

CREIGHTON

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STEM Connection

Haddix program connects high school students with Creighton researchers



CATHERINE GROSSE DIER



CHRIS JONES/USA TODAY SPORTS IMAGES

United in Prayer, Dedicated to Excellence Now and in the Future

Just as we were beginning to give a tentative, collective sigh of relief that the pandemic might be waning, the world experienced horror in late February and early March as events unfolded in Ukraine due to the Russian invasion. The Creighton community and our alumni across the country and around the world were united in prayers for peace in the face of tyranny and oppression.

While we learn significant lessons from the past and strive for excellence in the present, we also simultaneously lay the groundwork for Creighton's auspicious future. This edition of *Creighton* magazine brings you insights into your University's past, present, and future that I hope you will enjoy.

Our cover story on the Haddix 24th Street STEM Corridor Program details one way Creighton is taking its expertise and leadership in undergraduate research out into the wider community. Each summer, the program invites soon-to-be seniors at three area high schools to conduct eight weeks of STEM research with College of Arts and Sciences faculty and students. I think you will agree that the results, and the potential, are impressive.

The grant-funded Financial Hope Collaborative, located in the Heider College of Business, has had great success helping low- and moderate-income families achieve financial stability. Recently, an interprofessional group of Creighton researchers teamed up with the collaborative and found financial stability is also linked to better health outcomes. The research was published in the *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, and you can read more about it inside these pages. The possibly far-reaching implications of this research hold great promise for improving people's lives.

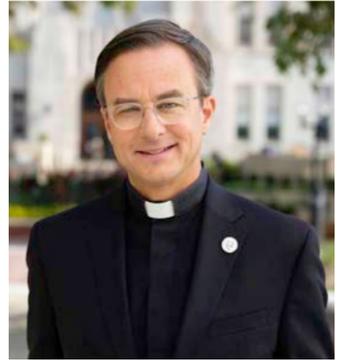
"What is Ignatian Leadership and Why Does it Matter?" explores the essence of what sets Creighton apart and why our alumni are well equipped to become leaders in their communities and organizations. Ignatian-inspired leadership development provides a structure and context for people to learn more about themselves and those they serve, and it permeates every aspect of a student's experience at Creighton. Our alumni are an extraordinary group, and Ignatian leadership has a lot to do with that fact.

Similarly, I am happy to share thoughts on a book I wrote that was recently published, *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age*, which suggests reasons I believe Jesuit education offers a unique answer to this time in history. With its emphasis on relationships, a broader range of intellectual capacities, and Jesuit education's Renaissance humanist foundations, Jesuit higher learning today can lead students toward more self-awareness, a greater sense of global solidarity, and increased aptitude for inspiration, awe, and gratitude.

This spring we resumed our Presidential Lecture Series, on our Omaha and Phoenix campuses as well as virtually, inviting renowned, award-winning writers to address the topic of race. Authors Edwidge Danticat, Colson Whitehead, Damon Tweedy, MD, and Isabel Wilkerson each eloquently delivered unique perspectives and insights on racial injustice and ways to counteract it.

May this Easter season bring you, and your families, the assurance of God's love even as spring brings fresh air to a world in desperate need.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President



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© **Grit, Determination and Heart.** The Creighton women's and men's basketball teams displayed all three in their NCAA Tournament runs. The women's team advanced to the program's first Elite Eight and Sweet 16 with wins over Colorado, Iowa (see celebration photo, top left) and Iowa State, before falling to eventual champion South Carolina. The men's team claimed a thrilling first-round overtime win over San Diego State, before falling just short to eventual champion Kansas in the second round (pictured, freshman Arthur Kaluma). Creighton was one of only 24 schools to have both its women's and men's teams compete in the 2022 NCAA Tournaments.



Magis Minute with Fr. Hendrickson

Hear from the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, as he sits down with host Kevin Coffey, BA'06, to talk about current events, news you need to know and more on *Magis Minute*. Scan the QR code to subscribe and listen to the latest podcast.



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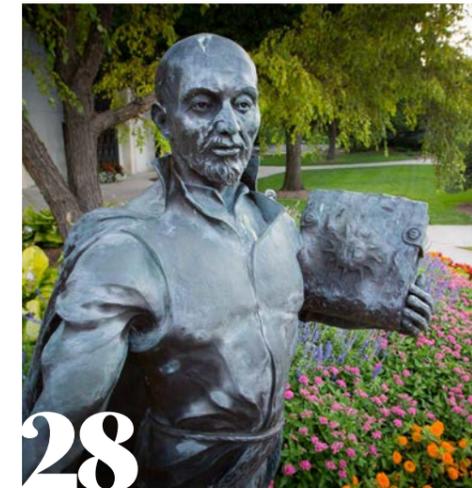
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PUBLISHER
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PRESIDENT
Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Heidi Grunkemeyer

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
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Rick Davis

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Cindy Murphy McMahon
Sheila Swanson

WRITERS
Kevin Coffey
Eugene Curtin
Kate Malott
Micah Mertes
Blake Ursch

ILLUSTRATION
Richard Borge
Monica Hellström
Claudi Kessels
Jing Jing Tsong

CONTACT
Address all mail to University Communications and Marketing, Attn: Creighton Magazine, 780480 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0480. Postmaster: Send change of address to Creighton Magazine, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

Send alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) to alumninews@creighton.edu.

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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.

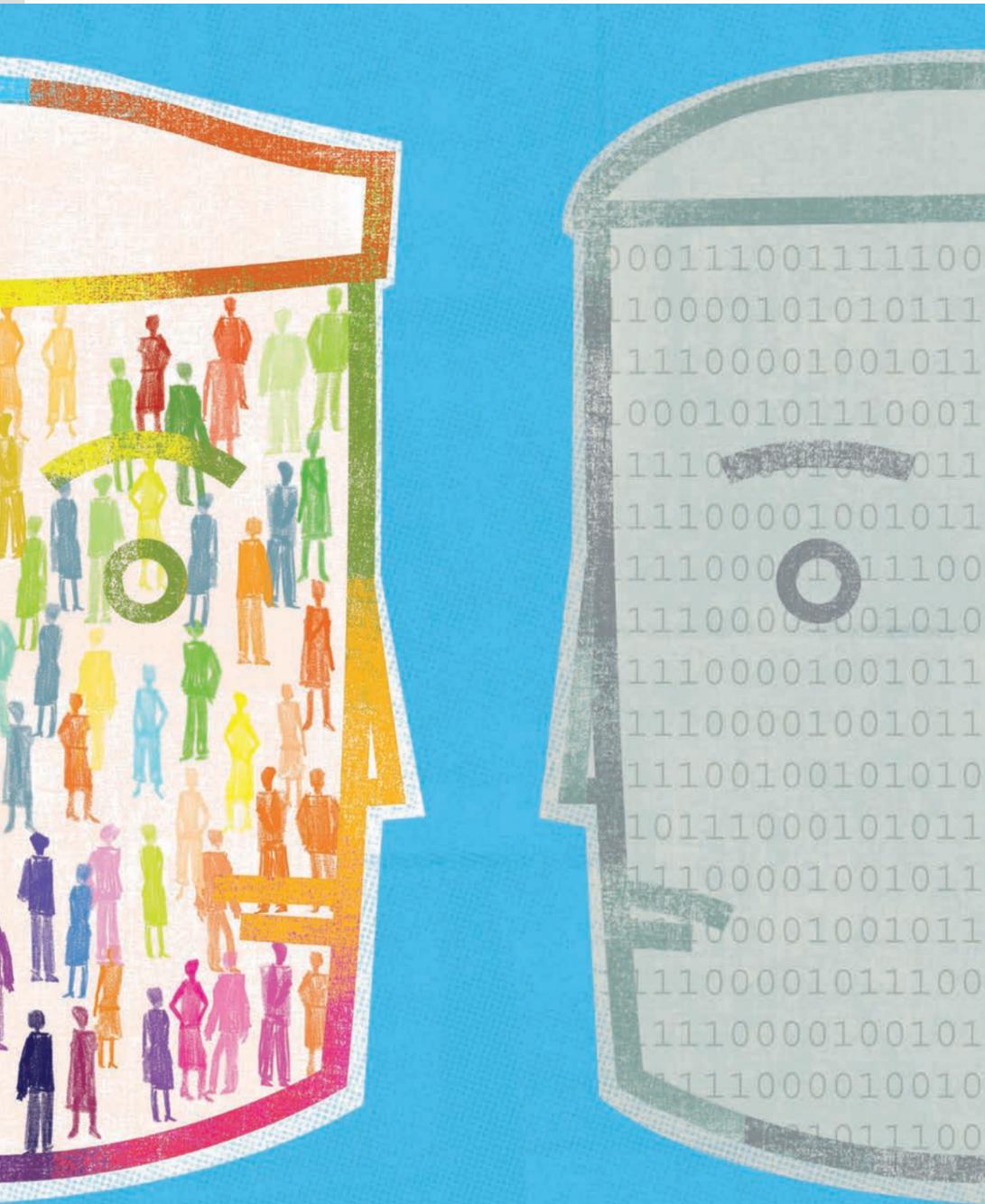
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Algorithmic Bias and How It Impacts All of Us

