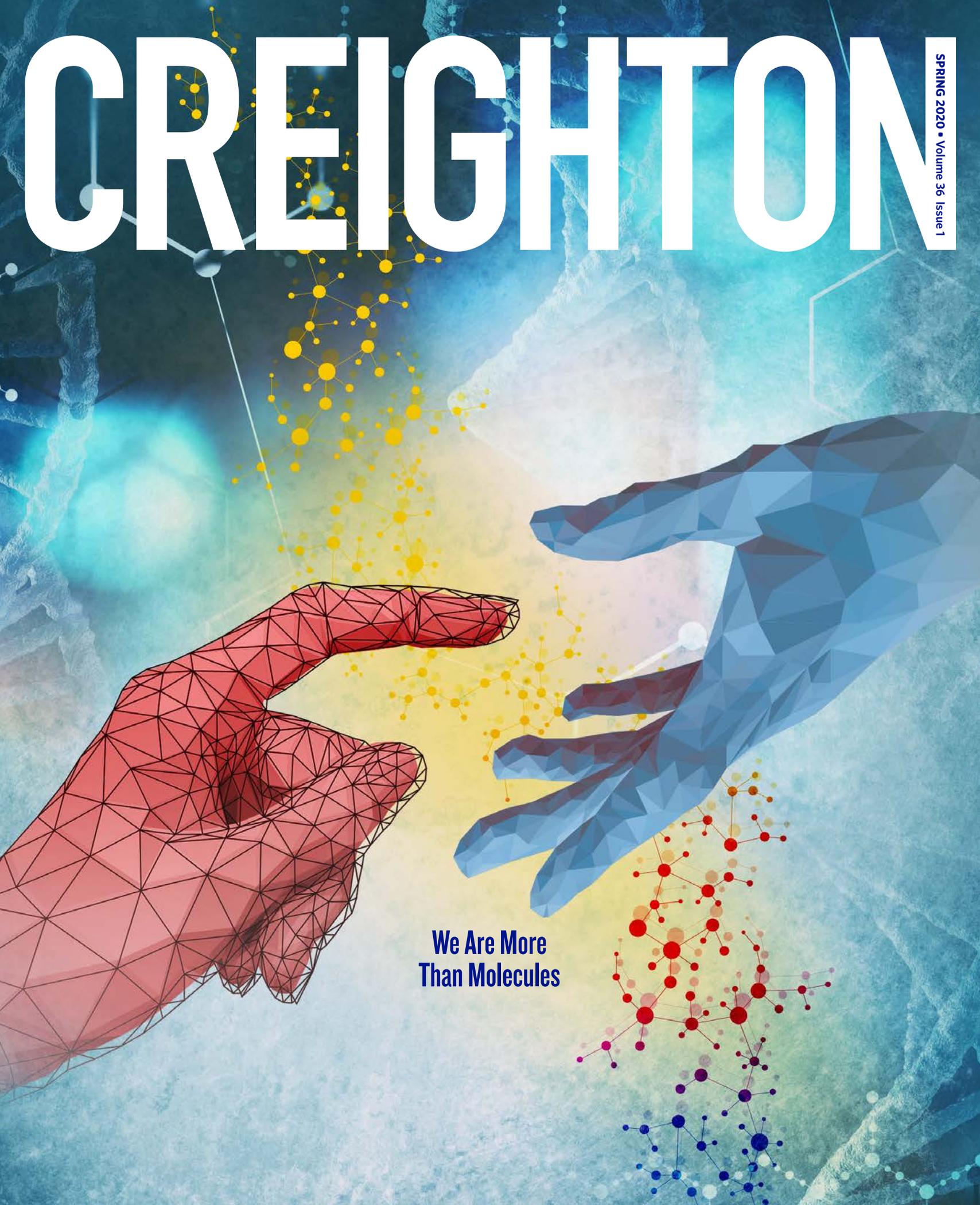


CREIGHTON

SPRING 2020 • Volume 36 Issue 1



**We Are More
Than Molecules**



Staying Connected, Staying Creighton

Follow me:

-  @CreightonPres
-  CreightonPresident

This is not quite the message I originally envisioned sharing in this issue of *Creighton* magazine. In fact, we also planned for you to receive your magazine in the mail, as always, and not online.

The trajectory of the spring semester at Creighton University, which started out so strong and with such promise, quickly changed in March due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Just as our fellow Americans, and, indeed, all citizens of the world, altered their daily lives to mitigate the rising human toll of the deadly disease, including its burden upon health care facilities, so too did our leadership team at Creighton.

We quickly established strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19. The health and well-being of our faculty, staff, and students, as well as visitors to our main campus in Omaha and our additional campuses in Phoenix and other locations, was our utmost concern.

Our undergraduate students were on spring break March 8-15 when the virus began spreading. We advised all who were at home to stay home, and those who had traveled to other locations to return home. Faculty and staff stepped up in creative ways and we began online education; it was essential that we stay connected, that we stay Creighton — which we are doing with remarkable creativity, generosity, and effect.

We had hoped to return this spring term yet to on-campus courses, but, unfortunately, the quickly evolving local and national realities did not allow that to happen, and we announced on March 20 that we would maintain online classes for the rest of the semester and we closed our residence halls to all but a limited number of students with extenuating circumstances.

I was heartsick that our students could not be with us and had to dramatically modify their lives, including those in life-transforming study abroad experiences and others in their final semester of their senior year, with all the meaning and emotion that engenders. For our graduating students, in particular, this really hurts.

When we made the extremely difficult decisions — in accordance with local, state, and national leaders and public health officials — to continue online classes for the rest of the semester and not host our traditional May commencement, I felt our community’s pain. But at once I also witnessed our resilience and resolve. Although our community is now virtual, we are as interconnected and sturdy as the bricks that line our campus mall.

In so many ways, the mall defines our campus. Leading to and from St. John’s Church, outlined in the statuary of our mission and identity, connected on the west-end by the Heaney Pedestrian Bridge, and to the east, leading to the riverfront, it is an architect of the kind of community we take pride in. Creating encounters of faculty, students, and staff multiple times a day, it is an extended campus-courtyard where handshakes, high-fives, and hugs recur. Conversation, question, demonstration, and recreation are commonplace, and friendships for life are founded. It will be active once again, that I am sure, and I look forward to seeing thousands of Creighton faces, focused, fervent, and friendly.

Please enjoy in this issue an abundance of good news and successes, including an exciting partnership we entered with Arizona State University (ASU) in February and the recognition ceremony honoring 2020 Alumni Achievement Citation recipient, Diane Morin Nelson, BA’67, and our Alumni Merit Awardees. I hope and pray you have a blessed Easter season and springtime, and that you and your families remain safe and healthy.

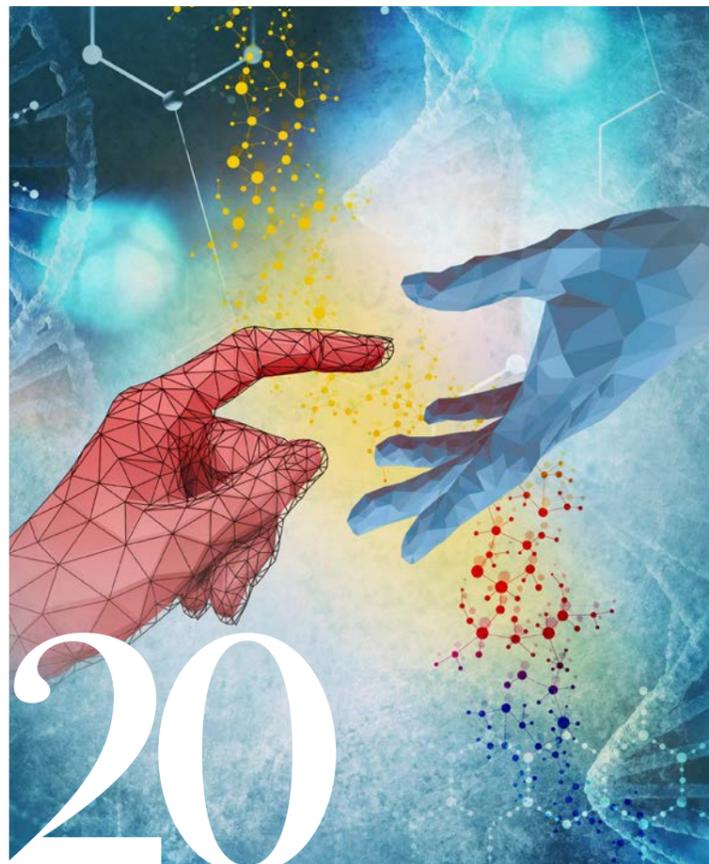


Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President

© On Feb. 21, members of Creighton’s Board of Trustees gathered at the Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus construction site for a beam-signing event. Trustees the Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ, PhD, far left, and the Rev. Casey Beaumier, SJ, watch as Fr. Hendrickson signs the beam.

DAVE CRUZ

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on the cover

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The School of Medicine's new Department of Medical Humanities seeks to foster compassionate care and a deeper understanding of what it means to be human. The premise is that well-rounded health education leads to well-rounded clinicians.



A CLOUD OF DANGER

School of Dentistry and other Creighton researchers are sounding the alarm over use of e-cigarettes, or vaping. Users face gum problems and other dental health issues.



TO OBEY AND UPHOLD

An exemplary Creighton law student who joined the FBI was gunned down in the infamous 1933 Kansas City Massacre.

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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.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

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Voices

"I want to remind you that there are seeds planted in you from the Creator of the universe that give each of us a unique purpose to change social conditions, fight injustice and make the world better."

TRICIA BENT-GOODLEY, PHD, a professor of social work and director of the doctoral program at the Howard University School of Social Work, in her keynote address at Creighton's Unity Prayer Luncheon during Martin Luther King Jr. Week.

"My name is Nibras Khudaida and I am 21 years old. I advocate for every girl's right to learn because at one point, I was denied mine."

Creighton sophomore **NIBRAS KHUDAIDA** from her prepared remarks before the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Malala Fund. (Read her story from the spring 2019 Creighton magazine, creighton.edu/creightonmagazine/magazinearchives.)

"We're proud to join the nation in congratulating Creighton University on their recent Wall Street Journal recognition as a top 10 Midwestern university. Excellence is earned, and we are grateful to Creighton for their commitment to students and community."

DAVID BROWN, president and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber, after the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings named Creighton one of the top 10 big-city colleges in the Midwest.

"Genuine caring and authentic compassion have a tremendous healing power. And much of that power comes from knowing the value of the humanities."

Creighton alumnus **RICHARD DEMING, MD'80**, whose generous support is funding an endowed chair in medical humanities.



Let's Get Social

@CreightonPres: The **@Creighton** Get Blue event was spirited! **#GoJays @BluejayMBB**

@MayorGallego: The only way forward is together—innovation cannot happen in silos. Thrilled to see this landmark partnership between **@ASU** and **@Creighton** to boost health education opportunities to ASU students, while also addressing our health care professional shortage.

@MLanceFrazier: I don't think students understand how meaningful it is to faculty when the student just stops by to chat or ask advice. I just had the most pleasant conversation with a student and my day is now exponentially better. It's the reason many of us chose this profession.

@reillycosgrove: I love Jesuit education that's it that's the tweet :')



KRISTÓF HÖLVÉNYI

‘No Typical Refugee’ BY EUGENE CURTIN

Author-Expert Says Individual Stories are Unique

A 20-year veteran of refugee rescue work — together with a refugee from South Sudan who has built a new and prosperous life for himself, his wife and his three children in Omaha — stressed a common theme during a public lecture at Creighton on Feb. 25: Stories have the power to move hearts by bringing home the terrible plight faced by refugees ejected and exiled from all they know and love.

Danielle Vella, the keynote speaker, spoke of her new book, *Dying to Live: Stories from Refugees on the Road to Freedom*, in which she details some of the stories she has come to know

as director of reconciliation and social cohesion for the Jesuit Refugee Service.

“There is no typical refugee,” Vella said. “Every story is unique and is different, so the events that lead to that life-changing decision to drop everything and leave, and the events that happen afterward, are never the same. This is one reason I wrote this book, to show that behind these anonymous and overwhelming statistics of 70 million (refugees) are 70 million individual lives.”

The refugees whose stories Vella relates in her book fled many countries, including Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.



Danielle Vella

“When you are uprooted, you have to leave everything, and even lose the sense, in a way, of who you are and your place in the world,” Vella said, citing the words of Hannah Arendt, a 20th century German Jewish philosopher and political theorist, who expressed a sense of estrangement after fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe and arriving in the United States.

“We lost our home, which means the familiarity of daily life; we lost our occupation, which means the confidence that we are of some use in this world,” Arendt wrote. “We lost our language, which means the naturalness of

reactions, the simplicity of gestures, the unfettered expression of feelings. Once we were somebodies about whom people cared, we were loved by friends.”

This sense of loss and isolation is common to modern refugees, too, Vella said, but may be eased by someone listening to their stories with an understanding ear. Refugees, she said, are commonly eager to tell their stories, which can often be harrowing, as a way of dismantling stereotypes.

“More and more there are sweeping stereotypes about who refugees are, about why they leave their countries, about why they turn up here, about the risks they supposedly pose to life as we know it,” Vella said. “And, as stereotypes do, they distort or miss everything that is important to say.

“Refugees welcome the chance to set the record straight, to tell their stories in their own words, about their country,

why they left it, about life on the journey and about life at their destination if they have been lucky enough to reach it, which most, I believe, are not.”

One of those refugees, James Bol Chol, who arrived in the United States in 2007 after fleeing his native Sudan, told a story of survival during the wars that plagued Sudan before its partition into North Sudan and South Sudan in 2011. Chol was among the Lost Boys of Sudan, who worked as a translator for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security before being relocated to Omaha, where he has built a life of which, he said, many Africans cannot dream. He has a house, three cars between himself, his wife and his three children, and has founded a nonprofit organization named Clothing for the Needy that ships clothes to African nations where he said the poorest can still be seen walking around virtually naked.

“My daughter is in high school now,” he said. “She is a smart kid. When she came here, she spoke zero English. Now she is in 10th grade and will complete high school in three years. These are opportunities that refugees around the world are looking for. They are looking for something for their children, they are looking for a better life where they can go to work and support their families.”

Vella and Chol were introduced by Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, who praised the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and welcomed the participation in the evening’s events of Lutheran Family Services, which helps resettle refugees assigned to the Omaha area.

“The Jesuit Refugee Service has been accompanying and advocating for refugees and forcibly displaced persons around the globe,” he said. “It has been a journey through the tears of the boat people of Vietnam, the killing fields of Cambodia, the silent march of millions in Africa, the war and destruction in Iraq and Syria, unrest and instability in Colombia and then Venezuela, the



GONE GIPHY

Creighton is now on Giphy! When looking for a gif or sticker to add on Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat, show your school pride by searching for “Creighton University.” For sports-focused gifs, search “Creighton Bluejays.”

gang violence in the northern triangle of Central America and the treacherous waters of the Mediterranean.

“Throughout these 40 years of shared sorrow and shared pain, the road JRS has walked with refugees has also been filled with moments of reconciliation and great joy.”

Fr. Hendrickson said Creighton will continue to partner with JRS and its global mission, even while working with refugees in Omaha.

“This global phenomenon has local connections as we serve with partners like Lutheran Family Services to welcome our newest neighbors who seek shelter and yearn for safety,” he said.

Program Connects OT, PT Students with People Recovering from Neurologic Disorders

Weekends spent in rehabilitation hospitals can seem long.

