

A BOLD VISION: BUILDING IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES **PIO**

CREIGHTON

SPRING 2021 • Volume 37 Issue 1



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 WNIT, and volleyball’s sixth BIG EAST Tournament title in the last seven years were all impressive. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaches.

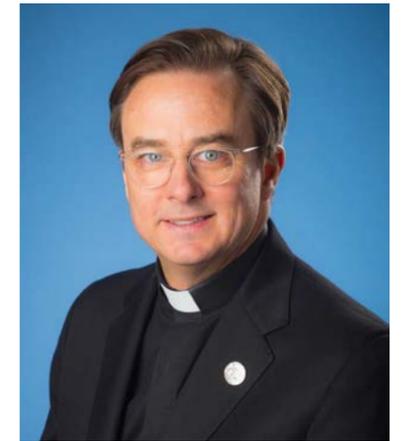
Our cover story highlights the new CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, expected to open in fall 2023. Announced earlier this year, the CL Werner Center will be the new home of the School of Medicine and will include shared spaces for each of the University’s health sciences schools and colleges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



STEVE BRANSCOMBE

© 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.

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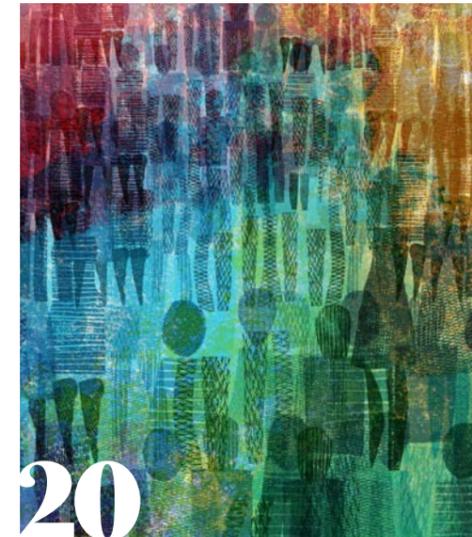
Since early February, Creighton students, faculty and staff have volunteered at the Douglas County COVID-19 community vaccination clinic at Creighton's Rasmussen Center, and have administered nearly 30,000 doses of the vaccine in the first two months.

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MICROAGGRESSIONS NO SMALL ISSUE

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



THE HEIDER MINDSET

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.

BEYOND THE GAME

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

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

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NATHALIA DION

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?

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 339 million people worldwide suffer from it today.

Asthma, a chronic inflammatory disease of the airways to the lungs, has drawn the attention of Yaping 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 LB595 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."

Abel 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 Zhengyu 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 had 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 potential 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



FIRST-GEN FORWARD DESIGNATION

The Center for First-generation Student Success recently announced the inclusion of Creighton University in its 2021-2022 First-gen Forward cohort. The First-gen Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.



ONLINE PROGRAMS EARN RANKINGS

Seven Creighton University online programs earned rankings in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs: No. 7 in Best Online Education Master's; No. 35 in Best Online MBA; No. 16 in Best Online Business Analytics MBA; No. 19 in Best Online Finance MBA; No. 21 in Best Online General Management MBA; No. 30 in Best Online MBA programs for Veterans; and No. 24 in Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA).

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 Taotao Wei, 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 the kind of thing that might interest a pharmaceutical company," Abel says. "We have a medicinal chemist in our department, so the engineering 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."

Creighton Nursing Program Relocates from Hastings to Grand Island

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.

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 on Creighton's Omaha campus and in 1986 expanded to Hastings.

The relocation to Grand Island will see Creighton bring that proud record of recruitment and education to CHI Health St. Francis Hospital, which today serves as a regional referral center with more than 100 physicians and more than 1,100 employees.

CHI St. Francis offers Creighton nursing students a top-level clinical experience. St. Francis carries a "magnet hospital" designation, which is awarded by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center 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, CHI Health 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 ensure that a 12-month Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing continues to be within easy reach.

"Relocating our central Nebraska campus to Grand Island allows Creighton to highlight our academic-clinical partnership with CHI Health and contribute to alleviating the nursing shortage in Nebraska," said Julie Manz, PhD, BSN'98, MS'05, professor of nursing and assistant dean at the college.

Creighton will maintain a presence in Hastings through its 3+1 partnership with Hastings College. That partnership will allow Hastings College students to study there for three years before earning their BSN at Creighton.

© Joely Goodman, PhD, right, accelerated faculty chair – Grand Island Campus, with nursing students Ahmad Rasuli, Ciara Parker and Jayson Rosa in a simulation lab at CHI Health St. Francis Hospital.



Study Identifies Repurposed Drug with Potential to Protect Hearing

FDA-approved dabrafenib could be developed on 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 such 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 Tal Teitz, 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," Teitz 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 most cost-effective mode of treatment," according to Matthew Ingersoll, PhD, the first author of the paper and a postdoctoral fellow. "Existing surgical treatments for hearing loss like cochlear implants are highly invasive and expensive."

"More studies need to be done, but we are very excited about continuing to study this drug and understand more about its efficacy and how it works to treat hearing loss," Ingersoll said. "It is incredibly promising research, and I am hopeful it can be used in the future to improve the quality of life for people affected by hearing loss."

The study is a continuation of research Teitz conducted at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with Jian Zuo, PhD, to develop studies on drug therapy for hearing loss. Zuo is now a professor at Creighton and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Creighton and St. Jude worked collaboratively on the study.

A Creighton graduate, Emma Malloy, BS'19 (now a Creighton medical student), and two undergraduate Creighton students in Teitz's lab – Lauryn Caster and Eva Holland – contributed research to the study through the University's Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) program and Summer Research program. Caster and Holland have also since been accepted to the School of Medicine.

The study was funded by research grants from the National Institutes of Health, state of Nebraska, Bellucci Translational Hearing Research Foundation, Office of Naval Research, ALSAC, Dialysis Clinic Inc., Dr. and Mrs. R. Ferlic Research Undergraduate Fellowship and the American Hearing Research Foundation.



© Sarah Walker, PhD, is a faculty member in the Heider College of Business and is serving as interim vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. (Photo pre-COVID-19)

Walker Named Interim Vice Provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Sarah Walker, PhD, associate professor in the Heider College of Business, is now serving as interim vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. She began her new role March 22.

"One of the things that I would really like to do in this role is try to align all of the diversity and inclusion efforts that we have across the University," Walker says. "There are things going on in the medical school, the law school, other parts of the University, and I'd like to find out what synergies we have and discover ways that we can be most effective and efficient with our resources."

Walker, an associate professor of management, is filling the role left by Christopher Whitt, PhD, who left the University in March after accepting a position at the University of Denver. Creighton has launched a comprehensive and thorough search for a permanent replacement and aims to have the position filled by Jan. 1, 2022.

"Dr. Walker brings exceptional

credentials and experience 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 and Psychology*; *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*; *Industrial and Organizational Psychology Perspectives*; and the *Journal of Applied Psychology*.

Walker's background 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 Valtera 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 Houston – 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 underrepresented minorities in graduate 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 (NSF).

The five-year, \$680,500 NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) award will be utilized to gain a better understanding of how improper DNA replication and compaction can cause changes in gene expression in offspring, which can play a role in the onset of diseases such as cancer, cell death or developmental issues. In addition, a major goal of the project is to create a comprehensive learning environment for aspiring high school-aged and undergraduate scientists 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 use program funding to examine protein interactions in



DESTINO NAMED COTTRELL SCHOLAR

Joel Destino, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, is among 25 outstanding teacher-scholars in chemistry, physics and astronomy named recipients of the \$100,000 Research Corporation for Science Advancement's 2021 Cottrell Scholar Awards.



LYNNE DIECKMAN

Lynne Dieckman, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a five-year, \$680,500 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and is the first Creighton faculty member to receive the highly competitive NSF CAREER award.

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 Haddix STEM Corridor program. Students in the program will attend weekly scientific development workshops on campus and present research results to other scientists and the public.

New Agreements Expand Educational Opportunities

Newly inked agreements between Creighton University, Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles 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 Creighton's 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 an example of how a collaboration between two institutions can be enacted and focused on student success," he said.

