and local authors Tammy Olson and Debra Gray to institute a unique program that encouraged healthy habits using Olson and Gray’s book *Alex Chan and His Balanced Body Bands*.



**NURSING HALL OF FAME**

**Linda Lazure, PhD**, associate professor emerita of nursing, who served as a professor and administrator at Creighton for 35 years, has been inducted into the Nebraska Nurses Association Hall of Fame.

A three-month pilot program at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Omaha resulted in students consuming more vegetables, protein and dairy and spending less time in front of the computer or television. In a follow-up study at Dundee Elementary School, students increased their daily servings of fruits, vegetables and protein and increased their physical activity.

In addition to the book, which chronicles a superhero boy who inspires healthy habits, students were given wristbands, award stickers and access to a mobile app to encourage and track participation.

St. Vincent also held all-school rallies promoting healthy habits. While at Dundee, undergraduate Creighton nursing students gave weekly classroom presentations.

“The kids loved it,” said Misty Schwartz, PhD, one of the nursing faculty members overseeing the original study. “In addition, the parents thought it was effective in motivating their children.”

A report on the St. Vincent de Paul study was recently published in the *Journal of Childhood Obesity*. Both studies were led by students in Creighton’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program.



DAVID POHL

# Bracket Builder

**Bruce Rasmussen** has been at Creighton for 38 years as a coach and director of athletics. As chair of the 2017-2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee, he led the team that selected the at-large bids, and seeded and bracketed qualifying schools, for this year's 68-team March Madness tournament. He's overseen the addition and renovation of athletic facilities at Creighton, and he was at the center of a recent gift to endow the athletic director position. *Creighton* magazine had a chance to catch up with Rasmussen – now in his 24th year as athletic director – before the “madness” of March, during a break in his always-hecky schedule. Following are excerpts from that interview.

**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE:** How does the committee (composed of 10 athletic directors from around the country) go about choosing teams for the NCAA Tournament?

**BR:** First, understand that the NCAA Tournament is not set up so that the 68 “best” teams are in it. Each conference — and there are 32 conferences — sends a representative or conference champion. The committee's responsibility is to pick the 36 best remaining teams, and then put the 68 tournament teams in the proper order — from 1 to 68 — and into a bracket, with some restrictions and qualifiers. (For instance, top-seeded teams are assigned to regions closest to home, and rematches from the season are discouraged in early rounds.)

**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE:** What's the atmosphere like in the room during the selection process?

**BR:** I would compare it to a jury. First of all, there are hundreds of votes that take place during Selection Week to put teams into the tournament and then to put them in order — 1 to 68. And there's always a lot of dialogue that takes place.

The last part of the process is called scrubbing. We take the No. 1 overall team and we compare it to No. 2. We basically have a trial, for lack of a better term, during which we talk about the strengths and weaknesses of Team A and Team B, and why Team A should be No. 1 or vice versa.

Then we take the second team and compare it to the third, and the third to the fourth. And, for instance, if we thought the No. 3 team was better than No. 2, we move them, and then we compare the new No. 2 to No. 1. It's a very intensive and extensive process. There's a lot of discussion, sometimes heated. But what I've found is that the communication among the committee members is critical to the process.

**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE:** How many basketball games do you watch during the season?

**BR:** It's rare that I don't watch at least four games a day. My normal routine is I'm typically on the treadmill at 6, and I can watch two (recorded) games and be done by 7:15 or 7:30. I have a voice-activated tape recorder for taking notes. Then I'll come to Creighton and put those notes into my computer. I have binders in my office for all the major conferences with box scores and notes. I also think there's some real value in seeing teams in person. You see their size and strength. You see their chemistry. You see how they react when things don't go their way.

**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE:** How will the recent gift from Dick (HON'88) and Mary Pat (BS'62) McCormick, establishing the McCormick Endowed Athletic Director position, help the Athletic Department?

**BR:** First, it's a great commitment that Dick and Mary Pat McCormick have made to Creighton University and Creighton University Athletics. The McCormicks have been longtime, tremendous supporters of Creighton. This endowment gives the Athletic Department an ability to be flexible with our budget needs, and it allows us to continue to put forward a quality Division I program without putting excess strain on the budget.

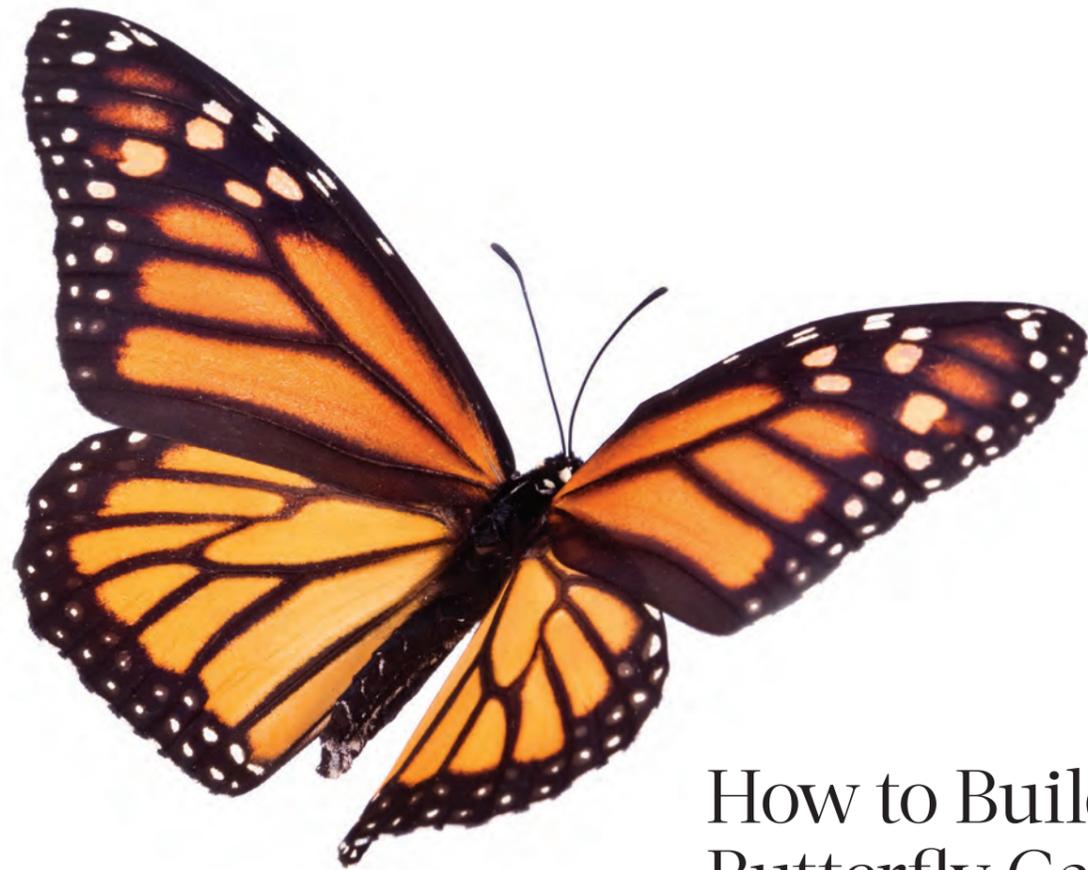
**CREIGHTON MAGAZINE:** In December, you announced that Creighton will build a \$4.5 million practice facility just east of the Ryan Center/Sokol Arena, primarily for women's basketball and volleyball. Can you talk about that project?

**BR:** The new gym allows us to replace all of the gym space that we vacated in the Vinardi Center or Old Gym. (That area was converted into a high-tech Pharmacy Skills Lab.) It gives us not only an additional facility where our players can practice, but it gives us another facility for campus and community use. Our facilities are very heavily used, so this will be a great addition when it's completed sometime this year.



“I feel like March Madness is the greatest sporting event in the world.”

BRUCE RASMUSSEN



## How to Build a Butterfly Garden

BY ADAM KLINKER

If you're not quite ready for the potentially millions of visitors who might be descending on your neighborhood this spring and summer, don't panic.

There's still time to plant your butterfly garden.

Monarch butterflies overwinter in the fir forests of central Mexico's highlands and will soon be making their first appearance in the Midwest — on one of the world's longest and most amazing insect migrations — looking to eat and lay eggs on a buffet of beautiful and crucial plants.

Biology professor Ted Burk, DPhil, long an advocate of rolling out the smorgasbord for our winged friends, offers a few selections for making your yard a stopover for monarchs and other butterflies.



### PLANT MILKWEED

First on Burk's list is milkweed, particularly *Asclepias incarnata*, known popularly as swamp milkweed. But don't let the name deter you — milkweed is a perennial plant that brings forth a splendid palette of blooms to complement any garden. Mature monarchs will feed from the plant's flowers, but the biggest draw of milkweed for monarchs is as a place to lay eggs. That's because the plant's leaves are the singular diet of monarch caterpillars, who will hatch and immediately get to work on fattening up.

Other varieties of milkweed are also attractive to other butterflies, including common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).



### ADD WILDFLOWERS

For mature monarchs and other butterflies, a good, colorful mix of wildflowers is Burk's recommendation. Tall thistle, goldenrod, ironweed, New England aster, zinnia and wild bergamot are favorite foods of the monarch, but plants such as rosinweed, partridge pea, heath aster, false boneset and bush clover will help make your backyard a can't-miss stopover for such species as the orange sulphur, the eastern-tailed blue, the painted lady and the silver-spotted skipper.



### SPRINKLE IN A LITTLE OF THIS AND THAT

For black swallowtail caterpillars, Burk suggests planting anything in the carrot family — carrots, parsley, fennel, dill. Caterpillars of fritillaries like violets, sulphurs like plants in the clover family and if you can reserve an out-of-the-way place in the garden, plant a patch of stinging nettles for red admirals. Hackberry trees are also a popular egg-laying and caterpillar-feeding ground for many butterflies, and cherry and willow trees are also popular haunts.



### FINALLY, BEE FRIENDLY ... IT MIGHT EVEN BOOST YOUR VEGETABLE CROP

Planting butterfly-friendly plants can also increase the appearance of other important insects in your garden, and it may help your own space flourish.

"The flowers that butterflies love are also favorites of bees, which are the most important pollinators, so when one does something for butterflies, one is also helping out other important species," Burk says.

"You might even get better vegetable crops as a result of having larger pollinator populations."



### LIMIT PESTICIDES

"Limiting pesticide use as much as possible in your garden helps butterflies and other beneficial insects thrive," Burk says. He advises: When buying new flowering plants from a garden center or big-box store, be sure the plants haven't been pretreated with insecticides, or you may kill the flower visitors that are attracted to the new plants in your garden.

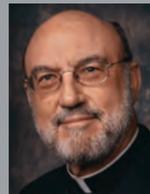




REFLECTIONS

# An Enduring Flame

**The Rev. Richard Hauser, SJ**, who established the popular candlelight Mass that attracted students across the decades, died on April 3. He began at Creighton as a theology instructor in 1972, and served in numerous roles. But he wanted the Mass to be his legacy. He often said his fundamental calling was to help all people see God's presence in their lives. His light continues to shine in those touched by his gracious spirit.



Memorials are requested to the Fr. Hauser Scholarship Fund, [creighton.edu/Hauser](http://creighton.edu/Hauser).

# JUSTICE in the BALANCE

BY ADAM KLINKER

In representing detainees at Guantanamo, Creighton law alumnus and students seek to uphold the rule of law

It's a few days before Thanksgiving last year and U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Jason Wareham, JD'07, is sitting in yet another Beltway traffic jam. He is fresh off a two-week stay at Camp Justice — the little postage stamp of American soil on the American postcard that is Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — where five defendants, accused of masterminding the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, are being detained and tried in what is described by the government as the largest murder case in American history.

Wareham is on the defense team for one of the men accused in the 9/11 plot, Ammar al Baluchi, and he is called to Guantanamo regularly for hearings and meetings with his client.

"Like a lot of people, I didn't know much about the military commissions until I was assigned to them," says Wareham, a Creighton University School of Law alumnus who began work with the commissions in the spring of 2016.



"But like most people who familiarize themselves with it, it's clear that this is one of the most important legal battles going on in the U.S. today," he says, adding that his views do not reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the United States government, or any agency or instrumentality thereof. "Anything that happens out of this will have a massive and lasting impact on the entire federal court system. It's probably the biggest rule-of-law knife fight in history."

It's a fight that many in the U.S. and abroad have left to a small but dedicated cadre of both military and civilian lawyers who are, in the minds of many, defending the indefensible: a group of men who stand accused of masterminding the deaths of thousands of

"When it comes to the defense of the rule of law at Guantanamo, when it comes to these defendants, I think someday we're going to look back and realize that this was either a defining moment of character or of failure."

MAJ. JASON WAREHAM, JD'07



people in events that have served to galvanize American patriotism and alter the nation's politics in the profoundest ways since the Great Depression and World War II.

All the more reason, say Wareham and a group of Creighton law students who are part of a joint legal and governmental education program, to provide that defense.

"In the end, it's not just that you're defending the accused," says Amber Foley, BA'15, a third-year student in the law school's Government Organization and Leadership (GOAL) program, which has become a pipeline of sorts for Creighton students to work on the defense teams of the Guantanamo detainees. "You're defending the Constitution, where that right to counsel is written. In order for there to be justice for all, that zealous advocacy on behalf of your client — no matter what they're accused of — is part of it. And the transparency of a legal

proceeding is not only for the client. It's for the American public and international community to see that fair procedures should be at work."

