Above, Creighton senior Denzel Mahoney goes up for a shot during the Men’s NCAA Tournament game vs. Ohio University. The Bluejays won the game 72-58, advancing to the Sweet 16. Below, the Creighton volleyball team celebrates after winning its sixth BIG EAST Tournament title in the last seven years.

Message from the President

Gratitude and Hope Abound

As you receive this edition of Creighton magazine, there is a sense of expectancy that life is returning somewhat to “normal,” thanks to progress against the COVID-19 virus.

I am thankful that COVID-19 cases on campus have remained low, and I am optimistic that trend will continue. We will offer in-person and online classes, per usual, for the summer term, and return to in-person learning again in the fall. We will continue to be vigilant with our precautions and pivot to more stringent restrictions if necessary.

Since early February, we have been partnering with the Douglas County Health Department to host a community COVID-19 vaccine clinic at our Rasmussen Center. Student, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteers have been vaccinating several thousand people each Saturday. The professional experience and sense of mission this opportunity provides, especially to our health sciences students, is incalculable.

In light of progress made mitigating the virus within the Creighton community, we decided to hold limited in-person commencement, baccalaureate Mass, and professional school hooding ceremonies May 13-15. I was pleased to announce Richard Frank as our commencement speaker, who has a distinguished career in international finance, including serving as managing director of the World Bank Group and CFO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Our men’s basketball team’s thrilling run to the Sweet 16 in the 2021 NCAA Tournament, our women’s team’s upset win over Bowling Green in the WNT, and volleyball’s sixth BIG EAST Tournament title in the last seven years were all impressive. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches.

Our cover story highlights the new CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, expected to open in fall 2023. Announced earlier this year, the CL Werner Center will be the new home of the School of Medicine and will include shared spaces for each of the University’s health sciences schools and colleges to further Creighton’s interdisciplinary approach to health professions education.

News of the CL Werner Center follows other exciting developments in the health sciences, including the $25 million anonymous foundation gift to establish the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program; our on-target plans to open our nearly $100 million health sciences campus in Phoenix in the fall; and the largest NIH grant ever awarded to Creighton, granted to our research center dedicated to preserving or restoring hearing loss.

Importantly, we continue to move forward in our work on diversity and inclusion. I am pleased that Sarah Walker, PhD, associate professor in the Heider College of Business, has agreed to serve as interim vice president for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion as we begin a national search to replace Christopher Whitt, PhD, who accepted a position at another university. We are planning a comprehensive climate survey in the fall to assess our campus and ensure we foster a community that respects individual needs, abilities, and potential. We are pursuing multiple other ways to develop into an anti-racist institution, including working with Black Creighton alumni groups, the Jesuit Descendants Truth and Reconciliation Foundation, and the President’s Inclusive Excellence Council, as well as starting a program for campus leaders through the Racial Equity Institute. We are deeply committed to truly being a welcoming and nurturing environment for all.

May God’s blessings be with you and yours, and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President
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A DOSE OF HOPE
Since early February, Creighton students, faculty and staff have volunteered at the Douglas County COVID-19 community vaccination clinics at Creighton’s Rasmussen Center, and have administered nearly 30,000 doses of the vaccine in the first two months.

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New president says the University’s distinctive excellence drew her to Creighton.

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Offensive actions, assumptions and expressions directed at marginalized populations occur on many levels in everyday life. Creighton community members discuss how rooting them out takes vigilance, awareness and more.

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The Heider College of Business has introduced the Heider Mindset Curriculum, a holistic approach that has reframed how the college teaches business and prepares students for a lifetime of leadership.

24 BEYOND THE GAME

The global sports industry is big business, and Creighton is addressing its many facets across many academic disciplines.

on the cover
BUILDING IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

As Creighton will soon be the largest Catholic health professions educator in the nation and continues to expand its reach in Phoenix and globally, the cutting-edge CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education will serve as a modern connection between the health sciences on the Omaha campus.
Could a chemical compound found in this flowering plant, known commonly as Monnier’s snowparsley or She Chuang Zi in Chinese, help asthmatics breathe easier?

T
two Creighton professors are forging a new front in the war on an inflammatory disease so old it was remarked upon in ancient Egypt, and so persistent that the World Health Organization estimates that 319 million people worldwide suffer from it today. Asthma, a chronic inflammatory disease of the airways to the lungs, has drawn the attention of Yongping Tu, PhD, and Peter Abel, PhD, both professors in the Creighton School of Medicine’s Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience.

Tu and Abel are among a team of participants drawn from multiple national and international research groups charged with investigating the possibility that a new method of relieving asthmatic attacks might be obtained by using osthole, a derivative of the traditional Chinese medicine She Chuang Zi. The result of that investigation was featured in Science Signaling, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published weekly by the 172-year-old American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and referenced in Science, also published by the AAAS. The question posed was simple enough. Could a chemical compound found in a plant used in traditional Chinese healing, with claims to address everything from low libido to cancer, actually relieve airway constriction in asthmatic patients?

The answer, the study found, was yes. Titled “Airway Relaxation Mechanisms and Structural Basis of Osthole to Improve Lung Function in Asthma,” the study found that osthole “fully relaxed” airways that proved resistant to the standard inhalers — or bronchodilators — that for decades have been the primary response to asthmatic attacks. It was the search for such alternative treatments, in the face of evidence that airways can develop resistance to traditional therapies, that spurred the National Institutes of Health and the state of Nebraska, through its 18595 research program, to fund the study. Resistance to traditional bronchodilators has drawn the attention of other research projects, such as a 2016 study by the Cleveland Clinic, that stated traditional therapies are “ineffective for as many as 40% of people with asthma.”

Even if that number were a smaller fraction, Tu says, alternatives should be sought. “It’s a way to rescue these patients who are potentially in a situation where resistance means they have to be hospitalized, or who, because of severe bronchoconstriction, might face death,” he says.

“It’s variable, of course. There are people who respond and people who don’t respond. What is happening is that the more people take these bronchodilators, and in higher dosages, the more resistance develops. So, it’s an issue.”

And Tu’s participation in the study emerged about five years ago when co-researchers in an earlier study of smoking-related diseases described a pressing need for therapies to treat asthmatics for whom common bronchodilators proved ineffective. Happily, this coincided with discussions Tu was having with Zhongguo Cao, PhD, who is now a professor with the Department of Pharmacology in the School of Traditional Chinese Medicine at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, China, but who was then an assistant professor at Creighton.

Cao bad amassed a library of compounds derived from Chinese herbal medicines, several of which were identified, after using mouse lungs as models, as effective asthma treatments. Tu and Cao had discussed the potentials of Chinese herbal medicines to provide new treatment options, and Abel says, that collaboration began the process.

“They got together and said, ‘OK, let us look at some of these herbal products and see whether there is anything that might lead us to say that this one or that one could be useful in helping us address these problems,’” he says. “That’s kind of how this whole thing started.”