BY KATE MALOTT



Google and other search engines know nearly everything about us. They know our age, gender, race, income, location, education, marital status, interests, political affiliation and more. So, it is no surprise these companies personalize and commercialize each individual online experience, in a way that is not only effective, but profitable.

“They want to keep you engaged in order to influence you, sell you things, sell you ads,” says Thomas Freeman, JD’07, MS’09, MBA’12, an instructor in business law and ethics at Creighton.

Companies do this using algorithms, systematic and repeated mathematical designs inspired by data, that often create flawed, unequal and oftentimes unjust outcomes. However, error-prone assumptions by both human and artificial intelligence, known as algorithmic bias, have harmful implications.

“Algorithms use the past to make predictions of our future, and a lot of the decisions that used to be made by people are now being made by robots, like employment decisions and health care decisions,” Freeman says.

Freeman teaches and lectures on algorithmic bias and algorithmic injustices at the Heider College of Business. He says our online experiences are increasingly dictated by algorithms. What you see online is determined by how you have been categorized using key demographic and psychographic information. A person in their 50s will have a different online experience than someone in their 30s.

Algorithms dictate the suggested movies we watch on Netflix, products to buy on Amazon, articles to read on

Facebook, matches on Tinder and more. Freeman’s work with the Institute for Digital Humanity is focused on algorithmic bias and other data science issues.

“Bias can emerge from the design of the algorithm, or the unintended or unanticipated use of data or decisions relating to the way data is coded, collected, selected, or used to train the algorithm,” Freeman says.

Artificial intelligence affects more than entertainment and social networks. It impacts political advertisements,

“Algorithms are making assumptions about you, and this bakes in historical, predictive biases of the past.”

employment opportunities, housing options and more. It’s increasingly used in policing and health care, too, Freeman says.

The problem with algorithms, although useful at times, is they tend to reinforce social biases on gender, ability, race, sexuality and ethnicity.

“Algorithms are making assumptions about you, and this bakes in historical, predictive biases of the past,” Freeman says.

So, how do we, as a society, ensure that emerging technology is transparent and free from racial, gender and other biases? Freeman says there are three ways.

First, people need to be educated about algorithms and the power of this framework. The public, educators, lawyers and legislators need to be informed about the increasing influence

of technology personally and globally.

“Most people don’t understand the effects, or really understand the decisions being made about them, or how to go about challenging those decisions,” Freeman says.

Second, legislative policy and protections, along with guardrails on incorporating artificial intelligence in business, need to be created and regularly audited and evaluated to hold developers accountable.

While working at the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office, Freeman recognized the need to look at large-scale impact.

“I was going after smaller businesses and thought, ‘Why are we doing this when Google and other companies have been, at a very wide scale, violating our privacy? Why is the government not involved in this?’”

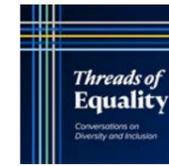
Third, additional legal protection is necessary. The problem, Freeman says, lies in the lack of comprehensive regulation. He says there is a lack of comprehensive privacy laws, and each state is free to develop its own rules.

“Algorithms are a very useful tool, but, like any tool, we have to be careful that we’re assigning them tasks they are capable of, they are designed properly, and they are regularly evaluated and audited for accuracy and to eliminate bias. We have to understand how they affect our lives.”

Expert on St. Teresa of Avila Holds Endowed Chair

The Rev. André Brouillette, SJ, associate professor of systematic and spiritual theology, is the newest holder of the Anna and Donald Waite Chair in Jesuit Education, which was established at Creighton in 2011.

Fr. Brouillette is a native of Quebec, Canada. He joined the Society of Jesus in Montreal and earned graduate degrees in philosophy, history and theology in Europe and North America. He taught



THREADS OF EQUALITY PODCAST

Subscribe to Creighton’s new monthly podcast on equity, diversity and inclusion, *Threads of Equality: Conversations on Diversity and Inclusion*, which debuts this spring. The podcast will feature interviews with local, regional and national guests, and include discussions on current issues in the news and thoughtful dialogue on how we can create a more just and equitable society. The podcast also will include perspective and commentary from Creighton’s Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and faculty experts on a range of topics. The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Play.

philosophy and Church history for two years in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and has been a visiting scholar at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain.

An expert on St. Teresa of Avila, Fr. Brouillette specializes in 16th and 17th century spiritual theology and history, as well as the systematic theological issues of pneumatology and soteriology. He is the general editor of the *Classics of Western Spirituality* (Paulist Press).

The English translation of his first book was published by Paulist Press under the title *Teresa of Avila, the Holy Spirit, and the Place of Salvation*.

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

Health Care Partnership a Win-Win in Phoenix

Creighton health sciences students are finding they benefit as much as those they serve through a partnership the University has with an organization in Phoenix dedicated to fostering independence for adults with autism and other neurodiversities.

Through the agreement between Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix and First Place AZ, Creighton health care providers offer services and education to residents of First Place–Phoenix, an innovative residential community.

Many adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury and other neurodiverse abilities face unique challenges in daily living. First Place–Phoenix is designed to nurture a sense of community, independence and



◀ **THE REV. ANDRÉ BROUILLETTE, SJ**

Fr. Brouillette is the current holder of the Anna and Donald Waite Chair in Jesuit Education.



© From left, occupational therapy student Sarah White, medical student Oluwatosin Babarinde, medical student Clarice Douille and pharmacy student Stacey Tallman have spent time working with residents at First Place-Phoenix.

ADRIAN BAIRD

interdependence within a supportive and caring environment. It also offers sites for education, training and creative expression.

“This collaboration helps build a supportive community culture so that health care providers not only understand autism but also people with autism through its many forms and expressions,” says Denise Resnik, founder and president/CEO of First Place AZ. “Our partnership with Creighton offers valuable insights into the lives of health science students while providing them with experiences that deepen their understanding of neurodiverse populations and appreciation for the challenges inherent in navigating systems of care.”