A sergeant and a military police officer in the U.S. Army, Anna Wright, MS'15, JD'15, has seen and known intimately the workings of military justice. After a deployment in 2011, she decided that she wanted to go to law school and take up work as a military attorney for the Department of Defense. Creighton's GOAL program seemed like the best way to make that happen.

Students in the program spend the first semester of their third year of law school living in Washington, D.C., and participating in a full-time externship with a federal agency or congressional committee or office. Students have worked at the Department of State, Department of Justice, the Senate

and the National Mediation Service, among other agencies.

Landing in D.C. in 2015, Wright met the GOAL liaison in D.C., Michaela Sims, JD'96, who said a new opportunity was emerging, based on a conversation Sims had with someone at her church.

"It was just one of those who-you-know things that happen in Washington," Wright says. "But at the end of the day, Michaela asked if I'd be interested in working on the Military Commission Defense Organization (MCDO) and maybe going down to Guantanamo. So I went to the law offices of James G. Connell III, got a security clearance, and went to work for the MCDO. It was a pretty incredible experience, especially considering how receptive everyone was to having a law school student intern working on one of the biggest cases in the country's history."

With Connell, one of the civilian defense attorneys for the five accused 9/11 conspirators, Wright threw herself into the work on al Baluchi's case. She had always considered herself an advocate for the exercise of the full protections of the law and, in zealously advocating for al Baluchi, Wright said she went even further down the track, coming to a more robust appreciation for human rights and the crucial standards of due process. As a soldier, however, Wright said she was equally aware of certain factions snipping away at what the MCDO was doing, and the sideways looks she sometimes got.

"There were friends of mine, family even, wondering how I could dare do this," she recalls. "How could anyone defend someone accused of masterminding 9/11? I get that. But this was such a groundbreaking case. Who gets that kind of opportunity when you're still a law student? For me, it still resonates. We were working on a case with no precedent, arguing and trying to create new precedent. The whole process was set up so we could convict and kill these guys and, until the lawyers on the defense got involved, that might have happened. And I'd say it's a good thing the defense lawyers got involved and are fighting for their clients. It says something about the system of justice we want to have in this country, the system we idealize in this country."

For Wright, Foley, Wareham, and a growing pipeline of Creighton lawyers and law students who have taken or continue to take an active role in MCDO, this is the central thrust of not only their legal education, but their moral and ethical one, too: to fight the good fight of the rule of law. Creighton students working on these cases have found themselves often the only law students working for the defense, a front-row seat to history.

The recent developments at Guantanamo, coupled with the current American presidential administration's renewed interest in interrogation methods that have been criticized as torture, have again made the cases of the alleged 9/11 plotters at least newsworthy. The fact that many of the accused have been consigned to more than 15 years in a limbo of hearings and confinement, of justice delayed, deferred or even forgotten, may be a telling statement of how the U.S. reckons itself and its systems since that clear September day in 2001.



Amber Foley, BA'15  
Third-year law student

**“In the end, it’s not just that you’re defending the accused. You’re defending the Constitution, where that right to counsel is written.”**

Nearly three-quarters of a century ago in the aftermath of World War II, the U.S. took a strong hand in bringing swift, consequential justice to a group of international criminals — the leaders of Nazi Germany who orchestrated the systematic murder of 6 million Jews and millions of Poles, Slavs, Romani and others they labeled subhuman or a drain on society. Robert Jackson, an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, reflected on the proceedings by saying, “That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that Power has ever paid to Reason.”

With agreed upon procedures and judicial codicils, the defendants at Nuremberg were tried, convicted or acquitted, and sentenced in what is generally agreed upon as one of the sterling moments in American jurisprudence, as much of the proceedings were carried out on the strength of the U.S. system. Following the Nuremberg Trials, however, the U.S. largely absented itself from international criminal law, deciding in subsequent incidents to keep its own counsel.

Now ranged up against a criminal enterprise that reached into several other nations and abrogated the social and religious fabric of the Middle East and Afghanistan with two wars, on a little corner of American soil in Cuba, the 9/11 detainees spool out their uncertain fates.

“This is the anti-Nuremberg,” Wareham says. “The fairness of the process at Nuremberg was of primary importance. What’s happening at Guantanamo is discovery going on over a



Scott Straus, MS'17, JD'17

**“When I got into the cases and went to Guantanamo and saw what was going on, I saw that the government, with the commissions, was abusing the rule of law based on what we’d learned in law school.”**

decade, defendants left to rot, the rules being made up as we go along. That’s not to say that I ascribe much malice to the prosecution; it’s just the way things have gone. I hope someday we will look back on this and we’ve learned something, but it’s hard to say that right now.”

The prosecution at Guantanamo has not given an interview or press briefing on the 9/11 case since October 2017. Contacted for this article, a spokesperson for the prosecution declined comment. A request by the prosecution to order both prosecution and defense to limit statements about the case made outside the courtroom has not been ruled on by the judge.

**W**hen Scott Straus, MS'17, JD'17, landed in D.C. in the summer of 2016, he figured he would find himself in a bustling office in one bureau or agency or another, learning the ways of the circuit and discovering the many roles a lawyer can play in the Beltway. He was curious about the ethics of governmental service.

What he found in the military commissions, he says, was an abrading of the ideals he’d been taught in law school and a generally questionable set of rules governing a new, untried and questionable legal process.

“I didn’t go into the GOAL program thinking anything about the military commissions,” Straus says. “But when I got into the cases and went to Guantanamo and saw what was going on, I saw that the government, with the commissions, was abusing the rule of law based on what we’d learned in law school. Granted, the whole process is novel. But Mr. al Baluchi has been subjected to extreme rendition for three



Anna Wright, MS'15, JD'15

**“There were friends of mine, family even, wondering how I could dare do this. How could anyone defend someone accused of masterminding 9/11?”**

or four years. He’s been tortured. I couldn’t even begin to articulate my dismay.”

Indeed, al Baluchi’s case formed some of the basis for the opening scenes of *Zero Dark Thirty*, Kathryn Bigelow’s 2012 film about the conclusion of the manhunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, in which a man is shown being tortured to give up information about bin Laden. According to reports from the *Miami Herald’s* Carol Rosenberg, the only journalist covering the proceedings at Guantanamo, the film was shown by al Baluchi’s lawyers who argued the CIA had allowed Bigelow access to evidence on al Baluchi’s case while denying the defendant’s own lawyers similar access.

“It really is being done entirely in the shadows,” Straus says.

**B**eyond the legal underpinnings of the military commissions, the Creighton students and alumni who have taken an active hand in the defense say their experience at the Creighton School of Law provided a more thorough insight into criminal defense as a matter of social justice. Beyond the countless hours of discovery and pleadings and thousands upon thousands of pages of reading, a more complete, more discerning picture of the defense has taken shape.

Brandon Barrata, a third-year student in the GOAL program, has assisted in the defense of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was captured in March 2003 and has been referred to in the *9/11 Commission Report* as the architect of the 9/11 attacks.

“Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, he’s a human being, first and foremost,” Barrata says. “And as



Brandon Barrata  
Third-year law student

**“Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, he’s a human being, first and foremost. And as human beings, we have certain inalienable rights. That transcends the severity of the crime.”**

human beings, we have certain inalienable rights. That transcends the severity of the crime. And because what happened on 9/11 happened on American soil, we still owe those who are accused the rights they’d have in an American courtroom. I came into law school wanting to be a prosecutor but this internship, being on the other side and seeing the differences, has opened me up to the idea of defense work, precisely because something like what’s happening at Guantanamo Bay has gone off the radar for so many people.”

**C**reighton’s role in the military commissions is one students and alumni are hoping can continue, given the law school’s interests in international law.

“Scott Straus’ enthusiasm and dedication paved the way for me to come on the following year, and I knew it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Foley says. “From spending a day at United Nations Headquarters witnessing our team’s advocacy for international human rights to the research skills I gained working on this complex criminal case — there is no other opportunity quite like it.

“The mentoring I received from Maj. Wareham throughout the externship extended that Creighton connection. I think it’s something we’d like to see continue. It speaks highly of the inclusive environment on Team al Baluchi and the school’s values to encourage law students to seek truth and justice.”

And with the wider goal of bringing justice to a complicated scenario, the students and alumni involved say they are putting into practice the theories, ideals and values they’ve learned in the Creighton classrooms, with a hope of bending this chapter in American history toward justice.

“The people who are working on these cases have been so passionate,” Wright says. “It is a great cause, the cause of justice, and I can only feel that it is helping to build those who have taken part into better attorneys.”

“Very few of us can say what the law is at any one time,” adds Wareham. “At the end of the day, though, it’s a microcosm of what we believe about ourselves as far as the American value of justice. When it comes to the defense of the rule of law at Guantanamo, when it comes to these defendants, I think someday we’re going to look back and realize that this was either a defining moment of character or of failure.”

## Creighton’s Watts Provides Expert Testimony at Guantanamo

The complexities and challenges of the military commissions for accused terrorists being detained and tried at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have regularly required the expert testimony of leading figures in international criminal law.

One such expert is Creighton law professor Sean Watts, JD. With 15 alleged al-Qaeda conspirators in U.S. custody and charged with planning the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the attack on the *USS Cole* in 2000, the military commissions have spent more than a decade on questions of military and international law in putting the men on trial. In December, Watts served as a witness for the defense on the rules of armed conflict in international law, specifically regarding the existence of a state of war between the United States and al-Qaeda, the terrorist organization that claimed responsibility for the 9/11 attacks.

“Law-of-war offenses, such as those the alleged 9/11 conspirators are charged with, can only arise during periods when armed conflict exists,” Watts says. “International law recognizes that armed conflict can exist between nations and private groups. But the standard requires that the group in question be sufficiently organized and that violence between the nation and private group be of sufficient intensity to characterize that violence as armed conflict. I provided the court with elaborations of that definition and some examples of how past situations of violence between nations and private groups had been classified as either armed conflict or something less than that.”

The history of military commissions dates to at least the Revolutionary War, Watts says, and they’ve been used with greater frequency since the end of World War II, when an international tribunal at Nuremberg tried the surviving leaders of Nazi Germany for crimes against humanity. Watts says this most recent iteration of a commission, to try the alleged 9/11 conspirators, has garnered attention for its departure from the usual standards governing such commissions, usually drawn from courts-martial in the U.S. military.

Watts also notes the further extraordinary nature of the commissions on several fronts, including the lengthy proceedings, from challenges to the legitimacy of the commissions to the complexity of the issues, and even the choice of location for the trials.

“It is a difficult place to travel to and the facilities remain temporary and ad hoc,” he says. “It seems many of the reasons the government selected the base as the site for detention and trial have disappeared, raising questions about the wisdom of this location.”

As a professor in international criminal law who has co-led the School of Law’s annual trip to Nuremberg, Germany, in the summer, Watts has followed the proceedings at Guantanamo and the work of Creighton students and alumni who have been a part of the Military Commission Defense Organization (MCDO) there, some as part of the School of Law’s Government Organization and Leadership (GOAL) program.

“Creighton law has had outsized participation in the commissions,” Watts says. “The opportunities provided by our GOAL master’s degree program have contributed to this phenomenon. The law school’s focus on producing expert, zealous and ethical advocates, able to adapt to unfamiliar and in some ways novel proceedings, has made our students and graduates a natural fit for this high-profile, historically significant and challenging litigation.”



**“The law school’s focus on producing expert, zealous and ethical advocates ... has made our students and graduates a natural fit for this high-profile, historically significant and challenging litigation.”**

SEAN WATTS, JD

# THE OPIOID CRISIS

A Creighton  
Perspective

BY Cindy Murphy McMahon, BA'74



DAVE WEAVER

“I definitely feel God in my life. I tell students what’s really important in life, after God and spirituality, has got to be your family. Your profession has got to come third.”

CURT BARR, PHARM.D, BSPHA'74

© Curt Barr, PharmD, BSPHA'74, with a photo of his youngest son, Brad, who died of an accidental prescription drug overdose.

**T**he two friends have forged many bonds over more than 20 years. A primary connection is their profession, pharmacy. There’s their mutual interest in soccer — one referees, the other one’s sons played. And then there’s the strength they both find in their respective faiths.

But one of their strongest bonds concerns loss. The gut-wrenching loss of loved ones gone too soon from this life. The missing memories that will never be. The grief and mourning that take turns beating a person up with “Why?” and “If only.”

And because of those losses, Curt Barr, PharmD, BSPHA'74, assistant dean for alumni relations in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and friend and colleague Ed DeSimone, PhD, professor of pharmacy sciences, share another commitment: fighting substance abuse, addiction and, especially, the opioid epidemic.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), more than 115 Americans die daily after overdosing on opioids. The NIDA, among other federal agencies, has called misuse of and addiction to opioids — including prescription pain relievers, heroin and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl — a national crisis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the U.S. economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of health care, lost productivity, addiction treatment and criminal justice involvement.

How did we get in this situation? According to the NIDA, in the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to prescription opioid pain relievers, and health care providers began to prescribe them at greater rates.

The opioid battlefield is three-pronged: prevention, treatment and law enforcement. Barr and DeSimone are concentrating their efforts on prevention through education. It’s a fight that keeps them doing all in their power, in the classroom and in the community, to save other families from the pain theirs have experienced.

DeSimone’s 24-year-old nephew died from heroin, and Barr lost his 24-year-old son to an accidental prescription drug overdose.