It helped, as the international osthole research team was assembled, that Tu was already researching how cellular signaling impacts asthma, and that Abel is an expert in integrative and organ systems pharmacology with many years of experience in drug development.

It also helped that Tao Tao, PhD, a professor at the Institute of Biophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, and his research group, stood ready to help. That collaboration used crystallography to demonstrate that osthole could bind with the enzyme PDE4D and disrupt its activity in order to promote airway relaxation.

Now that the effectiveness of the osthole molecule has been demonstrated, what’s next?

“We will now take osthole as our foundation and engineer it to be a better agent, to be kind of that thing that might interest a pharmaceutical company,” Abel says. “We have a medicinal chemist in our department, so doing something is something that we can do here. Once we have that better molecule, we can start talking to a pharmaceutical company or a biotech company.”

“That is the pathway for us.”

The College of Nursing moved its central Nebraska campus from Hastings to Grand Island in January, a move that is expected to boost the University’s decades-long mission of recruiting and educating nurses throughout the state.

For 34 years, the College of Nursing has maintained a campus in Hastings at Mary Lanning Healthcare. During those years, more than 900 Creighton students earned nursing degrees, many of them building careers at Mary Lanning. New Hope in a Traditional Chinese Therapy BY EUGENE CURTIN

Could a chemical compound found in this flowering plant, known commonly as Monnier’s snowparsley or She Chuang Zi in Chinese, help asthmatics breathe easier? UNIVER SITY NEWS

T
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For 34 years, the College of Nursing has maintained a campus in Hastings at Mary Lanning Healthcare. During those years, more than 900 Creighton students earned nursing degrees, many of them building careers at Mary Lanning.
The College of Nursing offers one of the nation’s most successful and longest running accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs. The program, the second in the nation, began in 1975 at Creighton’s Omaha campus and in 1986 expanded to Hastings.

The relocation to Grand Island will see Creighton bring that proud record to a new campus to Grand Island, which is currently under construction, and is considered the gold standard for nursing institutions where “nurses are empowered not only to take the lead on patient care, but to be the drivers of institutional health care change and innovation.”

In addition to giving nurses the possibility of working in the area’s only cancer center, Creighton will offer scholarships and guaranteed job placements to five students every year.

Given that nursing graduates typically choose to work in the communities where they live and where they studied, proximity of education becomes an important factor governing the supply of nurses. Demand for nurses in central Nebraska remains strong, and the move to Grand Island will mean more academic programs and assistant dean at the college.

Creighton will maintain a presence in Hastings through its 3+2 partnership with Hastings College. That partnership will allow Hastings College students to study there for three years before earning their BSN at Creighton.

### Study Identifies Repurposed Drug with Potential to Protect Hearing

FDA-approved dabrafenib could be developed on a significantly shorter timeline at lower cost

According to the World Health Organization, some 466 million people have disabling hearing loss, a number projected to double by 2050 to affect 1 in 10 worldwide. However, a groundbreaking School of Medicine study has identified a drug with potential to protect against, or treat, hearing loss.

The findings are significant because no FDA-approved drug currently exists, and the drug shown effective in protecting hearing in animal models in the study, dabrafenib, is FDA-approved for treating cancers in people. Repurposing FDA-approved drugs can significantly reduce the development timeline (by up to 5 to 8 years) and cost (by up to 40%) compared to new chemical compounds.

Permanent hearing loss is a major side effect cancer patients experience after undergoing cisplatin chemotherapy, affecting 40% to 60% of people who receive the treatment. In a paper published by Science Advances, Creighton scientists and students involved in the research found that dabrafenib can be repurposed to prevent cisplatin- and noise-induced hearing loss in mice.

Since dabrafenib has already gone through cancer clinical trials in humans and its side effects are known and relatively minimal, it is a good candidate to advance through hearing clinical trials, said Tay Too, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, group leader and corresponding author of the study.

“There are many types of hearing loss that are caused by cisplatin treatment, noise exposure, antibiotics and aging. Our idea was that there could be some common cellular pathways between these different forms of hearing loss,” Too said. “It’s very exciting that we were able to identify a drug that was effective in protecting against noise- and cisplatin-induced hearing loss.”

What makes dabrafenib a particularly promising candidate is that it can be taken orally — the least invasive and its side effects are known and relatively minimal, it is a good candidate to advance through hearing clinical trials, said Tay Too, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, group leader and corresponding author of the study.

“Dr. Walker brings exceptional credentials and expertise to the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion,” says Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “I look forward to her leadership and expertise as we as a University build upon our recent advances in this important work, which has intensified in the last year and as we continue to move purposefully forward in becoming an anti-racist institution.”

Walker’s research interests include examining the experiences of marginalized individuals at work with a specific focus on organizational-level and individual strategies for creating more equitable workplaces. She remains an active researcher and has published in a variety of journals throughout her career, including the Journal of Business Psychology; Equity, Diversity, and Psychology Perspectives; Industrial and Organizational Psychology Perspectives; and the Journal of Applied Psychology.

Walker’s research in industrial-organizational psychology provides her specific expertise in diversity, recruitment, selection, training, testing and measurement. While earning her PhD, Walker worked as a consultant for Valtura Corporation (now Corporate...
Executive Board) on projects related to personnel selection and training.

Prior to joining Creighton in 2018, Walker served as an associate professor in the Marilyn Davies College of Business at the University of Nebraska – Downtown (UHD) for 10 years. While at UHD, she co-authored two federally funded grants which resulted in $1.1 million awarded to the institution. The federally funded grants were designed to increase opportunities for under-represented minorities in gradate degree programs.

With a background in business and academia, Walker says she hopes to take a data-driven approach to evaluating some of Creighton’s diversity and inclusion initiatives, examining whether certain initiatives result in individual reports of better overall experiences at the University, among other metrics.

Dieckman Receives National Science Foundation Award

Biochemistry researcher and assistant professor Lynne Dieckman, PhD, has been awarded a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation. The five-year, $680,500 NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award will be utilized to examine protein interactions in offsping, which can play a role in the onset of diseases such as cancer, cell death and other major health issues. In addition, a major goal of the project is to create a comprehensive learning environment for aspiring high-school aged and undergraduate students who will have significant roles in the research.

An assistant professor with the Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, she is the first Creighton faculty member to receive the highly competitive NSF CAREER award.

Dieckman and her team of student researchers will program DNA replication and the subsequent packaging of DNA into the nucleus of cells.

Creighton students will be heavily involved in performing all experimentation, as the NSF grant will cover stipends for three undergraduate students each summer.

In addition, six students from local high schools will participate in research projects every summer in a collaboration with the Haddox STEM Scholars program. Students in the program will attend weekly scientific development workshops on campus and present research results to other scientists and the public.

Newly inked agreements between Creighton University, Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and Regis University in Denver demonstrate how cooperation between Jesuit universities expands educational opportunities, said Evan Robinson, PhD, dean of Creighton’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. The agreements grant priority consideration to Loyola Marymount students for acceptance into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program beginning with the entering class of 2022, its Doctor of Pharmacy program beginning with the entering class of 2021, and its Doctor of Occupational Therapy program beginning with the entering class of 2022.