Residents received flu shots last fall from pharmacy faculty in a familiar setting at First Place-Phoenix, with students offering additional support to help them understand more about the vaccine and possible side effects.

In 2022, pharmacy and occupational

therapy faculty and students have begun working with First Place residents to provide medication history and education, as well as how to improve daily activities with OT support.

Students review residents’ medications and learn about their daily activities. Throughout the conversation, the residents and students work together to set goals and recommendations to work toward more lifestyle independence.

In one case, after the medication review, an occupational therapy student identified that a resident was having trouble opening a pill case. The pharmacy student then noted that the medication was being filled and mailed from another state. Together, their recommendation was to find a physician in Arizona to support the person’s medication needs and to acquire a different, larger pill case for easier opening.

The School of Medicine offers an innovative elective rotation with First Place-Phoenix called “Minding the Gap.” Randy Richardson, MD, regional dean of

the School of Medicine in Phoenix, says the goal of the course is to improve the continuity of care for adolescents and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental delays.

“There is often a well-organized pediatric team that cares for these patients during their childhood, but their care often is nonexistent or poorly coordinated as they move from pediatric to adult care,” Richardson says, “which is the ‘gap’ mentioned in the title of the course.”

He says Caroline Kim Kupfer, MD, assistant professor of medicine who directs the course, helps students understand the challenges and opportunities in the health care system for treating and caring for “this underserved, underrepresented and often underestimated cohort of patients.”

Amy Friedman Wilson, PharmD’95, interim dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, says the partnership with First Place has given students a “fantastic” opportunity to serve the community in an interprofessional manner alongside health sciences colleagues.

And students are finding satisfaction in helping empower the residents to become more independent. Says Sarah White, a first-year occupational therapy student: “Independence — that’s the key word.”



NEW PIPER ENDOWED CHAIR IN PHOENIX

John Anwar, MD — assistant professor at the School of Medicine in Phoenix — has been named the Virginia G. Piper Chair of Medicine at Creighton and chief medical officer at St. Vincent de Paul’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic. In his role, he will help lead an enterprise that’s already transforming Creighton health sciences education and the quality of care provided for underserved populations.

Study Faults Bishops for Silence on Climate

According to a recent study by two Creighton professors and an alumna, most U.S. Catholic bishops were silent about climate change around Pope Francis’ 2015 ecological encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

Sabrina Danielsen, PhD, assistant professor, and Daniel DiLeo, PhD, associate professor, both in the Department of Cultural and Social Studies, along with Emily Burke, BS’21, published a peer-reviewed article, “U.S. Catholic bishops’ silence and denialism on climate

change” last October in *Environmental Research Letters*, a top environmental science journal.

Since its publication, the article is in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric, which measures scholarship attention and influence.

They also published an op-ed on their research in *Religion News Service*, which was republished by the *Washington Post*, *National Catholic Reporter* and other news media. Since then, their findings have been discussed in *NPR*, *Inside Climate News*, *New Yorker*, *New York Times* and more, and were referenced three times by the *National Catholic Reporter*, which called the research “eye-opening” in an opinion article.

The researchers examined more than 12,000 columns published from June 2014 to June 2019 by bishops in official publications for 171 of the 178 U.S. Catholic dioceses (representing 96% of all U.S. dioceses).

“The research shows U.S. Catholic bishops’ diocesan communications largely ignored Catholic teachings on climate change,” says Danielsen. “This is surprising given the climate crisis we’re in and indicates that the top U.S. Catholic leaders have not capitalized on the spark of *Laudato Si’*.”

When bishops did address climate change, they often downplayed parts of *Laudato Si’* that conflict with a conservative political identity/ideology, the researchers said. The encyclical repeatedly calls for public policies to address climate change, while U.S. political conservatives often oppose climate policies. Among the 93 bishops’ columns that do mention climate change, only 14 columns (15%) reference climate change politics.

“Our data suggest that as individuals, U.S. bishops have failed their duty to teach the fullness of Catholic faith that includes Church teaching on climate change,” says DiLeo, who also directs Creighton’s Justice and Peace Studies Program.

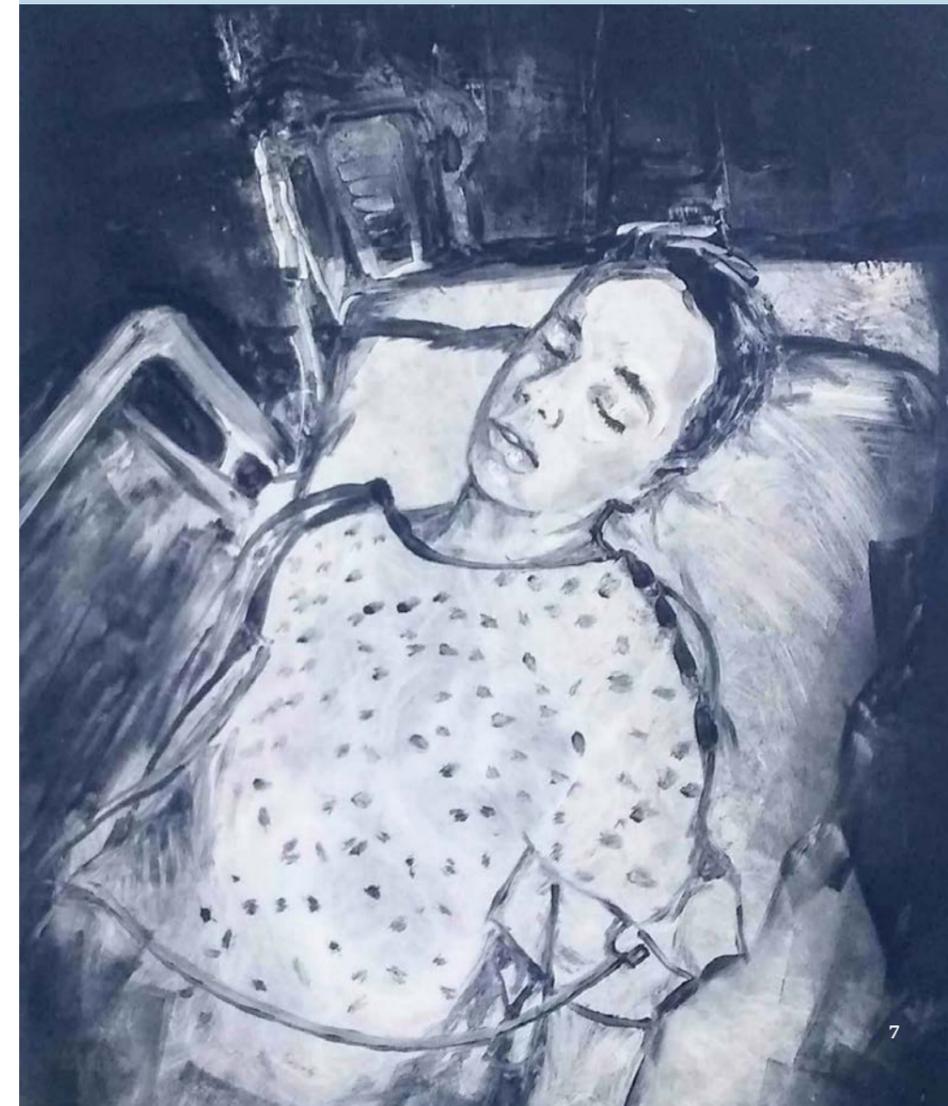
The bishops also disproportionately prioritized social issues that

Professor Draws Art from Life

A monotype born from the painful experience of watching a teenage son undergo brain surgery placed third last fall at the Lore Degenstein’s 12th Annual Figurative Drawing and Painting Exhibition at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. Rachel Mindrup, MFA, assistant professor of Fine and Performing Arts and the Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities at Creighton, titled the 24-by-18-inch painting *Uncertain Outcomes*.