Heather Knight, DPT’08, assistant professor of physical therapy and coordinator of Creighton’s Neurologic Physical Therapy Residency Program, saw a way to alleviate patient tedium while answering student requests for direct interaction with patients.

After she partnered with Lou Jensen, OTD’09, associate professor of occupational therapy, the For and With Others: Inpatient Weekend Engagement Program was born.

“I had some physical therapy students who were looking for more opportunities to interact with people with neurologic health conditions,” Knight says.

The program, which matches physical therapy and occupational therapy students with people recovering from neurologic disorders, came to CHI Health Immanuel Rehabilitation Institute. As it enters its third year, there is evidence the program is well received.

“A patient satisfaction study found a significant difference in 



FOOTBALL AND PHYSICS

Although Creighton hasn’t fielded a football team since 1942, Creighton’s Tom Wong, PhD, assistant professor of physics, has the Bluejays back in the game with Qubit Touchdown — a board game he created that combines football with quantum computing. It’s available at thegamecrafter.com.

the area of boredom and loneliness between patients who participated in the program and those who did not," Knight says.

Stephanie Anasi, BS'15, OTD'19, occupational therapy neurology fellow at the institute, says the program gives Creighton's occupational therapy and physical therapy students early experience in caring for patients with neurological deficits.

"When I was a student, we would talk about these patients and their different conditions, but we didn't truly see them until later on when we went out to do fieldwork," she says. "This

© Physical therapy student Adrienne Roddy-Bale, left, and occupational therapy student Paige Saunier with patient Dustin Meckna at the CHI Health Immanuel Rehabilitation Institute.

program gives students the opportunity to see, interact and maybe come to some understanding working with patients with these diagnoses before going out on fieldwork."

The program pairs OT and PT student volunteers in teams of two who socialize with selected patients on Sundays. Not yet licensed professionals, they do not provide treatment or clinical services.

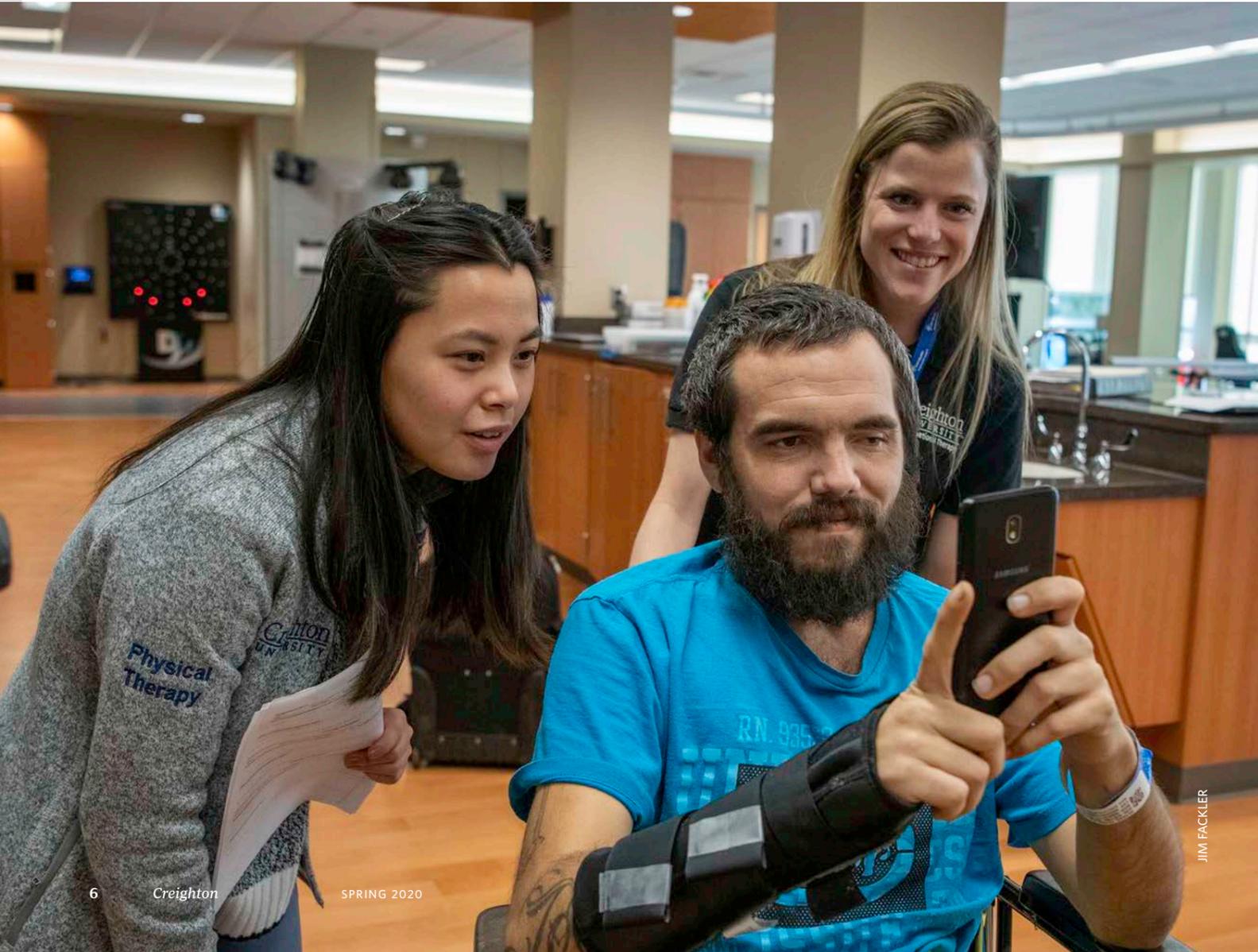
What the students provide, says Sharon Malick, is "an engagement opportunity for our patients — interaction and socialization opportunities."

Malick, who is supervisor of inpatient rehab therapies at the institute,

says the students might chat with patients, work on a puzzle, play a game or engage in other social activities.

The program began in spring 2018. All told, it has supported a new group of 16 students every six months for nearly three years.

"It's an opportunity for students to gain awareness of the challenges, and the abilities, of patients dealing with neurological deficits," Malick says. "It gives them a chance to learn a little bit more, earlier, and hopefully build confidence when they start providing treatment on their full-time clinical affiliations."



JIM FACKLER

Panel Discusses Climate Crisis

Creighton faculty and students explored how the University can best respond to the current climate crisis at a panel discussion on Jan. 28, titled "Seeking Hope: Intentional and Ignatian Responses to the Global Climate Crisis."

Panelists offered expert opinions before fielding questions from an estimated crowd of 275 students, faculty and staff. Many members of the President's Council also attended as well as Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD.

The event was moderated by Andy Gustafson, PhD, professor of business ethics and organizer of the annual Business, Faith and Common Good symposium in the Heider College of Business. Faculty panelists represented a variety of disciplines: marketing, physics/renewable energy, economics, psychology, law and philosophy.

All stressed the importance of political and civic engagement among the campus community and the need for hope to motivate change.

"The one thing that seems to promote action is having optimism," said Lee Budesheim, PhD, associate professor of psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences, whose research focuses on cognitive processes underlying how people form impressions and judge others. "Be fearful, but balance that fear with optimism, and I think we can get some good things done."

A Force for Dealing with Conflict

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised that *Star Wars* has much to teach us about conflict. It's right there in the title, after all.

With the latest installment of George Lucas' epic space drama, *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, hitting theaters this



CREIGHTON

Here are eight snippets of wisdom commencement speakers have shared with previous graduating classes.

- 1 "Let's reject the myth that we aren't all in this together — that caring about the me means you can't care about the we." *Kyle Korver, BA'03; professional basketball player (2019)*
- 2 "We can't shy away from things — we have to live deeply. We have to connect to the spiritual and the emotional." *Mae Jemison, MD; first female African American astronaut (2018); pictured above*
- 3 "You have something others would give most anything for. You believe in something — in your God, in your country, in your family, in your school, in yourself." *Tim Russert; late television journalist and moderator of Meet the Press (2006)*
- 4 "As you leave Creighton for a world in which you are likely to flourish ... think about how we might all do our bit to address health and other disparities." *Paul Farmer, MD, PhD; co-founder of Partners in Health (2017)*
- 5 "Here are seven things to say every day: 'I love you,' 'Thank you,' 'Thank you, God,' 'Forgive me,' 'Congratulations!' 'Why not?' and 'Yes.'" *James Martin, SJ; author and commentator (2016)*
- 6 "Today you have our congratulations; forever you have our prayers." *Timothy R. Lannon, SJ, BS'73; former Creighton president (2014)*
- 7 "You give this school its character. Take that character with you, and make your impact on the world." *Suzanne Malveaux; television news journalist (2012)*
- 8 "Keep your sense of humor; you'll need it." *Bob Newhart; comedian, actor (2007)*

past December, a Creighton professor says the beloved saga can illustrate key concepts in the field of conflict resolution ... and not just for a galaxy far, far away.

"The whole world needs this," says Noam Ebner, professor of negotiation and conflict resolution in the Graduate School, of the knowledge and skills involved in successfully managing conflict.

Ebner, a lifelong *Star Wars* fan, is collaborating on a book, *Star Wars and Conflict Resolution*, that will feature chapters written by experts in academia and practice, using narrative elements from the series to introduce important themes in conflict resolution to a general audience.

"If we can somehow hitch the wagon of conflict resolution to the engine of pop culture, we feel we have the potential to reach people far beyond the classroom."

In addition to trade wars and legislative disputes, Ebner says, "*Star Wars* has workplace disputes, and particularly it has family disputes. There's a little bit of the Skywalker family in every one of our families, and it's a scary thing if we don't know how to cope with conflict a little more effectively than the Skywalker family did."

Creighton Offers New Majors in Data Science, Biochemistry, Criminal Justice

Three majors introduced this year by Creighton University's College of Arts and Sciences are boosting the University's profile in the fields of data science, biochemistry and criminal justice.

All three were created in response to student interest and employer demand, according to the professors who helped create them, and all three are experiencing healthy levels of interest.

"There's really a huge market out there for individuals with criminal

justice degrees,” says Rebecca Murray, PhD, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Criminal justice had previously been a track within Creighton’s Bachelor of Science in sociology.

“Criminal justice as a discipline has morphed into more than law enforcement training,” she says. “It’s much more data-driven, it’s much more analytical, and more and more agencies are looking for people who have a much broader background than just investigative training.”

A similar note is sounded by Aimee Schwab-McCoy, PhD, a statistician and assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, who helped create the University’s new Bachelor of Science in data science.

“Companies left and right are building divisions or hiring data scientists to

manage the volume of data that they have,” Schwab-McCoy says. “Every industry has a demand for data scientists. It can really be tailored to just about any interest.”

Biochemistry, which was previously a track, or subdiscipline, within the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, is not only a sought-after major for those seeking jobs in academia or the biotech industry, but for those aspiring to careers in the health sciences.

“Every class that’s required for students to take as an undergrad for medical school is found in this major,” says Juliane Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm’93, professor in the Department of Chemistry, who helped develop the major. “Dental school wants you to have biochemistry. Pharmacy, too. Any of the health sciences. Biochemistry is the core of everything.”



FLOYD MALVEAUX ▶
Floyd Malveaux, MD, PhD, BS’61, served on Creighton’s Board of Trustees for nearly 20 years.

Remembering Floyd Malveaux

Former Board of Trustees member and distinguished alumnus Floyd Malveaux, MD, PhD, BS’61, died Jan. 9 at the age of 79.

Malveaux was a nationally recognized expert in the field of asthma and allergic diseases. His illustrious career was highlighted by nearly four decades at Howard University College of Medicine, where he led initiatives to address asthma morbidity among inner-city children. He also served in a leadership role at the Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc., and was a member of the faculty at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for a time.

Malveaux served as a Creighton Trustee from 1997 until 2015, and thereafter as an emeritus member. In 2015, he was inducted into Creighton’s inaugural chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and in 2017 received Creighton’s highest alumni award, the Alumni Achievement Citation.

“He demonstrated in his professional life and in his personal life, the importance of service to society, lifelong love of learning, the value of family life,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “He is the epitome of Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic ideals.”

Creighton Now Offering Engineering/Physics Dual Degree

Creighton enrolled its first class this fall in a new Engineering/Physics 3-2 Dual Degree program with Washington University in St. Louis.

Graduates spend their first three years at Creighton, earning a bachelor’s degree in physics, then complete two years at Washington University for a bachelor’s degree in engineering. They also can earn a master’s degree in engineering with an additional year at Washington University.

© Siddharth Venkatraman, left, is a biochemistry major and works in the lab of Juliane Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm’93. Venkatraman is a Goldwater Scholar and was a 2018 Dr. and Mrs. Randolph Ferlic Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow.



COLIN CONCES



JESUIT GARDENS

Spiritual Lessons from the Weight Room

As a man of faith, Brother Patrick Douglas, SJ, is all too aware of spiritual problems in the world that are out of his control.

He sees them on the news. He hears them from people who ask him for prayers.

“When I have parents that are coming to me, asking me to pray for their sick baby who is hanging on by a thread, I do pray for them, and I do trust the Lord in that,” Br. Douglas says.

“But then what do you do with those feelings? ... I take those on. What do you do with all that weight?”

In his case, lift it.

Br. Douglas, vocation director for the Midwest Jesuits and a member of the Jesuit community at Creighton, is an award-winning competitive powerlifter. He coaches students at the University and at Creighton Preparatory School, a Jesuit high school in Omaha, where he serves as assistant coach for the school’s state title-winning powerlifting team.

Weightlifting, Br. Douglas says, has given him opportunities to express his faith and to share Christ’s teachings with others.

“The powerlifting community is small enough that ... I see a lot of the same people. They know I’m a (religious) brother, and they will often come and talk to me about struggles they’re having with faith, or family or whatever it might be,” Br. Douglas says.

An Omaha native with degrees in social work and sociology from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, Br. Douglas first began lifting when he was 20. He’s found that the sport can be a vehicle to discuss

important spiritual concepts with students, competitors and others, both in and out of the weight room.

“Especially with young college students, there’s this terrible pressure and a fear of failure. Well in weightlifting, we go to failure all the time,” Br. Douglas says. “Failure can be frustrating, but we don’t have to be devastated by it. I can take feedback in weightlifting in ways that I can’t in other parts of my life. If my coach tells me my elbows are flaring out on my bench, and that’s why I missed it, I don’t feel like a bad person because my elbows were flared.”

In the same way, he says, when we feel like we don’t measure up in some aspect of our lives, such as our relationships with others, we shouldn’t be too harsh on ourselves. We should examine the situation like a practical problem to solve.

Lifting also provides an example for how we can encourage and nurture friends and family spiritually, he says. In the gym, spotters are unfailingly positive.

“Look to be a spiritual spotter in your relationships with a faith community,” he says.

— BY BLAKE URSCH



Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, left, and Mark Searle, PhD, executive vice president and provost of Arizona State University.

Creighton Signs 'Landmark' Agreement with Arizona State University

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Partnership to benefit Creighton and ASU students as Creighton prepares to open campus in Midtown Phoenix in 2021

A landmark partnership between one of the largest public research universities in the United States and the soon-to-be largest Jesuit, Catholic health educator in the nation will answer a dire need for health care professionals in Arizona and in the southwestern United States.

A partnership agreement between Creighton University and Arizona State University (ASU) was signed Feb. 21 at a Phoenix gathering of leaders from both universities, including the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, president of Creighton, and Mark Searle, PhD, executive vice president and provost of ASU.