“I’m not me anymore. Anyone who loses a son or daughter has a new normal,” says Barr, whose youngest son, Brad, died in 2005 after ingesting prescription painkillers with friends.

## WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

Opioids are a class of painkilling drugs.

Legal, prescription opioids include:

- > oxycodone (OxyContin)
- > hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- > codeine
- > methadone
- > tramadol
- > pharmaceutical fentanyl (50 to 100 times more potent than morphine)

Illegal opioids include:

- > heroin
- > illegally made and sold fentanyl (used to intensify the effects or “high” of other drugs such as heroin)



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

At the time, Barr was teaching pharmacy at Creighton, owned a community pharmacy and a medical supply business, and had been serving in leadership roles for multiple pharmacy and community organizations — local, state and national.

He was attending a meeting for one of those organizations on Brad’s last night. The meeting ended early and he got home in time to talk to his son, who had stopped over to see Mom and Dad before going out with friends. “He visited with my wife and then he waited for me to come home from my board meeting. I got to see him

and spend a few minutes with him,” Barr says. “Brad and I were so much alike. We thought alike. We’re both risk-takers, and he had an entrepreneurial spirit like me.”

Brad had played soccer on his high school team, taking state his junior year. He was studying accounting. He did not have a substance abuse problem, and Barr says his son knew not to mix drugs and alcohol. The events that took his life were more of an aberration, a fluke.

Medical records showed Brad had the equivalent of one beer in his system, in addition to the prescription drugs, Barr says. “According to the friends who were there, he had consumed two beers that night,” he adds.

“In the talks I give, I ask, when will two beers kill you? Alcohol changes your mind. It makes people, especially young people, think, ‘Maybe this won’t hurt me; I’m immortal.’ And the more alcohol you drink, your mind gets blurred, gets foggy. If you’re not used to it (taking prescription drugs for recreational purposes), and Brad wasn’t, you can die, and even if you are, you can die.”

DeSimone’s history with substance abuse, on the other hand, stretches back for his entire life.

“I’m an adult child of an alcoholic,” says DeSimone, whose father died at 49. “In my lecture ‘Adult Children of Addicts,’ I talk about how my father was in World War II and, in retrospect, if he were alive today, I think they would say he had PTSD. He drank heavily all the time.

“He actually had, around the time I was born, three-quarters of his stomach removed

because it had been eroded so badly by alcohol, a subtotal gastrectomy. He didn’t eat much and he was very thin. He drank more than he ate.”

As a kid, DeSimone knew every bar in the neighborhood because his mother would send him out to find his father. “I would hit the bars until I found him. He also was a smoker. He developed cancer of the mouth and throat. They took out two pieces of his jawbone and half of his tongue.”

One of DeSimone’s most painful memories is playing ball in the street with his friends in North Jersey, where he grew up. “The worst thing was for my dad to come home while I was playing ball with my friends. He was obviously drunk, staggering, and to be a teenager and have your friends see that, was very embarrassing, and frustrating, and I spent a good part of my life trying to recover from that.”

More recently, about six years ago, his family was thrown into grief again when his nephew died during a heroin relapse.

“My nephew had an anxiety disorder, he had depression, he had bipolar disorder. The drugs of abuse took away the pain, the effects of all these psychiatric disorders,” DeSimone says. “And the drugs that were used to treat the psychological problems made him feel worse.

“He’d call me all the time. He’d say, ‘They put me on seven different drugs,’ and I’d say, ‘Don’t stop taking them,’ but he would say, ‘I already did.’ He would go back to using heroin because heroin made him feel better.”

His nephew started using heroin at 16 and eight years later it killed him, even though he

was in recovery multiple times. “He was on medication, going to Narcotics Anonymous,” DeSimone says, “but one day he just relapsed.”

This heartbreaking personal example points out the complexity of substance use disorders, which DeSimone teaches to Creighton pharmacy and physical therapy students, as well as health care professionals and community groups.

In his presentations, DeSimone explains the components of psychoactive substance abuse, which include varying neurochemical factors in the brain related to genetics, pleasure, memory, stress and craving.

“There’s a subgroup of people who get legitimate prescriptions for legitimate problems in terms of pain who become addicted to these drugs. Once the addiction sets in, they have to fight the addiction the rest of their lives,” says DeSimone.

“The majority who have an addiction problem chose to use in the first place. My nephew initially chose to use, it was recreational. But these drugs are powerful. The newer drugs are even more powerful.

“Once you cross that line into addiction, you’ve got a different situation. A door behind you closes, as these drugs change your brain chemistry. Would that line vary from person to person? Yes. This is a disease of stress, environment, genetics — it is not a simple disease.”

Coalition Rx, a nonprofit community advocacy organization of which DeSimone is president and chairman, recently produced a video for the Nebraska Regional Poison Center

## “Opioids don’t discriminate. Every demographic is at risk, and this has really become a challenge for emergency responders.”

DAN STEIN, BSEMS’12, MSEMS’16  
Firefighter Paramedic with the Council Bluffs (Iowa) Fire Department



## A CAMPUS-WIDE APPROACH

Other Creighton University faculty members from a variety of disciplines are addressing the opioid crisis through research, education and outreach. They include:

**Tom Murray, PhD**, professor of pharmacology in the School of Medicine and Creighton’s provost, is doing research on developing pain relievers with less abuse potential, with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Defense. His molecular pharmacology laboratory, with the help of research technician Bridget Sefranek, is studying opioid receptors in the brain with the goal of developing analgesic pain relievers that are safer to use.

**Amy Pick, PharmD**, associate professor of pharmacy practice, addresses the growing need for opioid education among health professionals. She speaks on pain management, including the role of opioids in the management of acute and chronic pain. “Many health professionals receive limited education on opioids,” she says. “Pharmacists can play a key role in providing this education.” In Nebraska, pharmacists can dispense naloxone, the opioid reversal agent,

without a prescription, and Pick says other states have similar legislation.

Assistant professor **Kelly Dineen, JD, PhD**, director of the Health Law Program in the School of Law, says opioids sit at the intersection of health care, law, ethics and public policy. She brings 11 years of experience as a nurse to the health law classroom and has authored multiple law review articles about the crisis and the implications for patients with pain, addiction and

related disorders. She co-edited *Prescription Drug Diversion and Pain: History, Policy and Treatment*, soon to be published by Oxford University Press, and authored chapters in that volume.

The **Creighton University Health Sciences Continuing Education Consortium**, composed of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Professions, the College of Nursing and clinical partner CHI Health, hosted its

17th Annual Pain Management Conference in March. The conference for regional health care providers addressed issues related to opioid prescribing and abuse.

**Kandis McCafferty, PhD**, assistant professor of nursing, is collaborating with pharmacy faculty on a health professional literature search to identify the need and subsequent preventive measures to combat the crisis from the ground up.

**Sam Augustine, PharmD**, professor of pharmacy practice, is a member of the Attorney General’s Opioid Coalition, which is working to address opioid problems in Nebraska.

**Kate Nolt, MPH, PhD**, assistant professor and coordinator of the Master’s in Public Health (MPH) practicum program, has been involved in this issue for 15 years, specializing in prevention and treatment among youth and adults.

She says several MPH students have chosen to address the opioid epidemic as part of their practicum experiences. They are analyzing data on the impact of opioids, creating programs to help families cope with a loved one who is suffering or has died from misuse, and helping implement community and school prevention programs.



DAVE WEAVER

“There’s a subgroup of people who get legitimate prescriptions for legitimate problems in terms of pain who become addicted to these drugs. Once the addiction sets in, they have the addiction the rest of their lives.”

EDWARD DESIMONE, PHD  
Professor of Pharmacy Sciences

that featured several parents of young people who had died from overdoses. Barr was one of those in the video.

“The biggest users of drugs are the young people,” DeSimone says. “According to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), it’s the 18- to 25-year-old age group where you see the highest levels of drug use. That’s why I’m big on education and prevention — we need to get them to think about what they’re doing before they start to do it.

“The dads in the video all basically said the same thing — their sons were just going along with everyone else, they didn’t even think it was dangerous. Especially with prescription drugs made by legitimate pharmaceutical companies, with prescriptions written by physicians and medication dispensed by pharmacists, they think they (the drugs) can’t be bad.”

Barr says after his son died, and some time had passed, he decided he needed to do more

research about substance abuse.

“I found all the talks I gave here and all around the country about addiction were basically wrong in their approach. I found that if you tell young, developing minds something will be addictive, they want to disprove it. The psyche of mankind is, ‘It will never happen to me; I can do all this and it won’t hurt me.’ Their brains haven’t matured completely.”

So his focus changed to initiating prevention strategies for parents to use with children as young as 3 years old. He uses information and an approach from the Search Institute, which emphasizes talking to children and youth early and often about all risk behaviors and good behaviors, among other topics.

“Let’s talk about the broader spectrum of risk behaviors and how you can create resiliency in your sons and daughters.”

DeSimone and Barr are joined by many others in the Creighton community who are

doing their part to combat the opioid crisis. The Creighton campus comes at the issue from multiple angles — medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, law and emergency medical services, for starters. (See article on Page 28.)

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel are on the front line, often the first health care providers to begin treatment for a patient with an opioid overdose.

“Education for EMS personnel has always included recognition and treatment of patients with opioid overdose,” says Michael Miller, EdD, program director and assistant professor of EMS education. “But as a result of the CDC labeling the crisis an epidemic in 2012, EMS educators emphasize the need for EMTs and paramedics to have a heightened suspicion for opioid overdose as part of their training.”

Miller says it’s a positive in Nebraska that LB390, Expanded Use of Naloxone, allows family members, friends, authorized emergency

responders and law enforcement officials to administer naloxone, a potentially lifesaving medication, to patients who are suspected to have overdosed. Previously, naloxone could only be administered by EMS personnel and paramedics with advanced training.

Miller points out that emergency responders can be at risk in opioid overdose situations. “Due to the potent nature of synthetic opioids, emergency personnel must be very cautious when responding to scenes where a patient suddenly becomes drowsy or unresponsive,” Miller says. “Airborne powders may be inhaled, and powders and solutions may be absorbed through the skin, causing the same effects of an opioid overdose in EMS personnel.”

Creighton alumni are at the forefront of the battle as well, including pharmacist Bob Greenwood, BSPha’77, and firefighter paramedic Dan Stein, BSEMS’12, MSEMS’16, who has two degrees from Creighton in emergency medical services.

Greenwood, who owns pharmacies in Waterloo, Iowa, has been involved at the community, state and national levels as past president of both the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA), and says the role of community pharmacists in combatting opioid abuse is multifaceted. He says the IPA has sponsored education programs for prescribers, nurses, substance abuse agencies, mental health professionals and law enforcement.

He notes that the Iowa Board of Pharmacy, which is responsible for regulating the practice of pharmacy and the legal distribution and dispensing of prescription drugs throughout the state, is promoting utilization of a national database to monitor the prescribing of controlled substances. He says the Iowa Board and the IPA also encourage take-back programs in Iowa pharmacies for all medications, controlled and noncontrolled.

A key factor, Greenwood says, is changing prescribers’ habits to writing controlled substance prescriptions for small quantities and trying nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) as a first line. “I believe prescribers go

to an opioid first too often,” Greenwood says.

When Stein, a firefighter paramedic with the Council Bluffs Fire Department in Council Bluffs, Iowa, first started his career in southeast Los Angeles, an uptick in opioid overdoses was usually associated with “a bad batch of heroin making its way through the community.”

But, he says, “These days, it seems opioid emergencies come in all shapes and sizes. It can be the working professionals, the young athletes, grandparents or stay-at-home moms. Opioids don’t discriminate. Every demographic is at risk, and this has really become a challenge for emergency responders.”

The opioid crisis in the U.S. didn’t happen overnight, and there are no quick solutions.

“People need to realize it’s probably going to take as long in this society to get rid of this problem as it did to form it, so we’re talking years,” says Barr. “The biggest piece that will pay dividends decades from now is the prevention piece.”

DeSimone, obviously, agrees with his friend. He adds that revised CDC guidelines on pain management, which came out in mid-2016, should help. “That’s one area we should be able to control, educating our health professionals, particularly physicians. There are subset guidelines for acute pain and chronic pain. How do you treat each of those? How do you treat people who have had a previous addiction problem who are in pain? How do you treat people who had an addiction problem to these kinds of drugs?”

For Barr, the loss of his son caused personal changes in his life in addition to professional ones. He resigned from several of his leadership roles, sold his pharmacy and became a lay minister and a hospital chaplain.

“I definitely feel God working in my life,” Barr says. “I tell students what’s really important in life, after God and spirituality, has got to be your family. Your profession has got to come third. Do I feel that if I had spent less time in professional organizations my son would still be alive? No, I don’t feel that. But I would love to look back now on a lot more memories ... there are a lot of memories I don’t have.”

## UNIQUE CLINIC BATTLES ADDICTION

Steve Cummings, PharmD, BSPha’85, sees opioid and other addiction problems close up almost every day.

As the pharmacy manager at KentuckyOne Health’s Our Lady of Peace in Louisville, Kentucky, Cummings founded the nation’s first retail pharmacist-operated long-acting injection (LAI) clinic at a behavioral health center about a year ago.

“The bulk of the people we see have failed other treatment methods such as methadone,” Cummings says.

Naltrexone (Vivitrol), administered at the LAI clinic by a pharmacist, is a nonaddictive monthly

LAI medication that blocks the euphoria users experience from opioids and alcohol.