“In 2019, my son had surgery on a brain tumor,” Mindrup says. “The neurosurgeon let us know that there might be temporary brain damage, which included paralysis and blindness. The image is how my son looked when they wheeled him into the PICU. Thankfully, he came through without permanent or temporary brain damage.”

The genetic disorder that afflicted her then 15-year-old son, Henry, is neurofibromatosis. Since 2010, Mindrup has worked on her “Many Faces of Neurofibromatosis (NF)” series to bring awareness to this little-known genetic disorder that affects 1 in 3,000 individuals.



correspond to conservative political identity/ideology. *Laudato Si'* mentions climate change 24 times and mentions abortion once, but bishop columns addressed them with equal frequency when discussing the encyclical. Among the 211 columns that reference *Laudato Si'*, 59 mention climate change and 59 mention abortion or pro-life.

“Climate change is a deep concern for many young people because it threatens every aspect of our future,” says Burke. “As a young Catholic, I want leaders who understand these hopes and anxieties and are willing to faithfully embrace Church climate change teaching.”

Burke is currently a doctoral student in the joint Sociology and Community and Environmental Sociology Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In February, Burke and current Creighton student Henry Glynn took up their concerns about climate change directly with Pope Francis at a forum the pope held with university students (see story on Page 10).

The research was funded by the Louisville Institute Project Grant for Researchers, and the George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund and Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society, both at Creighton.

Faculty Write on Racism, Ignatian Spirituality and Black History

Two Creighton faculty members were recently published: *The Crucible of Racism: Ignatian Spirituality and the Power of Hope* was written by Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ, PsyD, instructor in psychology, and *The Black History Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained* includes a chapter by Ogechukwu Williams, PhD, assistant professor of history.

Upon coming to the United States to pursue graduate studies and then to commence training as a Jesuit, Haitian-born Patrick Saint-Jean discovered something he had not known before: racism.



ONLINE HONORS

Six Creighton programs received recognition in *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Online Programs rankings. Creighton was ranked in the top 10 for its online master’s degree in education, and was recognized for Best Online MBA; Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA); Best Online MBA General Management; Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans; and Best Part-Time MBA Program.

In *The Crucible of Racism*, released in March by Orbis Books, Saint-Jean writes that the principles and practices of Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit formation hold the promise of conversion and healing for a Church and a society still caught in the grips of racism.

In a fresh reading of *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*, Saint-Jean says the “discernment of spirits”; the examination of conscience; and the imaginative identification with Jesus in his sufferings, death and resurrection became “an entry to his own journey of hope and resurrection.”

Williams is one of several contributors to *The Black History Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained*, published in November 2021 by British publishing company DK. The book aims to take a comprehensive look at the Black experience throughout human history, from the earliest human migrations on the African continent through the modern era.

“My own personal vested interest in the project was seeing that the content itself was a fair representation of Black history. In my case, that was the African part of the story,” says Williams, who specializes in African history, the medical humanities and the history of medicine.

Williams’ contributions to the project include chapters on the 19th century scramble of European nations to colonize Africa and Black combatants in World War II. Among other topics, Williams wrote an entry on Kenya’s Mau Mau Uprising.

Racial Healing Shaped 2022 Presidential Lecture Series

Creighton’s 2022 Presidential Lecture Series concluded March 22 after featuring four African Americans from the world of literature.

Designed as an expression of the University’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist institution, the series gave voice to both immigrant and

native-born African American authors who addressed issues ranging from adapting to life in the United States, practicing medicine, life in Jim Crow America, and how racial caste has shaped American culture.

The first lecture was delivered Feb. 9 by Edwidge Danticat, who is the author of numerous books. Born in Haiti, she immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 12.

Danticat called for grace in human relationships as people move beyond the prejudices of the past and for unity as America continues its journey toward racial justice.

“Racial healing has to be more than an idea,” she told an audience at the Hixson-Lied Auditorium, and others watching online. “We certainly have to have some difficult conversations, but everybody has to feel that they literally have skin in the game.

“I don’t think that an unjust world serves anybody, so it has to be something that we are in together, going back to the basic humanity of people.”

Damon Tweedy, MD, spoke on Feb. 23 at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix.

Associate professor of psychiatry at Duke University School of Medicine, Tweedy authored the bestselling *Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor’s Reflections on Race and Medicine*, which describes the health challenges facing Black Americans and how their care is conducted in a world composed largely of white medical professionals.

Meeting those challenges, and his role as a Black physician, led Tweedy on what he describes as “an intellectual and emotional journey” that he shared with his audience.

Novelist Colson Whitehead spoke March 1. Whitehead has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, placing him in the company of Booth Tarkington, William Faulkner and John Updike. He is also the winner of the National Book Award.

Whitehead is the author of *The Underground Railroad*, which chronicles a young slave’s travels as she pursues

freedom in the antebellum South. He also authored *The Nickel Boys*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about two boys unjustly sentenced to a cruel reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

Rounding out the series was Isabel Wilkerson, who spoke March 22.

Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is author of the *New York Times* bestsellers, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.

The Warmth of Other Suns was the fruit of 15 years of research involving more than 1,000 interviews of African Americans who migrated from the American south during the Great Migration years of 1915-1970.

In *Caste*, Wilkerson describes eight pillars that she believes underlie caste systems across all civilizations and how they have impacted the lives of Black Americans.

Wilkerson, a native of Washington, D.C., is the daughter of a Tuskegee Airman who, like her mother, traveled north during the Great Migration. She describes herself as part of a movement of African Americans who have chosen to return to the South after generations living in the North.

Celebrating the College of Nursing’s Inaugural Class in Grand Island

Creighton’s College of Nursing had much to celebrate last year. There was the 50th anniversary of the nursing program in Omaha, the opening of the new campus in Phoenix, and the graduation of the inaugural nursing class in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Sixteen students completed the 12-month accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, the first cohort to graduate from the recently relocated Creighton Grand Island Campus located at CHI Health St. Francis.



DAVE WEAVER

The program requires students to have a bachelor’s degree in another field and provides hands-on training and experience to prepare them for a meaningful career in nursing. Students began the fully accredited program in January 2021.

Prior to the move, Creighton had been educating and training nurses in central Nebraska for more than 30 years through its campus in Hastings. Now, the college is located at CHI Health St. Francis, a regional hospital and referral center with more than 100 physicians and more than 1,100 employees.

“The new campus is conducive to a learning environment with dedicated classroom space, simulation lab space, a faculty conference room, and four faculty offices,” says Joely Goodman, PhD, assistant professor and accelerated faculty chair at the Grand Island Campus.

In the program, students receive a valuable clinical experience with smaller class sizes for important hands-on experience.

“Clinical rotation takes place in

© Joely Goodman, PhD, left, assistant professor and accelerated faculty chair at the Grand Island Campus, and Kaylee Taylor, BSN ’21, who was part of the first cohort at the Grand Island Campus.

three communities — CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island, CHI Health Good Samaritan and Richard Young Behavioral Health in Kearney, and Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings — that allow students to see a variety of facilities and learn about what services are available in central Nebraska,” she says.

The inaugural class was engaged and interested in the local culture and communities, Goodman says, and represented a diverse and outgoing group of students from Nebraska and across the country, including Colorado, California and Tennessee.