Phoenix Campus Receives Honor for Design Excellence

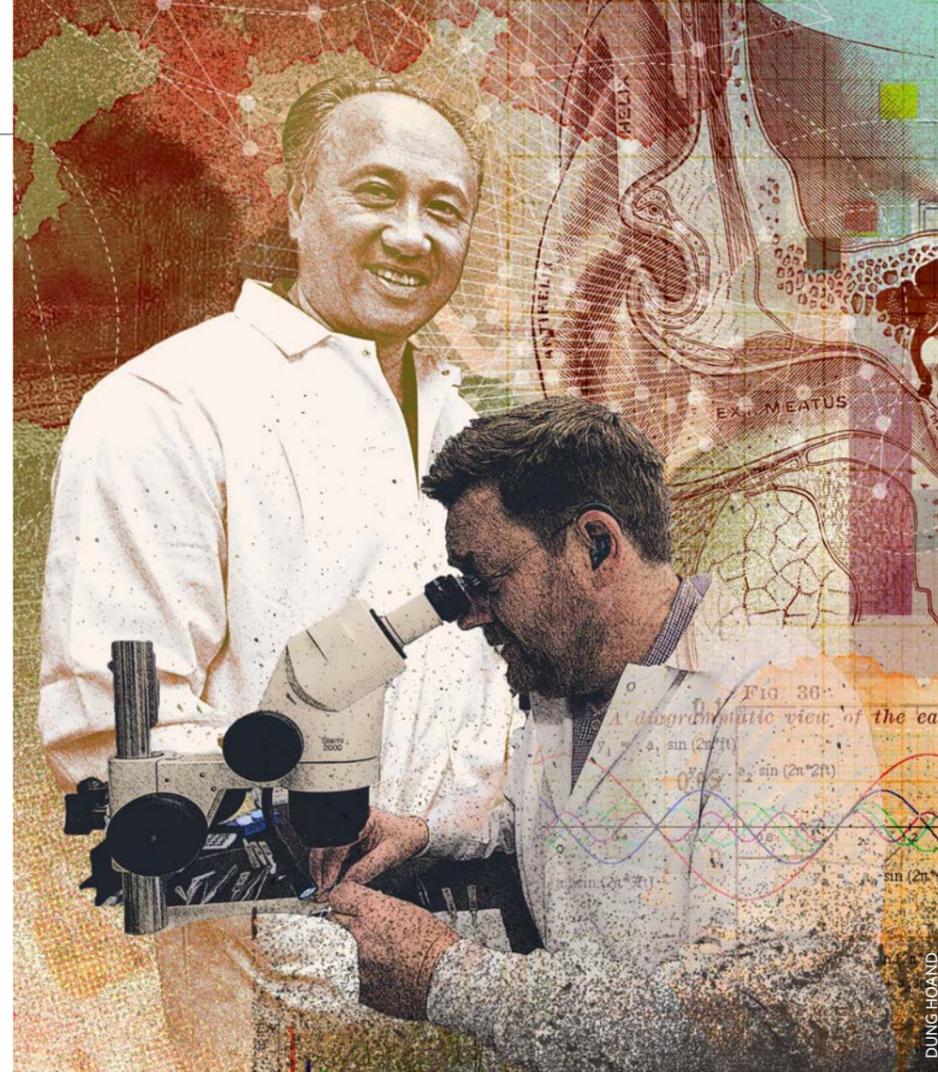
The new Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus has been recognized for education design excellence by a jury of the American Institute of Architects.

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* magazine.

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 building will 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.



© Creighton faculty members Jian Zuo, PhD, left, and Peter Steyger, PhD, are leading the research project.

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'81, 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 speed the translation of research to clinical trials and from there into clinical practice.

"Hearing loss in infants and children results in delayed acquisition of listening and spoken language skills critical for academic achievement and impairs career trajectories of affected individuals," he said. "In the aging population, hearing loss without appropriate rehabilitation accelerates aging and cognitive decline."

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 some 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.

\$10.8 Million NIH Grant Milestone for Creighton Research

A research center dedicated to preserving or restoring hearing loss 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.

Led by Jian Zuo, PhD, chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Creighton, and Peter Steyger, PhD, professor of biomedical sciences and director of the Translational Hearing Center, the partnership will build a corps of academic researchers dedicated to battling hearing loss resulting from numerous causes in adults and children.

"As the largest grant ever awarded to the University, it will be transformative for Creighton's research," said Laura Hansen, PhD, associate dean for research at the School of Medicine. "The center's investigators will be supported by core facilities that will enrich the research environment for all biomedical researchers at Creighton."

Building important *connections* in the health sciences

BY MICAH MERTEZ

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 Criss 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.



FAST FACTS

The CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education

- » Expected to open in fall 2023; will break ground this summer
- » 115,000 square feet
- » \$75 million cost (with additional \$10 million renovation in Criss Complex)
- » About 5,900 students, faculty and staff will use the building each year
- » Will reduce 240,000 square feet in campus space, for an annual savings of more than \$700,000
- » Will create 1,070 jobs during construction, with a \$3.2 billion impact on taxes

These efforts announce a bold vision for the health sciences. A vision inspired by that bed-rock 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 end? 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 Boyne Building and the Bio-Information Center.

The students and faculty using those buildings will soon have a home in the CL Werner Center and Criss Complex.

The elimination of square footage is expected to save Creighton more than \$700,000 per year. But the cost savings is a secondary result, says Derek Scott, associate vice president for Facilities Management.

“This project,” he says, “will provide a world-class educational environment for our health sciences students. Improving efficiency while doing that is just one of the many benefits.”

The CL Werner Center isn’t about saving space. It’s about bringing people together.

The facility is the brick-and-mortar embodiment of the health sciences education Creighton embraces, an interprofessional model that improves the lives of patients and practitioners alike.

Interprofessional education embraces team-based care, drawing on all disciplines to treat the whole person. Systems are streamlined, efforts integrated, silos squashed. The result is lowered costs and better outcomes for patients.

The CL Werner Center will support interprofessional education quite literally: bridging the distance between disciplines, creating common ground.

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 “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81.

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, BSN’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.

LOOKING FORWARD

“People are complex,” says Amy McGaha, MD, the Dr. Roland L. Kleeberger Endowed Chair and professor and chair of family and community medicine at Creighton, and director of the Interprofessional Clinical Learning Environment in the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research.

“Our patients come to us with families and values and cultural practices and social determinants. If you want to effectively care for them, you have to be willing to deliver that care in a different way. If you want to take care of the whole person, you’re going to need the whole team.”

McGaha works at the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center – University Campus family medicine clinic. A few years ago, the Family Medicine Department moved into the

new clinic and expanded its interprofessional care model. Just about everything improved. Dramatically.

A study of high-risk patients at the clinic, published in *The Annals of Family Medicine*, found that team-based care led to a decrease in emergency room visits and hospitalizations, a nearly 50% reduction in patient costs and more than \$4 million in annual savings compared to care without the expanded collaborative model.

Interprofessional care has also led to greater employee engagement and job satisfaction, which has proved instrumental in helping the clinic staff keep up hope and morale in the face of a pandemic.

In daily practice, McGaha says, team-based care means efficiently committing and coordinating multiple specialists and resources.

It means different professions meeting regularly to discuss patients with complex cases. It means flattening hierarchy without sacrificing leadership. Often, it just means cutting through red tape.

Previously, the clinic’s electronic patient records were siloed by profession. One patient might have multiple sets of notes, but physicians would see only physicians’ notes, nurses would see only nurses’ notes, etc. The clinic combined



ABOUT THE DONORS

WITH A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT to the CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, CL and Rachel Werner continue their family’s legacy of supporting Creighton.

Over the years, the Werners have made gifts to the School of Law, the Heider College of Business, Athletics and more. The family sees 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 unwavering endorsement of our vision.”

© Rachel and CL Werner’s gift will help transform health sciences education at Creighton, and the CL Werner Center will be ideally suited for collaborative, interprofessional teaching and learning.



© Amy McGaha, MD, at the CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - University Campus, where the use of interprofessional care has led to dramatic improvements in patient care. (Photo pre-COVID-19)



notes for the team. It did the same with consent forms, making just one universal form necessary for patients to see all types of clinicians.

This practice — of consolidation, simplification, efficiency — streamlines care, leading to fewer appointments and lower costs for patients.

“You find out where the barriers are,” McGaha says. “Then you break through them.”

At University Campus, clinicians have formed new methods while unlearning old ones, she says.