Applicants from Loyola Marymount will be guaranteed an interview in all three programs pending verification of their credentials. The agreement with Regis University updates an earlier pact in order to guarantee four places in each entering class of Creighton’s Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.

The development of these articulation agreements with Loyola Marymount University represents a great opportunity for students to start their pre-health education at LMU, and based upon satisfying the admissions requirements, entering the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions at Creighton,” Robinson said.

Similarly, Robinson said, the agreement with Regis University reflects the impact of cooperation between Jesuit educational institutions.

“Our partnership with Regis University has been so successful that we have extended a collaboration between two institutions can be enacted and focused on student success,” he said.

Phoenix Campus Receives Honor for Design Excellence

The new Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus has been recognized for education design excellence by a jury of the American Institute of Architects.

The project was recognized for “Outstanding Design” in the Work in Progress category and is featured in the November/December 2020 edition of the American School & University® 2020 (Architectural Portfolio). The Committee on Architecture for Education selected the project among submissions from architectural firms, schools and universities across the country. Projects were chosen based on clarity of concept, innovation and creativity in response to the specifics of programs, users, community and site as well as other factors.

The annual competition honoring education design excellence spotlights projects representing today’s most effective learning environments.

The first classes at the $100 million, 180,000-square-foot facility are set to begin in August. The campus will have a full, four-year medical school and nursing, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician assistant programs. More than 900 students will eventually be enrolled in those programs.

A research center dedicated to preserving or restoring hearing has been awarded the largest National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant in Creighton’s history.

Creighton’s Translational Hearing Center, established in 2019, has been awarded a $10.8 million grant, payable over five years and competitively renewable up to 15 years, by the NIH affiliated Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The award will fund a working partnership between the Translational Hearing Center, Boys Town National Research Center and the University of Nebraska Medical Center as the three institutions seek to translate basic hearing loss research into practical therapies.

“Talent is one ingredient and children results in delayed acquisition of listening and spoken language skills critical for academic achievement and improved career trajectories of affected individuals,” he said. “In the aging population, hearing loss without appropriate rehabilitation accentuates these existing challenges.”

Future plans call for expansion into investigational new drug applications, safety and efficacy studies and clinical trials.

The Translational Hearing Center was created in 2019 with a grant from the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation, which honors the memory of Richard Bellucci, MD’42. After graduating from Creighton and returning to his native New York City, Bellucci made the payments of the 20th century’s most important contributions to the fields of otology and otolaryngology.

Center director Steyger, a native of Manchester, England, lost his hearing to meningitis as a 14-month-old and has since dedicated his career to preventing a similar fate from befalling other children.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, said the grant marks an important milestone. “This grant award is a historic moment for Creighton, and is yet another data point in our long track record of excellence in the health sciences,” he said. “Dr. Zuo, Dr. Steyger and their team are on the cutting edge of research on restoring hearing loss, and importantly, I am convinced that their research in this area will improve the lives of children and adults who are impacted by hearing loss.”

Robert ‘Bo’ Dunlay, MD, dean of the School of Medicine, said the grant will boost the center’s reputation even higher.

“The Creighton Translational Hearing Center is internationally recognized for groundbreaking research that has a simple goal: to improve the lives of countless individuals who are facing hearing loss,” he said. “The COBRE is an important step on this journey.”

In the grant application, Steyger said the Translational Hearing Center will work to expand the translation of research to clinical trials and from there into clinical practice.

“Prior to the center infants and children results in delayed acquisition of listening and spoken language skills critical for academic achievement and improved career trajectories of affected individuals,” he said. “In the aging population, hearing loss without appropriate rehabilitation accentuates these existing challenges.”

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Look at renderings for the CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education — the cutting-edge facility and new home to the School of Medicine coming to Creighton in 2023 — and you’ll notice a few things.

That it’s modern — a $75 million building that blends with campus architecture yet pushes it in exciting new directions.

That it’s connected. The building’s skywalk crosses the street to the Cross Complex, offering an actual bridge between disciplines.

That it’s a statement.

“The CL Werner Center is a beacon of our commitment to the health sciences and interprofessional model we use to teach them,” says Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “It is one of multiple areas in which we are showing growth and progress in Creighton’s health sciences enterprise, as we continue to form leaders in the Jesuit tradition across all fields of health care.”

Creighton will soon be the largest Catholic health professions educator in the nation.

In 2021, as the University breaks ground on the CL Werner Center, it will also open a $100 million health sciences facility in Phoenix. Meanwhile, Creighton recently established the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program with a $25 million gift from an anonymous foundation.
These efforts announce a bold vision for the health sciences. A vision inspired by that bedrock belief on which all of Creighton is built — cura personalis.

“This is a truly transformational moment in our history,” Fr. Hendrickson says. “It will serve as a symbol of the connections we are making at Creighton — between our spaces, between our disciplines, between ourselves and the people we care for.”

COMMON GROUND

One thing perhaps not immediately apparent about the new front door to Creighton’s west? What’s not there.

About 240,000 square feet.

The CL Werner Center will be a major consolidation of space, bringing all of campus east of U.S. Highway 75. The new facility will go in the area currently occupied by the Military Science Building and the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. The solar panels now in the adjacent parking lot will be replaced with new panels on the roof of the CL Werner Center.

West of the highway, the University will sell the property occupied by the Cardiac Center, the School of Medicine’s home will serve as a health sciences hub, with active-group classrooms and a simulation center bringing together medical, nursing, physician assistant, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, behavioral health and other students.

“The CL Werner Center is going to facilitate high-quality interprofessional education using real-world scenarios,” says School of Medicine Dean Robert “Bob” Dunlay, MD’68.

One example he cited: Students from various disciplines all in the same room, working through a cardiac arrest scenario as an interprofessional team. Taking turns with each other’s roles. Understanding each other’s perspectives.

In the process, they will come together to give the patient the best care possible. Dunlay says, “That’s where you really get the value in interprofessional education. That’s the value of this building.”

“With the CL Werner Center and the health sciences campus in Phoenix, Creighton is ensuring that we have world-class facilities to go with the world-class instruction our students receive.”

For Creighton to remain a national leader in health sciences education, it must continue to push forward, says Catherine Todero, PhD, RN’72, vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses and dean of the College of Nursing. “We must continue to be bold. You see this boldness in our programs and partnerships and the ways we are preparing our students. You see it in the Phoenix campus and in this facility.”

“You see it,” she says, in Creighton’s commitment to team-based care.

ABOUT THE DONORS

THE CL Werner Center as a game-changing investment in Creighton’s vision for a different kind of health care.

“Creighton is a driving force for education in our community,” says Cl Werner, founder, board chairman and the former longtime CEO of Werner Enterprises. “It is also a national leader in preparing students for the future of health care, and the new facility will accelerate this momentum.”

CL Werner was the recipient of an honorary degree from Creighton University in 2018.