The clinic sees about 40 people a month who are fighting prescription and nonprescription opioid and alcohol addiction. The recommended length of treatment is about one year.

“The behavioral health component is also key,” Cummings says. “We do not recommend doing it without behavioral health therapy, including a support group.”

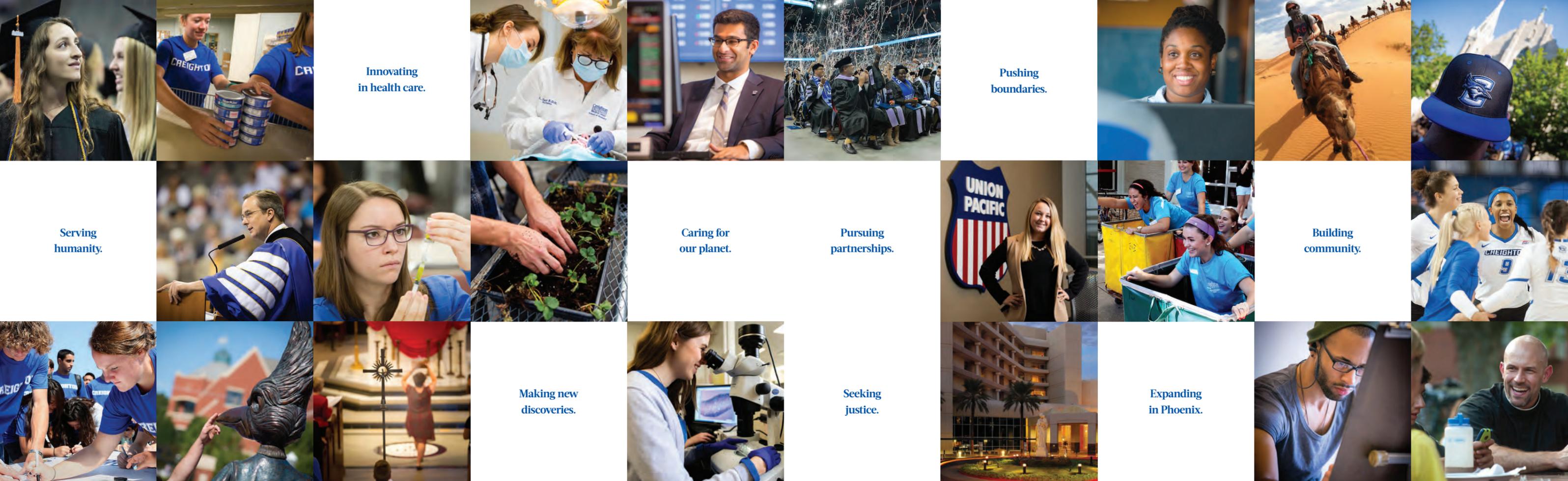
The LAI clinic is made possible through a Kentucky law that allows pharmacists to administer medications “in the course of dispensing or maintaining a prescription drug order.”

“Twenty-eight states allow pharmacists to administer certain medications,” Cummings says. “This gives pharmacists a new practice model for behavioral health care.”

Regarding the opioid epidemic, Cummings is cautiously optimistic. “I think ultimately we will get this under control, but it will require new therapies by the pharmaceutical industry that achieve what we want in surgical procedures with less addictive potential.

“We will also need objective testing for pain, just like we have for blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol. I don’t think this will be solved in my lifetime,” says the 57-year-old Cummings. “But I think we will have steps to minimize addiction.”





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# LIGHTING THE WAY

Creighton University's strategic plan illuminates a bold vision that strengthens our core mission and passionately pursues opportunities for distinction

Creighton University is a world-class academic institution recognized for excellence in teaching, learning and research, and enriched by a more than 450-year tradition of Jesuit, Catholic education.

With our depth and breadth in the liberal arts, distinctiveness in the health sciences, pre-eminence in law and real-world innovation in business, Creighton is eminently poised to capitalize on compelling opportunities to significantly advance our premier standing locally, nationally and globally.

We stand on the edge of our tomorrow, open to incredible new possibilities.

A dynamic vision guides our path, in the form of *The Creighton 150 Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way*. This ambitious plan, developed with input from the entire Creighton community, focuses on three key themes — each closely aligned with our mission and impelling us to dramatic, thoughtful action.

This plan is inspired and motivated by our outstanding students. They are ambitious, academically talented, diverse and service-oriented — striving always to make their mark on the world. Creighton's future aligns with their future.

Our plan focuses on three key themes — each closely aligned with our mission and impelling us to dramatic, thoughtful action.

**Achieving Academic Excellence  
Thriving in Our Mission  
Engaging the World**

Creighton University graduates not only find success in their careers and professions, but they are an informed voice for justice on significant moral issues facing our communities, nation and world.

Our students, faculty, staff and alumni bring critical analysis and thoughtful discussion to complex societal issues, and put bold leadership into action for the benefit of all of humanity.

This is our passion. This is the Creighton difference.

It invites a joyful hope for the future, as we confidently explore ways to enhance the student experience and place our mission at the forefront in all that we do.

Creighton is not a place that stands still. Leveraging our comprehensiveness and complexity, we are pushing boundaries, engaging the world, advancing new knowledge and leading the way in seeking creative solutions to some of society's most challenging issues.

This plan represents our shared future and a significant undertaking to do the important work that will advance Creighton to unprecedented heights.

This is our time. This is our opportunity.

This is our chance to light the way — now and into the future.

## OUR PROGRESS

Creighton University's strategic plan — the result of more than two years of in-depth, comprehensive planning — was approved by the Board of Trustees this past November, and has now entered the implementation phase. Exciting advances are happening now — and will continue to unfold into the future — as teams of campus representatives from across the University work diligently to put the plan into action. This is a snapshot, a high-level overview, of our guiding plan and our first steps to bring it to successful fruition.

# ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This theme focuses on furthering our foundational mission throughout our comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. It extends into our interdisciplinary and interprofessional learning, research activities and service experiences.



*The goals:*

## LEADING WITH THE LIBERAL ARTS

This includes creation of the Kingfisher Institute for Liberal Arts and Professions; innovative approaches and investments in faculty, academic programs and facilities to support methods and techniques in research and teaching; renovations to the Rigge Science Building; and bolstered efforts to share Creighton's story as a global leader in the liberal arts.

## INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND CREIGHTON COLLABORATIVE CARE

The future of health care is collaborative, and Creighton is at the vanguard of this new approach. We will continue to offer our health sciences students opportunities for interprofessional education and practice in the clinical setting.

## ACADEMIC HEALTH SYSTEM EXCELLENCE

Through collaboration with our clinical partners in the region, including our primary clinical partner, CHI Health, Creighton has expanded clinical training opportunities for its health sciences students, residents and fellows. With our two-campus academic health system fully operational, Creighton is poised to build upon that success and momentum.

**“We are advancing academic innovation in the way we teach our students, conduct research and care for patients. Leading is a Creighton tradition.”**

THOMAS MURRAY, PHD  
Provost

# THRIVING IN OUR MISSION

This theme focuses on igniting a passion for our Jesuit, Catholic tradition on campus and within the wider community locally, regionally, nationally and globally.



*The goals:*

## LIVING OUR MISSION

This includes an emphasis on formation and culture for members of the campus community; pursuit of recognition regionally, nationally and globally as a significant voice on Catholic Social Teaching; increased efforts in sustainability and caring for the environment; and developing rich and mutually supportive programs with our north and south Omaha neighbors.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Creighton took a major step forward with the hiring of our inaugural vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. This goal also includes campus climate surveys to help plot a course for future diversity and inclusion plans; development of a diversity-related curriculum; reflection of diversity and inclusion in our research endeavors; and recruitment and retention of an increasingly diverse faculty, staff and student body.

**“Our Jesuit, Catholic mission is central to who we are as a University community. And we aspire to live that mission to the fullest.”**

EILEEN BURKE-SULLIVAN, STD, MCHRSP'84  
Vice Provost for Mission and Ministry and Barbara Reardon Heaney  
Endowed Chair in Pastoral Liturgical Theology



“There is an unprecedented urgency for capacity building around the world. We must educate graduates with global sustainability competencies to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.”

RENÉ PADILLA, PHD  
Vice Provost for Global Engagement

# ENGAGING THE WORLD

Creighton will expand its partnerships with organizations, nonprofits, civic and government agencies, and corporations, with a particular focus on health care, global engagement, and professional and corporate development.



## The goals:

### ARIZONA HEALTH EDUCATION ALLIANCE AND HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS VISION

Creighton University has an opportunity to significantly impact health care and health sciences education in the U.S. Southwest through its expanding partnership in Phoenix, designed to improve and expand Creighton’s Graduate Medical Education programs and develop new training programs across the health sciences.

### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Creighton will embrace the distinctive Jesuit focus on global learning that takes place not only “in” the world, but also “for” it, providing students the education, ethical perspectives and experiences needed to create a more just and sustainable world. Planned efforts include an Institute for Global Studies as a hub for scholarship and research on pressing global issues, and a Global Eco-Village to engage diversity and seek solutions to local and global challenges and injustices.

### PROFESSIONAL AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating among disciplines and professions, Creighton will create opportunities tailored to each partner’s distinct professional circumstance, consistent with our mission, through the Center for Corporate and Professional Excellence. The center will provide an inviting, accessible place for our partners, and streamline and expedite University processes for identifying potential partners, forming new relationships, establishing incentives and executing planned programs.



## A NEW ERA OF OPPORTUNITY AND PROMISE

**T**hrough this plan, Creighton University is preparing for an exciting new era of opportunity and promise, one that combines our tradition for educational excellence and distinctive Jesuit, Catholic mission with a bold vision for the future.

The late Jesuit Superior General the Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, in a 2000 speech, described Jesuit colleges and universities as “highly sophisticated institutions of learning” ... “larger, better equipped, more complex and professional than ever before.” Indeed, that is even more true today. In this, we have an obligation

to our students to prepare them well for professional success in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

In our Jesuit, Catholic tradition, however, we also owe them something more.

Fr. Kolvenbach put it succinctly: “What our students want — and deserve — includes but transcends this ‘worldly success’ based on marketable skills. The real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become.”

Indeed, we are preparing the types of graduates that the world desperately needs — problem-solvers, critical thinkers, ethical leaders, and skilled professionals who courageously tackle the complex issues facing society.

*The Creighton 150 Strategic Plan: Lighting the Way* outlines a course to advance that vision. Let us dream big ... push boundaries ... think creatively. The hope-filled flame of opportunity burns bright.

I invite you to join us on this historic journey. The real measure of our success lies in who we will become.

Read more about the strategic plan at [creighton.edu/strategic-plan/summary](http://creighton.edu/strategic-plan/summary)

**Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ**  
President



## BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

While Creighton’s strategic plan focuses on the future, data from three annual surveys by Creighton and Gallup show that, compared to other college graduates, Creighton alumni are more likely to report being engaged in their careers and living meaningful lives.

**THE LATEST DATA, FROM A 2016 SURVEY OF RECENT ALUMNI (DEGREES ATTAINED BETWEEN 2006 AND 2016), FOUND:**

### UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

**50%** are engaged and thriving in their communities (37% nationally)

**86%** agree they had a professor who cared about them (65% nationally)

**43%** are engaged at work (35% nationally)

**More than twice** as many Creighton alumni go on to pursue post-graduate education (44% vs. 21% nationally)

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL ALUMNI

**85%** work full time for an employer

**48%** are engaged and thriving in their communities (44% nationally)

**80%** agree their professors cared about them as a person

### WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?

A Gallup representative says it’s about more than just career success.

“Creighton graduates are leading other college graduates in living great lives,” says Valerie Calderon, PhD, senior education research consultant at Gallup.

Two brothers, both Creighton graduates, share a common bond as Jesuits

BY Amanda Brandt, BA'14



# From Bluejays to SJs

Brothers Trevor Rainwater, SJ, BA'10, and Conan Rainwater, SJ, BA'15, have a lot in common. From shared childhood bedrooms and family vacations to a Creighton education, the siblings have always been close.

But they also share something more uncommon: a religious vocation. Both are training and studying to become priests as spiritual “brothers” in the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits — the largest male religious order in the Catholic Church, which, among other apostolates, oversees 28 universities and colleges in the U.S., including Creighton University.

Having taken the path from Bluejays to SJs, the Rainwater brothers are closer than ever.

## TREVOR'S STORY

**WHEN TREVOR, 30**, the eldest Rainwater child, graduated from high school, he decided to attend Creighton University because of his strong Catholic faith and Creighton's medical school, which fit in nicely with his plan to become a physician.

Plus, Omaha is just a (relatively) short eight-hour drive from his hometown of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Trevor's dreams of becoming a physician fit in well with his family's background, too. His father, Leslie, is a urologist, and his mother, Linda, a nurse.

He studied health sciences and theology and took the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), a standardized exam required for applying to medical schools. But in the middle of his senior year, Trevor told his family that he had

a change of heart: Rather than attend medical school the next year, he was going to join the Society of Jesus.

“It didn't go over so well at first,” Trevor says of telling his family, who were unfamiliar with the Jesuits.

Trevor says he first began pondering religious life as early as 2008, during his sophomore year at Creighton. He remembers a particular advanced biology class. That day's lesson was on the Krebs cycle, a sequence of chemical reactions involved in cellular respiration. At the same time, he was in a theology course about the mystery of God and human suffering.