The agreement will boost health education opportunities available to ASU students while establishing a student pipeline to Creighton's \$100 million Phoenix campus currently under construction at Park Central in midtown Phoenix.

"The partnership with Arizona State University is a landmark event," Fr. Hendrickson said. "With this agreement, our Jesuit, Catholic University steps into a compelling new world. We have forged partnerships with other entities, in Denver, in Anchorage, the Dominican Republic, and more. But this unique agreement positions both of our universities for an unprecedented and exciting future, full of promise and significance.

"We are resolved that through our new Phoenix campus, Creighton University will become a major provider of health care professionals to this great city and state."

"ASU is committed to advancing the highest quality education and use-inspired research, and to collaborating with forward-thinking partners like Creighton University to enhance accessibility and success for 21st century learners," ASU President Michael M. Crow, PhD, said.

"Through our significant partnership, we

are excited to create new knowledge opportunities for students and to broaden our capacity to generate positive and meaningful health outcomes for Arizona."

Creighton alumna Sharon Harper, BA'69, a member of the governing boards of both Creighton and ASU, and a passionate and active supporter of Creighton's Phoenix campus, described the agreement as "a dream come true."

"Two incredible institutions, both dear to me, have joined hands to provide a shining example of pioneering and revolutionary innovation in health science education," said Harper, co-founder, chairman and CEO of Plaza Companies, a premier Arizona real estate firm. "This agreement will transform how we meet

“
Together, we look forward to providing the city of Phoenix, the state of Arizona, and, indeed, the southwestern United States, with the health care professionals the region will need as the new century advances.
”

REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD

our health care needs in Arizona, and how we serve our students, our patients and the entire community."

Under the terms of the agreement, ASU students will receive priority consideration for enrollment in three Creighton health sciences doctoral programs, while ASU will welcome Creighton students to on-campus research projects and supplement instruction at Creighton's health sciences campus in Phoenix.

The agreement provides space for ASU students entering Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions doctoral programs in pharmacy (up to 20 seats), occupational therapy (up to 30 seats) and physical therapy (up to 40 seats).

In return, students enrolled at the Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus may engage in research activities at ASU facilities under the mentorship of ASU faculty, while ASU faculty will provide basic science instruction for first-year medical students enrolled at Creighton's Phoenix campus.

Creighton medical students and students in ASU's School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering are currently collaborating on multiple research projects, ranging in focus from diabetes to hypoglycemia, oncology, drug delivery, asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and more.

Eric Nguyen, a third-year Creighton medical student from Cerritos, California, who is working on a radiation oncology device, says Creighton medical students work cooperatively with ASU bioengineering students on all innovations.

"We identify clinical needs as we go through our rotations," Nguyen said, "then we combine the clinical and engineering perspectives to innovate and create novel solutions."

Once a need is identified, technical help is provided.

"The med students understand the unmet clinical needs, and our students offer technical solutions," said Vince Pizziconi, PhD, associate professor of bioengineering at ASU, who oversees the student project teams. "They are all passionate about what they do, but the key is finding good projects."

The partnership with ASU builds on the growing relationship between Creighton University and the city of Phoenix, where Creighton medical students have engaged in clinical rotations since 2005. In 2018, Creighton joined with Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Valleywise Health and District Medical Group, Inc., to form the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance – one of Arizona's largest providers of Graduate Medical Education.

Creighton's Phoenix campus is expected to open in 2021. When completed, it will be home to a four-year medical school and will accommodate nearly 900 students, including future physicians, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists and physician assistants.



JIM FACKLER

© Echo Perlman, DNP'17, assistant professor of nursing, left, and Adam Sundberg PhD, assistant professor of history, at the former site of the ASARCO lead refinery plant in downtown Omaha.

Course Brings Students Face-to-Face with Environmental Justice

Students in Adam Sundberg's service-learning course on the history of environmental inequalities not only learn of the negative effects of urban industrialization on racial minorities, they visit homes where lead poisoning remains an issue.

"Week by week, we learn what environmental inequality means, its history and what makes it a justice issue," says Sundberg, PhD, assistant professor of history, whose course is one of 58 to receive service-learning designation from Creighton's Office of Academic Service-Learning since its inception in 2017.

Academic service-learning is an experiential educational strategy that

integrates community service into academic courses — for the benefit of student learning and community partners. Sundberg's students visit homes across the metro where lead poisoning is still a problem, and accompany Creighton nursing students on trips to north and south Omaha, where they screen children for lead by administering finger-prick blood tests.

According to Environmental Protection Agency figures, just over 1,000 residential properties in Omaha, once home to a major lead refinery, remain in need of decontamination, a process that is being pursued by the city of Omaha.

The students accompany Dupree Claxton, a case coordinator with Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, a nonprofit that seeks to improve child health by improving housing. By shadowing Claxton as he tours and analyzes homes, they learn to identify environmental hazards.

Echo Perlman, DNP'17, assistant professor of nursing, invites Sundberg's students to visit neighborhoods where, for the past three years, she has screened young children for lead levels. This year, she says, she expects to screen about 1,500 elementary schoolchildren.

It is an opportunity, she says, for the students to immerse themselves in a different world.

"The nursing students say it's an education just to see the neighborhoods and the schools," Perlman says. "It's a socio-economic world they may not know. For most of them, this is their first exposure into diverse, socially economically challenged populations and so they live and learn."

Sundberg and Perlman say they hope a permanent database will result from the students' research into lead pollution. Their findings will eventually be posted permanently, available to the public and constituting a useful guide to future researchers and to medical professionals like Perlman, who expects the students' research will enable her to target lead screenings more effectively.

Flannery Next Holder of Waite Chair



KEVIN FLANNERY, SJ ►
The Rev. Kevin Flannery, SJ, is a renowned professor, author and lecturer.

The next holder of Creighton's Anna and Donald Waite Endowed Chair in Jesuit Education for the 2020-2021 academic year is the Rev. Kevin Flannery, SJ.

A renowned professor, author and lecturer, Fr. Flannery's areas of academic expertise include the ethics of Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas and Christian morality. He is a professor of the history of ancient philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University and a member of the Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, both in Rome, and the author of several books, including *Christian and Moral Action* and *Action and Character According to Aristotle: The Logic of the Moral Life*. His most recent work, published in late 2019, is *Cooperation with Evil: Thomistic Tools of Analysis*.

Originally from Cleveland, Fr. Flannery entered the Society of Jesus in 1977. He began teaching at the Gregorian University in 1992 and was appointed a Consultor of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II, a position he still holds today.

The Gregorian University is an ecclesiastical, pontifical and Jesuit university at the service of the Church around the world. Animated by the Ignatian spirit, it promotes interdisciplinary education and includes professors and students from some 120 countries.

In 2006-2007, Fr. Flannery was a visiting fellow at the Center for Ethics and Culture at Notre Dame University; his connection with the center, now named the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, continues to this day.

The Waite Chair in Jesuit Education was established in 2011 by Donald Waite, BSC'54, and his wife, Anna, to augment the Jesuit presence on the Creighton campus. The Waite Chair sponsors visiting Jesuits who pursue writing, research and teaching on law, philosophy, business ethics, health care and more, opening doors for learning across international borders and cultural divides.

Follow Your 'Drum Major Instinct'

Tricia Bent-Goodley, PhD, a professor of social work and director of the doctoral program at the Howard University School of Social Work, delivered the keynote address at Creighton's annual Unity Prayer Luncheon in January, asking attendees to consider a quote from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice," King said in a famous sermon shortly before his death. "Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."

WAIT...WHAT?

Creighton is known for the opportunities it provides students to conduct valuable research. Here's a snapshot of two dental students' research project that was published in *Scientific Reports*.



TITLE OF RESEARCH

"In Silico Design of a Multivalent Vaccine against *Candida Albicans*"

STUDENT RESEARCHERS

Blake LaTendresse, second-year dental student, Overland Park, Kansas; and Laramie Lindgren, second-year dental student, Wahoo, Nebraska

FACULTY MENTORS

Shikha Tarang, PhD, assistant professor of oral biology; and Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, PhD, associate dean of dental research

WHAT IT MEANS

Dental students Blake LaTendresse and Laramie Lindgren assisted on groundbreaking research that identifies and recommends a vaccine to better protect against *Candida albicans*, a deadly fungal infection. Known as "oral-thrush," *Candida albicans* overgrowth is not uncommon in patients wearing dentures. Candidemia is associated with high morbidity and mortality, and is one of the most common systemic fungal infections. Specific triggers such as a compromised immune system, poor diet and stress can cause *Candida* to become virulent, resulting in life-threatening blood infections. The vaccine aims to elicit robust, long-lasting immunity; further research on the project will continue in the dental school.

King, Bent-Goodley said, is reminding us that we all have the "drum major instinct," the desire to lead and spark change. But often, a yearning for recognition and acceptance from others clouds the idealism that motivated us in the first place.

Bent-Goodley said deep, honest self-reflection can provide fundamental clues to what we should value and prioritize.

"I want to remind you that there are seeds planted in you from the Creator of the universe that give each of us a unique purpose to change social conditions, fight injustice and make the world better," Bent-Goodley said.

The Unity Prayer Luncheon is the cornerstone of Creighton's annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King. The ceremony also included the presentation of the Drum Major Award by Creighton's Martin Luther King Jr. Committee to Donna Polk, PhD, CEO of the Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition.

Convocation Address: 'Creighton Poised for an Exciting Future'

Like all institutions of higher learning, Creighton University is immersed in an era of challenge but is well equipped to prosper as the century advances, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, told faculty and staff at the annual Founders Day Awards Ceremony and Convocation Address in February.

"I feel that we are very poised for an exciting future, but we do have to make some big decisions about this future," Fr. Hendrickson said.

That future, he said, will be closely tied to Creighton's ongoing construction of a \$100 million medical school and health sciences campus in Phoenix. Scheduled to open in 2021, the Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus will eventually serve nearly 900 Creighton students in nursing. 📍

pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and physician assistant programs, as well as students in a four-year medical program.

Fr. Hendrickson also announced that a task force is identifying ways to increase Creighton's already strong freshman retention rate, as well as the six-year graduation rate and enrollment in Creighton's professional schools.

Outreach will continue to nontraditional learners interested in pursuing lifelong learning, Fr. Hendrickson said. Many options are open to Creighton in these areas, he said, including clinical partnerships in Omaha and Phoenix, corporate partnerships and programs for alumni.

Fr. Hendrickson shared future plans under consideration: construction of a new suite-style residence hall between McGloin Hall and the School of Dentistry and a wholesale reimagining of 24th Street where it dissects campus between Cass and Cuming streets. The street, integral to Creighton's identity, could be improved and made safer, he said, by the installation of bicycle lanes, trees, a redesign of Deglman Circle and installation of a roundabout near Cass Street.

Creighton Recognized for 'Exceptional ROI'

The Princeton Review selected Creighton as one of the nation's best-value institutions in its 2020 edition of *Best Value Colleges: 200 Schools with Exceptional ROI for Your Tuition Investment*.

It also named Creighton among the top 25 schools "making an impact," based on student ratings and responses to survey questions on community service opportunities, student government, sustainability efforts and on-campus student engagement. A survey by PayScale.com, asking each

school's alumni to rate the level of meaningfulness in their post-graduation careers, also was taken into account.

Schools cited in the 2020 Princeton Review edition were selected based on a comprehensive analysis of more than 656 colleges, weighing more than 40 data points. Data analyzed covered academics, cost, financial aid, graduation rates, student debt and more. Data from PayScale.com's online compensation survey on alumni starting and mid-career salaries was also factored.

Alston Featured in 'A Sculpted Life'

Creighton professor Littleton Alston, MFA, was featured in the NET documentary "A Sculpted Life," which premiered in February on Nebraska's public broadcasting station, and is viewable online at netnebraska.org/basic-page/television/sculpted-life.

Alston is the first African American sculptor commissioned to create a piece for National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The D.C. native's 7-foot bronze statue of writer Willa Cather will represent the state of Nebraska at the popular exhibit, which attracts millions of visitors from around the world and long ago captured Alston's imagination.

Growing up in an impoverished, high-crime area in D.C., Alston would ride his bike to the U.S. Capitol on hot summer days and wander through Statuary Hall, gazing in awe at the bronze and marble figures.

"They were very distant," he said. "They were like Olympian gods — they didn't look like me, that's for sure!"

"A Sculpted Life" follows Alston on his creative quest to understand Cather, and explores how personal struggles have shaped his own life. Alston's Cather statue will be installed at Statuary Hall sometime in 2021.



NICHOLAS MCCREARY ▶
Nicholas McCreary is Creighton's new director of sustainability and will develop a campus-wide sustainability strategic plan.

Creighton Names Sustainability Director

Nicholas McCreary, formerly the sustainability coordinator at Indiana State University (ISU), joined Creighton in March as director of sustainability, and will work with a team in the Global Engagement Office to develop a campus-wide sustainability strategic plan.

"He will be an important leader in the continued transformation of our global engagement programs to focus on caring for our common home," says René Padilla, PhD, vice provost for Global Engagement.

McCreary served as the sustainability coordinator at ISU since 2017, leading a multidisciplinary committee of faculty, staff and students to create the campus sustainability plan.

He also developed a Sustainability Fellows Program, through which students developed and implemented various sustainability programs on campus, from a residence hall food-waste initiative to a learning community and campus celebrations. Under McCreary's leadership, students started a reuse store, where items collected during residence hall move-out were sold to divert waste.

McCreary spearheaded a Sustainable Cities Initiative in which ISU partnered with the town of Sullivan, Indiana, to produce tangible and relevant sustainability outcomes for the community through service-learning opportunities for faculty, staff and students.

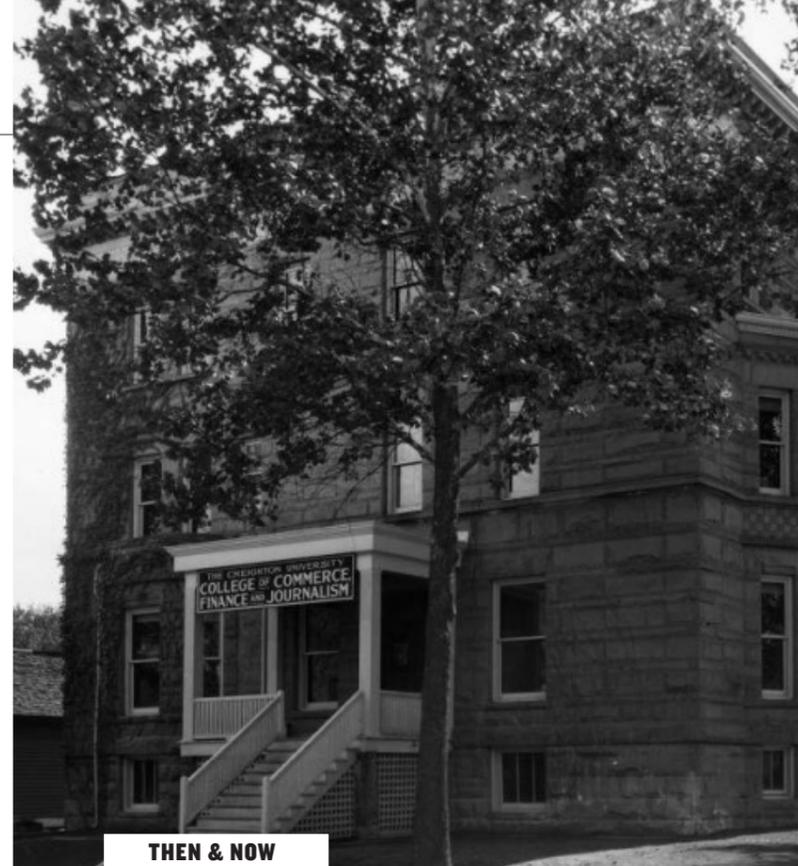
In addition, he has experience converting urban spaces into permaculture food forests, managed the ISU community garden and taught courses on sustainability.