Now, every team member’s voice is heard and valued. Everybody teaches, everybody learns. To reach the full potential of everyone’s skillsets and experiences, the team embraces mutual respect, positive intent and, above all, empathy.

At its core, interprofessional care is really about talking and listening better. As anyone who’s ever worked in any kind of office knows, there are few things more difficult.

It takes time for big ideas to take root. Small everyday gestures reinforce a new mindset. A formal structure emerges. A culture of understanding takes shape.

It’s a headspace for which Creighton-educated health sciences graduates are already well-suited. Teamwork and humility are baked into the culture and curriculum. Graduates aren’t just ready to work, they’re ready to work together.

This is the foundation of the Creighton health sciences that the CL Werner Center will build upon.

“As a Jesuit, Catholic institution, we will bring into this facility the knowledge that it’s an incredible privilege to care for others and make a meaningful impact in someone’s life,” says Evan Robinson, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

“That’s what will make this the building Creighton needs. That’s how this building will help form the health care leaders our world needs.”

Future leaders like Rasika Mukkamala, a junior from Colorado.

Like nearly one-third of all Creighton undergraduates, she chose pre-med studies for her majors — biology and health administration and policy. She hopes to continue her studies in the School of Medicine. She’s leaning toward OB-GYN.

Mukkamala is excited about the new health sciences buildings coming to Omaha and Phoenix. But what really draws her to Creighton’s School of Medicine is what drew her to Creighton in the first place — the University’s humanistic, innovative approach to education.

“More than anything, I value being able to care for someone physically, mentally and spiritually,” Mukkamala says. “The more people I can learn from, the better I’ll be able to do that, and the better physician I’ll be.”

Now, as we near the end of a lonely period defined by distance due to the pandemic, she can’t wait to once again work more closely with her future health care practitioners.

All types of clinicians. All together. All under one new roof.

BY THE NUMBERS Creighton Health Sciences

3 in 5

Creighton undergraduates are health sciences majors

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

EXTENDING OUR REACH

Creighton is making big moves in the health sciences. Across the country and around the world.

TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE

Creighton has teamed with two organizations to transform health care for underserved patients in Arizona’s Maricopa County.

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 multiyear 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.



© **Top:** Allison Seats, BS’15, MD’20, with a patient at the Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix. **Bottom:** Sara Beste, MD’09, and Jason Beste, BS’03, MD’08, have worked in Malawi, Mozambique and Liberia, and exemplify the commitment to global health care that is the focus of the Arrupe Global Scholars program. (Photos pre-COVID-19)



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."

A Dose of Hope

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.



Among Creighton volunteers, health sciences students are helping prepare and administer the COVID-19 vaccine, including: nursing student Kristin Reitz, top far left; nursing student Andrew Nguyen, bottom far left; pharmacy student Katie Sandquist, left; and pharmacy student Lauren Schorsch, above.

Some of the students who volunteered at the community vaccine clinic at the Rasmussen Center include: exercise science major 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.



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



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



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

Much has been said recently about “microaggressions,” those usually unconscious but offensive allusions, expressions and actions that are more habitual than antagonistic and so ingrained in popular culture and vocabulary that rooting them out will require patience, grace and a large dose of humility.

One Creighton University professor compares them to paper cuts. Each one stings, she says, but it is in their accumulation over time that the real damage is done, as a sense of “otherness” imposes itself on populations with marginalized identities victimized by thoughtless actions, assumptions and expressions.

Rooting out microaggressions takes vigilance, says Erika Dakin Kirby, PhD, a professor of communication studies in the College of Arts and Sciences and the A.F. Jacobson Chair in Communication.

“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.’”

“I do think that there are so many places where these things happen.”

The term “microaggression” is fairly longstanding, having been coined in 1970 by a Harvard University psychiatrist 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.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA’05, has her eye on the ball when it comes to microaggressions. A Nigerian-American, she is associate vice provost for Health Sciences and professor in two Creighton medical departments. She is also, and has been for more than 20 years, director of Creighton’s Department of Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs. In that capacity she has extended Creighton’s embrace into minority communities in North and South Omaha to the point where the Douglas County Health Department recently entrusted her with \$500,000 in grants to promote COVID-19 virus awareness and vaccines. (See sidebar on Page 23.)

Kosoko-Lasaki says trust is hard won and easily lost, and microaggressions can take forms other than personal slights.

Sometimes, she says, they can be systemic and institutional, even though unintentional.

NEED FOR ‘UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS’

Chidi Ezeokoli, a third-year student at the Creighton School of Dentistry and a native of Nigeria, says she long ignored such microaggressions as complimenting her excellent English (English is the official language of Nigeria), being described as aggressive and angry for expressing contrary opinions, being referred to as a “homegirl,” and being described as a “doppelgänger” for other Black students.

“For a long time, I used to let them roll off my back because I didn’t want to be labeled as the ‘aggressive’ or ‘angry’ Black woman,” she said. “However, I realized that by failing to address these acts of racism (microaggressions), I was protecting my non-Black counterparts that either did not care to see how this was impacting me or were simply clueless.”

“I was the one hurting, suffering in silence, and repeatedly blaming myself for not speaking up. By choosing to address the microaggressions, I chose to be an advocate for myself and my Black brothers and sisters. There is a long road ahead in combating racism, but I think one of those steps involves having those ‘uncomfortable conversations’ about racism so that white people can learn their roles in the situation and for people of color to feel heard and seen.”

These fears are real, says Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ, a native of Haiti and a Jesuit scholastic who is currently teaching at Creighton. Saint-Jean is the author of a book *The Crucible of Racism in America*, soon to be published by Orbis Books.

He says microaggressions reflect the assumptions of majority culture and are often dismissed by that culture as minor transgressions that should be forgiven. But the recipients of the microaggressions are not similarly complacent.

“The victim is already the victim,” Saint-Jean says. “It is not for us to tell victims how they should feel when they are suffering. Mercy is also about accountability, so sometimes the aggressor needs to be held accountable. We are all in this together, and we are all called to take care of each other as one community of love, mercy and compassion.”

LIKE THOUSANDS OF PAPER CUTS

The essential problem with microaggressions, Kirby says, is their frequency.

Among her favorite analogies is the paper cut.

“There is a tendency to minimize microaggressions because they don’t seem like that big of a deal,” she says. “But the problem is that if the person on the receiving end has had four other microaggressions that day they stack up



“I realized that by failing to address these acts of racism (microaggressions), I was protecting my non-Black counterparts that either did not care to see how this was impacting me or were simply clueless.”

Chidi Ezeokoli



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

Erika Dakin 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



“Ignatian spirituality is the most substantial and important tool at this moment because it gives us what we need to engage in the struggle.”

Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ

on each other. I really like the metaphor of thousands of paper cuts. One microaggression stings, but they add up until you can’t stand the pain anymore.”

The unintentional nature of most microaggressions, as with the totem pole remark, is part of the problem, Kirby says. People deliberately insulting others on the basis of race or some other group characteristic is easily countered. But other offenses occur under the radar and that, Kirby says, is where the education needs to take place.

Kirby has conducted workshops on microaggressions for the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Project; for the Anti-Defamation League, where she serves as senior facilitator for the Great Plains chapter; and for The Minnesota Humanities Center, where she is a facilitator.

A list of transgressions outlined during those workshops makes for useful reading. Professors might, for example, want to avoid assuming that students are expertly knowledgeable about their ethnic cultures; or expecting students to endorse views and opinions commonly attributed to their identity groups; or being insensitive to religious holidays when making assignments; or drawing attention to particular students when discussing issues related to their social identities. Complimenting Latinx Americans born in the United States on the quality of their English or invasively inquiring about the ethnicity of racially ambiguous people are other common missteps, Kirby says.

And it doesn’t stop there.

“Clearly, in 2021, we tend to go automatically to race, but I do think that microaggressions occur on many levels and in everyday life,” Kirby says. “If I overhear somebody saying, ‘Oh, I’m so OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) today’ and I really have OCD, then that’s not cool. We throw around things like that, especially relating to mental health issues. But I think it’s getting better. I think the generation below me is getting better about not saying things like that.”

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY OFFERS A WAY FORWARD

It is important, Kirby says, to note that microaggressions can and do happen not only in relation to race but also in relation to other social identities, such as ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class, national origin, religion, age, etc., and that groups with a targeted identity in one area can still commit microaggressions against other groups, and so we all have work to do. It is a human problem, she says, and one that could use an injection of Ignatian spirituality with its call for contrition and grace.