“I decided I would rather wrestle with those questions (the Godly ones) than worry about the Krebs cycle,” Trevor says. “I applaud scientists, but that wasn't my cup of tea.”

He joined a discernment group for those considering a religious vocation. But the “tipping point” for his decision, he says, was a retreat he took his senior year. His experiences on that retreat, Trevor says, provided reassurance from God.

“It's hard to talk about it with friends and family,” Trevor says. “They say, ‘You're going to do what?’ It's so countercultural.”

After graduating from Creighton in 2010 and before entering the novitiate, Trevor lived at home with his family in North Dakota.

“We didn't know anything about the Jesuit community until Trevor started,” says their mother.

North Dakota is one of the few states that has no Jesuit presence at all, and that lack of familiarity led to some apprehension in the family.

Conan

Trevor



On the day he left for Minnesota to begin his Jesuit training, Trevor hugged his sister, Ellecia Rainwater, BA'13, MD'17, younger brother, Conan, and mom, before approaching his dad last.

“He said, ‘I'm really proud of you,’” Trevor recalls. “It meant a lot, coming from my dad, who I highly admire. I think it's natural to have apprehension ... but finally getting his approval was nice.”

## CONAN'S STORY

**GROWING UP IN BISMARCK**, Conan, 25, says he was close with his siblings. The two boys shared a bedroom and spent hours together outside, sledding and swimming.

So when Conan first learned of his older brother's plans, he was surprised.

“I was taken aback,” says Conan, who was a senior in high school at the time.

Conan says he viewed priests as ultra-holy, larger-than-life, unapproachable figures.

“I put priests on a pedestal. I couldn't imagine myself like that,” Conan says. “That was for ‘other guys.’ (But with Trevor), that whole pillar came crumbling down. I realized that people who enter religious life are ordinary people. That put it close to home.”

Like his older siblings, Conan attended Creighton after high school. He, too, intended to become a physician.

But during his sophomore year, Conan began to feel called to do more. He changed courses and studied theology, music and biology.

At the suggestion of a classmate, Conan began attending the same discernment group Trevor had participated in, led by the late Rev. Richard Hauser, SJ, who died on April 3.

As graduation neared, Conan struggled with



© The Rev. Richard Hauser, SJ, visits with Conan and his grandparents, John and Shirley Chapin, at Conan's vow Mass in 2017.

DON DOLL SJ

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CONAN RAINWATER, SJ, BA’15

his next steps. Between finalizing school, navigating a relationship, and deciding whether to perform post-graduate volunteer service by spending a year abroad, he was confused. So he called on Trevor for advice.

“He didn’t tell me what to do; he listened,” Conan says. “It was very mature of him. He said he would be supportive either way. Looking back, that’s exactly what I needed.”

Conan finally decided, like his brother, to enter the Society of Jesus. And, when it came time to tell his family of the decision to pursue a religious vocation, Conan says they were happy for him.

“(With our parents), my brother broke the ice,” Conan says.

Linda says that she and her husband have enjoyed learning about the Jesuits and seeing the various opportunities and experiences Trevor and Conan have had.

“(It was a) different path, but that’s what they’ve chosen,” Linda says. “I think they will be good in anything they do.”

### THE PATH TO DISCERNMENT

**BOTH BROTHERS CREDIT** Fr. Hauser’s discernment group as one of the primary factors leading them to their vocation.

The group meets every other week in the Ignatius House Jesuit Residence, located off the Jesuit Gardens. Fr. Hauser would light a fire in the fireplace and wait for a handful of young men to enter the room and share what’s been going on in their lives.

Fr. Hauser began hosting the group for Creighton students in 1975, when he became aware of individuals who were wading through the tricky discernment process alone.

“It’s a very challenging path for a young Creighton student to take,” Fr. Hauser said in an interview a few months before his death. “He usually won’t get affirmation from his peers, who are mostly all preprofessional.”

Fr. Hauser, a Milwaukee native, came to Creighton as an instructor in 1972 and became a theology professor after earning his doctorate from the Catholic University of America in 1973.

There are currently 24 living Jesuits who joined the society after graduating with an undergraduate degree from Creighton. In the last 15 years, Creighton has produced 11 Jesuits, the majority of whom participated in Fr. Hauser’s discernment group.

In 2014, Fr. Hauser retired from teaching theology full time and served as the assistant to the University President for Mission.

The group, he said, is a judgement-free zone, where members share thoughts, feelings and opinions.

Fr. Hauser, who decided to “try out” the Jesuits after making a retreat his senior year of high school, said the path to the priesthood was less complicated in the past.

“It was 10 times easier back then because the culture supported it,” Fr. Hauser said. “It was a feather in a Catholic family’s hat to have a child who was a priest or a nun.”

And while only a small percentage of the men participating in the discernment group end up entering the order, Fr. Hauser would guide those who did through one of the hardest parts: telling their parents.

“One of the biggest barriers (to joining a religious vocation) is trying to please your

parents,” Fr. Hauser said.

The group’s conversations are confidential and there’s no pressure to join. It’s merely a chance for participants to explore within their hearts.

“What makes this group work is that we’ve got guys who are seeking God’s will in their life,” he said. “They are highly spiritual human beings in the first place.”

### BANDS OF BROTHERS

**FEWER THAN 2 PERCENT** of the current Jesuits in the U.S. also have a brother in the order.

Of the 2,150 Jesuits in the five U.S. provinces, there are 17 sets of siblings, in which both are still alive, according to data from the Society of Jesus.

There is one set of identical twins among U.S. Jesuits — Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, and his brother, the Rev. D. Scott Hendrickson, SJ, who teaches at Loyola University Chicago.

Conan and Trevor both say the unique bond they have as biological brothers and brothers in Christ has brought them closer than ever.

“Not only are we united within the religious order or the Jesuits, we shared a life together growing up in the same house. It’s very special in that regard,” says Conan.

Adds Trevor: “You have to go where God is calling you. It is tough sometimes when you’re the only one. When you have company, it makes it a lot easier.”

### WHAT’S NEXT?

**TREVOR, WHO EARNED** a master’s degree in philosophy from Saint Louis University in 2015, is currently in the regency portion of his Jesuit formation. He teaches Old Testament theology to freshmen at Detroit University High School. He always has been captivated by the liturgy and sacraments, and looks forward to celebrating Mass as a priest.

Conan is in his first year of philosophy studies at Loyola Chicago. As for his future, in addition to the steps and formation required for Jesuits, Conan can see himself working at a retreat center, performing missionary work in other countries or teaching.

The brothers keep in touch regularly and

occasionally travel back to North Dakota.

Conan still asks his older brother for advice, both about the Jesuits and life, and looks up to him as a role model.

“I think my brother is a good Jesuit because he goes out of his way to make sure people in the community, especially those who might be new and adjusting, are taken care of,” Conan says. “And, he’s a good mentor. He understands the balance between knowing when to give advice and when to listen and be a companion who walks with someone in their discernment, struggle, hardship or joy.”

And Trevor, for his part, sees unlimited potential in Conan to become a great Jesuit priest.

“He’s a little more flexible and free-flowing with things,” Trevor says of Conan. “In the Society of Jesus, those are really good traits to have.”

And, like all members of the Society of Jesus, the siblings are linked by their faith and trust in God.

“We all share that common thread of being under the banner of Christ,” Trevor says.

## JESUIT FORMATION

Becoming a Jesuit priest or brother is a long, thoughtful process. It can take anywhere from eight to 13 years, and involves a 30-day silent retreat, years of study, and service to the poor and marginalized.

### NOVITIATE

The journey begins in late August in the U.S., in a rite of passage known as Entrance Day, when new recruits — known as novices — arrive at novitiates in California, New York, Louisiana or Minnesota. At this time, they are already considered Jesuits. At the novitiates, they learn more about the Society of Jesus, live in community and pray. They meet regularly with a novice director and companion Jesuit, known as a *Socius* (Latin for “comrade” or “ally”), who guides

their formation. They engage in a variety of “experiments,” working in Jesuit ministries and performing service, and complete the 30-day Spiritual Exercises, a silent retreat created by St. Ignatius of Loyola. At the end of the two-year period, the novices pronounce perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

### STUDIES

Following the novitiate, they move into academic work as a brother or a scholastic (a person preparing for the priesthood). They study philosophy at a Jesuit university, either completing a bachelor’s degree or working on an advanced degree. This stage usually takes three years.

### REGENCY

During the regency period, which typically lasts three years, they work full time in a Jesuit ministry and live in a community of Jesuits. Many teach at Jesuit high schools or universities, and learn to balance full-time apostolic work with a life of prayer and community living.

### THEOLOGY

After regency, Jesuit scholastics study theology at the graduate level, usually for three years. After completing these studies, they are ordained to the priesthood, marking the end of around a decade of studies and preparation. Jesuit brothers may study theology for a shorter amount of time, and then enter ministry or go on to receive another advanced degree.

### TERTIANSHIP

Several years after ordination, Jesuits revisit the foundational documents of the Society of Jesus and make the 30-day Spiritual Exercises retreat again. They also participate in an approximately nine-month program of additional spiritual training.

Only after completing tertianship can a Jesuit brother or priest be eligible to be called by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus to profess final vows, where they reaffirm their commitments, made as novices, to poverty, chastity and obedience.

Source: [beajesuit.org](http://beajesuit.org), the Society of Jesus in Canada and the United States



DAVE WEAVER

IMPACT

# Eyes Wide Open to Service

Scholarship recipient seeks a career in health care to help those on the margins

It was in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Wheeling, West Virginia, where senior **MONICA MARASCO** first opened her eyes to see those living on the margins.

Marasco, an Omaha native, traveled to West Virginia in spring 2016 with a Service & Justice Trip through the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice (SCSJ).

“Not everybody has access to health care,” Marasco says, adding that “health care” goes beyond doctor or hospital visits to having enough money to put healthy — or regularly scheduled — meals on the table. “Health is that central issue to getting people to where they need to be.”

With plans to attend medical school, Marasco is studying biology at Creighton, with a minor in behavioral and cognitive neuropsychology. She also is a recipient of the Fr. Richard D. McGloin, SJ, Scholarship.

“I’m really grateful to have this scholarship because it allows me to focus on how I want to grow academically,” Marasco says.

Before starting medical school, she plans to spend a year with a service organization. Although she has not chosen an agency yet, she hopes to return to West Virginia’s coal-mining country.

“I really want to go back to Wheeling and learn more about environmental issues and how those issues affect the population in terms of jobs,” Marasco says.

A member of the SCSJ Service & Justice Trips Core Team, Marasco has been on four Service

& Justice Trips. In addition to Wheeling, she’s traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas; Denver; and Tuba City, Arizona. Each trip brought its own set of challenges and eye-opening experiences.

Marasco’s trip to Denver was particularly poignant. There, she saw young adults — her own age — who were homeless. Working with a program that helps Denver’s homeless youth, she and other volunteers took a walking tour of downtown Denver, seeing, among other things, hotspots for shooting up heroin.

“It really put me in their shoes, as a 20-year-old college student, to see what it was like being a homeless youth on the Denver streets,” Marasco says. “It made me realize that I want to go into medicine to help people be the best person they can be. And that all starts with health.”

She plans to study family medicine, so that she’ll be well versed in all areas of health care, and future interests include working in rural areas to help those who lack basic health care.

“I love service and justice, and I love being in the presence of those who can teach me so much about social justice issues.”

— BY EMILY RUST

# ALUMNI NOTES

Send Us Your News

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

**59 Dr. Daniel A. Dervin, BS,** Fredericksburg, Virginia, published the book *The Digital Child: The Evolution of Inwardness in the Histories of Childhood*.

**65 Robert J. Church, DDS,** Wilton, California, was the 2017 recipient of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society’s (R&LHS) Gerald M. Best Senior Achievement Award for significant and long-standing contributions to the writing, preservation and interpretation of railroad history. Church is a railroad historian, author, publisher and longtime chairman of the Pacific Coast Chapter (PCC) of the R&LHS. The PCC chapter saved and donated 40 pieces of historic railroad locomotives and cars that became the core of the displays in the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. He has been editor of *Western Railroader*, the PCC’s quarterly magazine, for seven years.

**67 Matt Reres, BA’64, JD,** Lake Mary, Florida, was honored by the Nebraska State Bar Association (NSBA) for 50 years of membership under the NSBA.

**74 Dr. Robert E. Mathiasen, BA,** Lincoln, Nebraska, was recognized for his 35 years of service to the University of Nebraska system, the last 30 years

at the Lincoln campus. Mathiasen has held positions in student affairs, program administration and recruitment. He currently is the distance education program specialist with the UNL Office of Graduate Studies.

**76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD,** Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, earned a ranking on *Super Lawyers* elite “Top 100” lawyers in Kansas and Missouri — his 12th time to achieve this distinction. Monnat also co-authored an article on appellate advocacy in *The Champion*, a monthly publication of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The article, “From Cover to Content: Ten 21st Century Tips for Effective Appellate Briefing,” is a fresh look at the most effective way to write and present appellate briefs.

**80 Hon. Wadie Thomas Jr., JD,** Omaha, retired in January 2018 from the Separate Juvenile Court for Douglas County, Nebraska. Thomas took his place on the bench in 1995. He also was the recipient of the 2018 Judge Elizabeth D. Pittman Award presented by Creighton’s Black Law Students Association in the School of Law in February 2018.

**82 Robert P.M. Baker, BSBA,** Maple Grove, Minnesota,

was appointed chief operating officer of Schmitt Music Company in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. He has served as Schmitt Music’s chief financial officer for 15 years.