McCreary holds a Master of Science in Sustainability degree from Saint Louis University and a Bachelor of Arts in Earth Sciences, with minors in political science and philosophy, from DePauw University, and is accredited as a LEED Green Associate.



GRADUATE WEBSITE

Creighton's Graduate School — offering both online and on-campus programs — recently launched a new website, gradschool.creighton.edu, making it easier for prospective students to find the right programs to further their education. Visitors can browse educational offerings, schedule an appointment with an enrollment specialist or submit an application.



THEN & NOW

Heider College of Business Celebrates 100th Anniversary

2020 is a year of distinction for the Heider College of Business, as the college marks its 100th anniversary.

"Like all milestones, this is a time to reflect on the past and anticipate the future," says Heider Dean Anthony Hendrickson, PhD. "The vision of those who have come before has made the Heider College of Business the top-ranked business school it is today. This year, we celebrate this history."

Creighton's College of Commerce, Accounts and Finance opened in 1920 with nearly 80 students. Only evening classes were offered at first, and the faculty members were Omaha business professionals. Today, the Heider College of Business is Creighton's first named college, with record enrollment, eight undergraduate majors and 16 specialization tracks, seven graduate business degrees, and faculty possessing both advanced degrees and industry experience.

In the upcoming months, the college will celebrate its century of education, scholarship and service through special events and the publishing of a commemorative book. The college also has launched a #Heider100 website (business.creighton.edu/heider100), where visitors can find a timeline of significant accomplishments. More information on each decade will be updated monthly.



Potthoff Named Sojourns Scholar

Meghan Walker Potthoff, PhD, BSN'01, associate professor of nursing, was selected as one of 10 palliative care leaders nationally accepted into the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program, sponsored by the Cambia Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Cambia Health Solutions based in Portland, Oregon.

The corporate foundation said Potthoff was selected after “a rigorous selection process from a highly competitive pool” drawn from candidates across the United States from all health sciences disciplines.

The program provides each recipient with funding over a two-year period, aimed at developing significant change in the field of palliative care. Typically, palliative care seeks to improve the quality of life for patients and their families while managing serious and chronic illnesses.

Potthoff was selected on the strength of her desire to develop a “Pediatric Palliative Care Conversation Toolkit for the Chronic Critically Ill,” which she says can be used to guide conversations between health sciences professionals and the families of chronically ill children within the setting of an intensive care unit.

Once developed, the “toolkit” will be made available as an open-access service to health sciences professionals nationwide.

In addition to the grant funding, the leadership program provides participants with individual mentorship as they move toward fulfilling their goals, as well as collaboration with other scholars.

“My goal is to become a leading doctorally prepared nurse scientist who is integrated into an interdisciplinary clinical team,” Potthoff says. “I look forward to learning from my Sojourns colleagues across disciplines on how best to lead within and across our fields.”



COLIN CONCES

© Meghan Walker Potthoff, PhD, BSN'01, is developing a toolkit to guide conversations between health care professionals and parents.

HEALTH BRIEFS

3D-printed Fetal Models Boost Maternal Bonding

A Creighton study has found that pregnant women given a 3D-printed model of their gestating child nearly doubled their degree of maternal attachment as compared to expecting mothers receiving only the standard 3D ultrasound image.

John Coté, MD'97, assistant professor of medicine and OB-GYN physician; Amy Badura Brack, PhD, professor of psychology; and Ryan Walters, PhD, a statistician and assistant professor in the School of Medicine, collaborated on the research – which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*.

Their study adds to existing evidence that found pregnant women presented with a 3D ultrasound fetal photograph instead of a standard ultrasound image also experience enhanced maternal bonding.

The study separated 96 pregnant volunteers into two equal groups. All completed the Maternal Antenatal Attachment Scale questionnaire, which asks a series of questions designed to assess maternal attachment to the developing fetus. One group was subsequently provided with a standard 3D ultrasound image, while the other group received the same 3D image plus a 3D-printed model.

Coté says the findings could be used to improve potentially harmful practices during pregnancy, such as smoking and drinking.



DAVE WEAVER

© John Coté, MD'97, holds a 3D-printed model of a gestating child. Coté, Amy Badura Brack, PhD, and Ryan Walters, PhD, conducted a study that found women experienced enhanced maternal bonding when shown a model of their baby while in the womb.

Leading the Way in Palliative Care Education

Through coursework, student-led programs, donor support and award-winning faculty, Creighton is blazing a trail in training tomorrow's health professionals in the field of palliative care.

At its core, palliative medicine is an interdisciplinary approach to treating patients with chronic, sometimes life-threatening medical conditions, says Kate McKillip, MD, BA'09, assistant professor of palliative medicine in Creighton's School of Medicine and a physician on the palliative care team at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy.

In IPE 515, Interprofessional Palliative Care, students from various academic disciplines engage in live-action scenarios, working in teams to make treatment decisions for palliative care patients played by actors. The course was developed through the collaborative efforts of Creighton's College of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and partners at CHI Health.

The College of Nursing is currently assembling a team of expert faculty focused specifically on palliative care, says Dean Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, who also serves as vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses at Creighton. In the School of Medicine, palliative medical education is

supported in part by the Cudahy Palliative Care Scholarship, established by alumnus Terence Cudahy, BS'78, MD'82.

In the classroom, McKillip partners with Creighton faculty outside of the health professions to more fully explore the idea of individualized “whole-person care” through the humanities. These initiatives are complemented by student-led efforts such as *Cura Musicalis*, in which School of Medicine students engage patients at the bedside by playing music.

“I think (at Creighton), we're in a unique situation to be able to develop some clinical academic partnerships that have the potential to impact a lot of people's lives in a positive way,” McKillip says.

Innovative Clinical Nursing Model Debuts in Phoenix

The College of Nursing has brought its innovative clinic training model — called the “Dedicated Education Unit” or DEU — to its programs in Phoenix.

The approach, introduced at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha in 2013, transforms the traditional clinical experience by making students part of a care team under the direct guidance of trained nurses designated as clinical teaching partners. It's a strategy that frees faculty to teach and allows nurses to pass on their expertise.

“Instead of concentrating on tasks, the faculty has time for one-to-one conferences with the students as we pull them off the unit at least twice a day to go through what they have learned about medications, goals and outcomes,” says Anne Schoening, PhD, project director for DEUs in the College of Nursing.

The DEU experience in Phoenix is provided through Creighton's partnerships with St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center and Chandler Regional Medical Center, all within the Dignity Health system, and Valleywise Health Medical Center.

“I could just see the confidence grow in the students from day one to day 10 or 12,” says Ashley Jensen, RN, a clinical teaching partner at Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center in Chandler, Arizona. “Watching them progress as individuals as well as nurses was really exciting to see.”

Exploring Advanced Imaging Techniques

Creighton University medical students are exploring new ways of capturing the human body using the latest in 3D imaging technology.

Randy Richardson, MD, regional dean, Phoenix Regional Campus, School of Medicine, sees broad potential for these advanced imaging techniques in medical practice and education.

“It's a whole new area that, in my opinion, is going to someday be the standard of care,” Richardson says.

Though doctors have long been using MRI and CT scans to make detailed images of the human body's interior, they are now able to use that data in new ways. Some medical facilities are able to print patient-specific models of body parts on a 3D printer, allowing doctors to examine affected areas in greater detail.

For Creighton students, 3D imaging and modeling presents a new way of learning anatomy.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg,” Richardson says. “If we can get our students familiar with these 3D techniques and tools, they can take it to the next level. They are going to do things in 10 years we haven't even thought of.”

Can We Prevent Occupational Burnout?

BY BLAKE URSCH

THE BIG QUESTION

Maybe you've been there. Exhaustion. Disaffection. Trouble concentrating, trouble working. The symptoms of professional burnout are all-too familiar to those who've experienced them. They seep into the day-to-day and bleed into the off hours, leading to feelings of dread and dissatisfaction.

But researchers at Creighton University, looking into the causes and effects of burnout in various professions, have discovered ways to fight it.

"An overarching concept, when you're talking about someone's burnout level, is to think of it as a bucket," says Maggie Knight, BSBA'01, DBA'18, assistant professor in the Heider College of Business. "You've got a bucket that has to be filled with a certain amount of resources to get through your day. When you have a task at work or a conflict, that's draining resources from your bucket. But your workplace can also be filling up the bucket at the same time."

Awareness of occupational burnout has risen in recent years as professionals have begun discussing mental health more openly, Knight says. The condition is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a psychological syndrome characterized by chronic feelings of work-related stress. Estimates of the number of Americans experiencing burnout vary, but a 2018 Gallup study of 7,500 full-time employees reported 23% felt burned out at work often or always, with another 44% reporting they felt burned out sometimes.

All of this eventually adds up. Employees experiencing burnout are typically less productive and more likely to leave their jobs. Some experts have estimated that U.S. industries lose \$300 billion a year to workplace stress, Knight says.

Burnout plagues certain fields more than others. Cases have long been observed among teachers and social workers. Public accountants are also high on the list, Knight says, due to long hours, high workload and high-pressure client deadlines.

In recent years, the medical community in particular has made addressing burnout among physicians a key priority. According to the National Academy of Medicine, burnout is nearly twice as high among U.S. physicians compared to any other field.

"Recently, burnout has become more of a

problem in the medical community because health care has become more and more complex," says Prasanna Tadi, MD, assistant professor in the School of Medicine and a neurologist with CHI Health. "There is a lack of autonomy, and we are becoming more and more siloed. Before, we had a community of people to talk to. That's going away."

High workload is also a significant stressor, Tadi says. A current physician shortage is on track to double by 2025, which poses a problem for an aging population. Fewer physicians are working longer hours to meet the chronic medical needs of their older patients.

After personally experiencing burnout, Tadi says fighting the condition became his life mission. His work led him to be selected for several state and national programs aimed at promoting physician wellness.

At Creighton and with CHI Health, Tadi also works to address burnout at the individual level. In addition to making and sharing wellness videos online, he oversees the CHEER study, a once-a-month 90-minute meeting where medical students gather to share experiences with each other.

In the program, third- and fourth-year

medical students serve as mentors to first- and second-year students. Meetings are followed by CHEER emails that are used to recognize the personal and professional accomplishments of each student.

Similar strategies can be applied to combat burnout in professions outside of medicine, Knight says. In most cases, burnout arises due to some combination of three common "role stressors": conflict between incompatible roles, ambiguity about role expectations and role overload. Employers can minimize the impact of these stressors by addressing them directly — responsibly managing employee workload, being explicit about work expectations and giving employees the resources to recharge, Knight says.

"Social support and supervisor support help," she explains. "You should have a best friend at work. There is good evidence indicating that having a strong social network at work leads to higher employee well-being. The same is true for supervisor support. How your supervisor interacts with you, what kind of conflict management style he or she uses, all of this plays a big part in whether you feel these role stressors at work."





A new Creighton initiative explores the important role of the humanities in improving health education and care

We Are More Than Molecules

By Micah Mertes

This is a story about the power of stories — to connect human beings, to reach the places that stats, facts and figures can't quite touch.

So, let's begin with a story ...

A few years ago, a baby girl named Grace was born with trisomy 18, a chromosomal disorder that comes with serious health problems. Most babies with the condition don't survive birth. Grace, through the aid of heart surgery and other interventions, would live for five months.

Grace's mother, Creighton English professor Brooke Kowalke, PhD, had once been the freshman advisor of Kate McKillip, MD, BA'09. The two had long since lost touch, but now McKillip was completing her residency at the hospital where Grace was being treated.

One late night, McKillip walked into the room and reunited with her former advisor at an intensely difficult moment.

"I remember thinking at the time, 'What can I say that will help?'" says McKillip, now a palliative medicine physician with CHI Health and assistant professor in the School of Medicine. "'What are the words?'"

Fortunately, she found them. They came in the shape of stories.

“I remember when Kate came into the room that night,” Kowalke says, “and she sat with me and told me stories about her own life, and they were so helpful. Most people are ready to run from this kind of situation. Kate made a point of meeting me where I was, which was sitting on a bed, holding my daughter, in what ended up being one of the last days of her life.”

Medicine couldn’t save Grace. But McKillip’s stories — her vulnerability, her compassion — helped Kowalke’s family through the worst time of their lives.

From this experience, McKillip learned that “a lot of the work we do in health care is not the work of physicians or medicine but the work of human beings. Since then, I’ve only gained a deeper understanding of how care should unfold when life is fading. Sometimes words help. Sometimes the silence between the words can be just as meaningful.”

Grace changed everything — for McKillip as well as Kowalke.

The two women have since stayed in touch and become close colleagues. Now they’re channeling what they learned from Grace’s story toward a major new effort at Creighton.

McKillip, Kowalke and many others are helping to build up the recently formed Department of Medical Humanities in the School of Medicine. The department plans to foster a higher level of compassionate care and ensure that generations of Creighton-educated physicians can find the right words to any story.

INTERCONNECTED

The School of Medicine’s Medical Humanities Department operates on a core Creighton value — that we are more than mere molecules, that there’s something within each of us that cannot be measured using the tools of science.

And that something needs to be cared for.

What are the medical humanities? Well, they’re the humanities ... but for medical students (and all other health sciences students).

The department will focus on the disciplines traditionally seen outside the scope of medicine to emphasize the areas of healing that go beyond the physiological.

“We see this as one of the real challenges in 21st century health care going forward,” says the Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD, the department’s inaugural chair. “We are going to need a much richer and more comprehensive

“A lot of the work we do in health care is not the work of physicians or medicine but the work of human beings. Since then, I’ve only gained a deeper understanding of how care should unfold when life is fading. Sometimes words help. Sometimes the silence between the words can be just as meaningful.”

KATE MCKILLIP, MD, BA’09

understanding of what it means to be human and what it means to be ‘well’ in order to deliver the kind of care we desire to give.”

The idea behind the medical humanities is both as old as Aristotle and a relatively recent trend in higher education. It’s the idea that all human knowledge is fundamentally interconnected and should be taught as such. Or, as Albert Einstein put it, that “all religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree.”

Underlying this pedagogy is the belief that specialization has gone too far. That in countless cases the various disciplines of the arts, humanities and sciences have become walled off from each other. And that it’s time to tear those walls down.

Here’s the thinking as it pertains to medical care: A more well-rounded health sciences education leads to more well-rounded students and clinicians, and, ultimately, to a deeper sense of compassion between health care providers and their patients.

And the key medium through which this connection is made? Stories.

Through the humanities, physicians learn both how to tell (and contextualize) their own stories and how to more fully understand the narratives of their patients.

On a related note: According to a study published in *Science* magazine, people who read novels are more likely to develop a cognitive skill called “theory of mind,” which places the reader in the headspace of a person with different beliefs, experiences and desires from their own.

Good books, then, can serve as empathy simulations, preparing physicians for the real thing.

This is the power of the medical humanities in microcosm.

A FOUNDATION

“In the School of Medicine, we’re in the business of character formation,” says Dean Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81. “The medical humanities are going to be essential to that. This new curriculum won’t be an add-on. It will be a critical part of the foundation of everything we do.