“One of the core presumptions of Ignatian spirituality is the assumption of good intent,” Kirby says. “When someone is confronted that they have committed a microaggression, I think we need to have space to allow people to circle back, to give grace, and to say, ‘I’m going to do better.’ Do we want one thing that someone says to totally frame the rest of their life if they want to do better?”

“My mantra is that I am your friend until you show me that I shouldn’t be your friend.”

Kosoko-Lasaki refers to the dictionary definition of microaggression as “a statement, action or incident regarded as an instance of indirect, subtle or unintentional discrimination against members of a marginalized group such as a racial or ethnic minority.” These are often unintentional, she says, but lack of intent does not mean that damage is not done.

“Most people who commit microaggressions mean no harm,” she says. “It’s just that their lack of knowledge permits insensitivity and can cause bad blood. It could be race, it could be gender, it could be religion. It could be whatever. You have to put yourself in the shoes of those experiencing your action to really appreciate what’s going on.”

She cited an example in which a person compliments another on attaining a high level of education despite the “disadvantage” of growing up in a poor country. To a person of mature years such a slight on one’s native land and culture can be soothed by calling out the offender.

“But if you say that to a young student, they internalize it and they tend to think less of themselves,” Kosoko-Lasaki says. “This is why we must be very careful.”

DISCERNMENT ... AWARENESS ... BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

Saint-Jean believes Ignatian spirituality, which underlies everything at Creighton University, shows the way forward.

“Ignatian spirituality gives us three points to work with,” he says. “Number one is discernment, number two is awareness, and number three is the benefit of the doubt. Speaking as a Jesuit, and holding respect for all the other spiritualities that are out there, Ignatian spirituality is the most substantial and important tool at this moment because it gives us what we need to engage in the struggle.”

Discernment, he said, helps identify the best way forward for both the aggrieved person and the aggressor. It involves humility, reconciliation and an understanding that how one says something is as important as what one says.

Awareness involves understanding on the part of members of majority culture that they occupy a position of power and privilege and that it is not their place to decide what members of marginalized communities should think and feel, Saint-Jean says.

“We need grace and mercy,” he says. “But we must be aware that our position of power and privilege can betray us into thinking too little of microaggressions. We can counter that with a certain measure of kindness and humbleness.”

Finally, Saint-Jean says, the benefit of the doubt should be granted to the aggrieved person.

“You do not dismiss the experience of the victim,” he says. “Give the mistreated the benefit of the doubt. Before we confer mercy and grace, let us give the benefit of the doubt to the person who feels aggrieved.”

Grant to Promote COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial Minority Populations

TWENTY YEARS OF BUILDING CREDIBILITY in Omaha’s minority communities is paying off for Creighton’s Health Sciences-Multicultural and Community Affairs Department (HS-MACA) and the Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity (CPHHE). To promote COVID-19 vaccinations, the Douglas County Health Department awarded a second \$250,000 grant to the center, which is a community-academic partnership.

The grant will support CPHHE education and training of Community Health Ambassadors/Advocates (CHAs) to help enhance vaccination rates among Black, Latinx, Maya and Urban Native Americans. Overcoming vaccination distrust remains a major challenge due to trust issues over the speedy development of the vaccines and a history of research abuses involving racial minorities.

Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA’05, professor in the School of Medicine and director of HS-MACA, says that effective CHA education and training last fall, with the first \$250,000 grant, was a key basis for the second grant award.

The first grant, pre-vaccine, Kosoko-Lasaki says, was used to guide CHAs in how to promote COVID-19 preventive measures. Similar behavior encouragement will accompany the new grant’s vaccination focus. Also, virtual “town hall” meetings will supplement education, training and information dissemination, sponsored by churches, the Omaha Housing Authority, social agencies and other institutions of influence in minority communities.

“The message needs to be very clear that they (community members) can be confident that this is not an experimental thing,” Kosoko-Lasaki says. “Our CHAs are well placed to do this. We are the only body in Omaha with such a large group of trained individuals who live in these communities, who have built trust in these communities and who can go back and say to them, ‘This time, you can trust the system.’”

“People do not forget the past,” Kosoko-Lasaki says. “The problem is deeper than the vaccine. As the national literature documents, this pervasive disparity goes back to the roots of discrimination, of institutional and structural racism. We need to address that problem.”

This historical trauma, Kosoko-Lasaki says, emerging from centuries of abuse and punctuated by atrocities such as the United States Public Health Service Tuskegee Syphilis Study and use of Henrietta Lacks’ cancer cells, has generated profound distrust in the health care system that deters people of color from seeking treatment, confiding in their providers and complying with health care recommendations.

Given minority communities’ reasonable distrust, based in past abuses, Kosoko-Lasaki says she has no illusions about the difficulty of the task ahead. But, she says, she brings certain advantages to the situation.

“First, I am a Black woman, and, second, I have surrounded myself with individuals who have earned each other’s trust over the years,” she says. “And I am not alone. Many of our community partners are people of color.”

Education, she says, is the key.

“I believe in education,” she says. “When people are educated, then they can reason on solid foundations and come to their own conclusions. That is the process of education. Some people assume communities with disadvantage will not understand. No, such presumptions are racist. They will understand.”



The Heider Mindset

BY Molly Carpenter Garriott, BA'89 | PHOTOS BY Dave Weaver

Isaac 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 anyone’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 students 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 clairvoyants. So how are educators to prepare tomorrow’s professionals who will, more than any generation before, be practicing in uncharted territory?

This is what Heider College of Business leaders 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 educators 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 augmented with boundary-crossing competencies 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, proficiency 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 linear. There are fewer hierarchical organizations

© Visitors to the Heider College of Business inside the Harper Center are greeted by a real-time stock ticker as part of recent renovations. Heider Dean Anthony Hendrickson, PhD, calls the space the “nerve center” of the college.

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 reframe 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 cocurricular 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

© **Top:** Cole Goelll, a finance and accounting double major, views his H-MAP online dashboard. **Bottom Left:** The new St. Peter Faber, SJ, Chapel inside the Mike and Josie Harper Center and Heider College of Business offers a place for prayer and reflection. **Bottom Right:** The Heider Mindsets are displayed throughout the building.



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 Goeltl, 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,” Goeltl 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.”

Goeltl equates H-MAP to a college transcript, which chronicles success in academic coursework, 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 Creighton 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 aim is to encourage students to find 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. Bridget Keegan, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 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,” Keegan 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 Gisselle Estevez, a senior business intelligence and analytics double major from Santiago, Dominican Republic. The boundary-crossing



© Heider College of Business renovations include an eye-catching large-screen television in the Harper Center’s atrium that spotlights people, programs and events in the college and across campus.

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. “And we intentionally incorporated these principles into the recent renovations of the Harper Center. The building

reflects who we are philosophically and academically.”

The Jesuit charisms, such as women and men for and with others, *cura personalis* and educating agents of change, are prominently displayed throughout the Harper Center. They adorn entrances and hallways as a reminder of Creighton’s Jesuit identity.

So, too, are each of the mindsets, which can be found on the pillars in the Heider College of Business atrium.

The message to the students is clear, 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 Flame 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.creighton.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 NDP 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.

Naturally, given its size, wealth and the fact that it generates almost 25% of global GDP, despite possessing just 4% of the world's population, the United States is a prime mover in this pillar of the global economy. According to Statista, a German company specializing in market and consumer data, the U.S. sports market was valued at \$71.06 billion in 2018, a figure that is expected to climb to \$83.1 billion by 2023.

That means a lot of jobs, not just on the playing fields, courts and ice rinks, but also in front offices, physical therapy departments, marketing, wellness, law and collective bargaining on either side of the owner/union table, not to

mention all those athletes across so many fields of endeavor who need not just agent representation but also guidance through the thickets of product endorsements and name, image and licensing issues.

Sports is big business, and Creighton University is busily addressing its many facets across many academic disciplines.

SPORTS LAW

David Weber, JD, for example, a professor at the School of Law, inaugurated a concentration in sports law 18 months ago after teaching a class on the subject. Student response, he says, was so robust that he expanded the foundational class into a full, semester-and-a-half, 18-credit-hour concentration that he says will prepare Creighton law grads well should they target a career in amateur or professional sports.