**Christopher J. Thompson, BA,** St. Paul, Minnesota, published *The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism*. He is associate professor of moral theology at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. **Steven D. Wingert, BA,** Orlando, Florida, is the chief operating officer at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., a law firm in Orlando.

**85 Tracy C. Neighbors, BSBA’82, JD,** Sammamish, Washington, has retired from Microsoft Corporation after 28 years, the last 15 of which he served as international tax counsel. As international tax counsel, Neighbors was responsible for all international tax matters in the approximately 120 countries in which Microsoft operates. **Dr. Steven E. Cummings, BSPha,** Louisville, Kentucky, was a speaker at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition in March 2018. Cummings and other pharmacy professionals presented “PharmTalk: Innovative Strategies in Supporting Safe Opioid Use and Overdose Prevention.” Cummings is the pharmacy manager and

Long-Action Injection Clinic Manager at Our Lady of Peace, a part of KentuckyOne Health, a private, not-for-profit psychiatric hospital in Louisville.

**86 Kim Erftmeir Gregory, BSMth,** Olathe, Kansas, is a campaign manager at the Steier Group in Omaha. **Paul F. Millus, BA’83, JD,** Floral Park, New York, a member of Meyer, Suozzi, English and Klein, P.C., was again named to the New York *Super Lawyers* list as one of the top attorneys in the New York metropolitan area for 2017. **Cindy Klein Weil, BA,** San Francisco, is the founder of *enactivist.org* and the Immigrant Yarn Project — a massive scale public art project honoring immigrants and their descendants.

**89 Hon. Cheryl L. Mason, JD,** Fairfax, Virginia, was confirmed in November 2017 as chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, following her nomination by President Donald Trump. Mason is the first woman and the first military spouse to serve as chairman. She will lead the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, which employs more than 950 staff, including veterans law judges, attorneys and administrative professionals with the mission

of holding hearings and issuing appellate decisions to veterans and their families.

**90 Kevin S. McMurray, JD,** Highland, Utah, was appointed general counsel of LifeVantage Corporation in Sandy, Utah. **Ronald Place, MD,** Fort Belvoir, Virginia, was promoted to major general in the U.S. Army in September 2017. He then assumed the position of director of the National Capital Region Medical Directorate in Bethesda, Maryland. Place is responsible for all active duty military, family member and retiree health care in the national capital region.

**91 Christopher M. Davies, BA,** St. Paul, Minnesota, recently recorded a single titled "Hollywood." The song is available for purchase on all major online stores and proceeds go toward the fight against sex trafficking. **Hon. Michael J. Franciosi, JD,** Valdez, Alaska, was appointed judge in the Alaska District Court, Anchorage. Franciosi previously served as Glennallen magistrate judge and superior court master. **Rusty T. Komori II, BA,** Honolulu, has written the book *Beyond the Lines: Creating a Leadership Culture to Achieve Extraordinary Results*. Komori is a motivational speaker, leadership consultant and tennis professional and holds the U.S. record for the longest winning streak in any school sport — 22 consecutive state championships captured by his tennis teams at Punahou School in Honolulu.

**92 Hon. John J. "Jerry" Kane, JD,** Lanark, Illinois, was named associate judge for the 15th Judicial District of Illinois in September 2017.

**93 Peg A. Gilbert, MS,** Grand Island, Nebraska, was the recipient of the 2017 Nebraska Infection Control Network Distinguished Service Award. **William E. O'Farrell, BSBA'89, JD,** Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, is the founder and CEO of Premia Holdings Ltd., a reinsurance group focused on reinsuring and acquiring discontinued property and casualty insurance portfolios. Premia was launched in January 2017 with more than \$500 million

of capital and was named 2017 Launch of the Year by *Reactions* magazine and 2017 Start-up of the Year by the *Intelligent Insurer*.

**94 Jodi Reimer Probst, BSBA,** Bellaire, Texas, was named office managing partner of PwC in Houston.

**96 Jennifer Backus Friedman, BA,** Seattle, was promoted to principal product manager at Amazon. She joined Amazon in 2012 as a global customer service vendor manager. Friedman was previously a director of client operations at West Corporation in Omaha.

**98 Estella Salac Davis, PharmD,** Omaha, associate professor of pharmacy practice at Creighton, completed her first Iron Man competition in November 2017 in Phoenix.

**00 Joel M. Carney, JD,** Omaha, joined Goosmann Law Firm as managing partner of the Omaha location.

**01 L. Chris Knauf, BSBA'98, JD,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, joined the Steier Group in Omaha as a campaign manager. **John A. Sharp, BA'98, JD,** Omaha, was promoted to vice president, general counsel and secretary of the board at Assurity Life Insurance Company in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**04 Alaina Stedillie Hall, BA,** Casper, Wyoming, was elevated to the position of shareholder at the law firm Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, PC. **Kathryn M. Magli, JD,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, joined Mutual of Omaha as assistant general counsel. Prior to Mutual, Magli was assistant vice president and senior counsel with Lincoln Financial, and prior to that, a partner at Kutak Rock. **Mark A. Mendenhall, JD,** Omaha, was promoted to senior vice-president, general counsel at Metropolitan Utilities District. Mendenhall previously worked in the Douglas County (Nebraska) Public Defender's Office.

**05 Heather L. Stewart, MD,** Xenia, Ohio, joined Dayton Children's Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, in September 2017 as the medical director of the adolescent young adult medicine department.



## CONNECT. NETWORK. GIVE BACK.



**Diane Glow Stormberg, BSN'80,** was recently appointed assistant vice president for Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement. In this role, she leads programming and strategies to advance involvement among Creighton's 70,000 alumni worldwide through volunteer

opportunities and philanthropy. Stormberg was previously director of Parent and Family Programs at Creighton.

**09 Brian J. Hanson, BS'05, MD,** Minneapolis, joined the gastroenterology section of the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and was appointed assistant professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota in July 2016. **Britton D. Jobe, JD,** Springfield, Missouri, a partner at the law firm Neale & Newman, was named Springfield, Missouri's 2017 Young Professional of the Year. He was honored by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce for his civic involvement in the community. Jobe also was named as a "40 Under 40" by the *Springfield Business Journal*. **Matthew T. Winter, JD,** Sibley, Iowa, was selected as the pro se law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. Winter will office in the Sioux City, Iowa, courthouse.

**10 Melissa A. Schilling, JD,** Burlington, Iowa, was elected a shareholder of Dickinson, Mackaman, Tyler & Hagen P.C. in Des Moines, Iowa. Schilling

practices in traditional labor and employment law, working with private and public sector employers on a wide range of labor and employment issues. She also authored and contributed to numerous articles regarding labor and employment law, including contributions to the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association (NPELRA) Legal Corner and co-authored a chapter on freedom of speech in the *Public Workplace in the Municipal Law Deskbook* published by the American Bar Association.

**11 Hon. Patrick J. McCann, JD,** Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was appointed magistrate judge for the Third Judicial Circuit of South Dakota.

**13 Dr. Mary E. Homan, MS,** Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, completed her doctorate in public health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in July 2017. Her dissertation research won the Innovation Award in Service Excellence at

Mercy in October 2017 where she had served as the director of ethics for Mercy (Oklahoma) since 2013. Also in October, Homan joined the faculty at the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities in the Institute of Health and Equity at the Medical College of Wisconsin as assistant professor. She serves as a pediatric ethicist for the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and public health and bioethics researcher.

**14 Jenna H. Bishop, BA,** Des Moines, Iowa, joined the Ahlers & Cooney law firm in Des Moines as an associate in the public law practice area, with a focus on economic development and urban renewal for Iowa's cities and counties. **Charles Thomas Jr., MS'09, EdD,** Herndon, Virginia, presented the Rev. William F. Kelley, SJ, Alpha Sigma Nu Endowed Lecture at Creighton in March 2018. His presentation was titled "Prose and Poetry: The War Within." Thomas is a multi-award winning social entrepreneur,

educator, best-selling author and on-air personality.

**16 Hailey J. Austin, BA,** Dundee, Scotland, received her Master of Letters in comics and graphic novels from the University of Dundee in Dundee, Scotland. She was awarded the Grant Morrison Prize in Comics Studies as the highest performing student in the class. Austin is currently working on her doctorate in comics at the University of Dundee. **William J. Hale, JD,** Omaha, has joined the Goosmann Law Firm in Omaha and will focus on business and intellectual property law.

**17 LeeAnn Holmes Adams, MFA,** Bellevue, Nebraska, published "Predator," a flash fiction story, in January 2018 in *Varnish Journal*. "Abdication," another flash fiction story, will be published in April 2018 by *The Bookend Review*. Both stories were written during her time in Creighton's Master of Fine Arts in creative writing program. **Abbey Baker Benson, MS, JD,** Omaha, has joined the law firm

### Meet Your Alumni Team

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**Sarah Lukas, BA'02, MA'08**  
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**Lauren Weirauch, BA'10, MS'16**  
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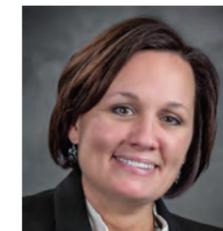
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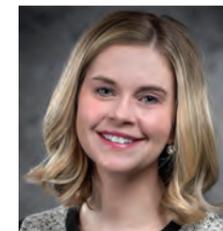
**Brigid Bidrowski, BA'91**  
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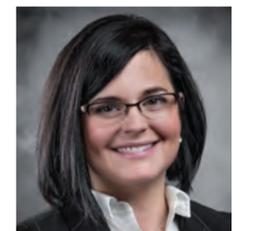
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## ALUMNI PROFILE

## He Had a Home Where the Bison Would Roam

With 15 acres in his Eugene, Oregon, backyard, **DON SCHROEDER, BS'60, MD'64**, agreed with his children that they needed some kind of animal. The previous owner had horses, but the Schroeders did not want a pony, sheep, pigs or cows.

The family wanted something different. So when a patient at Schroeder's orthopedic surgery clinic mentioned he had a bison connection, the Schroeder family got excited.

"We bought a dozen," Schroeder says. The bison, which can weigh up to 2,000 pounds, resided in the family's backyard.

When the Schroeder family moved to a larger ranch with 130 acres in the 1970s, the bison came too. And he would add more. He named the ranch Bison-ten-yal — honoring his newfound passion and the nation's bicentennial. Schroeder built corrals, fences made from guardrail he sourced from the state highway department.

"I would get up early in the morning, do the feeding," Schroeder says. "Once I made the animals happy, I would go into the house, clean up and head to the hospital for the operating room."

An orthopedic surgeon by trade, Schroeder raised bison as a sort of therapy for stressful

workdays. Many doctors play golf or tennis to relax, but Schroeder chose something different.

"Once we got (bison), we sort of got hooked," Schroeder says.

Growing up in South Dakota, Schroeder did not have any family pets. But one thing that did run in the family was a Creighton education.

His parents met at Creighton, where his father earned his law degree in 1934. Schroeder first attended the University for undergraduate studies, then medical school. During his undergraduate years, he stayed with his grandfather in south Omaha.

To get to school, Schroeder walked from 19th and Martha streets up to the corner of 24th and Martha, where he would stick out his thumb and hope for a ride to 24th and California.

"The ticket to getting a ride was carrying your books with you," Schroeder says.

After medical school, he interned and did his residency at Detroit Receiving Hospital, with a year at Shriners Hospital in St. Louis before moving to Eugene.

"I came to Eugene, looked around and said, 'Gee, this is a nice place to live.' Nobody really invited me. I hung out a shingle and opened up a solo practice," Schroeder says.

**"I would get up early in the morning, do the feeding. Once I made the animals happy, I would go into the house, clean up and head to the hospital for the operating room."**

DON SCHROEDER, BS'60, MD'64

He hired a receptionist for his orthopedic clinic, and was ready for business, missing only one key ingredient: patients.

"I told (my receptionist) that I was going to the hospital," Schroeder says. "Wait about 15 minutes and then call me."

His trick? Have his receptionist call the hospital and ask for Dr. Schroeder. He'd get a page on the overhead speaker, and suddenly, patients knew his name.

"I would go to the emergency room and say to the nurses, 'Is Mr. Smith here? I was supposed to meet him here,'" Schroeder says. "Kind of funny that's how I got started."

After work, he'd go home to the bison ranch, where the herd would graze and eat hay. He also partnered with a local bakery to get stale bread, a favorite bison treat.

"If someone wanted to get up close and personal, I'd put some bread in the four-wheeler," Schroeder says. "I would drive them out to mingle with the herd."

For 42 years, Schroeder raised bison, his herd varying in size. At one point, he had the largest herd in western Oregon, with around 150 bison. He sold the last 31 in early 2017, as he and his wife moved into an independent living facility.

Semiretired, he flies twice a month to Anchorage, Alaska, to perform independent medical exams on workers' compensation and personal injury cases.

Though he no longer has his bison, the doctor has fond memories of the herd.