“The students who come here are so dedicated, motivated and driven to be successful, and that really is evident, not just in their classroom learning, but in the care they provide,” Goodman says. “It’s wonderful to be able to contribute to the community through quality health care providers.”

Other experiences included work with community partners, Third City Community Clinic, Hope Harbors

Service Center and the Literacy Council of Grand Island.

“These partnerships allow our students to get out in the community and work with clients who are using different services,” Goodman says.

The Creighton College of Nursing Grand Island Campus helps address the critical need for nurses in Nebraska, educating and training a new workforce of health care professionals, many of whom stay in the region.

“There’s a documented shortage of nurses that’s only going to continue to increase, and hospitals and communities need well-educated nurses to provide adequate care to patients,” Goodman says. “Being able to educate nurses at that baccalaureate level is important. Creighton has been able to do that in central Nebraska for quite some time, but our new location allows us to have greater visibility and ability to contribute to the community.”

Creighton’s College of Nursing program is one of the most successful and longest-running accelerated Bachelor

of Science in Nursing programs in the nation, ranked as a top-50 program by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The inaugural BSN class from the Creighton College of Nursing Grand Island Campus was honored with a convocation and pinning ceremony in December 2021.

Student, Alumna Address Pope on Climate Change

Creighton student Henry Glynn and alumna Emily Burke, BS’21, had a clear and burning question for Pope Francis:

In a world in which secular and Catholic leaders have failed to address climate change with the proper urgency, how can young people embrace nonviolent action to force the issue?

The question was part of a historic virtual meeting in February between Pope Francis and university students from across the Western Hemisphere. Hosted by Loyola University Chicago, Building Bridges North-South: A Synodal

#CreightonMatch Match Day 2022

IT’S A MATCH
Graduating Creighton School of Medicine students in Omaha and Phoenix learned of their medical residencies during Match Day ceremonies in March. Of the 163 participating Creighton students, 92% matched into their specialty of choice in 23 different specialties, with programs in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

© Emily Burke, BS’21, had the opportunity to ask Pope Francis a question during a virtual meeting in February.

Encounter Between Pope Francis and University Students, allowed groups of students from North, Central and South America to directly engage the pope on important issues.

Glynn and Burke were chosen by their peers to speak directly to the pope from a working group of more than 20 students representing the central U.S. and Canada.

When their turn to present came, Glynn, a political science and theology major in Creighton’s College of Arts and Sciences, cited stark figures for the pope: According to estimates from the United Nations, climate change will displace 29 million people annually, resulting in at least 1.4 billion climate refugees by 2060.

“The Church has a responsibility to act through its people, money, infrastructure, land, schools and advocacy efforts,” Glynn said. “Our synodal group discerned a shared frustration that U.S. Catholic leaders have not taken appropriate action.”

Burke, currently a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and social media manager for Catholic Climate Covenant, proposed a strategy somewhat new for climate change, but celebrated throughout Christian history: nonviolent direct action.

Through a translator, the pope responded that the very act of neglecting the environment is itself an act of violence. And that, he said, is in direct opposition to the Christian idea of God full of “tenderness and compassion.”

He continued: “God forgives always. We forgive sometimes. Nature never forgives. If we destroy nature, then we create a chain of violence, and we can see that with our own eyes.”

Burke said she felt “incredibly nervous,” but as soon as she started speaking, she felt more calm.

“I saw Pope Francis nodding along with what Henry and I had to say, and taking vigorous notes, and I was overcome with a moment of, ‘Oh my gosh, this is really happening.’ I felt listened to, and valued as a young Catholic. It was truly an experience.”



DAVE WEAVER

STUDENT RESEARCH

Where Health Science Meets the Human Spirit

Creighton is known for the research opportunities it offers students. Here’s a brief insight into one student’s project.

For Aidan Herrera, being a doctor means more than donning a white coat. “I want to understand medicine in its cultural and social context,” says Herrera, a medical humanities major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“What does health care look like in different societies? How does our current system produce inequalities between different social groups? And how can health care providers treat patients in a way that takes those social factors into account?”

His interest in the intersection of the medical and social sciences led him to the lab of Erin Blankenship-Sefczek, PhD, resident assistant professor of biological anthropology. There, Herrera studies the bones of people who died during the Late Classic Maya Period, between 200 and 950 AD.

His project is centered on infants and sub-adults, taking a close look at how age and sickness affected how the individuals were buried, and drawing conclusions on what those burials tell us about the Mayan culture of the time.

Herrera says he hopes to continue his research over the summer, eventually publishing a paper on his findings. A soon-to-be graduate of the Class of 2023, Herrera plans to attend medical school and become a physician anthropologist.

His goal, he says, is to enter residency education and teach doctors how to approach medicine through a public health lens. It’s a path he says he may have never known about had he not chosen to become a Bluejay.

“I’m so grateful to Creighton for showing me that this path exists,” he says. “When I graduate, I know I’ll leave with a more complete understanding of health care and the issues facing it today. Because of my experience here, I feel called to do what I can to help however I can.”





DAVE WEAVER

A Passion for Dentistry: New Dental Dean Shares Her Journey

©Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, right, with dental student Silvia Nweze-Okudo in the adult dental clinic.

Creighton University's new School of Dentistry dean, Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS, shares the story of her journey from a child growing up in a small village in Scotland to a career in dentistry and academe that eventually landed her in Omaha.

Throughout it all, she considers herself lucky to have found such a fulfilling career in dentistry. She looks to share her passion for the profession with the students coming to Creighton's dental school.

"The opportunities that have been given to me have just been amazing," says Wallen, who joined Creighton last August. "I've made it my philosophy to always pay that forward and give people the opportunities that were given to me."

You can read her story online at creighton.edu/news/DeanWallen.

Comedy Podcast Helps the Show Go On

Caleb Jones, BA'20, saw nothing funny about the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Although COVID's full impact was not yet evident, it would not be long before rising death counts paralyzed the normal, free-wheeling spirit of American life. Restaurants and cinemas closed, as did comedy clubs. And then the music died, as bands with significant local followings lost their venues.

"Seeing this suffering of the artistic community during COVID, we just thought if there is anything that we can do to support those communities that are important to us, then we have got to do it," says Josh Prenosil, PhD, assistant professor of English.

So Prenosil and Jones, who is working on a master's degree in English under Prenosil's guidance, created the *Bits at The Backline* comedy podcast. Recorded at The Backline Comedy Theatre, an independent comedy

theater located in downtown Omaha, the professor and the student interview hardy souls described by The Backline as "Omaha's next big comedians."

"All of this is part of my thesis work, and some of the work I have done is considered part of my service to the department, which is part of my scholarship requirement, so it is all very interwoven with what I am studying and doing here," Jones says.

The experience of producing a podcast will serve Jones well, Prenosil says.

"Caleb is going to graduate with excellent media production skills that he will take to the job market."

The podcast is both a study in the art and craft of making people laugh and an attempt to bridge the world of academia and the gritty world of the spotlight, the stage and the tough audience.

"I have certainly heard from people who watch our episodes saying they have been surprised at how much craft and skill there is in performing a comedy set," Jones says. "That tells me we are illustrating an aspect of comedy that people are not aware of."

"People think that comedians are just funny people who get up there and tell jokes, but it's not that simple. There is a lot of work that goes into preparing those sets, and there is a lot of technique involved. One of my favorite aspects of the interviews is asking these experienced individuals about how they do what they do — getting into the weeds of all that has been very enjoyable."

Podcasts do not happen overnight, and Prenosil and Jones spent months honing the concept, gathering the equipment and partnering with a receptive Backline to host the podcast. Four comedians have now been interviewed, all with Omaha ties. Some perform locally, some tour nationally.