Creighton is well-placed to provide that guidance, he says, not only through academic instruction but also through real-life experience granted by the University's sporting prominence as a Division I school bearing a national reputation.

"Our students have the opportunity to learn about Division I college athletics working directly with Creighton's program," Weber says.

"Upon graduation, we have had students receive offers to work at large universities like Ohio State, and we have a graduate who currently works in athletic compliance at Pepperdine. One of our very recent alums is now working with the NCAA itself in Indianapolis. We have a couple of graduates who are professional agents. These agents are representing

athletes in Major League Baseball and in the NBA. Another graduate broke into the field of representing MMA fighters — so there are a lot of different options as students seek to find a career path."

CERTIFICATE FOR COACHES AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

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 Oltman, 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 in 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.

"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.”

GRETCHEN OLTMAN, JD, PHD

want a whole master’s degree, but I do want to set myself apart from the other coaches, so I will pursue this graduate certificate.’

“We make this very specific to people’s needs.”

Creighton also offers a graduate certificate in sports leadership, an online 15-hour graduate certificate that is a project of Creighton’s Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and is taught within the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership degree.

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

PHYSICAL THERAPY SPORTS SPECIALIZATION

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

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 orthopedics,” 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, and we have been able to help place them into very competitive, highly regarded sports physical therapy residency programs all across the country.”

Grindstaff’s sports track is, so to speak, off and running. Of the 80 students who have joined this year’s Physical Therapy cohort, nine have been selected by competitive application to enroll in the sports physical therapy track.

“We are proud of that,” Grindstaff says, “and we want to continue to make sure that our students who want to specialize are prepared and competitive for positions in the field of sports physical therapy.”

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.

“This pursuit puts us on the path that, with the help of God’s grace, can lead us to the fullness of life that we call holiness,” Francis wrote. “Sport is a very rich source of values and virtues that help us to become better people.”

That theme is developed at Creighton by Max Engel, PhD, and Jay Carney, PhD, who teach a course on “Sport and Spirituality” within Creighton’s Magis Core Curriculum.

Sports, they say, 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,” Engel says. “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 ritual 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, bad and good, which they will inevitably encounter after completing their studies.

© At the NCAA, Ty Medd, BSBA’17, JD’20, handles waiver and interpretation requests from Division I member institutions. He also serves as a liaison to several standing committees, including the Men’s Basketball Oversight Committee, Student-Athlete Experience Committee and Legislative Committee.



Far Left: Ann Mausbach, PhD, associate professor of education, has developed a playbook for coaches who want to advance their leadership skills.

Left: Terry Grindstaff, PhD, associate professor of physical therapy, added a sports specialization track in the physical therapy program. Grindstaff also is a medical staff volunteer for the USA men’s and women’s freestyle wrestling team and is pictured at the Grand Prix Ivan Yarygin, which was held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, in January 2020. (Photos pre-COVID-19)

“As the Jesuits would say, you find God in all things,” Carney says. “Not only in formal church, or explicitly religious activities. God is present everywhere, and I think we have found with students that often their most profound experiences of the transcendent, even of moral formation, of community and relationship, have come not necessarily in a formal church but through their sports teams.

“And, to be honest, that encompasses some of their worst experiences, including cheating and betrayal. In many ways, sport reflects the full spectrum of the human experience.”

INTEGRATIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Tom Lenz, BA’92, PharmD’99, MA’17, a professor with the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies who directs the Master of Science in 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 where Creighton is going 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 underlying 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 group can be a sports team, 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.

“This 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, sport remains a business — a big, tangible business — and that fact has not been missed at Creighton’s Heider College of Business.

SPORTS MARKETING AND ECONOMICS

Matt SeEVERS, PhD, professor of marketing and management and associate dean of undergraduate programs at Heider, says elective classes 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,” SeEVERS 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.”

Heider 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,” SeEVERS 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 seems 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.”



Alumni Scholarship Available for Select Graduate and Certificate Programs



Creighton Graduate School is pleased to offer **ALL** Creighton alumni a scholarship for **25% off tuition** for select graduate and certificate programs. Students who begin the program in fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022 are eligible for the scholarships. No scholarship application is required. Eligibility will automatically be verified when you apply to one of the select graduate programs.

Learn more about the scholarship and take advantage of this unique opportunity to upskill and advance your career today!

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gradschool.creighton.edu/alumni-scholarship

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.

55 Connie Kostel Spittler, BS, Omaha, was invited to read her essay "Pink Moments" on NPR's Bob Edwards Show. Her essay appears on the "This I Believe 100 Essays" link (thisibelieve.org/essay/11439).

73 Michael T. Mayo, DDS, Tucson, Arizona, is the author of six published books: *Oracle*, *Robin*, *Wizardling*, *Vision Quest*, *Art of Magic* and *Saving Seventeen*.

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 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 100 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. Llorens, 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-Strackbein, 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 Baird Holm in Omaha.

85 Dr. Merilee Krueger Wilsdorf, 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 *Best Lawyers in America 2021* list. He is a partner at Jackson Walker in San Antonio.

91 Timothy P. Brouillette, JD, North Platte, Nebraska, began his term on the Nebraska

State Bar Association Executive Council in October 2020, representing the sixth judicial district. He is the senior partner with Brouillette, Dugan, Troshynski & Bellew with offices in McCook and North Platte, Nebraska.

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 & Koerwitz 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 Conversations 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, BSChm, Ellicott City, Maryland, has written a new book of poetry for children titled *Your Body, Sick and Well: How Do You Know?* In the book, he introduces topics related to normal anatomy and physiology, pathology and the tools doctors use to treat diseases. The book has received multiple awards. Cunningham is director of pancreatic and hepatobiliary surgery and director of GME research at Saint Agnes Hospital and Cancer Institute in Baltimore.

96 Nicholas J. Mizaur, 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, Mizaur held various senior leadership roles during his 14 years with NMC Group. Most recently, he served five years as president and chief operating officer.

99 Mandy Hobson Kamykowski, BS, St. Louis, is the managing partner at the law firm Kamykowski, Gavin & Taylor in St. Louis, a women-owned, technology-forward trial firm.

00 Mark H. Fleischman, MD, Overland Park, Kansas, was named a regional president for U.S. Dermatology Partners, one of the largest physician-owned dermatology practices in the U.S. In this role, Fleischman will assist in leading operational initiatives, leading local teams to

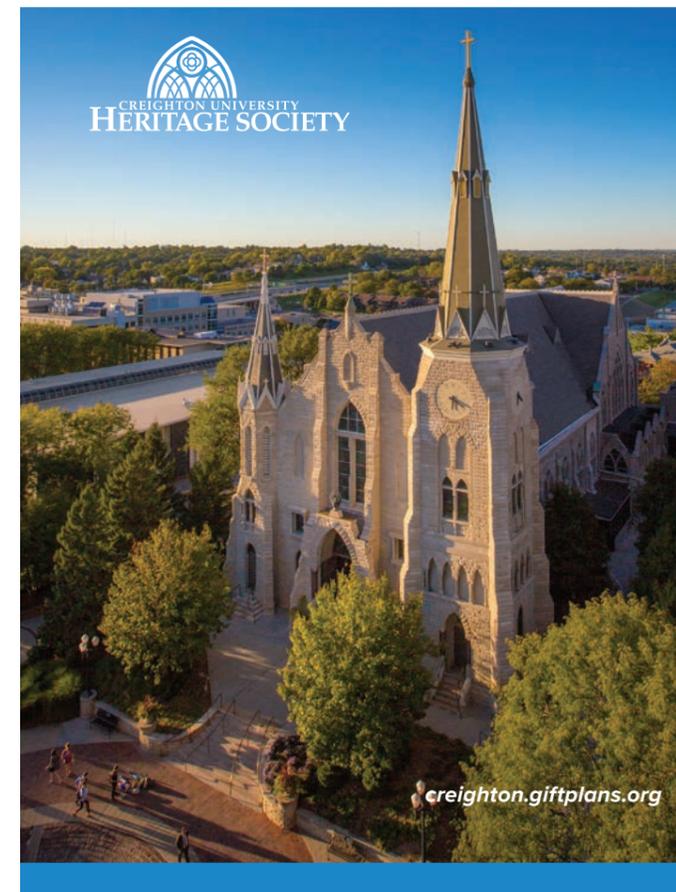
drive a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement. In addition to operational and clinical initiatives, he will take part in financial and operational review and compliance.