“I am profoundly thankful for the benevolence of Cl, Rachel and the Werner family,” says Fr. Hendrickson. “Their investment is a resounding confirmation of our mission and an unerring endorsement of our vision.”
The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is investing $10 million in a long-term initiative led by Creighton and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix. The effort aims to reduce health disparities disproportionately affecting low-income populations and people of color.

The effort will more deeply integrate the Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul into the Creighton Health Sciences - Phoenix Campus curriculum. It will also bring more health sciences students and physician faculty to the clinic, expanding access to preventive and acute care.

The gift and initiative will create two new positions in the School of Medicine—the Virginia G. Piper Chair in Medicine and Chief Medical Officer and the Virginia G. Piper Fellowship in Health Disparities.

GLOBAL CARE

A $25 million anonymous gift from a foundation has established the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program.

Named for the Rev. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, founder of the Jesuit Refugee Service, the program seeks to improve the health of the international poor and educate servant leader physicians. The gift will support 10 cohorts of 12 students from Creighton’s medical programs in both Omaha and Phoenix over 10 years, beginning in the fall of 2022.

Under the new program, Arrupe Global Scholars will earn a medical degree while working alongside international health care workers and Creighton faculty on multiple projects aimed at addressing health challenges around the world. This program will bring quality care to those most in need while forming future leaders in the field.

BY THE NUMBERS

Creighton Health Sciences

3 in 5

Cretin undergraduate students earned their health care degrees at Creighton.

23%

of first-year medical students earned their undergraduate degree at Creighton.

45%

of Creighton students enroll in pre-professional programs, with 40% pursuing health sciences degrees.

3,500

Creighton students are enrolled in professional health sciences programs, more than any other Catholic university in the nation.

11,300

health sciences graduates support more than 11,300 jobs in Nebraska, and they help rank Omaha and Nebraska among the top cities and states in the country for health care access.
SNOW FALLS STEADILY OUTSIDE CREIGHTON’S Rasmussen Fitness and Sports Center. Inside, there is great anticipation, a warmth. Among the mask-wearing, socially distanced crowd on the field turf there is an invigorating, palpable sense of hope. “This is going to help us, of course — we haven’t seen our children in almost a year — but it’s going to help everybody,” said 75-year-old Anne Cognard of Omaha. “The pandemic reminds us how precious and how difficult life can be.”

Cognard was one of more than 1,400 visitors to the clinic on its opening day Feb. 6. The clinic has operated almost every Saturday since, with hundreds of Creighton students, faculty and staff volunteering — providing nearly 30,000 doses of vaccine in the first two months. “A lot of people are in here getting their shots so they can see their new grandbabies or go travel,” said Rachel Whipple, an accelerated nursing student who volunteered as an inoculator. “It’s really uplifting.”

“I just can’t tell you how inspired I am to see this happening,” said Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. “It’s such a traumatic time in our lives. For Creighton to step up and embrace this moment and bring the community in, this is really special.”

In the first two months of partnering with Douglas County on a COVID-19 community vaccination clinic on campus, Creighton volunteers administered nearly 30,000 doses of vaccine.
This is historic, and I think it’s something that my generation is going to look back on as one of the defining events of our time. It’s such a simple thing, to get the shots and prevent illness.”

**Brett Boggust, BSEMS’19**
First Year, School of Medicine

I’m a paramedic. And you don’t get into this field unless you want to care for people and give back to your community. Doing this COVID clinic is my part of giving back to what Creighton and the Omaha community have given me.”

**Tina Zhang**
Senior, Emergency Medical Services

Some of the students who volunteered at the community vaccine clinic at the Rasmussen Center were: Greta Purcell, right, emergency medical services student Tina Zhang, below, nursing student Annie Carter greeting Fr. Hendrickson, far right, and medical student Brett Boggust, BSEMS’19, bottom right.
Microaggressions
No Small Issue

Offensive actions, assumptions and expressions directed at marginal populations occur on many levels and in everyday life. Rooting them out takes vigilance, awareness and more.

BY EUGENE CURTIN

Microaggressions

The term “microaggression” is fairly longstanding, having been coined in 1970 by a Harvard University psychologist who used it to describe casual disparagements visited upon African Americans by people of other races. It has since become an umbrella term for verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights against any socially marginalized group — whether related to race, sexual orientation, social class or ability.

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“I try to make people in my orbit super aware of this problem,” she says. “Someone close to me recently said that they were the lowest on the totem pole, and I said, ‘You know, you really probably shouldn’t say that. I know it’s part of common vocabulary but it uses ways-of-being of Indigenous people as a way to describe hierarchy in ways that they wouldn’t want us to. So perhaps you shouldn’t say that anymore.’

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“I really like the metaphor of thousands of paper cuts. One microaggression sting, but they add up until you can’t stand the pain anymore.”
Erika Dolan Kirby, PhD

“Most people who commit microaggressions mean no harm. It’s just that their lack of knowledge permits insensitivity and can cause bad blood.”
Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA’05

Grant to Promote COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial Minority Populations

TWENTY YEARS OF BUILDING CREDIBILITY In Omaha’s minority communities, the CPHHE is working to build credibility among health care providers to improve vaccination rates. This is particularly important for African American communities, which have historically had low vaccination rates.

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Vaccinations Among Racial Minority Populations

There are a number of factors that contribute to this disparity, including lack of access to health care, language barriers, and cultural differences. CPHHE’s approach is to work with community leaders and organizations to develop culturally sensitive messaging and strategies that address these issues.

The CPHHE has partnered with the Omaha Black Community Health Coalition to provide training and support for Community Health Advocates (CHAs). These CHAs work within their communities to build trust and credibility, and to promote vaccination rates.

This approach has been successful. In 2021, the Omaha Black Community Health Coalition reported a 5% increase in vaccination rates among African American communities.

The CPHHE continues to work with community partners to address the ongoing challenge of racism in health care. Through a combination of education, training, and community engagement, the CPHHE aims to build a more equitable and just health care system for all.

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saac Asimov once stated that sensible
decisions must take into account “not
only the world as it is, but the world
as it will be.”
For business, “the world as it is” is
a blend of traditional disciplines and
approaches — finance, accounting, marketing
—and new, technology-based fields such as
business analytics, big data and AI.
But “the world as it will be”? That’s any-
one’s guess. Consider this: a projected 85% of
business sector jobs existing in 2030 do not
exist today, according to a 2017 report from Dell
Technologies. Adhering to a “business as usual”
approach to business education will leave stu-
dents short of the necessary skills to perform
in the workplace and advance in their careers.
Business schools, however, are populated
by economists and accountants, not clairvoy-
ants. So how are educators to prepare tomor-
row’s professionals who will, more than any
generation before, be practicing in uncharted
territory?
This is what Heider College of Business lead-
ers asked themselves nearly three years ago
when the Association to Advance the Collegiate
Schools of Business (AACSB), the accreditation
body of U.S. business schools, challenged edu-
cators to creatively remodel their curricula.
Creighton responded with the Heider Mindset
Curriculum.