"Doctors need to do something other than being a doctor," Schroeder says. For him, it was creating a home where the bison could roam. — **BY EMILY RUST**

Koenig Dunne in Omaha. **Bridget C. Carter, BA**, Syracuse, New York, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working at L'Arche Syracuse. **Benjamin C. Deaver, JD**, Omaha, has joined Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman, LLP, in Omaha as an associate. Deaver will focus his practice in the areas of trusts and estates, wealth transfer, tax, charitable planning, business planning and nonprofit administration. **Nicole C. Guetzke, BSBA**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is the public relations fashion coordinator at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. Mall of America was one of three main locations that hosted Super Bowl LII in 2018. Guetzke coordinated more than 5,800 media and celebrities for the 10 days leading up to the Super Bowl. **Sarah A. Huddleston, BSW**, Seattle, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at the Downtown Emergency Service Center in Seattle. **Amanda N. Lang, BS**, Detroit, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working at Mercy Primary Care Center in Detroit. **Gwendolyn M. McElhattan, BSW**, Berkeley, California, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working at East Bay Community Law Center in Berkeley. **Charly L. Michaelis, BSBA**, Yakima, Washington, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at the Yakima Family YMCA.

**Bianca C. Mina, BS**, St. Xavier, Montana, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at Pretty Eagle Catholic Academy in St. Xavier. **Elizabeth C. Quinones, BSBA**, Gresham, Oregon, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at JOIN in Gresham. **Behnaz Sarrami, PharmD**, Chesterfield, Missouri, published an article about thyroid function and older adults in the January 2018 edition of the *St. Louis Health and Wellness Magazine*. **Benjamin M. Walker, BSN**, Tacoma, Washington, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way, Washington. **Brent W. Warren, JD**, Sioux City, Iowa, joined the Goosman Law Firm as an attorney in the Sioux City office. Warren will focus his practice on business law, commercial law, contracts, corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and transactional law. **Nicholas J. Wilsdorf, BA**, Portland, Oregon, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest working at Volunteers of America-Men's Residential Center in Portland. **Caitlin A. Wright, BA**, Brooklyn, New York, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working at Catholic Migration Services in Brooklyn. **Anissa R. Zimmerman, BA**, Harlem, New York, is serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working at BronxWorks in Bronx, New York.



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## WEDDINGS

**05 Tamara L. Moyer, BS,** and Kevin Grissman, Dec. 2, 2017, living in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

**08 Emily L. Miller and Nathan E. Tracy, BA,** Sept. 30, 2017, living in Minneapolis.

**11 Elizabeth A. Stevens and Matthew J. Manning, BA'08, JD,** Oct. 28, 2017, living in Washington, D.C.

**13 Rebecca J. Swanson and Andrew W. Hasebroock, MS,** July 22, 2017, living in Omaha. **Megan A. Kuntuzos, BSBA,** and **Riley T. Becker, BSBA'11,** July 15, 2017, living in Minneapolis.

**15 Ellyn E. Yarde, BSN,** and **Benjamin D. Remarcke, BSBA,** Sept. 2, 2017, living in Chicago.

**16 Christina J. Laubenthal, BSBA,** and **Benjamin H. Thompson, BS,** July 22, 2017, living in Omaha.

## BIRTHS

**03 Steve Sinclair and Joella Rubino Sinclair, DPT,** Dover, Delaware, a son, Connor Jarrod, Nov. 28, 2017.

**04 Benjamin P. Niederee, BSBA,** and **Catherine McCarthy Niederee, BSBA'07, JD'10,** Omaha, a daughter, Bridget Letitia, Sept. 8, 2017. **Joseph P. Tippins, BSBA,** and **Jennifer Wede Tippins, BSBA,** Wilmette, Illinois, a son, Leo Joseph, Aug. 18, 2017.

**06 Mark D. Huber II and Kate DeCleene Huber, OTD,** Indianapolis, a son, Otto Alexander Charles, Sept. 25, 2017.

**07 Zachariah Archie and Brandy C. Archie, BSHS, OTD,** Kansas City, Missouri, a son, Zachariah Xavier II, June 13, 2017. **Alan Jeppson and Kelcey Berg Jeppson, BS'02, DDS,** Hebron, Nebraska, twins, Ellis Tyler and Ivy Louise, June 23, 2017. **Nicholas J. Langel, BSBA,** and **Pamela Ziegler Langel, BSBA,** Omaha, a daughter, Charlotte Ann, Aug. 23, 2017.

**Dusan A. Stanojevic, BS'03, MD,** and **Rachel Waggoner Stanojevic, BA'04, MA'06,** Leawood, Kansas, a daughter, Anya Joan, May 20, 2010; a son, Konstantin Dusan, Jan. 19, 2013; and a son, Ignatius Dusan, June 3, 2017.

**09 Brian J. Hanson, BS'05, MD,** and **Meredith King Hanson, BA'05,** Minneapolis, a son, Merrick Henry, April 18, 2017.

**10 Brian J. Carroll, BS,** and **Anne Bautch Carroll, BA'09,** a son, James Matthew, Jan. 29, 2018, living in Milwaukee. **Seth J. White and Nicole Gillespie White, PharmD,** Omaha, a daughter, Emma Jean, Sept. 12, 2017.

**11 Robert Baxter and Kristin Wolter Baxter, PharmD,** Fort Collins, Colorado, a daughter, Evelyn Christine, Jan. 21, 2018. **Lucas M. Hawkins and Elizabeth Biehle Hawkins, BS'05, PharmD,** Omaha, a daughter, Charlotte (Charlie) Elizabeth, Sept. 25, 2017.

**12 Darren J. Hein, BSHS, PharmD,** and **Natalie M. Sindelar, JD'15,** Bennington, Nebraska, a son, Calvin James, Oct. 28, 2017. **Michael T. Lotspeich, BA,** and **Melanie Perry Lotspeich, BA'02,** Omaha, a son, Augustus (Gus) Hayes, April 4, 2017.

**Hector N. Santiago and Erin K. Santiago, BSHS, PharmD,** Omaha, a daughter, Stella Layne, Feb. 2, 2018.

**15 Aleczander D. Johnson, OTD,** and **Katelyn Johnson,** Lincoln, Nebraska, a son, Noah Aleczander, Dec. 27, 2017.

## DEATHS

**40 Alfred J. Buda, BS,** Omaha, Sept. 20, 2017.

**42 John B. Betterman, BUSADM,** Mesa, Arizona, Oct. 17, 2017.

**44 Anthony P. Becker, BSPha,** Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 30, 2017.

**45 Dr. Milton Simons, ARTS,** Omaha, Oct. 11, 2017.

**46 Arthur M. Sonneland, MD,** Middleton, Wisconsin, Jan. 23, 2018. **Edwin B. Whiting, BS'45, MD,** Surprise, Arizona, Oct. 7, 2017.

**47 George L. Barnett, MD,** Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Nov. 19, 2017.

**48 Joella F. Cohen, BS,** Omaha, Oct. 29, 2017. **Agnes N. Mann, SCN,** Meadview, Arizona, Dec. 7, 2017. **Victor J. Mason, BS,** Omaha, Oct. 2, 2017. **Betty Carl Roberts, SCN,** Houston, Dec. 30, 2016. **Norbert J. Samford, BS,** Denver, Dec. 25, 2017.

**49 Thomas L. Arkwright, BS,** Omaha, Oct. 27, 2017. **Dr. Frank O. Ellison, BSChm,** Brighton, Michigan, Jan. 12, 2018. **Jack W. Kuhr, BS,** Blair, Nebraska, Feb. 3, 2018. **Sol Kutler, DDS,** Omaha, Sept. 14, 2017. **E. Audrey Barta Rose, SJN,** Fremont, Nebraska, Dec. 15, 2017.

**Earl D. Zimmerman, ARTS,** Austin, Texas, Nov. 6, 2017.

**50 John P. Collins, BS,** West Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 1, 2017. **Patricia Ryan Luby, SJN,** Omaha, Jan. 11, 2018. **E. Roberta Horn Roach, SJN,** Omaha, Dec. 24, 2017.

**51 Thomas F. Buras Jr., BUSADM,** Omaha, Oct. 1, 2017. **Myron A. Macy, ARTS,** Las Vegas, Dec. 27, 2017. **Dr. Wayne L. Ryan, BS'49, MS, HON'09,** Omaha, Nov. 3, 2017.

**52 Cletus J. Baum, MD,** Omaha, Nov. 5, 2017. **Marie Ernst Case, SCN,** Plattsmouth, Nebraska, Dec. 6, 2017. **Leonard H. Jurgensen Jr., BS,** Palo Alto, California, Dec. 17, 2017. **Ann H. Lammers, MD,** Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 5, 2017. **Joseph R. Lowry, JD,** Yellow Springs, Ohio, June 2, 2017. **Geraldine McCloud McClean, SCN,** Seahurst, Washington, Dec. 8, 2017.

**53 Thomas R. Brown, MD,** Torrance, California, June 11, 2017. **Jean Wahlstrom Clinch, BSMT,** Sun Lakes, Arizona, Nov. 4, 2017. **Barba J. Edwards, SJN'52, BSN,** Indianapolis, Dec. 11, 2017. **Donald E. Roy, BS,** Provincetown, Massachusetts, December 2017.

**54 James L. Biegler, BS,** McCloud, Oklahoma, Nov. 16, 2017. **Charlotte A. Christy, SJN,** Albuquerque, New Mexico, Aug. 30, 2017. **Sr. M. Yvonne Nohava, SSND, MSEdu,** Mankato, Minnesota, Jan. 6, 2018. **O. Earl Selander, MD,** Lakeville, Minnesota, Aug. 25, 2014.

**55 Francis J. Boyle, MD,** Springfield, Minnesota, Dec. 6, 2017. **John J. Dougherty, BS'51, MD,** Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 13, 2017.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# Raising (Up) Arizona

## Creighton couple find success – and a loving home – in the Grand Canyon state



He describes her as a brilliant businessperson, fabulous mom and grandma, and a great wife and friend. She describes him as an incredible person with high standards of loyalty and ethics. Together, they are adventurous, generous and deeply committed to their family, friends, colleagues and community.

**Sharon (Culhane) Harper, BA'69,** is president, CEO and chairman of Plaza Companies. Her husband, **Oliver "Ollie" Harper, MD'70,** is a retired family medicine physician and co-founder of Arizona Medical Clinic. Married for nearly five decades, they have five children (including a niece they raised), founded two successful Phoenix businesses, and have received numerous awards. Most recently, Arizona's Valley Leadership named Sharon "Woman of the Year" for her achievements and leadership.

Originally from Minnesota, Sharon graduated from Creighton with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism. "I thought my whole life would be that of a journalist," recalls Sharon. "However, I found early in my career that journalism is amazing training for so many different careers." For Sharon, journalism has led to a successful career in real estate.

Originally from Yonkers, New York, Ollie was accepted into Columbia's MBA program, but instead followed his dream of becoming a physician. "I had always admired physicians

as a young person," Ollie says. He took additional pre-med courses and applied and was accepted to Creighton. It was at Creighton that Ollie and Sharon met.

Upon graduation, the couple spent time in London and Kenya for Ollie's work before settling in Phoenix for good. "I never expected us to stay in one place, but we fell in love with Arizona," said Sharon. "It's become our home and we've loved contributing to the growth and progress of this community."

The Harpers share a deep sense of commitment to their community, and one would be hard pressed to find an organization that they have not touched.

Ollie has been a volunteer physician at the St. Vincent de Paul Medical Clinic for more than 30 years and volunteers at the Mission of Mercy Mobile Medical Clinic. In 2008, the *Phoenix Business Journal* named him a Health Care Hero. He is a former trustee with International HALO Trust, is chairman of the board of the Phoenix Symphony, teaches at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, and serves on the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation Board.

Sharon oversees all facets of operations for the Plaza Companies, including the ownership, development, leasing or management of nearly 10 million square feet of Arizona medical office properties, senior living facilities, bioscience/biotechnology centers and high-profile, mixed-use developments. Her vision and commitment to commercial real estate have helped Plaza Companies emerge as one of the premier real estate firms in the Southwest.

Sharon's commitments extend beyond business and include a variety of causes, volunteer efforts and appointments across Arizona and beyond. She is a trustee for the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and was appointed to the executive board of Gov. Doug Ducey's Arizona Zanjeros, a business leadership group created to help promote Arizona's economic development and reputation. She is a past honorary commander of Luke Air Force Base, past chairman of Greater Phoenix Leadership and is chairing Gov. Ducey's 2018 re-election campaign.

"Success for me is found at the intersection of business, government and philanthropy," says Sharon.

"Life has been kind to us," says Ollie. And the Harpers have been kind to Arizona. — **BY NICOLE PHELPS, BA'02**



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## From Nebraska to Mozambique

Traveling more than 9,000 miles from her hometown to spend nearly six months as a Peace Corps volunteer is not something **JESSICA WIENS, BA'16**, ever dreamed of doing as a child growing up in Grand Island, Nebraska. Yet from May through September 2016, Wiens did just that – working in a small village called Rapale about eight miles west of Nampula, Mozambique. Her primary duties were teaching good health habits – especially in combatting the spread of malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

“Honestly, I have Creighton to thank for opening me up to this possibility,” Wiens says. “It was during my time as a psychology major that I first learned about global health – especially in classes taught by Professor Laura Heinemann (chair of the Department of Cultural and Social Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences). It was in her classes where I developed a passion for wanting to do something to help people with health care on a global scale. “I was also involved with the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice (SCSJ) during my time at Creighton and went on three trips – to El Paso, Texas; Wheeling, West Virginia; and

East St. Louis, Illinois. These trips taught me a lot about social justice work, as well as about the impacts of poverty and crime on health. After these trips, I knew I wanted to do something for a longer period of time, and that’s how the Peace Corps came to mind.”