02 Dr. Jason B. Dorwart, BFA, Oberlin, Ohio, has accepted a position at Hong Kong Baptist University as assistant professor of global theatre studies in the Department of English Language and Literature. This summer, Dorwart and his family will be relocating to Hong Kong from Ohio, where he is a visiting assistant professor at Oberlin College. **Jeremy J. Majeski, BS,** Barcelona, Spain, has been appointed as the next principal of Frankfurt International School's Wiesbaden campus. In this role, which will begin in July 2021, he will be overseeing all aspects of curriculum, instruction and day-to-day operations of a preschool-8th grade program.

04 Dr. Joy Nemirow, BSChm, Sunnyvale, California, has been named a partner at the law firm Sheppard, 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. **Luke H. Paladino, JD,** Papillion, Nebraska, joined the First Nebraska Trust Company as a trust officer. Paladino also was appointed to his second term on the board of directors of Special Olympics Nebraska.

07 Katrina Gretter Smeltzer, BA'04, JD, Overland Park, Kansas, assumed the role of income shareholder at Sandberg Phoenix. Smeltzer joined the firm's Kansas City office in 2015 and is part of the business litigation practice group. She also chairs the firm's professional liability team. **Michael J. Sullivan, BSBA,** Ames, Iowa, is the solid waste and contaminated sites section supervisor at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR). His section manages the solid waste program for the state of Iowa and the Iowa DNR responsibilities related to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

11 Chelsea Mann Burdic, BA, Omaha, was recently promoted to central receiving and distribution manager at Borsheims in Omaha. **Brett A. Keiling, BSN,** Westminster, Colorado, was named a Colorado Nightingale Luminary and was awarded one of 12 Nightingale awards by the Colorado Nurses Foundation in October 2020. Keiling received the innovation category award, which recognized his leadership of a multi-facility team to develop a virtual resource nurse program using telemedicine technology to provide immediate clinical support and mentorship to young nurses. He is the director of quality, regulatory compliance and clinical data science at North Suburban Medical Center in Thornton, Colorado. **Dr. Hannah Dreas Reykdal, BSN,** Minneapolis, successfully defended her doctoral

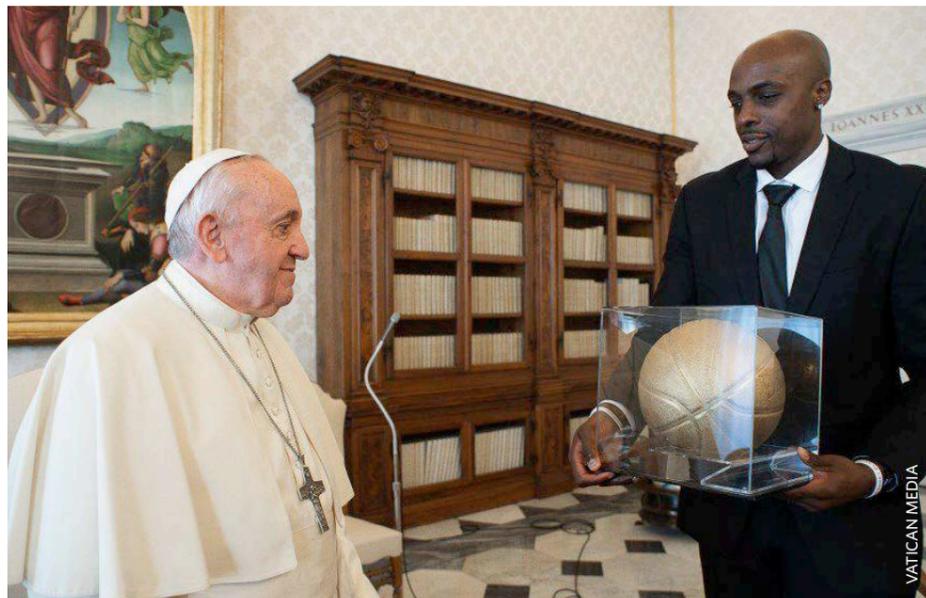


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MEETING WITH THE POPE

Creighton alumni **Anthony Tolliver, BSBA'07,** and **Kyle Korver, BA'03,** joined a delegation of NBA players that discussed racial justice with Pope Francis at the Vatican last November. In the photo above, Tolliver presents Pope Francis with a golden basketball. The group spoke with 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. Tolliver and Korver both returned to Creighton last fall and spoke about several social justice issues — including voter suppression, the Black Lives Matter movement, police reform and other topics — with the University community.

thesis last summer and earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. She also received her Master of Nursing in December 2018 and passed the Minnesota Nurse Practitioner exam in February 2019.

12 James E. Andersen, BA, Audubon, Iowa, joined Whitfield & Eddy Law as a member of the firm's litigation practice group in Des Moines, Iowa.

15 Emily M. Klick, BSBA'12, MIMFA, Boston, published her book *Saving the Front*, which was inspired by her grandmother's service in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. The book, which is published under the name M.E. Gustafson, honors the contributions of female military medical personnel.

17 Valerian M. Peterson, BS'12, MD, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, joined the emergency medicine faculty at Medical College of Wisconsin/Froedtert in Milwaukee.

20 Nicholas A. Chmielewski, DNP, Columbus, Ohio, has been elected to serve as the 2021 chairperson-elect of the Academy of Emergency Nursing (AEN) board. He will serve subsequently as the 2022 chairperson. Chmielewski is a published author in multiple nursing journals, including recent articles in *BRG Review*, the *Journal of Emergency Nursing* and *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal*. He is a senior managing consultant with Berkeley Research Group, LLC.

WEDDINGS

17 Alexandra L. Berry, BS, and **William J. Shearon, BS'18,** Nov. 21, 2020, living in Maplewood, Missouri.

BIRTHS

04 Benjamin P. Niederee, BSBA, and **Catherine McCarthy Niederee, BSBA'07, JD'10,** Trophy Club, Texas, a daughter, Frances Lucia, July 26, 2020.

05 Christopher B. Wachal, BA, and **Jennifer A. Kratochvil, BSBA,** Chicago, a daughter, Lillian Frances, Sept. 29, 2020.

06 Chin-Hwa Chong and Jacqueline K. Lee, BA, Omaha, a daughter, Natalie Joan, Nov. 7, 2020.

07 Larry Coleman and Ashanti Weaver Coleman, BSBA, Fort Worth, Texas, a son, Larry Edward Joseph, Jan. 18, 2021. **Thomas W. Kaminski, BSBA,** and **Anne Westerman Kaminski, PharmD'10, BSHS'10,** Kansas City, Missouri, a daughter, Remi Ruth, Oct. 15, 2020. **Nicholas J. Langel, BSBA,** and **Pamela Ziegler Langel, BA,** Omaha, a son, Oliver Ziegler, Feb. 28, 2020.

08 Nathan E. Tracy, BA, and **Emily Tracy,** Minneapolis, a daughter, Cora Anne, Jan. 6, 2021.

09 James M. Root, BA, and **Kate Root,** Omaha, a daughter, Ada Mary-Therese, Feb. 16, 2021.

10 Brian J. Carroll, BS, and **Anne Bautch Carroll, BA'09,** Edina,

Minnesota, a daughter, Lydia Grace, Oct. 2, 2020. **Daniel P. Pojar, BSEMS,** and **Dr. Rachel Bloom-Pojar, BA,** Franklin, Wisconsin, a son, Colin Andrew, May 5, 2020.

11 Patrick J. Zach, BSBA'09, MBA, and **Jennifer Zach,** Omaha, a daughter, Vivian Marie, Oct. 23, 2020.

15 Chad Flanagan and Emmylou O'Brien Flanagan, OTD, Omaha, a daughter, Brinley Noelle, Sept. 23, 2020.

16 Michael K. Holdsworth, BA, and **Sara Holdsworth,** Omaha, a daughter, Lena Mary, May 7, 2020.

17 Valerian M. Peterson, BS'12, MD, and **Sarah Furjanic Peterson, BSBA'12,** Pewaukee, Wisconsin, a son, Valerian Mark Jr., Oct. 19, 2020.