THE ORIGIN STORY

IN DEVELOPING THE MINDSET curriculum, Heider faculty sought the guidance of leading
Fortune 500 companies who had published the results of their own forums, such as
PricewaterhouseCoopers’ “Investing in America’s Data Science and Analytics Talent: The Case for Action.” They consulted industry
executives and reviewed the curriculums of
the nation’s top business schools. They sought
best practices from the think tank Education
Advisory Board (EAB).

Then, using Henry Mintzberg’s book
Managers Not MBAs as inspiration, the task
force concluded that theory and practice
—something at which the Heider College
of Business already excelled—must be aug-
mented with boundary-crossing competen-
cies or “transferrable skills” that “allow people
to be increasingly adaptable in the face of
change,” says Matt Seevers, PhD, associate dean
of undergraduate programs and a professor of
marketing and management.
Communication, teamwork, perspective,
project management, global understanding
and critical thinking are examples of boundary-
crossing competencies. These are the skills,
Seevers says, that will help Heider graduates
adapt to future technologies that we now only
imagine.
Recent years have seen an increased
importance in analytics and data science. For
graduates in the coming decades, however, pro-
ficiency in data fluency across disciplines will
be imperative, says Debbie Wells, PhD, interim
chair of the Department of Accounting and
Business Intelligence and Analytics.
“What is demanded of a business education
now is very different from the past,” Wells says.
“Furthermore, patterns of career progression
have dramatically changed. They are not as lin-
ear. There are fewer hierarchical organizations
and more entrepreneurial ones, in which employees must wear multiple hats. Industry is changing; education must follow suit.”

The Heider Mindset Curriculum is a holistic approach to business education centered on six distinctive mindsets — analytical, collaborative, cross-cultural, action, service and reflective — that reframes how the college teaches business. The mindsets serve as guideposts for evaluating existing courses, as well as for creating new coursework.

“An education at Creighton University is not just about the next four years, it’s about the next 40 years,” says Anthony Hendrickson, PhD, dean of the Heider College of Business. “It’s not just how we prepare students for their first job out of college but for a lifetime of leadership and positive contributions across all facets of their lives.”

Seevers says this became the guiding principle of the Heider Mindset Curriculum’s formation. “To be a leader in any field, an analytical mindset will be important. The ability to collaborate with others will also be vital. The capability to put words and ideas into action — even in the face of adversity — will be key.”

The mindsets are more than a “curriculum.” The Heider Mindset Curriculum is not limited to courses, majors, minors, concentrations or tracks. It encompasses “the entire ecosystem of Creighton and the Heider College of Business.”

Seevers says. It is coursework functioning in tandem with co-curricular activities, internships, leadership programs, service trips and events, and more, to form future leaders of business who will live out the college’s mission of positively impacting the world.

**IT’S GOT GAME**

**EACH MINDSET HAS REQUIREMENTS,** and students have both academic and extracurricular opportunities to fulfill these. Students track their progress via an online dashboard called the Heider Mindset Achievement Portfolio (H-MAP). The H-MAP gives students a status report of where they are and what mindset requirements they still need to fulfill.

“It’s not a measurement tool but more of a digital repository of artifacts,” Wells says. “It allows students to see how their curricular experience at the Heider College of Business is married to the extracurricular at the University and beyond. It takes varied experiences across Six Distinctive Mindsets

**ACTION**

Entrepreneurial thinking steers the Action Mindset. Creative problem-solving and the confidence to take initiative are key skills students will learn from this mindset.

**ANALYTICAL**

The Analytical Mindset encourages critical thinking skills, risk analysis and the ability to sort through and visualize data in a way that enhances decision-making.

**REFLECTIVE**

Rooted in Creighton’s Jesuit values, the Reflective Mindset challenges students to not just act, serve and collaborate, but to also reflect on those experiences and examine the deeper purpose.

**CROSS-CULTURAL**

The Cross-Cultural Mindset encourages students to be inclusive and appreciative of diverse perspectives. In an increasingly global economy, this mindset is essential to success in business.

**COLLABORATIVE**

The Collaborative Mindset reinforces leadership skills such as teamwork, communication and empathy, helping students hone the skills they need to relate to and work with others on projects large and small.

**SERVICE**

The Service Mindset is a direct extension of the Heider College of Business’ mission: “Guided by our Jesuit heritage, we exist to form leaders who promote justice and use their business knowledge to improve the world.”
“A good leader knows how to collaborate and analyze, be cross-cultural, commit to action, be willing to serve and embrace reflection. And we intentionally incorporated these principles into the recent renovations of the Harper Center. The building reflects who we are philosophically and academically.”

ANTHONY HENDRICKSON, PHD
Dean, Heider College of Business

their four years and shows how they are aligned through the mindsets.”

Students, such as sophomore finance and accounting double major Cole Goddall, have embraced the gamification of the H-MAP.

“Through its leaderboard, H-MAP offers a unique way to find other people in the Heider College of Business who are motivated to make the most of their college experience in every way beyond just the classroom,” Goddall says. And, he adds, “It is also nice to have a platform to showcase to potential employers that your college experience was truly well rounded.”

Goddall equates H-MAP to a college transcript, which chronicles success in academic course-work, but this tracks all accomplishments outside the formal classroom setting as well. “It has helped me to develop much more intentionally, rapidly and effectively,” he says.

BEYOND BUSINESS
A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT — and one that distinguishes Heider College of Business alumni from graduates of other programs — is exposure to coursework beyond the purview of the business school. All students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration are required to complete the Kingfisher Concentration in addition to the existing Magis Core requirement. The Kingfisher Concentration is composed of at least nine hours (typically three courses) drawn from an approved area of concentration within the College of Arts and Sciences.

“The intent of the Kingfisher Concentration is that students will learn about an area of depth that supports growth in at least one of the mindsets and allows personalization of liberal arts coursework,” Seevers says.

For instance, a marketing major might pursue graphic design as his or her Kingfisher Concentration, an accounting major might select a concentration in mathematics. Alternatively, students might take this opportunity to engage a lifelong interest in art or history or experiment with a completely new pursuit by enrolling in Spanish or Irish literature.

For those who want to delve deeper, the Kingfisher Concentration is the initial step toward a minor within the College of Arts and Sciences. With nine credit hours already under their academic belts, students need only complete three more classes to earn the minor designation.

From day one, College of Arts and Sciences leadership has been “incredibly supportive” of this cross-college collaboration, says Wells Bridgek Keogan, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who has shown an expressed interest in data fluency, recognizing that real time analysis plays a pivotal role in all enterprises and is not the exclusive domain of business.

“I am so proud that faculty and leaders in the Heider College of Business share my belief that the skills and knowledge offered by liberal arts disciplines are key to ensuring that our students are ‘future-proof’ and ready for whatever changes the workplace has in store for them,” Keogan says. “The Kingfisher Concentrations allow students to develop and deepen strengths in Arts and Sciences programs that complement their plans of study in business. I look forward to offering Kingfisher Concentrations in business to our Arts and Sciences students as well.”