"We wanted to give local artists a break from these difficult times, to have conversations and see where they would lead. It's amazing that we were able to do that," Jones says.

Video podcasts are available on YouTube; search Backline Comedy.

Law School Receives \$4 Million Gift from Alumna

With her passing in April 2021 at the age of 91, Mary Jo Connell Cleaver, BS'52, JD'54, MA'55, established the largest scholarship endowment in the history of the law school — a \$4 million gift designated to help deserving law students attain their dreams of becoming attorneys.

"Mary Jo's generosity will be the cornerstone of her legacy," said Joshua Fershée, JD, dean of the School of Law.

The Wayne C. and Mary J. Cleaver Endowed Scholarship Fund will generate about \$200,000 annually in merit- and need-based aid, enough to award multiple scholarships each year. Applicants to the school will be automatically considered for the scholarship. Recipients will be able to renew the award for subsequent years, based on their academic progress.

For much of her professional career, Mary Jo Cleaver, married to Wayne Cleaver, was an engineer trial attorney with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wayne died in 1999. Although the couple bequeathed gifts to multiple charities, the School of Law was the primary beneficiary of the couple's philanthropy.

Inaugural Physician Assistant Class Awarded Degrees in December

In December, the School of Medicine awarded 23 physician assistant (PA) students their Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degrees during the program's inaugural commencement ceremony.

"These professionals are graduating at a time when the health care system needs them the most," said Stephane VanderMeulen, associate professor and Physician Assistant Program Director. "They are compassionate physician assistants dedicated to impacting the

lives of patients and providing service to the communities they will serve."

Graduates of the program, which is one of six such programs offered at Jesuit institutions in the United States, receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree in just over two years.

Students Net BIG EAST Research Poster Honors

Creighton students Keely Orndorff and Lauren Barbush watched the Creighton men's basketball team battle for the BIG EAST conference title March 12 knowing that no matter what happened down there on the Madison Square Garden court, they were bringing conference honors home to Omaha.

Orndorff took first place and Barbush third in the inaugural BIG EAST Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium held earlier that day, also at Madison Square Garden.

The symposium was a Creighton creation, stemming from a proposal by Julie Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm'93, professor of chemistry and biochemistry and associate vice provost for research and



\$2.8 MILLION NIH GRANT

Researchers at Creighton University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst received a five-year, \$2.8 million National Institutes of Health grant to study multiple system atrophy, a fatal neurodegenerative movement disorder for which there is currently no effective treatment. Jason Bartz, PhD, professor and chair of medical microbiology and immunology, is co-leading the study.

©Keely Orndorff, left, and Lauren Barbush competed in the first BIG EAST Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium.

scholarship. Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, professor of biology and director of Creighton's Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, served on the symposium planning committee.

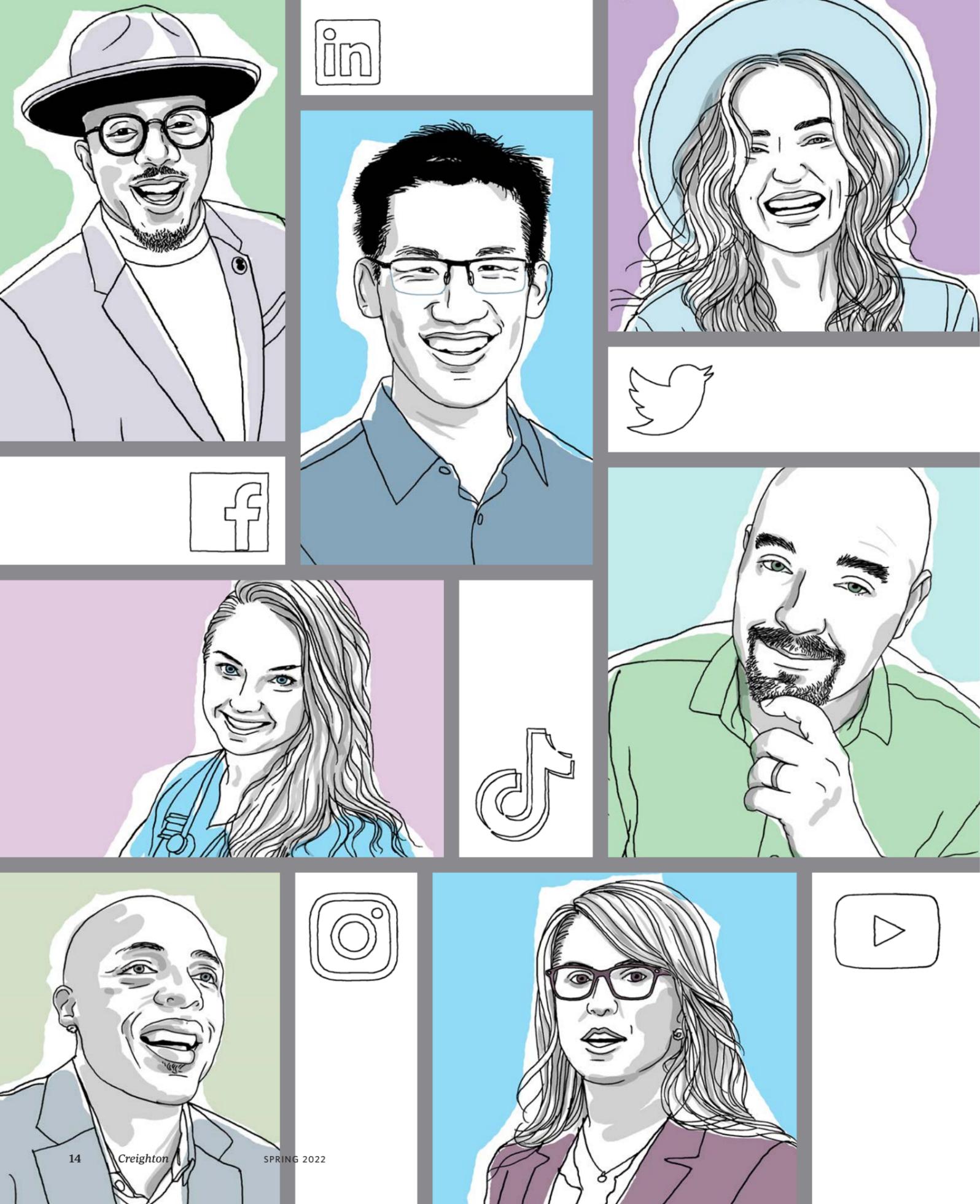
Orndorff and Barbush competed against 55 students drawn from 11 BIG EAST schools and were among five Creighton students chosen to present a poster.

Orndorff, a neuroscience major, presented a poster describing the microscopic world of protein interaction and its impact on which genes are expressed in the human cell. Barbush, a biology major, presented about the therapeutic impact of the Indian long pepper on noise-induced hearing loss.

"When Dr. Soukup began announcing the awards, I was stunned to hear my poster title for third place. I teared up immediately. When Keely was announced for first place, I felt incredibly proud of her and proud to be a Creighton student," Barbush said.

Other competing Creighton students were political science major JJ Mark, biochemistry major Rhiannon McCracken and English and theater major Elizabeth Peller.





Bluejay Influencers BY KEVIN COFFEY, BA'06

We have a few famous Bluejays flying around out there. Several Creighton alumni and professors have become influencers, going viral on social media, appearing in national conversations and attracting followers for talking about sports, life, finances, body image and photography. Many have followers in the thousands, and a few have racked up millions. These are some of Creighton's biggest influencers.