20 Benjamin H. Thompson, BS'16, MD, and **Christina Laubenthal Thompson, BSBA'16,** La Crosse, Wisconsin, a daughter, Elizabeth Catherine, April 18, 2020.

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Pacis Bana, MS'19
Master of Science
in Business Intelligence
and Analytics



Luke Christiansen, MBA'11
Master of Business
Administration



Kelsey Haswell, MBA'18
Master of Business
Administration; Current
Doctor of Interdisciplinary
Leadership



Mindy Simon, MBA'16
Master of Business
Administration



Donny Suh, MD, MBA'19
Executive Healthcare MBA



Susan Toohey, EdD'13
Doctor of Interdisciplinary
Leadership

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DEATHS

40 Rosemary Siczkowski Connolly, SJN, Oakhurst, California, April 18, 2019.

43 Betty Thompson Canedy, MLN, Omaha, Oct. 10, 2020. **Virginia Verschoor Dummer, SJN**, Denver, Dec. 1, 2020.

47 Donald J. Foster, BS, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, Oct. 18, 2020.

48 Mary Ann Keiner Connor, BA, Omaha, Nov. 23, 2020. **Bernadine Morrissey Coulton, SCN**, Omaha, Oct. 30, 2020.

49 Donald J. Baker, BS, Adrian, Michigan, Dec. 7, 2020. **Robert L. Beneventi, BA**, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 9, 2020.

50 Henry J. Darveaux, BS, Pipestone, Minnesota, Jan. 23, 2021. **Leonard P. Engler, ARTS**, Omaha, Feb. 6, 2021. **Joan Murphy Hill, BS**, Omaha, Nov. 9, 2020. **Gena R. Pahucki, MD**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dec. 5, 2020. **Emilio C. Rindone, ARTS**, Omaha,

Jan. 20, 2021. **Ernst E. Schnabl, BS**, Lincolnwood, Illinois, Jan. 23, 2021.

51 John T. Bloom, BS, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Feb. 24, 2021. **Virginia Radicia Caparelli, ARTS**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nov. 23, 2020. **Maurice L. Mullin, BS**, San Jose, California, Oct. 24, 2020. **James M. Smyth, ARTS**, Lakeside, California, Jan. 3, 2021.

52 Dr. Dennis F. Cain, BS, Rockville, Maryland, Oct. 11, 2020. **Jo Ann Stark Carvlin, BS**, Simsbury, Connecticut, Dec. 9, 2020. **John P. Churchman, BA'50, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 18, 2021. **James E. Greene, BA'50, JD**, Fair Oaks, California, Nov. 20, 2020. **Carl F. Krabbe, BS**, Plainfield, Illinois, Nov. 20, 2020. **The Hon. James L. Macken, JD**, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Nov. 2, 2020. **Margaret Tilley O'Connor, SCN'47, BSN**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Feb. 11, 2021. **Elmer G. Simons, ARTS**, Carroll, Iowa, Jan. 8, 2021. **Henry J. Sudmeier, DDS**, Yakima, Washington, Feb. 16, 2021. **Dr. Joseph F. Wethington, MS**, Minneapolis, April 20, 2020.

The Hon. C. Thomas White, JD, Omaha, Dec. 11, 2020.

53 Beverly Wilkinson Closser, BS, Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 28, 2021. **James M. Houlton, BUSADM**, Omaha, Nov. 13, 2020. **Harold P. Kreski, DDS**, Omaha, Nov. 20, 2020. **Daniel N. Mergens, MD**, Conroe, Texas, Dec. 27, 2020. **Jean Delehanty Olson, BSMT**, Lake Oswego, Oregon, Dec. 14, 2020. **Mary Haselton Pazderka, BA**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Nov. 8, 2020. **Richard A. Pirotte, MD**, Carmel, California, Nov. 15, 2020.

54 Gerald T. Dolejs, BSPha, Omaha, Feb. 18, 2021. **Madonna Ruzicka Scanlan, SJN**, Omaha, Dec. 1, 2020. **William N. Young, BS**, Lyons, Kansas, Sept. 30, 2020.

55 Frank G. Brau, MD, Salinas, California, Nov. 19, 2020. **Frank J. Giardino, DDS**, Arvada, Colorado, Jan. 23, 2021. **George T. Meister, BS**, Omaha, Dec. 17, 2020. **Roger C. Miller, ARTS**, Wheaton, Illinois, Dec. 14, 2020. **Gerald D. Seidl, BS'53, JD**, Cedar Rapids,

Iowa, Dec. 4, 2020. **Mary Hanlon Tigges, SCN**, Carroll, Iowa, Jan. 1, 2021.

56 Dr. Gerald E. Cooney, BS, Bridgeport, Connecticut, Jan. 9, 2021. **Ernest W. Divis, BS**, El Paso, Texas, Jan. 12, 2021. **Rita Cepuran Jones, SJN**, Olathe, Kansas, Jan. 26, 2021. **Lois Deane Landen, ARTS**, Osterville, Massachusetts, Oct. 25, 2020. **William J. O'Connor, BS**, Long Beach, California, Dec. 23, 2020. **Harold L. Solseth, BS**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Nov. 26, 2020.

57 David G. Borgen, BS, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 4, 2021. **Gerald C. Dugan Jr., BSBA**, Indianapolis, Dec. 16, 2020. **Eugene T. Hayes, BSBA**, Wheatland, Wyoming, Oct. 21, 2020. **Kevin M. Lawler, MD**, St. Paul, Minnesota, Nov. 11, 2020. **Salvatore M. Santella, MD**, Easton, Connecticut, Dec. 24, 2020.

58 Harold E. Cahoy, MD, Sun Lakes, Arizona, Feb. 7, 2021. **Edward Bremmer, MA**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2021.

Edward T. Harvey Jr., BS'57, JD, Creston, Iowa, April 7, 2020. **Joseph P. Koley Jr., BUSADM**, Omaha, Nov. 3, 2020. **Anthony M. Romano, BS'54, MD**, Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 2, 2020. **Louis V. White, BSBA**, West Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 6, 2020. **James P. Zylla, MSEdu**, San Mateo, California, May 21, 2020.

59 Kenneth E. Axelson, BSBA, Omaha, Jan. 20, 2021. **John L. Gordon, BS'55, MD**, Omaha, Jan. 8, 2021. **Frank J. Kowal, DDS**, Omaha, Oct. 7, 2020. **Harold E. Windschitl, MD**, Sartell, Minnesota, Nov. 11, 2020.

60 Dr. Richard V. Andrews, BS'58, MS, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Jan. 11, 2021. **Robert L. Burghart, MD**, Falls City, Nebraska, Feb. 21, 2021. **Dr. Imogene De Smet, MA**, Elk Point, South Dakota, Oct. 11, 2020. **Sr. Mary Donahey, BVM, BS**, Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 7, 2020.

61 Peter W. Burk, BA, Waterloo, Iowa, Jan. 22, 2021. **The Hon. George A. Thompson, BA'60, JD**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 25, 2021.

62 Dr. William A. Audeh, GRAD, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 3, 2021. **Judith James Duesman, BSN**, Moline, Illinois, Nov. 20, 2020. **Paul H. Wade, BUSADM**, Omaha, Jan. 9, 2021.

63 Douglas M. Harper, MD, San Jose, California, Nov. 15, 2020. **Aloysius A. Johnson, GRAD**, Loveland, Colorado, Aug. 9, 2020. **Ann Burke Rowley, BSMT**, Lubbock, Texas, July 24, 2020. **Joseph T. Sullivan Jr., BSBA**, Omaha, Dec. 19, 2020.

64 S. Patrick Adley, BS'60, MD, Omaha, Nov. 8, 2020. **Gerald M. Harrington, BA'61, JD**, Omaha, Jan. 10, 2021. **Vincent J. Horn Jr., JD**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Jan. 21, 2021. **Ronald R. Martins, MD**, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, Dec. 8, 2020. **James M. Skorupa, BA**, Pittsburgh, Jan. 7, 2021. **Frank W. Sopinski, BSBA**, Fremont, Nebraska, Jan. 6, 2021. **Eugene J. Steffensmeier, BSBA**, Fremont, Nebraska, Nov. 11, 2020.

65 Joseph A. Jarzobski, MD, Omaha, Nov. 19, 2020. **William F. Tripp, BSBA'60, MBA**, Omaha, Sept. 15, 2020. **Donald R. Vap, DDS**, Sanibel, Florida, Dec. 5, 2020.