“We don’t want Creighton to be known for doing the same thing as everyone else. We want to be bold, and this is a bold approach to medical education.”

The Medical Humanities Department will reflect Creighton’s commitment to the liberal arts as the foundation of its nine schools and colleges. The department itself will have a small staff but a long reach. It will team with faculty across all disciplines, drawing upon areas of expertise not traditionally associated with health care.

A few of the early course offerings for first- and second-year medical students:

- *Death, Health and Dickens*, which explores the inextricable ties between social conditions and health as illustrated by the work of Charles Dickens.
- *The Art of Examination*, in which students study works of art to boost their powers of observation and other skills to aid in understanding their patients.
- *Narratives of Neurodiversity*, in which McKillip and Kowalke teach students to better understand and communicate with patients of varying cognitive abilities.

“I think our students are going to love the courses and get a lot out of them,” says Tracy Leavelle, PhD, associate professor of history and the inaugural director of the Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions. “We believe that in addition to having all the

scientific and technical expertise that comes with a Creighton medical education, our students will also be enthusiastic about developing these other capacities.”

The Kingfisher Institute helped the medical humanities develop its curriculum, as Kingfisher’s own mission aligns neatly with the new department. Kingfisher aims to integrate the liberal arts with professional education, to show how the two complement and reinforce each other.

It goes back to that holistic approach to education — the breaking down of barriers between all areas of knowledge. This, Leavelle says, is the heart (mind and soul) of a Creighton education.

Fittingly enough, this rallying of the

disciplines goes back to the teachings of Ignatius himself.

“What we’re doing here speaks to the Jesuit ideal of contemplation in action,” Leavelle says. “Because of our history and values and the vision of our leadership, Creighton has an opportunity to become a national leader in a publicly engaged humanities.”

BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES

Here’s a question: Why the medical humanities, and why now?

Here’s another: Why should medical students — extremely busy, in the thick of learning all that science and tech, studying for exams, training in the clinic — be expected to make



JIM FACKLER

© While reviewing materials for the class they teach, Kate McKillip, MD, BA’09, left, and Brooke Kowalke, PhD, take a moment to look at photos of Grace.



JARED SEGER

“Can we teach doctors compassion through communication skills and reading people better? Sure. But what we’re trying to cultivate with the medical humanities goes beyond that. It’s an openness – a way of seeing and knowing ourselves, our patients and the world around us.”

NICOLE PIEMONTE, PHD

time for art, writing, philosophy, etc.? Of what practical use is it?

Each question can be answered by a good number of recent studies. The gist of their findings is this: When physicians are more empathetic, it leads to better health outcomes for their patients.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recently released a comprehensive report (“Branches From the Same Tree”) that found that, overall, American higher education is moving toward a blend of science and humanities curriculum. The report also argued that when medical training gets a shot of the humanities, students graduate with more empathy and resilience, better communication and observational skills, and a higher tolerance for ambiguity – all in all, well-rounded physicians better able to connect with their patients.

Humanistic physicians get results. Studies published by the U.S. National Library of Medicine have shown that empathy leads to improved health outcomes for patients with cancer, diabetes, depression and even the common cold.

There’s also evidence (from the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*) that medical students educated in the humanities show fewer signs of burnout. Protecting physicians from burnout will be an essential aim of the medical humanities going forward, as recent studies have shown high incidences of physician fatigue, which might be leading to increased medical error, diminished treatment and a looming health care crisis.

According to the National Academy of Medicine, more than half of U.S. physicians experience burnout, a condition defined by a high degree of emotional exhaustion, depersonalization and a low sense of personal accomplishment at work. One study, published in the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, found a rising trend of dissatisfaction among those working in the medical profession, which could worsen the projected shortage of U.S. physicians.

Creighton itself is conducting a study through the medical school to determine whether spending more time and forming deeper connections to patients can boost the well-being of health care professionals.

“When we talk about medical student

and physician burnout, I think we’re really talking about a crisis of meaning,” says Nicole Piemonte, PhD, assistant dean for medical education at Creighton’s health sciences campus in Phoenix, where she specializes in the medical humanities.

Too many physicians no longer see meaning in their work, she says. Their patients have become a factory line, every day a grind. The most profound goal of the humanities, Piemonte says, might be to give physicians a new perspective.

“Can we teach doctors compassion through communication skills and reading people better? Sure,” she says. “But what we’re trying to cultivate with the medical humanities goes beyond that.

“It’s an openness – a way of seeing and knowing ourselves, our patients and the world around us.”

LIVING PROOF

Iowa oncologist Richard Deming, MD’80, is living proof of how much the humanities can mean to a physician.

Deming, medical director of the Mercy Cancer Center in Des Moines, Iowa, is renowned for his compassion. To connect with his patients, he’s drawn upon his humanities education countless times.

“As I’ve had the opportunity to interact with thousands of cancer patients, I’ve learned the therapeutic value of just being present with them,” he says. “Genuine caring and authentic compassion have a tremendous healing power.”

Much of that power comes from knowing the value of the humanities.

“What I gained through my classes on spirituality, theology, philosophy, psychology and literature has had a huge influence on my success as a doctor,” he says. “Each of these disciplines has provided me with the insight and vocabulary to connect authentically with patients and to provide healing.”

Now Deming wants to help Creighton create more physicians with a firm foundation in the humanities. He’s supported the new department by making a significant gift to create an endowed chair. The person in this role will help put Creighton students on the path to becoming empathetic and well-rounded physicians.

One Creighton medical student already well on her way is Pooja Varman.

Varman came to the School of Medicine from Columbia University, where she received

a master’s in narrative medicine (Columbia’s equivalent to the medical humanities).

Varman started out as a “big math nerd” and had originally planned to go all in on the technical side of medicine. But over time – and after many late-night philosophical conversations with high school friends – she was drawn to the medical humanities, in particular the social and psychological determinants of medicine.

When she first interviewed for Creighton medical school, she quickly realized she was in the right place.

“I was in tears by the end of that interview,” she says. “It was such a powerful moment when

I talked with the faculty member about the University’s value of *cura personalis*. I could tell the School of Medicine cared about looking at the whole person and drawing out the connections between the humanities and how we take care of people.”

Varman now serves as one of the medical school’s premier champions of the humanities. If she ever feels clinical medicine start to drift away from her other passions, she reminds herself of this: “Who you are as a doctor and who you are as a person don’t have to be separate.”

Use the tools of the humanities to break down the barriers within.

Make all parts part of the same story.

“What I gained through my classes on spirituality, theology, philosophy, psychology and literature has had a huge influence on my success as a doctor. Each of these disciplines has provided me with the insight and vocabulary to connect authentically with patients and to provide healing.”

RICHARD DEMING, MD’80



JIM FACKLER

With the rise in use of electronic cigarettes, especially among youth, researchers and clinicians – including those at Creighton – are sounding alarms on the negative health effects of vaping, from dental disease to altered lung function.

A Cloud of Danger

BY Margaret Bumann



The photos are pretty gruesome. A 55-year-old woman in distress makes an emergency visit to a dental clinic. The inside of her mouth is blanketed with painful, peeling white lesions that look like burns. A former smoker, she was using electronic cigarettes for about two years, but only developed mouth sores after purchasing a new bottle of vape juice.

The diagnosis: oral lesions related to e-cigarette liquid.

It is difficult to know precisely what caused the dental patient's mouth sores, but the most likely culprit is propylene glycol, which is commonly used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and as a food additive.

E-cigarette juice is a mixture of propylene glycol, glycerol, a choice of nicotine levels, benzoic acid (a common food preservative) and food-grade flavoring.

"Propylene glycol is an irritant in the mouth and throat," says Hardeep Chehal, DDS'15, a professor and board-certified oral and maxillofacial pathologist who holds the Dr. Oscar S. Belzer Endowed Chair in Dentistry.

Because vaping is still relatively new, we still don't know the long-term consequences of using e-cigarettes, but cases such as this are a red flag, and "there are definitely similar cases being reported," according to Chehal.

WHAT IS VAPING?

E-CIGARETTES COME IN A VARIETY of shapes, sizes and designs, but work in the same way; the battery-powered devices heat the liquid, or "juice," to make an aerosol that is inhaled and exhaled.

Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik is credited with patenting the first e-cigarette device, and creating it when his father was dying of lung cancer. The devices were first introduced to the U.S. mass market in 2007 as a way for tobacco smokers to replace or supplement nicotine.

At the time, they were not covered by existing tobacco regulations, and their popularity grew slowly.

Then manufacturers began adding flavorings to e-cigarette juice, a practice recently targeted by the Food and Drug Administration, with varieties reaching the thousands — from blueberry cheesecake to mango, cinnamon, gummy bear, cookies 'n cream and cotton candy. By 2014, a congressional report had already accused e-cigarette companies of marketing their flavors to youth.

VAPING AND DENTAL DISEASE

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT that cigarette smoking can contribute to periodontal disease and other adverse oral outcomes. E-cigarette companies claim that switching from smoking to vaping is a less harmful alternative, but that may not be true, according to a review of the latest research by two Creighton dental students.

Emily Johnson, BSCHM'19, who is working on a Master of Oral Biology degree, says studies show that flavoring agents used in e-cigarettes produce a more acidic environment in the mouth, making the user more susceptible to irritable gums and gum disease. In addition, she says, studies have found that for patients receiving dental implants, rejection is more likely in e-cigarette users compared to nonusers.

Dental student Emily Snodgrass says her review of the literature showed a similar negative correlation between vaping and dental health.

The Creighton Dental Clinic has taken note. The health-history form that patients fill out when they visit the clinic now asks if they have a history of vaping.

"That simple addition may help us identify patients who could be at greater risk of (dental) disease," Snodgrass says.



DAVE WEAVER

E-cigarette juice

Ingredients: Propylene glycol, glycerol, nicotine, benzoic acid (a common food preservative) and food-grade flavoring





© Charles Bockman, PhD, left, and Creighton student Michael Franco are studying the health effects of e-cigarettes.

JIM FACKLER

5 million

U.S. middle and high school students use e-cigarettes, and more than 1 in 4 high school seniors reported vaping in the last 30 days

Source: 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey

TEENS AND VAPING

HEALTH OFFICIALS NATIONWIDE are especially concerned about the rise of vaping among teens and younger children. Among the e-cigarette brands on the market, Juul is so ubiquitous on high school and college campuses that “to Juul” has become synonymous with vaping.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls youth vaping a health concern of unmatched proportions: “The United States has never seen an epidemic of substance use arise as quickly as our current epidemic of youth use of e-cigarettes.”

The 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey, conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC, shows that 5 million U.S. middle and high school students use e-cigarettes, and more than 1 in 4 high school seniors reported vaping in the last 30 days. The number of e-cigarette users who began vaping at age 14 or younger has more than tripled in the last five years, according to University of Michigan research.

What’s the appeal of vaping for young people? One, sophisticated technology, and two, the flavors used in e-cigarette juice. Fruit flavors such as banana and blue raspberry. Dessert flavors such as chocolate truffle. Sophisticated flavors such as espresso. Once initiated, the nicotine fix can result in an addictive habit.

VAPING ALTERS LUNG FUNCTION

CHARLES BOCKMAN, PHD, assistant professor of pharmacology and neuroscience at Creighton and part of Creighton’s Cancer and Smoking and Disease Research Program, says health concerns over youth vaping include impaired brain development, nicotine addiction and e-cigarettes leading to cigarette and other drug use.

Like alcohol and heroin, nicotine affects the brain’s reward system. The CDC says that using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood and impulse control.

When Bockman began studying vaping two years ago, with the help of undergraduate student Michael Franco, very little research had been done on the health effects of e-cigarettes. In fact, the duo had to build their own vaping chamber to study the effects of vaping on mice.

What have they found? Chronic exposure to vaping alters lung function. At least in mice; they have not conducted any human trials.

“We are finding that mice exposed to daily vaping are developing airways that are hypersensitive to contractile stimuli like allergens. This change can increase one’s risk for dangerous bronchospasms and respiratory distress,” Bockman says.

VAPING AND SMOKING CESSATION

A GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE, including the study from Bockman’s lab, confirms that vaping is far from harmless, but a question remains: Is it the lesser of two evils when compared to cigarettes?

“There is a lot of evidence that answers this already, that it is not the lesser of two evils,” says Kate Nolt, MPH, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Creighton, and co-chair of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Section Policy Committee for the American Public Health Association (APHA). “It is in some ways worse because we know it can cause acute lung injury in the short term.”

For decades, reducing tobacco use has been a major U.S. public health initiative. According to the CDC,

cigarette smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans annually. In addition, smoking-related illness in the United States costs more than \$300 billion a year, including nearly \$170 billion in direct medical care for adults and \$156 billion in lost productivity.

“There was, and still is, interest in the medical community about the possibility that vaping could be even more effective (than nicotine gum or patches),” in terms of smoking cessation, Bockman says. “In addition to nicotine, it may supply the oral sensation and rapidity of action of smoking and thus be more effective in suppressing the urge to smoke.”

HEALTH THREAT?

IN 2019, AN OUTBREAK OF SEVERE lung illnesses tied to vaping was experienced across the United States and accounted for nearly 3,000 lung injuries and 60 deaths, according to the CDC.

The CDC says most of these cases were linked to vaping products that: (1) contained tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in cannabis; (2) came from sources such as friends or online dealers, and; (3) contained vitamin E acetate, which was found in product samples tested by the FDA.

“From my professional perspective, vaping is as much a threat to the public’s general health as regular tobacco products and anything else that is addictive, and should be prevented (or stopped, if started),” says Nolt, who was part of the group that wrote a policy statement from APHA following the rash of acute, vaping-related lung injuries in 2019. That policy statement supports tighter regulation and restriction of e-cigarettes, which is now occurring.

Recent federal legislation, passed in December 2019, prohibits the sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to anyone under the age of 21. In January, the FDA issued a policy prioritizing enforcement against certain unauthorized flavored e-cigarette products nationwide. At the time of this writing, however, the FDA guidelines did not apply to disposable e-cigarettes, which are sold in a variety of flavors.

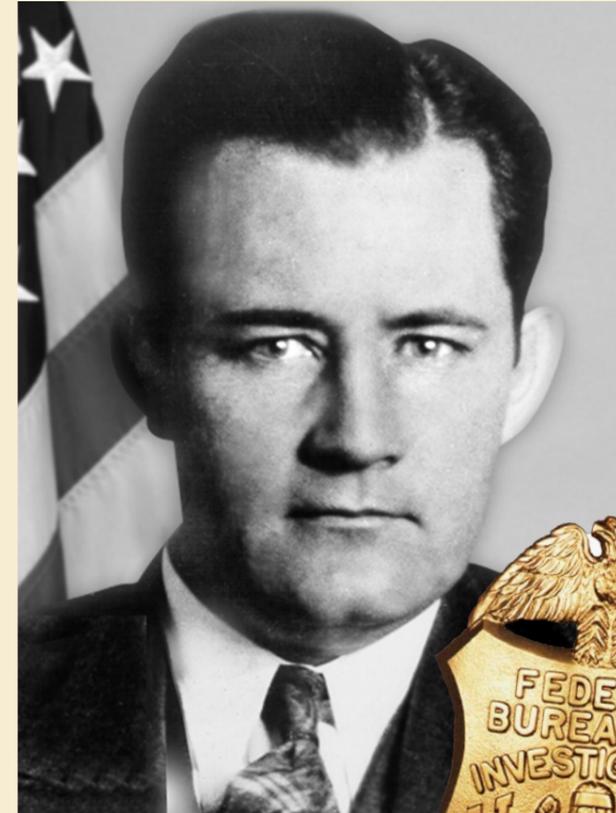
“Your health is based on the decisions you make,” says Nolt, a behaviorist who specializes in prevention, treatment and addiction, and is the mother of two teenage sons.