ADEDAYO KOSOKO

Adedayo Kosoko, BA'05, has more than 22,000 followers on his Instagram page (@theearthype), where he posts his photography work, including things he's made for Hugo Boss, Gucci, GQ, Facebook and many more.

Recently, he's been posting photos from a series called Moon Melanin, which "touches on the relationship between melanated people and the moonlight that illuminates us. The moon provides a direct reflection of the sun, and in this light we find aspects of us that have been kept in the shadows."

THOMAS WONG

Thomas Wong, PhD, saw a need for a quantum computing textbook, so he wrote one. Then he put it out for free online. His tweet announcing the book's publication and free download has since been retweeted more than 650 times and earned more than 2,200 likes. Wong, assistant professor of physics in the College of Arts and Sciences, studies quantum computing at the intersection of physics and computer science. "Quantum computers are the next generation of computers, and there is a need for the basics to be taught at the undergraduate level and not just in graduate school," he says.

DANAE MERCER

For more than 2.4 million followers on her Instagram account (@danaemercer), Creighton alumna Danae Mercer, BA'09, promotes body positivity, often showing how perfectly posed and exquisitely edited photos distort our perceptions of people's bodies. A recent post said, "We see these images as casual, momentary snapshots, but in reality they're each taking 30 to 40 minutes to create. The result is, we look online and we think, 'Everyone is perfect but me.'" Mercer has written for numerous publications and appeared on *Good Morning America*.

BRAD KLONTZ

Looking to build your wealth? Check out the TikTok page of Brad Klontz, PsyD, associate professor of practice in financial psychology at the Heider College of Business. Klontz's page (@drbradklontz) has more than 538,000 followers, and his videos cover a range

of financial topics, including financial mistakes, investing, cryptocurrency, 529 plans and the keys to becoming wealthy. His most popular videos have millions of views. In his top video, which has 5.9 million views, he's wearing a Creighton sweater as he describes the study tip that helped him become a PsyD.

VICTORIA HANEMAN

Have you been reading the *New York Times* lately? Then you might have seen the name of Victoria Haneman, JD, LL.M., the Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates in the School of Law. She has become a go-to expert on all sorts of legal matters for *Times* reporters, from stories on Britney Spears' conservatorship to cremation and the funeral business. (Read more about her research on Page 16.)

ANTHONY TOLLIVER

The NBA player, former Bluejay basketball standout and 2007 Heider College of Business alumnus has about 40,000 followers each on Instagram and Twitter, where he posts on a range of topics, from basketball to family and faith. A real estate investor through his company Say You Can, Tolliver also often posts about investing and building wealth with tips such as, "The best tip I can give anyone that wants to start investing is educate yourself. Read books, find financial literacy mentors that you can learn from, and ask questions. Stay focused on your plan, and put your faith in God."

Also look for former Bluejays Doug McDermott, BSBA'14, and Kyle Korver, BA'03, who have significant followings on social media.

HARMONY LATHAM

You may have seen pictures of Harmony Latham, BSN'21, bouncing around the web lately. Latham, a former Miss Rodeo USA winner, recently graduated from Creighton's accelerated nursing program as part of the first cohort from the program in Grand Island, Nebraska. She blogged during the experience for CHI Health, Creighton's clinical partner. During her journey at Creighton, she wrote about why she chose Creighton, the skills she learned, the friends she made along the way and what's next. (Hint: She got a great job.)

Clockwise from top left: Adedayo Kosoko, Thomas Wong, Danae Mercer, Brad Klontz, Victoria Haneman, Anthony Tolliver and Harmony Latham.

The High Cost of Dying and Green Burials

BY BLAKE URSCH

For many Americans, death is something they don't want to think about until they absolutely have to.

Blame it on anxiety or cultural conditioning or a combination of both. Whatever the reason, avoiding the reality of our own and our loved ones' mortality is the root cause of widespread problems in the funeral industry that compound the suffering of those grieving, says Victoria Haneman, JD, LLM, the Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates in the Creighton School of Law.



Victoria Haneman

"The law has been controlled by the (funeral) industry for almost a century," Haneman says. "And what's really interesting is, we've allowed this to happen. We've allowed it to happen because we don't like thinking about death, and consequently, as consumers, we don't behave normally with regard to death care expenses."

Haneman has become a leading voice in the national discussion about the financial and environmental impact of the funeral industry in the United States. She has published several studies on the legal issues surrounding death, including "Tax Incentives for Green Burial" in the *Nevada Law Journal* and "Funeral Poverty" in the *University of Richmond Law Review*. She has also been quoted by several high-profile media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, *Wired* and *PBS Newshour*.

It's a topic that's, sadly, more relevant than ever as the U.S. COVID-19 death toll climbs toward 1 million.

The center of her criticism is this: A funeral and burial for the average American will cost

about \$9,000. A significant amount, given that at least 40% of Americans say they can't afford an unexpected \$400 expense.

"That \$9,000 is more than a lot of people pay for a car. And, yet, nobody is behaving normally with an expense like this," she says. "When we don't think about death, we create a norm of distress purchasing. We don't research anything ahead of time, and when death inevitably happens, the funeral director holds all the cards. We rely on guidance from professionals who always have a profit-seeking objective."

The traditional open-casket funeral is what drives the cost, Haneman says. Embalming, cosmeticized remains, flowers, the casket itself. All the trappings of a traditional service are opportunities for the funeral home to upsell the bereaved. And about that funeral home: Only 16.8% of consumers ever call more than one, Haneman says.

Cost aside, the traditional methods of laying the dead to rest — casket or cremation — have a serious impact on the environment, Haneman says. In her published research, Haneman reports an estimated 5.3 million gallons of embalming fluid are buried along with bodies annually in the U.S. Caskets are made of non-biodegradable chipboard. Fire-based cremation burns fossil fuels, releasing an estimated 250,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year.

But increasingly, Haneman says, people are turning to alternatives.

"There's a death positive movement that's started arising over the past 10 or 15 years," she says. "With the rising age of the baby boomer generation, you see less interest in traditional death care practice."

Haneman points to several innovative companies piloting new methods of burial with green technology. One, Seattle-based Recompose, uses a process called natural

Creighton law professor leads national conversation on 'funeral poverty' and green burials

organic reduction to transform human remains into topsoil, which the deceased's loved ones can then use to grow whatever they want.

Tech companies have also explored other, even more novel methods of burial, Haneman says. One, called promession, involves freeze-drying a body and turning it into nitrogen-rich dust. Another, alkaline hydrolysis, or liquid cremation, involves dissolving a body with environmentally safe chemicals, and was most notably chosen by the Rev. Desmond Tutu at his death in December 2021.

There are still other methods. Actor Luke Perry was buried in a mushroom suit — a cotton suit with mushroom spores sewn into the fabric. Upon burial, mushrooms feed on the body and aid in decomposition.

By sharing the many possibilities, Haneman says she hopes to get her students and the wider public thinking about what they and their loved ones want when they die. Sometimes in an irreverent, light-hearted way.

"I've had students email me about death tech. One of them asked me about a service that turns you into a glass ball," Haneman says. "That's when I say, 'Do you want to be sold at a garage sale in 30 years?'"

The point is to destigmatize thinking and talking about death, to get people comfortable with planning for their own end. Haneman says she hopes to shift the narrative and create a space where students feel comfortable asking questions that they would otherwise find taboo, with the goal of helping others to have more free-flowing conversations about a topic that is an unavoidable part of life.