66 Mary "Nonnie" McCandless Frenzer, BS, Omaha, Nov. 12, 2020. **Rita Watton Koch, BA**, Fort Collins, Colorado, Dec. 7, 2020. **Roy A. Meierhenry, MBA**, Rancho Santa Fe, California, Feb. 14, 2021. **George L. Pilgrim, BSBA**, Wilsall, Montana, Feb. 14, 2020. **Dennis E. Smith, BA**, Omaha, Oct. 18, 2020. **Jon W. Tefft, BSBA**, Omaha, Oct. 13, 2020.

67 Donald E. Beaton, DDS, Casper, Wyoming, Dec. 17, 2020. **Gerald S. Beninato, BSBA**, Omaha, Dec. 12, 2020. **Robert C. Della Rocca, MD**, Greenwich, Connecticut, Feb. 11, 2021. **David C. Moran, MBA**, Brentwood, Tennessee, Jan. 25, 2021. **Robert L. Shomaker, BSBA**, Norfolk, Virginia, Oct. 9, 2020. **The Hon. Richard E. Weaver, JD**, Loveland, Colorado, Oct. 14, 2020.

68 Ronald G. Drummond, MD, Rapid City, South Dakota, Feb. 16, 2020. **W. Gary Logan, JD**, Las Vegas, Jan. 14, 2021. **Carl J. Weger, BS**, Commerce City, Colorado, Nov. 13, 2020.

69 David G. King, BA, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 18, 2021. **Terry Smith, JD**, Fonda, Iowa, July 10, 2020.

70 Daniel J. Henkelman, ARTS, Omaha, Nov. 17, 2020. **Harry Perkins III, BSBA**, Urbandale, Iowa, Dec. 25, 2020.

71 Dennis E. Daley, MD, Omaha, Nov. 28, 2020. **Rev. John J. McGuirk, MSGuid**, Remsen, Iowa, Feb. 3, 2021. **Michael A. Sodorio, BA**, Omaha, Dec. 29, 2020.

72 Sr. M. Bernadone Fagan, OSF, MSEdu, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Oct. 27, 2020. **Robert L. Dunham, MBA**, Reading, Pennsylvania, Sept. 13, 2020. **Dr. William C. Horst, BA'71, MSGuid**, Denver, Aug. 31, 2020. **Dr. Bruce E. LeBert, ARTS**, Stillwater, Minnesota, Oct. 26, 2020. **Pat Heithoff Linn, SJN**, Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 12, 2021. **Cheryl Peters Villines, BA**, Stone Mountain, Georgia, Dec. 20, 2020.

73 Deborah Benda, SJN, Red Oak, Iowa, Nov. 20, 2020. **John J. Gallagher, JD**, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Oct. 16, 2020.

74 Rev. James F. Kleffman, MS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Feb. 16, 2021. **Rev. James F. Schwertley, BA'51, MS**, Omaha, July 8, 2020.

Sr. Patricia M. Stanley, CSJ, MSEdu, Wichita, Kansas, Nov. 6, 2020.

75 David M. Coles, ARTS, Omaha, Dec. 20, 2020. **Dennis C. Green, BSSOC'71, BSPha**, Rio Verde, Arizona, Oct. 8, 2020. **Michael A. Jonak, MD**, Pahrump, Nevada, Dec. 20, 2020.

76 George G. Healy, BSBA, Edina, Minnesota, Jan. 2, 2021. **James J. Roach, ARTS**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Dec. 10, 2020.

77 Mark A. Mangold, BA, Omaha, Oct. 11, 2020. **Robert C. McMullen, MD**, Daytona Beach, Florida, Jan. 19, 2021. **Debra A. Walsh, BA**, Kansas City, Missouri, Nov. 30, 2020.

78 Richard K. Morgan Jr., MD, Ripon, California, Nov. 6, 2020. **Frank M. Schepers, BA'69, JD**, Omaha, Dec. 28, 2020.

79 James W. Maenner, JD, Omaha, Oct. 20, 2020. **Robert J. Riley, BA**, Rancho Mirage, California, Dec. 10, 2020.

81 Edward J. Bloom, BSBA, Wheaton, Illinois, Aug. 13, 2020. **Miriam Haley Hawking, BA'77, MA**, Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Dec. 23, 2020. **Dan Hooi, BSBA**, Omaha, Oct. 21, 2020.

82 Jeffrey T. Garvey, BA'78, DDS, Omaha, Dec. 19, 2020.

83 Jan Retzer Peterson, BSN, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jan. 19, 2021. **Thomas A. Phillips Jr., BSRT**, Eugene, Oregon, Oct. 27, 2020.

84 Maria J. Avery, BA, San Carlos, California, July 19, 2020. **John W. Steele, JD**, Omaha, Jan. 25, 2021.

87 Michael J. Patnode, MChrSp, Bemidji, Minnesota, Oct. 26, 2020.

88 R. Scott Darrah, BSBA, Nebraska City, Nebraska, Nov. 9, 2020.

89 Francoise M. Babin, BSW, Omaha, Nov. 14, 2020.

92 William P. Rickabaugh, JD, Tabor, Iowa, Jan. 24, 2021.

93 Roderick R. Hernandez, MBA, Omaha, Feb. 14, 2021. **Betty Nova Johnson, BS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Dec. 15, 2020. **Becky L. VanderWoude, BSChm**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jan. 10, 2021.

95 Richard P. Jeffries, JD'68, BA, Omaha, Jan. 19, 2021.

00 Robert B. Lawson II, BSATS, Wahoo, Nebraska, Jan. 28, 2021.

02 Effie D. Martinez, MS, Clarinda, Iowa, Jan. 24, 2021. **Fr. Gilbert A. Pansza, MA**, San Antonio, Dec. 17, 2020.

07 Amy M. Schmidt, BSN, Battle Creek, Iowa, Oct. 5, 2020.

10 Jennifer M. Peavy, BSEMS, Omaha, Nov. 5, 2020.

13 Matthew J. Coleman, JD, Boone, Iowa, May 21, 2019.

16 Luke R. Schnellbaeher, BSBA, Pine Grove, California, Jan. 1, 2021.

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Joan Lanahan, DMin, former assistant professor and chaplain in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Oct. 15, 2020

Thomas C. Mans, PhD, former associate professor of political science and associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Dec. 16, 2020

Mansoor H. Jabro, DDS, professor emeritus of periodontics, former chair of the Department of Periodontics, School of Dentistry, Dec. 25, 2020

Robert O. Creek, PhD, professor emeritus of biomedical sciences, School of Medicine, Jan. 19, 2021

Warren Tim Kable III, MD, associate professor emeritus, former vice chair of OB/GYN Department and associate dean, School of Medicine, Feb. 15, 2021

*Faculty and Jesuits who are Creighton alumni are listed in the Alumni Deaths section of the magazine.



‘Distinctive Excellence’ Draws New Provost to Creighton

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 personalities?

I am impressed by the strong devotion students, faculty and staff have to our mission. The demonstration of men and women for and with others and *cura personalis* are overwhelmingly evident in how people approach their studies and work, whether it is on campus,

in our clinics or in a Zoom room. Clearly, the positive adaptations that everyone has made, and quite frankly endured, during the COVID-19 pandemic is a perfect example of how our Creighton community embraces our Jesuit ideals and prevails even amid the unpredictable. I am also captivated by the dedicated service of our faculty and staff. The fact that individuals stay at Creighton for 10, 20, 30, 40-plus years is a testament to the spirit of our community and its ability to fulfill so many.

What are your priorities going forward?

I believe that Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, framed our priorities nicely in his Convocation address on Feb. 2. Fr. Hendrickson identified the importance of ingenuity, inclusivity and Ignatian charm that remain the necessary tools on our pathway forward.

Addressing the looming population statistics that find 15% fewer high school graduates in just a few short years will require us to tap our ingenuity. Diversifying our revenue stream will be essential as we work to broaden our market while maintaining a commitment to our core mission of the discovery and dissemination of knowledge. That market may include learners 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 up 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?

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!”

Pursue Excellence



“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

Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
Doctor of Education in Interdisciplinary Leadership

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Because We All Need to Reconnect

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!

JUNE 3–6, 2021

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