Once on the ground in Mozambique, Wiens spent the first three months in Namaacha, located in the southern part of the country near the border with South Africa and Swaziland. There, she underwent intensive Portuguese-language classes with other Peace Corps volunteers, took cultural classes and also learned a few key phrases in the local Bantu language.

Once training was complete, Wiens then headed 1,300 miles north to work on site, teaching family planning and counseling on malaria and HIV prevention. “I was the only white woman these people had ever seen and that was nerve-racking at first. But a nurse on site took me under her wing and I became close to her and her family, too,” she says.

Wiens was medically evacuated home to the U.S. in late September 2016, due to a severe gastrointestinal illness. “I was sad I couldn’t complete my 27-month assignment, but I guess things happen for a reason,” she says.

Wiens is currently pursuing a master’s degree in public health and ultimately hopes to attain a doctorate in public health. And while her Peace Corps experience was cut short, it taught her that her passion for helping others remains.

“I want to focus on working with refugees, one of our world’s most vulnerable populations, especially since we are only at the cusp of doing what we can in terms of ensuring their health and safety both here and abroad.”

— **BY LISA FOSTER, BA'92**



**Kenneth A. Harman, DDS**, Omaha, Sept. 15, 2017. **William T. Holthaus, BS'51, DDS**, Omaha, Jan. 23, 2018. **Frederick H. Prellwitz, DDS**, Kearney, Nebraska, Nov. 29, 2016.

**56 Emmet G. Bruning, DDS**, Omaha, Nov. 21, 2017. **Roger O. Degan, MD**, San Jose, California, Jan. 23, 2018. **Rita Brennan Eldridge, BS**, Omaha, Nov. 2, 2017. **Martin H. Ellbogen, MD**, Casper, Wyoming, Sept. 7, 2017. **Rosemary Ferris Grotzke, BSMT**, Omaha, Oct. 16, 2017. **Agostino Puccinelli, MD**, Stockton, California, Oct. 30, 2017. **Richard C. McGaughey Jr., BSPha**, Grand Junction, Colorado, Jan. 17, 2018.

**57 Donna Caldwell Kurtz, BS**, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Dec. 30, 2017. **Charles M. Cox, DDS**, Delta, Colorado, Dec. 29, 2017. **Virginia Jansen Ogren, SCN**, Oceanside, California, Oct. 20, 2017. **John J. Matoole Jr., MD**, Greenwood, Indiana, Dec. 9, 2017. **Joseph F. McGinn, BS'52, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 13, 2017.

**58 Lawrence D. Behm, BSBA**, Fallbrook, California, Jan. 9, 2018. **Sr. Lily May Emert, SP, BSPha**, Spokane, Washington, Sept. 16, 2017. **Sr. M. Barbara Ficenec, ND, BS**, Omaha, Jan. 23, 2018.

**59 Ronald J. Degand, BSPha**, Omaha, Feb. 5, 2018. **Kenneth H. Kauffold, ARTS**, Dodge, Nebraska, Nov. 23, 2017. **Clarence A. Stratman, MD**, Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 6, 2017.

**60 Lowell J. Brown, MD**, Springfield, Illinois, Oct. 16, 2017.

**61 Lt. Col. Gary F. Chladek, BS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Dec. 31, 2017. **Joseph J. Mowad, MD**, Danville, Pennsylvania, Nov. 7, 2017. **Franklin J. Roh, BSPha**, Omaha, Feb. 1, 2018. **Nicholas Stabile, MD**, Dix Hills, New York, Jan. 2, 2018. **Sr. M. Macrina Stermec, OSU, MA**, Louisville, Kentucky, Jan. 25, 2018. **Rev. Dennis R. Stolinski, BA**, Omaha, Oct. 15, 2017. **Sue Coyle Versch, SJN**, Burden, Kansas, Nov. 24, 2017.

**62 Gerald F. Petersen, BSBA**, Omaha, Jan. 1, 2018. **Sandra Clark Yudelson, BA**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Jan. 26, 2018.

**63 William M. Dimig, BSPha**, Atlantic, Iowa, Dec. 24, 2017. **Judith Pankowski Ritchie, ARTS**, Del Mar, California, July 7, 2017.

**64 Bernice Kucirek Boutwell, BSMT**, Kansas City, Missouri, Jan. 1, 2018. **Daniel N. Quinn, BUSADM**, Waterloo, Nebraska, Nov. 5, 2017. **Mary J. Stavish, BSMT**, Novato, California, Sept. 22, 2017.

**65 Mary Lebens Cramer, BA**, Leawood, Kansas, Sept. 20, 2017. **Judy Kelly Friesen, BA**, Laguna Beach, California, Aug. 4, 2017. **J. Patrick Green, BA'63, JD**, Omaha, Oct. 3, 2017. **Mary Kodadek O'Neill, ARTS**, Hudson, Wisconsin, May 1, 2016. **Alvin R. Posey, DDS**, Edmond, Oklahoma, Jan. 13, 2018. **Martha A. Robey, BSN**, Bennington, Nebraska, Dec. 16, 2017. **John P. Ryan, BA**, Valley, Nebraska, Oct. 31, 2017.

**66 James A. Kleine, BA**, Phoenix, Oct. 5, 2017. **Robert J. Rupprecht, BSPha**, Omaha, Jan. 28, 2018.

**67 Ronald J. Heath, BA**, Omaha, Dec. 28, 2017. **Bernard J. Nave, BSBA**, Omaha, Oct. 24, 2017. **Dr. Jeffrey H. Smith, BA'65, MA**, Omaha, Jan. 1, 2018.

**68 George W. Davis, BSBA'60, BSPha**, Lady Lake, Florida,

Nov. 30, 2017. **Joseph L. Marold, DDS**, Wheat Ridge, Colorado, Sept. 24, 2017. **Sr. M. Bernice Preister, MA**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Jan. 8, 2018. **Robert E. Pucelik, BS'64, MD**, Urbandale, Iowa, Jan. 6, 2018. **Hon. Phrasel L. Shelton, JD**, San Jose, California, Dec. 22, 2017.

**69 Rev. Joseph F. Felker, BA**, Riverside, California, Dec. 3, 2017. **Harry A. Strohmeyer, DDS**, Cypress, California, Aug. 18, 2017.

**70 Rosemarie Patterson Bighia, BA**, Seneca, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2017. **Shirley Bloom Brody, MSGuid**, Omaha, Jan. 21, 2018. **Eugene E. Fibuch, MD**, Leawood, Kansas, Aug. 20, 2017. **Kathleen Kern Hiykel, BS**, Minnetonka, Minnesota, Dec. 5, 2017. **Sr. Rose L. Kreuzer, CSA, BA**, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, Nov. 29, 2017. **Paul K. Umno, MD**, Petaluma, California, Sept. 27, 2017.

**71 Ira C. Gibbs, MS**, West Point, Mississippi, July 30, 2017. **William W. Hansell II, BSBA**, Jacksonville, Florida, Oct. 20, 2017. **Patrick Lysaught, BA**, Overland Park, Kansas, Oct. 24, 2017. **Paul T. Michael, BA'68, JD**, Alexandria,

Virginia, Sept. 14, 2017. **John F. O'Malley, MS'69, PhD**, South Bend, Indiana, Nov. 13, 2017.

**72 Richard F. Bryant, BSBA**, Boulder, Colorado, Sept. 7, 2017. **James M. Conway, BA**, Omaha, Sept. 21, 2017.

**75 Kay Shoemaker Bradley, BSN**, Renton, Washington, Nov. 12, 2017. **Rosemary Mazzara Kracht, MSEdu**, Omaha, Jan. 25, 2018. **Daniel S. Reynolds, JD**, Dekalb, Illinois, Aug. 18, 2017.

**76 Dr. John D. Griswold, BS**, White Hall, Maryland, Aug. 22, 2017. **Joseph L. Vacca, JD**, Omaha, Jan. 21, 2018.

**77 Donald J. Dunn, MS**, Omaha, Dec. 18, 2017.

**79 Kevin R. Cahill, BA'71, MSGuid**, Omaha, Jan. 8, 2018.

**80 Frank J. Baccala, ARTS**, Las Vegas, Jan. 11, 2018. **Joan Beltz Haberman, MSEdu**, Omaha, Nov. 25, 2017. **Dr. Maryanne Reichelt, MChrSp**, Westminster, Maryland, Sept. 27, 2017.

**81 Bruce E. Gfeller, BS'77, MD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Nov.

1, 2017. **Elizabeth J. Kountze, JD**, Omaha, Oct. 31, 2017.

**83 David A. Havlovic, BSPha**, New Berlin, Wisconsin, July 13, 2017. **Sr. Brenda M. Penning, SSND, MMin**, Mankato, Minnesota, Dec. 28, 2017.

**85 John P. Koley, BSBA'82, MBA**, Le Mars, Iowa, Dec. 13, 2017.

**90 John A. Argyrakos, BS**, Orlando, Florida, Dec. 14, 2016.

**94 Sr. Micki Flynn, SND, MA**, Cincinnati, Jan. 24, 2018.

**00 Jason P. Adams, DDS**, Boise, Idaho, Oct. 2, 2017. **Teena T. Beehner, MS**, Omaha, Nov. 6, 2017.

**01 Rev. Allen T. Zugelger, BA**, Liberty, Missouri, Jan. 3, 2018.

**02 Shannon M. French, OTD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 2, 2017.

**08 Sr. Marie A. Poland, ASC, MA**, Ruma, Illinois, July 29, 2017.

**10 Ralph J. Remmert, MS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 14, 2018.

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DAVE WEAVER

## Better ... for a Reason

If he wasn't a dentist, Creighton School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta, DMD, says he'd probably be an environmental scientist, working on issues related to water quality.

After graduating from Lafayette College in his hometown of Easton, Pennsylvania, Latta began pursuing a master's degree in chemistry at Penn State University. But a visit with a fraternity brother studying at the now-closed Georgetown University School of Dentistry changed his course. "I went to some classes with him, and I decided to make a change," Latta says.

He enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, earning a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry, and later obtained a master's degree in oral biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

He's been at Creighton for 23 years, having joined the University in 1995 as associate dean for research. He's been dean since July 2011.

Growing up, education was emphasized in the Latta household. Neither of his parents graduated from college. His dad was a truck driver and police officer; his mother, who

emigrated from Poland, a homemaker. Latta and his brother, Stan, a retired Penn State administrator, would both earn doctorate degrees. Their dad, Eugene, served in World War II but rarely talked about his service. After he died last July, they learned — for the first time — that he had been awarded four Bronze Stars.

Outside of Creighton, Latta enjoys playing golf and has performed in community theater. Credits include a role in Elkhorn Community Theater's production of *Big*. *Creighton* magazine caught up with Dean Latta to talk about dental care in America, what makes a Creighton dentist different and the school's move to a new, state-of-the-art building this summer.

### What are some of the major challenges in terms of oral health care in America?

One of the major issues is access to care and distribution of the dental workforce. For instance, in our inner-cities, we typically find economic barriers to care. While in rural areas, there is a major issue with the distribution of the workforce — not having enough dentists practicing in those locations — particularly in specialty care.

### How is Creighton responding to those challenges?

Our objective is to expose our students to these issues and encourage them to participate in service; to make them aware of the needs of disadvantaged populations; to challenge them to learn about and seek solutions to issues of economic access; and to provide them with a series of high-level dental experiences so that they are comfortable providing services in rural areas, where specialty access is limited.

### What most excites you about the new School of Dentistry building?

I'm excited that the environment is going to improve the patient experience — in terms of access to our facilities and patient comfort and privacy. I'm excited about the student experience being improved. Our students spend an enormous amount of time here. The teaching and learning spaces, the student spaces, in the new facility create a much more positive, healthy environment for our students. And then I'm excited about all the new technology to improve both our education delivery and our patient care.

### Do you have a favorite feature in the new facility?

There are two areas I have a real affinity for: One is the chapel, and the other is a two-story atrium on the fourth floor. Our St. Ignatius of Loyola Chapel is in a prominent location and is going to be a beautiful space for reflection and worship. The atrium, which offers a magnificent view, will include an electronic display highlighting past graduating classes. It will be a great space for students to socialize and for events.

### What makes a Creighton dentist different?

Our students, before graduation, receive as much or more clinical experience than at any other dental school in the country. We like to say they are practice-ready. But we strive to be very intentional about their formation, in the context of our Ignatian values of compassion, service and striving for excellence. I like to paraphrase a line by (Creighton Jesuit) Fr. Larry Gillick: We strive for our graduates not to be "better than" other dentists, but to be "better for" the people they serve. That struck me so powerfully, and I think it's so true.

# STEEL BEAMS AND BIG DREAMS

"It was evident the new building will not just serve as a place to provide quality dental care, but it will be a second home for the patients, students and administrators who walk through those doors every day."

Grant Tesmer  
Third-year dental student



DAVE WEAVER

Creighton University's new School of Dentistry building will open this summer at 21st and Cuming streets, on the north edge of campus. This modern facility is part of a bold vision for the dental school — with larger class sizes, the latest in dental technology and expanded community outreach. [Learn more at dentistry.creighton.edu/new-building](http://dentistry.creighton.edu/new-building).

**Save the date for the new building's dedication events during Reunion Weekend, September 13-16, 2018.**

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## TED<sup>x</sup>CreightonU

x = independently  
organized TED event



Creighton University hosted the inaugural **TEDxCreightonU** in April. Faculty, student and alumni speakers examined leadership from many angles.

Beginning in May, watch the presentations at **[TEDxCreightonU.com](http://TEDxCreightonU.com)**