The intent of the Kingfisher Concentration is exposure: provide business students access to an array of disciplines, and you will produce more well-rounded individuals who will be increasingly adaptable in the face of change. This has been the experience of Gillielle Estevez, a senior business intelligence and analytics double major from Santiago, Dominican Republic. The boundary-crossing competencies of the Heider Mindset and Magis Core curriculums have enriched her multiple internships.

“Whether it’s the soft skills or hard skills, each class I have taken has taught me something that I have used one way or another,” Estevez says. “Sometimes I see myself having to use concepts that I learned in psychology or philosophy in a conversation at work regarding a project. Other times, terms from management class come into play when talking with my boss about our team. These are things that are not obvious when you are taking these classes but nonetheless become very important.”

NOT JUST BRICK AND MORTAR
THE HEIDER MINDSETS — analytical, collaborative, action, reflective, service, cross-cultural — are values that Heider College of Business programming has always espoused. The new curriculum formalizes these traits in a cohesive, foundational manner. Hendrickson says:

“A good leader knows how to collaborate and analyze, be cross-cultural, commit to action, be willing to serve and embrace reflection.”

Hendrickson says: “The mindsets are the foundation of our building like they are the foundation of your career.”

Hendrickson calls business “a team sport” and “a social enterprise,” so it’s no surprise that the number of collaborative workspaces increased with renovations to the Harper Center. The mindsets also were intentionally incorporated into the renovations: The analytical mindset is realized in the Heider Securities Investment and Analysis Center; the action mindset is represented in the expanded iJay and innovation labs; the Flate and The Globe sculptures at each Harper entrance call to mind the service and cross-cultural mindsets; and the St. Peter Faber, SJ Chapel, located in the heart of the Harper Center and named for one of the first Jesuits and the patron saint of business, beautifully highlights the need for reflection.

The introduction of the Heider Mindset Curriculum this past year coincides with the college’s 100th year anniversary and will go a long way in forming the next century of business leaders educated in the Jesuit tradition.

“The mindsets aren’t just platitudes for decoration,” Hendrickson says. “They are who we are.”

Heider Celebrates Centennial With Website, Anniversary Book: The Heider College of Business, which opened in 1920 as the College of Commerce, Accounts and Finance, celebrated its centennial in 2020. You can read more about Heider’s history, learn fun facts and explore the college’s growth online at business.nebraskacatholic.edu/Heider100.

The college also is commemorating the occasion with a 100th anniversary book. More information on how to purchase this update of the original history of the college by the Rev. Neil Cahill, SJ, is forthcoming.
beyond the game
BY EUGENE CURTIN

Creighton students are studying the sports industry from a variety of disciplines, and preparing for successful careers outside the lines of athletic competition.

A majority of the world’s nations can only dream of achieving a national GDP equal to the value of the global sports industry, which, according to the NOG Group’s 2019 Global Sports Estimate, will surpass $620 billion by 2023. That figure beats the annual labors of the 38 million people of Poland, as well as the best efforts of such nations as Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Israel and even the teeming and energetic economy of Hong Kong.

Indeed, a listing of global GDPs published by reference website Worldometer shows that the “Kingdom of Sports,” were it a nation, would rank 22nd of 189 nations, nipping at the heels even of oil-rich Saudi Arabia and its 33 million people.

Of course, sports careers don’t have to revolve around negotiating big-time contracts. There are always coaches — some volunteering anonymously for youth sports on weekends — who wish to advance their leadership skills, or perhaps to take a step toward becoming an athletic director at a high school. In that case, Ann Mausbach, PhD, is developing the playbook. Mausbach is an associate professor of educational leadership in the College of Arts and Sciences, well-versed in the structure of high schools and how to progress within them. To that end, she helped a faculty team develop a Graduate Certificate in Sports Leadership for K-12 Athletic Directors.

The graduate certificate was originated by Gretchen Ottenman, JD, PhD, associate professor with the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, who has long recognized the pervasiveness of sports at Creighton and encouraged its adoption into the academic curriculum.

The certificate can be earned as a stand-alone credential or as a major step toward fulfilling the requirements of a full Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership.

The K-12 certificate is earned entirely online, and will not only prepare students to earn their administrative certification but also provide coursework designed to build sports leadership.

“I think taking coursework in sports leadership is an overall educational leadership master’s degree would give anybody a leg up who is hoping to become an athletic director,” Mausbach says. “You do have to have that master’s degree, but it would be very helpful to show expertise in sports leadership.”

The certificate, Mausbach says, is an effort to meet Creighton’s philosophical commitment to cura personalis, or meeting the needs of the whole person, by giving people the tools they need to achieve their goals.

“Upon graduation, we have had students like Ohio State, and we have a graduate who is hoping to become an athletic director,” Mausbach says. “You do have to have that master’s degree, but it would be very helpful to show expertise in sports leadership.”

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If you really want to lead an athletic department, then this is what you have to do,” she says. “If you simply want to be a better coach — and there are a lot of club organizations that are super competitive — a person might say, “I don’t...
As an academic institution, we are able to study sports from so many angles — philosophy, theology, science, medicine, law and leadership — that we provide a rich area to understand humanity, how sports have played a role in nearly every society for centuries, and how the field has evolved within many traditional disciplines over time.

**SPORT AND SPIRITUALITY**

The importance of sports, not just to professional advancement but also to personal Christian development, was the subject of “Giving the Best of Yourself: A Document on the Christian Perspective on Sports and the Human Person,” published in June 2018. The first Vatican document about sports, the statement included an introduction from Pope Francis, who said sports, practiced with the proper spirit, can develop holiness.

“Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people,” said Terry Grindstaff, PhD, associate professor at the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

“Sports also teach character and are a profound reflection of human nature, which is itself a reflection of the God in whose image men and women are made. Within sports, they say — as a player or a fan — students experience the full range of human emotion while learning to direct those emotions in positive directions.

“Within sports we encounter questions of meaning, loss, longing, competition, growth, challenges and redemption,” Grindstaff said. “Sports are a summary narrative of the whole human narrative, complete with seasons and ritual and identity. So many of our students come from a faith context, a Christian or a Catholic context, but have never been asked to consider what their religious faiths have to do with sports.

“They’ve gone through Confirmation and all the spiritual steps of Catholicism, and have spent countless hours in training and personal coaching, but have never really considered how these sporting and religious experiences are informed by each other.”

For many young people today, Carney says, the sports arena represents their primary encounter with morality as well as behavior that is good and which they will inevitably encounter after completing their studies.

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Sports programs at Creighton are designed to teach business, health, education, law and aspects of the arts and sciences, all through the prism of sports.

**SPORTS SPECIALIZATION**

They don’t come any more “sports” than Terry Grindstaff, PhD, associate professor at the Creighton School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Grindstaff, whose entire career in physical therapy has revolved around sports, has added a sports specialization track to the University’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

“We want to help students prepare to take that next step toward a physical therapy residency program, either in sports or orthopaedics,” he says. “We look at it as a career launch. Over the past five years, we have had a lot more of our students express interest in sports physical therapy or the department of intercollegiate studies and are taught within the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership degree.