“I’m shaking my head, realizing we have a lot of work to do to help young people understand their choices.”

To Obey Uphold

Creighton law student
became FBI agent
killed in infamous
Kansas City Massacre

By Blake Ursch



The young man's voice carried over the Nebraska wind. "If we would have our country continue to be the land of freedom, we must obey and uphold its laws, for they are the guarantee of liberty," he said to a crowd gathered before him. "Obedience is the chief duty of the citizens; he who refuses to conform to the law, not only endangers the well-being of the republic, but by his refusal, he puts his own freedom in jeopardy."

The man, a handsome young law student named Raymond J. Caffrey, was considered by many of his peers to be one of the best speakers on the Creighton University campus. So in May 1922, at a special ceremony celebrating the approaching Flag Day, Caffrey delivered a student address to an audience of peers, faculty and alumni gathered on the lawn north of the "Arts building," now called Creighton Hall, in the modern-day Jesuit Gardens. As the pep band played the national anthem, a large silk American flag ascended the flagpole just south of the observatory.

"We gaze upon our flag with awe and admiration, the symbol of freedom as it floats aloft in this free land of ours — a republic of equal opportunity," Caffrey proclaimed from the podium, "a republic in which the law restrains the hand uplifted against the welfare of fellow men."

His performance drew praise from the *Creighton Courier* which reported: "Throughout the speech, the speaker maintained an earnestness and sincerity that held the audience. Although a Nebraska 'regular' was blowing over the hill with a rush and a noise, not a single word was lost to the audience, so clear and distinct was the orator's enunciation."

Caffrey's speech reveals a man already profoundly concerned with issues of justice, law and civic duty. His commitment to all three would be tested in the years to come as he and his fellow lawmen struggled to subdue a generation of celebrity criminals who captured the public's imagination. It was a conflict that would eventually cost Caffrey his life.

On June 17, 1933, Caffrey, eight years removed from law school and working as a special agent for J. Edgar Hoover's FBI, was gunned down at the age of 31 alongside three other law enforcement officers and their prisoner at Kansas City's Union Station. The infamous shootout, known as the Kansas City Massacre, was a watershed event during the so-called "public enemy era" of the 1930s, and its aftermath saw the FBI vaulted into national prominence.

But in the written histories of the massacre, Caffrey's life has often been overshadowed by the intrigue and sensationalism of the times. He was a motivated student, a devoted husband and a loving father whose loss shattered the lives of those he left behind. Caffrey's young son, also named Raymond but who went by "Jimmy" around family, would be left with scant memories of his father and a painful absence that the decades would never heal.

"My dad, he didn't really like to talk about it," said Richard Caffrey, Jimmy's son. "At the time, he was 6 years old. For 70 years, he had been without his father. He said, once, that not a day went by that he didn't think about his dad and what it would have been like to have a father."

RAYMOND J. CAFFREY WAS BORN in 1902 in McCook, Nebraska. He was, as his grandson puts it, "a bit of a rebel" who ran away from home at the age of 16. Essentially abandoning his high school studies, Caffrey skipped town



© Raymond Caffrey, LAW '25, left, his wife, Regina, and their son, Jimmy Caffrey, MS '51, MD '52.

"My dad, he didn't really like to talk about it. At the time, he was 6 years old. For 70 years, he had been without his father. He said, once, that not a day went by that he didn't think about his dad and what it would have been like to have a father."

RICHARD CAFFREY

on a freight train and headed to Denver, where he unsuccessfully tried to enlist in the Army.

According to an unpublished memoir Jimmy Caffrey wrote before his death in 2013, the teenaged Caffrey found work at a refinery, and apparently made his own way for several months. Eventually, his parents persuaded him to come home, and Caffrey worked on his father's farm for a time before heading for Omaha. There, he passed qualifying exams that allowed him to enroll at Creighton as a pre-law student.

Caffrey attended the University from 1920 to 1925. His college years are memorialized in old copies of the *Blue Jay*, where he appears in black-and-white photographs, dressed in the dapper style of the day. The yearbooks reveal an engaged student active in extracurriculars: associate editor on *The Creightonian* newspaper staff, a member of the Gamma Eta Gamma professional law fraternity and "humor editor" for the *Blue Jay* itself.

Caffrey's talents as an orator are recorded in the student newspaper archives. His name appears in several stories recapping events off and on campus which feature glowing praise for his speeches. In one event, at an annual banquet held in honor of graduating law school seniors, organizers unanimously selected Caffrey to be the evening's speaker.

"The remarkable ability of Caffrey caused the Law men to break the established custom of selecting a non-Greek letter fraternity man as toastmaster," *The Creightonian* reported.

Caffrey also made a splash as a member of the law school's Model House of Representatives, where he and his fellow law students learned the basics of parliamentary procedure and lawmaking.

"The influence of Raymond Caffrey seems to be a powerful one," the newspaper reported following one debate.

In his spare time, Caffrey courted a young Iowa woman named Regina Dolan, who had been sent to live with her aunt in Omaha. Regina fell hard for him. In Jimmy Caffrey's memoir, he records a family friend saying she "never saw a woman so crazy about a man."

Despite his involvement on campus, Caffrey never received a degree from Creighton (though he did complete enough credit hours to be considered an alumnus). Still, according to the rules of the era, he was eligible to take the bar examination and was formally admitted to the Nebraska State Bar in June 1925.

But Caffrey had his sights set elsewhere. Three months after passing the bar exam, he moved to Florida, hoping to cash in on the state's real estate boom. Regina soon joined him, and the two married.

After an unexpected economic downturn, the Caffreys returned to Omaha in 1927 and soon welcomed their only child, Jimmy. In November of that year, Caffrey, armed with his law education and a handful of references, applied for the position of special agent at what was then called the Bureau of Investigation, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

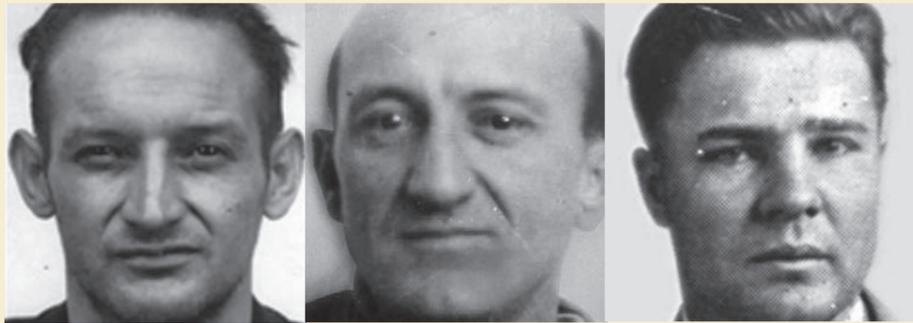
His personnel file, which his son later viewed, contained several comments from character witnesses, including L.J. Te Poel, dean of the Creighton College of Law, who attested to the bureau that Caffrey was a skilled attorney for a young man of his age.

The bureau was impressed. In February 1928, Caffrey received a letter from director J. Edgar Hoover hiring him as a special agent.

"THE EVENTS OF JUNE 17, 1933, which come to be called the Kansas City Massacre, will not be discussed at great length," Jimmy Caffrey writes in his memoir. "Even these many decades later, a wave of sorrow comes over me when I hear or read about that terrible morning."

The shooting centered on the transfer of a prisoner named Frank Nash to the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Nash, who had been convicted of and pardoned for several previous crimes, was serving a 25-year sentence for assaulting a mail custodian, according to an account published by the FBI. He escaped from prison in 1930, but was apprehended by agents three years later.

To transport Nash back to prison, Agent Caffrey — working out of the bureau's Kansas City office — along with other special agents



© From left, mug shots of criminals Adam Richetti, Frank Nash and Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd.

© The scene in front of the Kansas City railroad depot moments after the attack.



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and local Kansas City police officers, arranged to meet the prisoner and his escort at Union Station that morning. The plan was to move Nash to Caffrey's waiting Chevrolet and drive to the penitentiary.

While officers escorted Nash off the train, Caffrey, Special Agent in Charge Reed Vetterli and police officers W.J. Grooms and Frank Hermanson surveyed the platform. With Nash in handcuffs, the group made their way through the lobby of the station to the cars parked outside, and ushered Nash into Caffrey's car.

As Caffrey made his way around the car toward the driver's seat, several men—at least one carrying a machine gun—emerged from behind parked cars and opened fire. Grooms and Hermanson were killed immediately. Vetterli, who was wounded in the arm, scrambled toward the driver's side just in time to see Caffrey drop to the ground. He had been fatally struck in the head.

Inside the car, Nash and Oklahoma Police Chief Otto Reed, a member of the escort, were both killed.

An FBI investigation declared at least three men, attempting to seize Nash from police custody, responsible for the shooting: Vernon C. Miller, Adam C. Richetti and infamous gangster Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd. Bolstered by Floyd's celebrity and the ensuing crush of media coverage, Hoover's bureau rose to prominence in the years after the tragedy. Before the murders, federal agents were limited in their authority, often subordinate to local police departments in arrests and engagements. After the massacre, however, Hoover's agents won government authority to carry their own firearms and make their own arrests.

But in the decades since, several scholars have called the FBI's conclusions into question. Floyd himself denied involvement in the massacre, even writing to Hoover personally to state his innocence.

"Many authors try to sort out often contradictory assertions. Several conspiracy theories

are advanced," Jimmy writes of the shooting's legacy. "I read very few of these stories and none of the books. The central fact is my father died. Learning more about his death would not change anything for my mother or me."

To his own children, Jimmy rarely spoke of his father's death.

"All my dad would really say is 'My father went to work that morning and never came home,'" Richard Caffrey said. "From a 6-year-old's perspective, that about sums it up. They didn't have modern psychology or grief counselors in those days. It was just 'Suck it up. You lost your dad.'"

The widowed Regina Caffrey made ends meet by accepting a secretarial job with the bureau. Jimmy attended high school in Kansas City before enlisting in the Army in 1944. He received a bachelor's degree in biology, finishing his studies at what was then Rockhurst College.

In 1947, perhaps intending to follow in the footsteps of the father who was taken from him too soon, or perhaps because of his deep Catholic faith, Jimmy enrolled in Creighton's School of Medicine. He received a Master of Science in 1951 and his medical degree the following year.

"I always got the feeling that my dad was proud that his dad went to the law school and went to Creighton," Richard said.

In his memoir, Jimmy carefully recorded the few precious memories he had of his father. He remembered Caffrey sitting at the kitchen table, cleaning his .45-caliber pistol. He remembered that every morning, before he left for work, his father would give him a nickel for the ice cream man.

He clung to those memories as he and his wife, Charlotte, raised their own sons—all eight of them.

"He always said he felt like he was winging it. He'd say, 'I'm doing the best I can to be the best father I can to you guys,'" Richard said.

"And he did a fine job. All eight of us are college grads."



REFLECTIONS

United in Spirit

At the Interfaith Prayer Service in February, members of the Creighton community gathered in prayer at St. John's Church to recognize and celebrate the many faith and spiritual traditions on campus.



IMPACT

Phonathon Dials Up Support, Memories

Five nights a week, in a windowless room in the Old Gym, a few dozen students make phone calls to Creighton alumni across the country and help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the University.

In the world of higher ed, phone programs are struggling. Some are calling them quits altogether.

Yet Creighton Phonathon is doing better than ever. For four consecutive years, the program has increased the amount of funds it's raised for the University. This year, Phonathon hopes to meet its goal of \$625,000 in annual donations — with thousands of individual gifts going toward scholarships, classroom essentials and more.

The secret to Creighton Phonathon's success is the tremendous student callers, says Mason Harmon, assistant director of Annual and Student Giving, and the director of Creighton Phonathon.

"There's a script for their calls, but they make that script their own," Harmon says.

"They tell their story, and they connect with alumni. They're a great group."

Creighton magazine spoke with a few student callers about their time at Phonathon and the importance of giving back to the University.

How did your first few Phonathon calls go?

Davis Sunderland, sophomore, Heider College of Business, active in Greek life: My first call I ever made as a Phonathon caller, I was so nervous that I couldn't even read the words in front of me. I was talking to a woman, and I just hesitated and paused every few words. And then I heard a guy on the other line ask his wife, "Honey, who is it?" And she said, "I think it's just a robot." And she hung up on me. (Laughs) It was that bad. But after a month, I was off script and talking about my own experience.

What are the best calls you've had?

Ellie Rommelfanger, junior sociology major, regular volunteer for the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice: One of my favorite calls was with an alumna who had these amazing stories about the way things used to be and what campus used to look like. She lives down

in Arizona and hasn't been able to come to a lot of alumni programs because she's older, and it's hard for her to travel. But she was so excited to share her memories with me and hear about my experiences.

Patrick Fenner, senior theology major, with plans to become a Jesuit: I called this guy, and he was on a four-hour drive, and he was happy to talk. We had a really good conversation and talked about how he was invested in Creighton. At the end of the call, he made a monetary pledge to the University, and then he was like, "What if I also threw in a car?" He owns a car dealership and gave Creighton a car to auction off. That one caught me off guard.

Do you feel like working at Phonathon changes your views on giving?

Kiara Mills (pictured above), sophomore, Heider College of Business, softball team member: Now that I'm part of Phonathon, I'm starting to understand how it all works, how things are paid for. It makes me not only want to tell more people about the importance of giving but also to give what I can to these programs and parts of campus. And it's made me more into giving in general.

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.

68 Howard P. Olsen Jr., JD, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was honored with the dedication of the Howard Olsen Student Success Center at the grand reopening ceremony for Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff after substantial renovations. Olsen had been president of the Western Nebraska Community College Foundation for 28 years and the campaign chair for the comprehensive capital campaign.

69 Andrew J. Scoma Jr., MD, Winter Park, Florida, recently authored a book titled *Leonardo's Return*.

70 William D. Glenn, BA, Santa Rosa, California, was recently elected chairperson of the board of trustees of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California, a consortium of 20 seminaries and centers representing all the world's major religious and spiritual traditions. The GTU is a PhD-granting institution in collaboration with the University of California at Berkeley. Glenn matriculated at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, a charter school of the GTU, in 1977, and received his Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in 2000. He has been a trustee of the GTU for the past six years.

71 Dr. Valeria Robinson Stokes, BSN, Chicago, was named vice president of human resources at Erie Family Health Centers in Chicago.

72 Randy P. Lukasiewicz, BSBA, Omaha, played the role of Chicago Cubs manager Joe McCarthy last summer in a three-night sellout of the musical *Alexander, Baseball Legend*, performed in St. Paul, Nebraska. The 15-song production is based on true stories of Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Grover Cleveland Alexander, who grew up in Elba, Nebraska.

75 Kent T. Watson, BA, Monticello, Florida, was presented the 2020 Certificate of Honor from the Ike Eisenhower Foundation. The certificate recognizes Watson as a champion of the life and legacy of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was named to the Top 10 list of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for 2019. It is Monnat's second year to be named among the Top 10. Previously, he had been listed on the Top 100 list for 15 years.