The program is designed to teach business, health, education, law and aspects of the arts and sciences, all through the prism of sports.

**INTEGRATIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Tom Lenz, BSBA ’92, PharmD’99, MA ’17, a professor of education, Integrative Health and Wellness program, has long embraced a similar philosophy, insisting that sports, health and wellness are aspects of a total human life.

“Given that nothing can be more fundamental to sporting success than health and wellness, Lenz seeks to instill knowledge that will enable Creighton graduates to help athletes develop the behavior, lifestyle habits and life balance essential to success at the highest levels.

“Sports are a microcosm of life itself, and I think that’s why it’s so important to be able to take things that we’ve probably been teaching people all along and apply them to the life of sports,” he says. “All the underlining concepts are the same — dealing with multiple things, creating a balance of life, being happy and thriving as an individual while also being part of a group. That’s something a sports team can do but it can also be your job.”

The principles taught under the umbrella of integrative health and wellness apply to professional and amateur sports. Lenz says, and will help students succeed whether they pursue a career in professional or college sports.

“The idea of behavior modification, which is so much of what health and wellness coaching is, is such a big piece of sports — trying to balance all things in life, trying to adhere to the training and nutrition and study and social life and all that sort of thing,” he says.

“Commitment to those things separates people who perform at the very highest level from those who don’t. There are a lot of people who participate in sports in high school at a high level, and in college at a high level, who seem to me to have the same skill sets as people who didn’t make it. Something differentiated them, and those are the intangible things that allow for excellence.”

Though intangibles may be crucial to sporting success, sports remain a business — a big, tangible business — and that fact has not been missed at Creighton’s Heider College of Business.

SPORTS MARKETING AND ECONOMICS

Mark Severs, PhD, professor of marketing and management and associate dean of undergraduate programs at Heider, says elective courses on sports marketing and sports economics can add an additional level of expertise to students interested in pursuing a career in sports.

“When our sports marketing class started many years ago, we offered it once a year,” Severs says. “We routinely filled it up. So, it turned into an every-semester class and we experienced the same thing. It’s the same thing with the sports economics class. We might normally have about 25 in a class, but right now we have 32 — so that’s also filled to the brim.”

Severs does not yet offer a specific sports concentration, like Weber’s at the law school, but students can tailor their business degrees so that they emerge with specific sports knowledge.

“We have a way for them to pursue a sports marketing internship for credit, which can count toward their program, and we have a fairly long history of students doing that,” Severs says. “Maybe our most successful pipeline is with Nike. We have had many students who have interned with Nike and then gone on to hold full-time positions with Nike.

A number of those students are still there at the headquarters.”

**BECOMING IMPACTFUL LEADERS**

The last word, perhaps, goes to Oltman, who as program director for the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, introduced a graduate certificate in sports leadership, designed to help students become “impactful and effective” leaders.

“Sports seem to cross over into many parts of our lives,” she says. “Within the past year, we have seen athletes speak out as activists, we have seen sports as an industry face economic and organizational challenges, and started to see just how wide and interdisciplinary the area of sports actually is.

“As an academic institution, we are able to study sports from so many angles — philosophy, theology, science, medicine, law and leadership — that we provide a rich area to understand humanity, how sports have played a role in nearly every society for centuries, and how the field has evolved within many traditional disciplines over time.
Programs and Certificate
Select Graduate
Available for Scholarship
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and certificate programs. Opportunity to upskill and advance your career today! Learn more about the scholarship and take advantage of this unique opportunity to one of the select graduate programs.

Spring 2022 and summer 2022 are eligible for the scholarships. No scholarship

55 Connie Kestel Spitter, BS, Omaha, was invited to read her essay “Pink Moments” on NBIS’s Bob Edwards Show. Her essay appears on the “This I Believe 100 Essays” link (thisibelieve.org/story/742).


76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Quirin Chartered, was named to the Top 10 list of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for 2020. It is Monnat’s third year in a row to be named to the list. He has been listed on the Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers Top 10 list overall for 15 years.

77 Michael G. May, BA, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, has been named associate editor of the Catholic Voice newspaper in Omaha. He has been with the newspaper since 2015.

78 Jose J. Uroez, DDS, Hialeah, Florida, has published an autobiographical book, The Lost Boys: A Memoir of Operation Pedro Pan. It is about the unique coming to America story of more than 14,000 unaccompanied Cuban boys and girls, and living their adolescent years in the Miami area Catholic refugee camps for dependent Cuban children.

81 The Hon. Hillary Bargar-Stricklands, JD, Guilford, Connecticut, has been a superior court judge in Connecticut since 2004. She currently is presiding judge of criminal matters and administrative judge of New London County.

82 John L. McKay Jr., JD, Seattle, is serving as the King County Bar Association president and is chair of government investigations and crisis management at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. McKay continues on the faculty of Seattle University Law School teaching constitutional law, national security law and other courses. He has twice been selected by students as the recipient of the outstanding faculty award.

84 Jill Robb Ackerman, JD, Omaha, assumed the post of president of the Nebraska State Bar Association in October 2020 and will serve until October 2021. She is a partner at Baid Holm in Omaha.

85 Dr. Marilyn Kreuger Windom, BA, Rolla, Missouri, is a teaching professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla in the psychology department. She received the Dr. Elizabeth Cummins Women’s Advocate Award for 2020-2021. The award honors a Missouri S&T employee who demonstrates commitment to women on campus through mentorship and advocacy.

88 David C. Andrews, BA, Gurnee, Illinois, was recently promoted within his organization and given additional responsibilities within the organization’s parent company. His new roles are vice president, global marketing and communications, with Sullair LLC, and marketing and services general manager, global business strategy headquarters. Hitachi Industrial Equipment Systems Andrews also was recently elected to the board of trustees of the American Rental Association Foundation. Rebecca Barlow Givens, JD, Centennial, Colorado, recently became senior vice president and general counsel of MDC Holdings, Inc., a Fortune 500 NYSE company in Denver. Jeffrey T. Harvey, JD, San Antonio, was included in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Man & Woman of the Year 2021 Campaign. His goal is to raise $100,000 toward finding a cure for blood cancers.

93 John R. Gilliland, JD, Van Meter, Iowa, was promoted to vice president at the Morgan Stanley Wealth Management office in Des Moines, Iowa. He previously was a financial advisor and portfolio manager and has been with the firm since 2012. Peter J. Smith, BA, Centennial, Colorado, was nominated as a candidate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Man & Woman of the Year 2021 Campaign. His goal is to raise $100,000 toward finding a cure for blood cancers.

94 Kent E. Endacott, JD, Lincoln, Nebraska, an attorney with Endacott Peetz Timmer & Hourweitz law firm, has been elected president of the Great Plains Federal Tax Institute. Endacott has been a member of the board since 2015. The institute was formed in 1963 to provide interdisciplinary continuing education and professional development for attorneys, CPAs, financial planners and other tax professionals.
95 Dr. Linda Sauer Bredvik, MA, Heidelberg, Germany, had her book Discussing the Faith Multilingual and Metalinguistic Considerations About Religion published by De Gruyter. The final step to earning her PhD. She is an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages at Heidelberg University.

Dr. Steven C. Cunningham, BSChE, Ellicott City, Maryland, has written a new book of poetry for children titled Your Body, Sick and Well. You Do You Know? In the book, he introduces topics related to normal anatomy and physiology, pathology and the doctors tools to use in diagnosis. The book has received multiple awards. Cunningham is director of GME awards. Cunningham is director of the pope about their “individual and collective efforts addressing social and economic injustice and inequality occurring in their communities,” according to the NBA players’ union.

The book, titled Saving the Front, has been elected to serve as the 2021 chairperson of the Academy of Emergency Nursing (AEN) board. He will serve subsequent as the 2022 chairperson. Chmelewski is a published author in multiple nursing journals, including recent articles in BJC Review, the Journal of Emergency Nursing and Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal. He is a senior managing consultant with Berkeley Research Group, LLC.

102 Nichole J. Mizer, JD, Omaha, was named chief executive officer for the NMC Group of Companies, which is headquartered in Omaha. The NMC Group owns and operates multiple capital equipment businesses in six states. Previously, Mizer was a senior leader within the NMC Group, most recently serving five years as president and chief operating officer.

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BIRTHS

17 Zeppf serf P. Niederer, BSA, St. Louis, Missouri, a daughter, Ostefi Catherine McCarthy Niederer, BSA’07, JD’10, Trophy Club, Texas, a daughter, Frances Lucia, July 26, 2020.

103 Dr. Joy Nomine, BSChE, Sunnyvale, California, has been named a partner at the law firm Shepard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton in the Palo Alto, California, office. She is a member of the intellectual property practice group and the life sciences team. Her practice focuses on patent preparation, prosecution and strategy in the pharmaceutical, biotech and chemical fields.

NMC Group owns and operates the largest physician-owned dermatology practices in the US. Mizaur held various positions within the company before becoming NMC’s chief operating officer.

Craigmont alumni Anthony Tollef, BSChE’07, and Kyle Korver, BAE’05, joined a delegation of NBA players that discussed racial justice with Pope Francis at the Vatican last November. In the photo above, Tollef presents Pope Francis with a golden basketball. The group spoke about the pope about their “individual and collective efforts addressing social and economic injustice and inequality occurring in their communities,” according to the NBA players’ union.

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Seems like success looks alike as a Creighton graduate.

gradschool.creighton.edu/success-stories

IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember Creighton University faculty and students who have recently passed away.

John Lanahan, DMSc, former assistant professor and chair in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Oct. 15, 2020

Thomas C. Mann, PhD, former associate professor of political science and director of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dec. 20, 2020

Massoom H. Jafri, DDS, professor emeritus of periodontics, former chair of the Department of Periodontics, School of Dentistry, Dec. 3, 2020

Robert G. Crouch, PhD, professor emeritus of biomedical sciences, School of Medicine, Jan. 9, 2021

Wardle Hebl, PhD, assistant professor emeritus, former vice chair of OB/GYN Department and associate dean, School of Medicine, Feb. 15, 2021

*Faculty and students who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Directory section of the magazine.

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„Come become your best.”

Creighton’s Graduate School delivers a nationally ranked education designed with your mind in mind. Combine your master’s and doctoral degrees, certificates, professional development, and alumni network to facilitate your life and career.

Choose from over 45 programs, including master’s and doctoral degrees, certificates, professional development and alumni network to facilitate your life and career.

See what success looks alike as a Creighton graduate.
Mardell Wilson, EdD, has served as provost of Creighton University since Oct. 1, 2020. She came to Creighton from Saint Louis University, where she served as professor and dean of the Edward and Margaret Doisy College of Health Sciences. During her long academic career, Wilson has worked to cultivate an environment in which inclusivity and appreciation for diverse perspectives are fostered and celebrated. Creighton magazine asked her the following questions:

What inspired you to apply for the Creighton provost position?

Creighton has a reputation for distinctive excellence rooted in the liberal arts and Jesuit values. The complement of robust undergraduate programs with an impressive presence in the health sciences was very appealing. In addition, I have a strong affinity to the Midwest.

How do you find Creighton, its culture and its personnel?

I am impressed by the strong devotion students, faculty and staff have to our mission. The demonstration of men and women who have distinct personal or professional goals that may not necessarily be linked to a degree program. We need to be able to react swiftly. COVID has tested our aptitude for change and we have demonstrated our abilities to think creatively, modify pedagogy and adapt content; all important skills for the future.

Another area of emphasis is to ensure all voices and perspectives are welcomed and represented. Fostering an environment in which our students, faculty and staff feel included and respected is key to building and retaining the committed community spirit we so strongly value both in Omaha and Phoenix.

Lastly, regardless of what efforts we are pursuing as the Creighton for tomorrow remaining rooted in our Ignatian values is essential and will provide us with clarity for direction just as it has for well over a century.

What do you think is the future of higher education, and of Jesuit education in particular?

Higher education is experiencing disruptive change. It was certainly simmering prior to COVID and the pandemic has turned the heat to a full boil. We can’t ignore it, but we also can’t rush to reaction. We have to be strategic with our efforts and capitalize on the characteristic that drew me to Creighton — our distinctive excellence. Certainly, our acumen for delivering education in online and hybrid formats has escalated over the last year. Although I am confident we will remain a residential campus that draws students from all corners of the U.S. and the world who run the spectrum from committed to curious about our mission and our Jesuit values, we are positioned to explore and impact a new set of learners who will benefit not only from our exceptional content but also from the foundation upon which it is built.

What would you say to people considering enrolling at Creighton?

Pursue excellence. An education is one of the most valuable investments a person can ever make. Creighton is more than a university, or a campus; it is truly a community. It provides opportunity to learn from some of the most talented and dedicated faculty to embrace new ideals, to make lifelong friends, and to be encouraged and supported regardless of one’s background. We have known those experiences happen in-person, and we have demonstrated we can make those experiences happen online — but regardless of where it happens, everyone is committed to preparing our learners “to go set the world on fire!”

“At Creighton, there’s a high level of thoughtfulness to be the best at what you’re doing and pursue excellence. My first experience pursuing my master’s at Creighton was so powerful that I ultimately decided to stay for my doctorate. I understood the people. I felt connected to the University.”

— Charles Thomas Jr., MS’09, EdD’14

Pursue Excellence
Wherever you are the weekend of June 3–6, you and your family can join us for a virtual experience that’s fun, meaningful and safe. We’re planning new ways for you to reunite with friends, classmates and faculty—through virtual activities including the Golden Jays Toasts, class parties and a 5K!

Because We All Need to Reconnect

See more details, news and photos at alumni.creighton.edu/RW21