77 Mary Kay Green, BA'65, JD, Lee's Summit, Missouri, has entered her two Omaha-based

screenplays — *Law Mothers Circa 1974-77* and *Courageous Crystal Chambers, A New Rosa Parks* (based on her case *Crystal Chambers v. Omaha Girls Club* and her 2007 book *Women of Courage: The Rights of Single Mothers and Their Children, Inspired by Crystal Chambers, A New Rosa Parks*) — in competition at the Omaha Film Festival 2020.

85 Joseph A. Happe, BA'82, JD, West Des Moines, Iowa, retired from litigation at Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa, and has formed Happe Mediation, PLC, mediating cases in Iowa.

87 Colleen Duffy Heeter, BSN, Gillette, Wyoming, was named chief executive officer of Campbell County Health (CCH) in Gillette, effective July 1, 2020. Heeter has been the chief operating officer of CCH since February 2019.

89 Clarke P. Anderson, BSMT'83, MD, Los Angeles, is president-elect for the medical staff of the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California.

90 Ronald J. Place, MD, Bethesda, Maryland, was promoted to lieutenant general in the U.S. Army on Sept. 3, 2019. He also assumed the job as director,

Defense Health Agency, overseeing the administrative and managerial responsibility for all permanent military medical and dental treatment facilities throughout the world.

91 Dr. Monica Parashar Adya, MCSM, Camden, New Jersey, has been named dean of the Rutgers School of Business-Camden. Adya is a noted business education innovator and scholar in the area of IT workforce issues. Prior to her position at Rutgers, Adya was chair of the management department at the Marquette University College of Business Administration in Milwaukee.

92 Michael T. Seiler, JD, The Woodlands, Texas, is a partner at the law firm Seiler Mitby, PLLC, in The Woodlands.

97 Angela Houston Heimes, JD, Gretna, Nebraska, has joined the Omaha law firm of Gross & Welch as a director. Heimes' practice is primarily focused on family law, divorce, child custody, guardianship and conservatorship, criminal defense and juvenile law.

00 Michael T. Driscoll, BA, New York, has been promoted to partner at the law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. Driscoll is a member of the firm's

finance and bankruptcy practice group and is based in the New York office. He focuses on problem loan workouts, bankruptcy, judicial and nonjudicial foreclosure, and creditors' rights and commercial law.

04 Michael P. Hodes, BA, Atlanta, was promoted to partner at the law firm of Boyd Collar Nolen Tuggle & Roddenbery in Atlanta. For more than 10 years, Hodes has exclusively practiced family law, with a specific focus on the financial aspects of divorce, including negotiating and drafting prenuptial, postnuptial and settlement agreements. He works closely with forensic accountants and fiduciary litigators to divide complex assets, trusts and estates of all sizes, and businesses that require valuation.

05 Tamara Moyer Grissman, BS, Brookfield, Wisconsin, completed her doctorate of medical science degree from the University of Lynchburg in January 2020. **Gabriel E. Lapito, MBA, BSBA,** Billings, Montana, was named to the *Forbes'* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list for 2020. This is Lapito's fourth consecutive year to be recognized.

07 Maria Smith Brownell, BSBA, West Des Moines, Iowa, was elected as a shareholder at the law firm of Ahlers & Conney, P.C., in Des Moines, Iowa. Brownell is a member of the firm's litigation and public finance practice groups, and works with public entities including cities, city utilities, counties, special districts and other local governments. She represents clients in both the litigation and appeals process. Prior to joining Ahlers & Clooney, Brownell was an administrative law judge for the state of Iowa, Department of Inspections and Appeals.

10 Alex N. Kron, BSBA, Johnston, Iowa, recently joined Davis Brown Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa, as an associate attorney in the business division. Kron represents businesses, nonprofits and individuals with their various legal needs.

11 Esther Lee, JD, Denver, has joined the law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP in Denver as an associate in the litigation department. Lee focuses on commercial litigation, including business and insurance disputes, professional liability, employment issues, regulatory actions, bad

faith claims and shareholder derivative actions. **Carly Russell Pollock, BA,** Parkersburg, Iowa, is a school-based mental health therapist at UnityPoint-Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center in Waterloo, Iowa.

15 James B. Dorsey, BA'05, MBA, Omaha, is the manager of the Skutt Student Center branch of Creighton Federal Credit Union. **Zachary W. Lutz-Priefert, JD,** Omaha, has been elected a shareholder of the law firm Gross & Welch in Omaha. Lutz-Priefert's practice has been primarily focused on business law, civil litigation, commercial litigation, employment law and bankruptcy. **Kathryn E. Trautman, BSN,** Robins, Iowa, was promoted from assistant nurse manager to house operations nurse manager at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa, in December 2019.

16 Brandon M. Warrington, BA, Omaha, has joined the Omaha office of the law firm Husch Blackwell as an associate. Warrington is a member of the firm's corporate, mergers and acquisitions, securities and corporate governance, and startup teams. He assists clients ranging

from emerging-growth companies and startups to established national and international corporations with a variety of due diligence provisions and commercial contracts.

17 Shannon M. Behm-Bleicher, BA'12, JD, Anchorage, Alaska, has joined the law firm of Stoel Rives LLP in Anchorage as an associate. Behm-Bleicher is a member of the firm's environment, land use and natural resources group, providing counsel to clients in matters of environmental compliance, land use and permitting. From 2017 to 2019, she served as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Judge Frank Piffner and the Hon. Judge Andrew Peterson of the Anchorage Superior Court. **David J. Fremo, MS,** Cold Spring, Minnesota, is the superintendent of Catholic schools and director of Catholic Education Ministries for the Diocese of Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

18 Marissa C. Baker, BA, Phoenix, is a junior account coordinator at HMA Public Relations in Phoenix. Baker assists with digital communications, social media management, media relations and supporting HMA's account executive team.

WEDDINGS

11 Melissa L. Hottovy, BS, and **Kevin E. Zientarski, BSBA,** Nov. 9, 2019, living in Omaha.

13 Laura Jacobson and Ryan D. Holmgren, BA, Sept. 21, 2019, living in Circle Pines, Minnesota.

BIRTHS

01 Dan Maddock and Kathleen Malloy Maddock, BA, Monument, Colorado, a daughter, Gemma Kathleen, June 15, 2019.

10 Steven T. Henneberry, BA, and **Kelly Tangen Henneberry, BSBA,** Lakeville, Minnesota, a daughter, Hailey Annette, March 9, 2018.

11 Alex Pollock and Carly Russell Pollock, BA, Parkersburg, Iowa, a son, Austin Oliver, June 3, 2019. **Matthew G. Wyatt, MS, JD,** and **Veronica Place Wyatt, BS,** El Paso, Texas, a daughter, Reagan Lynn, November 2019.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Turning Point

History course ignites passion for Southeast Asia

As a student, **TIFFANESHA WILLIAMS, PHD, BA'12,** took a history course on Southeast Asia with associate professor Michael Hawkins, PhD, and it sparked a passion that would take her halfway around the world.

The vibrant culture of Southeast Asia, often overshadowed by neighbors to the north, captivated Williams, who was majoring in political science on the legal studies track. She began learning Mandarin Chinese and traveled to Singapore during the summer of her junior year to immerse herself in its culture and languages. Today, as a postdoctoral fellow at American University in Washington, D.C., she continues to research and teach about this important region.

Hawkins' course was the "turning point" that shifted her sights, once set on law school, to becoming a political scientist. Williams came to Creighton from Kansas City, Missouri, both for the proximity to family in Omaha, where she had spent her first eight years, and to join the speech and debate team, where she found mentorship and community. In addition, the Student Support Services Office served as a key source of support and access to arts and culture experiences. In addition to her political science degree, Williams earned minors in philosophy, Asian Studies and music.

Williams went on to earn graduate degrees in Southeast Asian studies and political science. While working on her master's degree, Williams received a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to travel to Indonesia for language study. She visited again to conduct research for her doctoral dissertation, thanks in part to a highly competitive



fellowship from The American Institute for Indonesian Studies.

One trip included more than its share of challenges. Williams' search for documents was complicated by the inconsistent record-keeping of colonial regimes. Once she uncovered the documents she needed, they were all in Dutch. She contracted typhoid fever and experienced an earthquake in the middle of giving a presentation. Nonetheless, she fondly recalls the relationships she built in Indonesia, especially with her host family from the first visit.

Williams' doctoral dissertation explores the relationship between colonial education and the development of bureaucracies in former colonies. As nations established their own governments after achieving independence, those in which colonizers prioritized education were better equipped for state building, she observed. Williams' in-progress book will cover this premise in depth.

Any PhD graduate will tell you that the path is not for the faint of heart, especially for a first-generation student such as Williams. Throughout her journey, she was often the only underrepresented student in her courses and usually had to work another job or two

in addition to teaching and research. Rather than simply plow through with her head down, Williams stepped into leadership roles and left each space more welcoming for students from underrepresented groups. While earning her PhD at the University of Missouri, she served as president of the Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students and founded or co-founded several programs to help first-generation and minority students navigate academia.

Williams says she worked to help others thrive because Creighton reinforced her spirit of service. "Tiffanisha was such a great student: bright and inquisitive and intellectually curious, so unafraid to explore new frontiers," Hawkins recalls.

That ethos of service will continue to shape her path, as she looks toward a future in which she can combine an academic position with government, nonprofit or community work. She sees herself as part of an international community that needs to come together from every sector to tackle our greatest global challenges. "Our world is smaller than we think it is," Williams says. — **BY CHARISE ALEXANDER ADAMS**

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Creighton Fund



ALUMNI PROFILE

DAVE WEAVER

Champions of Aging

Inspired by Creighton's Jesuit values, four alumni executives are working to make a difference in the lives of seniors through an international company founded in Omaha

© Pictured above, from left to right, are: Erin Schmitz Albers, BA'00; Jeff Huber, BA'91, JD'94; Katie Trautschold Christenson, EdD, BS'01, MS'07; and Lenli Corbett, BS'05.

In an office in west Omaha, four Creighton alumni are implementing their Jesuit education to better the lives of the world's aging population.

Jeff Huber, BA'91, JD'94; Erin Schmitz Albers, BA'00; Katie Trautschold Christenson, EdD, BS'01, MS'07; and Lenli Corbett, BS'05, are executives at Home Instead Senior Care, a leading provider of in-home care services for seniors. The Omaha-based company now serves 12 countries, providing 80 million hours of care for seniors worldwide.

"We have been heavily influenced by St. Ignatius' calling as an organization," CEO Huber says. "We're using Home Instead as a platform to 'set the world on fire.'"

Home Instead, Huber says, has adopted a social purpose strategy that embraces the ethos of making meaningful change in the world.

One such way is through Champions of Aging, a paid service-year opportunity for college students and recent graduates. The program, started in 2018, includes Creighton students who are learning to be advocates for an aging population.

Full-time participants (part-time opportunities are also available) spend 32 hours a week in the community serving the elderly, combined with eight hours of curriculum focusing on gerontology topics and reflection.

"They can be any major. Aging is going to affect all of our lives in one way or another," says Christenson, director of Champions of Aging.

Creighton's partnership in the program developed out of a meeting between Huber and Creighton's president, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, where the two agreed that the Jesuit mission aligned with that of Champions of Aging.

"We saw the need for leadership in the aging space. There is an incredible deficit of geriatric professionals," Huber says. "That's where we conceived of creating the next generation of leaders to understand aging."

"For the first time ever, there are five generations in the workplace," says Albers, the company's vice president of social purpose. "It's fascinating looking at how to bridge that gap."

Students in the program also participate in Home Instead's Ready to Care missions — simple acts of care and kindness that can include taking a senior shopping or meeting with a senior for lunch. Ideas are sent weekly to volunteers' cell phones. Anyone can take part at readytocare.com.

"The concept is that it becomes part of who you are, to give, learn and serve," Albers says.

Albers tells the story of a Creighton student who, while heading to a Creighton basketball game, noticed a Jesuit waiting outside for a bus, and offered to give him a ride to the game. Ready to Care is about noticing those opportunities to connect with others.

"It's really nice to see that those missions are creating some sort of mind shift," Christenson says.

All four Home Instead executives say they were influenced by their education at Creighton.

"I feel driven by having a sense of purpose in my life," says Corbett, executive director of the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation. "I found out how to verbalize that at Creighton. I felt that I had discovered a system I had been looking for."

For Home Instead, the driving factor is making a difference in the lives of seniors.

"We aligned our entire corporate strategy around this," Huber says. "It's the right thing to do, what we ought to be doing."

"We talk about *magis, cura personalis*. We try to live that out as an employer, as a change agent, as a responsible corporate citizen, by helping communities."

— BY EMILY RUST

15 Dru M. Moses, BS'12, JD, and Rachel Meyer Moses, JD'16, Omaha, a daughter, Eleanor "Nell" Frances, March 23, 2019.

16 Zachary R. Ploeger, BA'12, PharmD, and Kaitlin Bennett Ploeger, BA'12, OTD'17, Las Vegas, a daughter, Gwen Katherine, Oct. 23, 2019.

17 Kevin Brown and Laura Minthorne-Brown, OTD, Hillsboro, Oregon, a daughter, Morgan Marie, Jan. 1, 2020.

DEATHS

38 Evangeline Sypal Anderson, SCN, Peoria, Illinois, Nov. 22, 2019.

43 Marie Dolezal Paschang, ARTS, Omaha, Jan. 10, 2020.

44 Patricia Brennan Abell, SCN, Aurora, Illinois, Nov. 19, 2019. Roy G. Brown, BS'43, MD, Port Angeles, Washington, Oct. 29, 2019.

47 Maureen Haag Tentinger, SJN, Le Mars, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2020. Perry T. Williams Jr., MD, Omaha, Nov. 15, 2019.

48 Louis B. Greteman, BS, Carroll, Iowa, Jan. 29, 2020. Joseph F. Klammer, BS, Omaha, Dec. 14, 2019.

50 Bernard W. Costello, ARTS, Omaha, Feb. 1, 2020. Lorene B. Homan, ARTS, Omaha, Oct. 23, 2019.

51 David C. Boyce, BSChm, Papillion, Nebraska, Dec. 1, 2019. Robert J. Broghammer, BUSADM, Omaha, Jan. 14, 2020. John J. McGee, BS, Lakeland, Florida, Oct. 6, 2019. Paul W. Reinsch Sr., BS, Lincoln, Nebraska, Dec. 15, 2019. Virginia Stenner Welsh, SJN, Las Cruces, New Mexico, Jan. 30, 2020. Beverly Kemmler Werner, SJN, Olympia, Washington, Oct. 26, 2019. Richard L. Zaporowski, BS, Omaha, Jan. 18, 2020.

52 John W. Albers, BS'48, DDS, Bellevue, Nebraska, Dec. 5, 2019. Dr. Daniel J. de la Vega, ARTS, La Jolla, California, Jan. 18, 2020. Reed R. "Skip" Howdle, BUSADM, Naples, Florida, Oct. 29, 2019. Barbara Kalhorn Simpson, BS, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Jan. 9, 2020.

53 John M. Beyhan, ARTS, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Nov. 24, 2018.

Rita M. Kessler, BSMT, Omaha, Jan. 18, 2020. Edith Pytlik Masar, BS, Canon City, Colorado, Nov. 8, 2019. Bernard F. Sand, MD, Marshalltown, Iowa, Jan. 17, 2020.

54 Barbara Phillips Ellis, SJN, Greeley, Colorado, Nov. 4, 2019. Frank J. Franco, BSPPha, Omaha, Nov. 30, 2019. Joyce Matt Gibbs, SJN, Omaha, Nov. 1, 2019. Hugh P. McClean, MD, Seahurst, Washington, Jan. 15, 2020.

55 Vincent T. Caldarola Sr., MD, San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 8, 2019. Dorothy Donohoe Cloyd, SCN, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 5, 2020. Timothy T. Dalton, MD, Kansas City, Missouri, Jan. 25, 2020. James R. Dunlap, MD, Omaha, Dec. 16, 2019. Gerald E. Miller, BSPPha, O'Neill, Nebraska, Dec. 2, 2019. John R. Paluka, ARTS, Montrose, California, Dec. 20, 2018. William S. Prunty, MD, Bozeman, Montana, Dec. 30, 2019.

56 Gilbert A. Bacon, MD, Pocatello, Idaho, Sept. 12, 2019. Elizabeth Hickman Davis, BS, Omaha, Jan. 30, 2020. Helen Hall Kenney, SJN, Omaha, Jan. 16, 2020.

57 Ferne Barlow Dunn, BSPPha, Glenside, Pennsylvania, Nov. 1, 2019. Rose Lee Parks Graz, SCN'56, BSN, Omaha, Jan. 2, 2020. Dr. John J. Johnson, BS'51, MA, Omaha, Dec. 9, 2019. Lonnie L. Liss, ARTS, Omaha, Feb. 8, 2020.

58 Martin R. Gardner, ARTS, Lincoln, Nebraska, Dec. 2, 2019. Arthur M. Palrang, MD, Tucson, Arizona, Dec. 12, 2019. Richard R. Ruzicka, BSPPha, St. Petersburg, Florida, Dec. 19, 2019.

59 Sr. M. DeSales Curti, BSPPha, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Nov. 13, 2019. James E. Montgomery, DDS, Port Orange, Florida, Nov. 11, 2019. James J. Stommes, BSPPha, Bellingham, Washington, Dec. 24, 2019.

60 Sr. M. Annunziata Muth, OSU, MA, Masonic Home, Kentucky, Feb. 9, 2020.

61 Frank W. Bemis, BSBA, Omaha, Feb. 14, 2020. Nathan L. Johnson, BSPPha, Los Angeles, Oct. 5, 2018. Dr. Floyd J. Malveaux, BS, Ellicott City, Maryland, Jan. 9, 2020.

62 Richard L. Dunning, BS'58, JD, Omaha, Dec. 26, 2019. John R. Hoffman, BSBA,

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Minnetonka, Minnesota, Nov. 13, 2019. **Thomas P. O'Keefe, BS'58, MD**, Norfolk, Nebraska, Jan. 24, 2020. **Gerald G. Schreck, DDS**, Templeton, Iowa, Jan. 30, 2020. **Sr. Rose T. Wich, SC, MSEdu**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jan. 14, 2020. **Richard C. Winter, MSEdu**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 21, 2020.

63 M. Patricia Johns, BA, Omaha, Dec. 5, 2019. **Edward M. O'Reilly, DDS**, Auburn, California, Jan. 11, 2020. **Richard T. Wilson, BA**, Omaha, Dec. 4, 2019.

64 Robert F. Bluvus, BSChm'60, MD, Phoenix, Nov. 8, 2019. **Robert M. Dolan, BA**, Clarendon Hills, Illinois, Oct. 28, 2019. **Joan Wallace Hart, MS**, Madison, Wisconsin, Oct. 7, 2019. **Dr. Thomas M. McGinnis, BA**, St. Louis, Nov. 18, 2018.

65 Richard J. Coffy, BA, Lehi, Utah, October 2019. **Michael E. Dunn, DDS**, Denver, Dec. 5, 2019. **Sr. M. Laura Haug, OSB, MSEdu**, Kansas City, Kansas, Jan. 22, 2020. **Paul Mann, MBA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2020. **John H. McClure, BA**, Olathe, Kansas, Jan. 20, 2020. **Richard A. Schooler, MD**, Tempe, Arizona, December 2019.

66 Jo A. Monserud, BA, Los Lunas, New Mexico, Sept. 12, 2019. **Betty Freking Ryba, BA**, Omaha, Nov. 28, 2019. **Joyce Hughes Swanson, BUSADM**, Omaha, Feb. 9, 2020.

67 Sylvain A. Borel, MD, Healdsburg, California, Oct. 24, 2019. **Philip F. LoPiccolo, MD**, El Paso, Texas, Nov. 19, 2019. **Karen L. O'Brien, BSN**, Omaha, Oct. 20, 2019. **Kathleen Murphy Rowen, BS**, Omaha, Dec. 15, 2019. **Nicholas J. Schafer Jr., BA**, Omaha, Oct. 26, 2019.

68 Emma L. Hewitt, BA, Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 12, 2020. **Mary Ipsen McDonald, BA**, Scottsdale, Arizona, Dec. 12, 2019. **Susan Tell Rezek, BSN**, West Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 8, 2019.

69 Rev. Michael T. Larkin, MSEdu, Sioux City, Iowa, May 26, 2018. **Donald C. Vokal, BA**, Omaha, Dec. 15, 2019.

70 John J. McBride, BA, Leawood, Kansas, Feb. 1, 2020.

71 David H. Jellen, BS'67, MS, Papillion, Nebraska, Nov. 5, 2019. **John P. Kirk, MBA**, Houston, December 2019.

Sr. M. Diane Leary, CSJ, MA, Wichita, Kansas, Dec. 10, 2019. **Timothy J. McReynolds, JD**, Omaha, Dec. 28, 2019. **Terrence D. O'Hare, BSBA'68, JD**, Omaha, Jan. 22, 2020. **Cecile-Marie V. Zielinski, MD**, Omaha, Jan. 24, 2020.

72 Irena M. Miles, BS'66, MS, Lakewood, Colorado, Nov. 19, 2019. **Robert B. Murphy, MD**, Oceanside, California, Oct. 4, 2019. **P. Stephen Potter, JD**, Gothenburg, Nebraska, Oct. 24, 2019. **Kenneth E. Tyler, JD**, Biloxi, Mississippi, Sept. 5, 2019.

74 Joseph J. Borghoff IV, BSBA'72, MBA, Omaha, Feb. 6, 2020. **William H. Brandon Jr., MD**, Jacksonville, Florida, Nov. 24, 2019. **Rev. Charles B. Connolly, SJ, MS**, Boston, March 9, 2019. **Maxine Spath Horning, MSEdu**, Watertown, South Dakota, Feb. 13, 2020. **Dr. Patricia Boyd Krampfer, BA'71, MSGuid**, Nov. 22, 2019, Yakima, Washington. **Paul M. McKenna, BSBA**, Buckeye, Arizona, Dec. 15, 2019.

75 Hugh L. Kenny, BA'70, JD, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Oct. 3, 2019.

76 Daniel G. Crouchley, BA'73, JD, Omaha, Dec. 7, 2019. **Larry F. Cusic, BS**, Omaha, Dec. 18, 2019. **Elizabeth Canzler Dixon, BSN**, Shenandoah, Texas, Jan. 23, 2020. **Philip J. Grimm, MD**, Rogue River, Oregon, April 4, 2018. **Scott C. Hoyt, JD**, Omaha, Oct. 29, 2019. **James D. Severa, BSPHy'72, MD**, Omaha, Nov. 4, 2019.

77 Larry E. Butler, JD, Kearney, Nebraska, Dec. 2, 2019. **Carrie L. Carrithers, BSPHa**, Tucson, Arizona, Dec. 17, 2019. **Lloyd E. Keller, MS**, Omaha, Oct. 19, 2019. **Cheryl K. Nielsen, MSEdu**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 13, 2020. **Joel G. Proskovec, BA**, Hudson, Ohio, Dec. 10, 2019. **E. Thomas Rupert, MBA**, Independence, Missouri, Nov. 8, 2019.

78 John H. Heavey, ARTS, Papillion, Nebraska, Dec. 24, 2019. **William J. Lane III, JD**, Sioux City, Iowa, Jan. 10, 2019. **Rev. Theodore L. Richling, MS**, Omaha, Dec. 23, 2019.

79 Roy E. Kimbrell III, MS, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 2, 2020. **Ronald A. Mortensen, MBA**, Omaha, Dec. 13, 2019. **Douglas R. Schmidt, BSPHa**, Hilton Head

Island, South Carolina, Sept. 15, 2019. **Charles F. Thomas, MS**, Chicago, May 5, 2019.

80 Larry A. Stoller, JD, Spirit Lake, Iowa, July 24, 2019.

81 Sr. Phyllis M. Heble, ND, MChrSp, Omaha, Oct. 27, 2019.

82 Michaela Connolly Harper, BA, Omaha, Nov. 13, 2019. **Martin J. Masar, BSW**, La Junta, Colorado, Oct. 30, 2019.

83 Daniel J. Barnicle, MD, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Jan. 23, 2020. **Sr. Mary E. Flanagan, SSJ, MChrSp**, St. Augustine, Florida, Oct. 11, 2018. **Gloria J. Sorey, JD**, Omaha, Jan. 1, 2020.

84 Rev. Thomas C. Foley, MChrSp, Milton, Massachusetts, Dec. 14, 2019.

85 Marcy Koslowski Miller, BSBA, Park Ridge, Illinois, Jan. 16, 2020. **Lawrence K. Wright, JD**, Dallas, Oct. 19, 2019.

86 Dennis J. Abrigo, BA, Brooklyn, New York, Oct. 23, 2019.

87 Patricia O'Leary Kiscoan, JD, Omaha, Jan. 29, 2020.

88 Barbara Heckman Angus, BA, Omaha, Jan. 27, 2020. **Randell B. Packer, DDS**, Sandy, Utah, Aug. 7, 2019.

89 David L. Kessenich, BSBA, Denver, Jan. 22, 2020.

90 Troy E. Horine, MBA, Palm Springs, California, Oct. 17, 2019. **Geraldine Kubala Wilkowski, MChrSp**, Van Nuys, California, Nov. 3, 2019.

91 Rev. Martin F. Fox, MA, Green Bay, Wisconsin, Oct. 15, 2019.

92 Anne M. Mischler, BSBA, New York, Feb. 7, 2020.

93 Brian A. Przyzycki, BSPHa, Hinsdale, Illinois, Jan. 17, 2020.

99 Dr. Willa M. Bruce, MA, Omaha, Jan. 4, 2020.

01 Richard Calvo, DDS, Issaquah, Washington, Aug. 29, 2019.

03 Timothy M. Morrison, JD, Omaha, Jan. 19, 2020.

04 Nicholas J. Spelic, BA, Omaha, Nov. 8, 2019.

05 John D. Hacker, JD, Springfield, Missouri, Nov. 19, 2019.



GRADUATE SCHOOL PROFILE

Class Act

Experienced educator hones her leadership skills, brings lessons learned back to the Omaha school she leads

SUSAN TOOHEY, EDD'13, is making a difference leading a distinctive private school in Omaha.

Nelson Mandela Elementary offers free education in a high-poverty, low-test-scores urban area and is driven by its mission to have all students performing at grade level in reading and math by the end of third grade.

"Statistically, if you are not on grade level by the end of third grade in reading and math, you are 70% more likely to not be on grade level as a high school graduate," Toohey says. And that, she adds, leads to a multitude of future challenges in life.

The school's guiding belief is that the most powerful way to change the world is through education. And Toohey, after she attained her doctoral degree in educational leadership from Creighton in 2013, had

the privilege — or difficult job, depending on the day — of helping launch the school from the ground up.

She joined Mandela Elementary in 2014, following five years at a Catholic all-girls school in Omaha where she held the same title, head of school. Prior to that, she worked in public education for 20 years.

"Experiential learning is a huge deal for us. You don't look back on your life and reflect on how you read Chapter 10 and answered questions 1 through 5. But you do remember learning African drumming and dancing and working together to make it work and why that was important to the culture," Toohey says.

The school also focuses on the social and emotional development of its students.

"We give kids a safe place," Toohey says. "We're a year-round school so that children can be in a safe space all day long, all year. We make sure our children know that every adult at school cares about them — not just about their academic growth, but their personal, social and emotional growth."

About the time Creighton launched its EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership, Toohey was feeling a desire "to really hone my leadership skills."

It was appealing that the online degree program was flexible. "With my schedule it was difficult to attend a class, for example, every Thursday night at 6 p.m. So, the flexibility was really attractive."

— BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA'74

For more information: Visit gradschool.creighton.edu/edd for more information about Creighton's EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership.

Honoring Our Alumni



The **Alumni Achievement Citation** is the most prestigious all-University award presented to Creighton alumni.

The **Alumni Merit Award** recognizes outstanding Creighton alumni from each school and college.



© The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, with 2020 Alumni Achievement Citation recipient Diane Morin Nelson, BA'67, and her husband, the Hon. Ben Nelson, HON'92.

JIM FACKLER

DIANE MORIN NELSON, BA'67, a former first lady of Nebraska, was presented with the 2020 Alumni Achievement Citation, the highest all-University alumni award, at Creighton's Evening of Honors on Feb. 7. The award recognizes exceptional women and men who demonstrate the Jesuit ideal of "women and men for and with others."

Nelson graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1967. She says her experiences at Creighton developed her leadership skills and gave her the confidence to go out into the world and make a difference.

"Creighton encouraged me to try new things and to get involved with my community," says Nelson. "I learned there wasn't a challenge I couldn't take on. Every experience has strengthened my self-assurance and belief that I can make an impact."

A passionate supporter of children, the arts and health care, Nelson has sought opportunities that allow her to fulfill her goals, inspired by the Jesuit mission to give back. She has served on a long list of boards, including those relating to the Omaha Symphony, Joslyn Art Museum, Clarkson Hospital, the Omaha Children's Museum, Heartland Family Services and the Christian Urban Education Service, which provides students with instruction and family support in a faith-based environment.

Nelson and her husband, former Nebraska governor and former U.S. senator Ben Nelson, continue to dedicate their time to Nebraska's children and communities. In 2016, Voices for Children in Nebraska named them an honorary family for their commitment to children's health, safety and education.

A respected leader, guided by a strong faith, Diane Nelson has supported the Healing Arts program at the Buffett Cancer Center, and was the Circle of Red chair for Omaha's 2018 Go Red for Women Expo, part of the American Heart Association's campaign to fight heart disease and stroke in women.

Michael Yanney, chairman emeritus of the The Burlington Capital Group, has partnered with her on numerous projects, such as a day-long arts festival held at the Joslyn Art Museum for local artists to exhibit and sell their art.

"There's one thing I know for certain," says Yanney. "When Diane takes on any project, I know it will be done with excellence. And she knows how to motivate others along the way. That's leadership."

Nelson says she gets her energy and passion from the volunteers and mentors with whom she works, and from her mother, Mary Chambers Morin, who also found fulfillment through putting others first.

"She instilled in me a duty to give back," says Nelson. "And if you see it at home, it becomes part of your development."

Nelson established the Terrence Gleason Endowed Scholarship at Creighton to honor her late husband, J. Terrence Gleason, BSBA'66. Nelson's father, Edward Morin Jr., BS'42, was also a Creighton graduate, earning a business degree in 1942.

"I chose Creighton to continue our family tradition and to be a part of the Jesuit tradition of excellent education," says Nelson. "Creighton taught me to persevere. It's important to me that future leaders can follow their dreams." — **BY NICHOLE JELINEK, MA'15**

2020 ALUMNI MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Mary Jane Oakley, BA'66
College of Arts and Sciences



Josephine Politico Abboud, BSN'95
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