"We all understand the sensitivities around death," Haneman says. "What we're not accustomed to is dealing with the more insouciant side of it. Having fun with it. When we do that, I think we'll be better equipped to make those important decisions."



STEM Connection

Haddix program connects Omaha high school students with Creighton researchers

BY Micah Mertes



Israel Bryant has always had a lot of questions: *How does this work? Why does it work like that? Could it work another way?*

“When I was growing up, my parents couldn’t answer all of my questions,” says the Central High School senior and Creighton research assistant. “So they would sit me down in front of the Discovery Channel, and say, ‘Here, discover something.’”

Through hours upon hours absorbing the “nerdy fun” of science shows, Bryant discovered quite a bit — many answers to many questions, but just as many new questions, too.

Bryant’s bottomless curiosity about the world led her to pursue a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), specifically architectural engineering. Along the way, she’s found plenty of opportunities to quench her inquisitive mind.

One especially great experience was a program that — across multiple STEM fields — dares to ask (and answer) ...

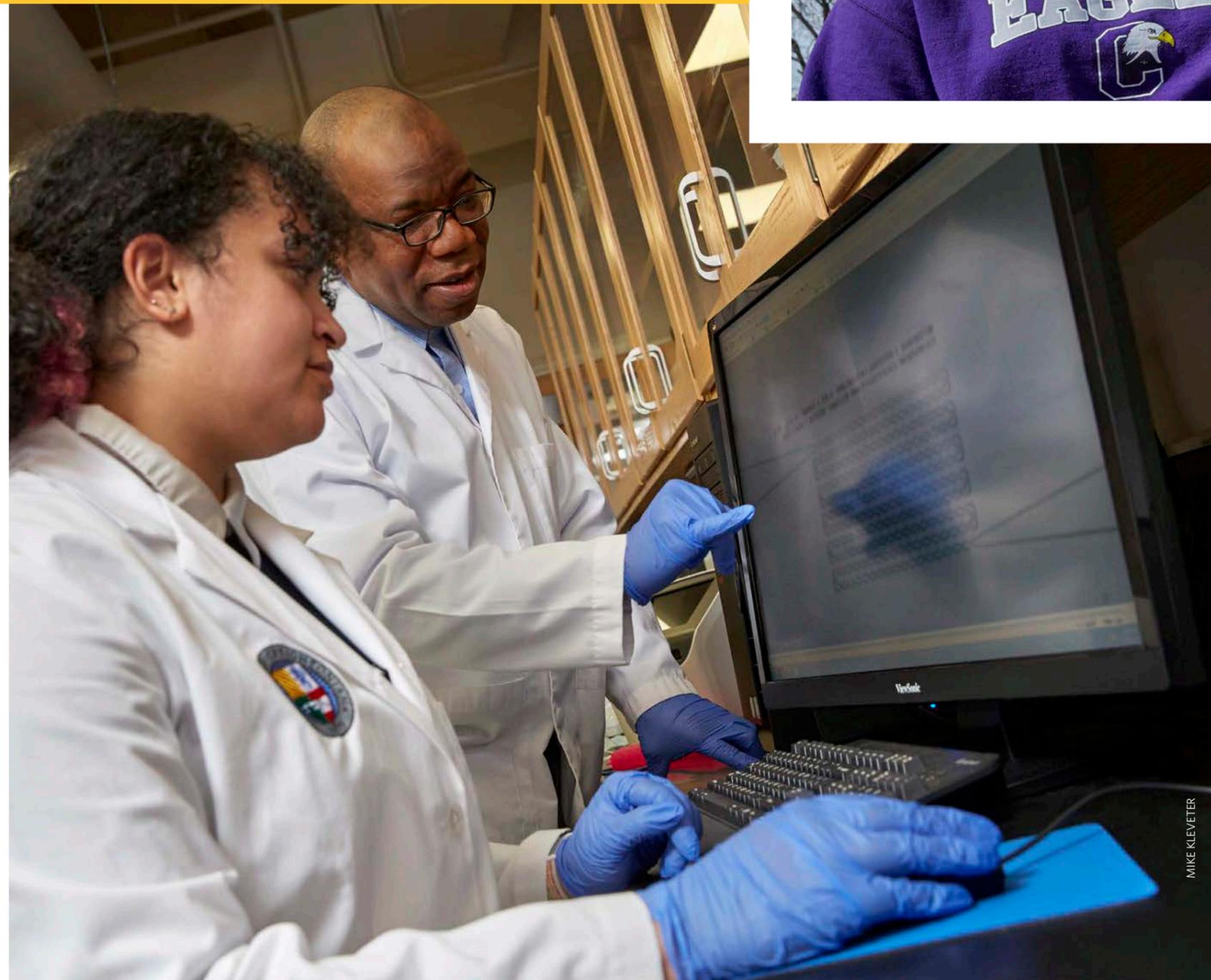
How does this work? Why does it work like that? Could it work another way?

BRYANT IS ONE OF DOZENS OF OMAHA PUBLIC high school students to be accepted into the Haddix STEM Corridor Program over the past four years.

Each summer, the program invites juniors at North, South and Central high schools to conduct STEM-focused research work with faculty and students at Creighton. Haddix scholars are paid for their time and give poster presentations of their research at the program’s end.

The University has long been known as a leader in student research. Creighton is continually named a Top School for Undergraduate Research/Creative Projects by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Haddix STEM Corridor Program has taken this strength into the community.

© Israel Bryant, left, and Andrew Ekpenyong, PhD, MS’07, assistant professor of physics, in Ekpenyong’s lab.



“I’m still in high school, but I’ve already done something that’s going to help the world.”

ISRAEL BRYANT
2021 Haddix STEM Scholar
Senior, Omaha Central High School

MIKE KLEVETER



© **Photo top:** From left, Kayode Oshin, PhD, Jamie Alarcon Soto, and Annemarie Shibata, PhD, BS'92. In 2019, Soto worked in Shibata's lab as part of the Haddix STEM program. As a Creighton student, she will work in Oshin's lab starting this summer.

© **Photo bottom:** Ashton Hagen delivers his poster presentation as a 2019 Haddix STEM scholar. Hagen is a current Creighton student majoring in biochemistry.

MIKE KLEVETER



“Our faculty have become aware of the caliber of students accepted into this program and how transformative this experience is for them. As a result, many research-active faculty are willing and excited to serve as mentors to new scholars each summer.”

KAYODE OSHIN, PHD
 Director of the Haddix STEM Corridor Program
 Associate Professor of Chemistry

“With this program, you see a wonderful alignment of Creighton’s mission and vision,” says College of Arts and Sciences Dean Bridget Keegan, PhD. “We’re so grateful to the Haddixes for helping us achieve this for our students, our faculty and the community at large.”

George, PhD, MA’66, and Susan Haddix made the program possible with a \$10 million gift, which also supported renovation of Rigge Science Building labs, faculty research, an Ignatian advising program and the Dean’s Fellows student leadership program. Their gift is the largest ever made to the College of Arts and Sciences.

The STEM Corridor program connects a few key threads from George Haddix’s life. George — also a former Creighton faculty member — grew up along the 24th Street thoroughfare, where each of the program’s participating high schools resides. He went to high school at Omaha North. His father worked for a South Omaha meat-packing plant.

Now, he and his wife have strengthened the roots between the University and the iconic stretch of Omaha that shaped his life and career.

Susan Haddix has supported and volunteered at many organizations over the past 40 years.

“Sometimes, it can be difficult to see the difference you’re making. That’s not the case with this program,” she says. “We see what it’s doing, and we see how these students are flourishing. It’s one of the best things George and I have ever been a part of.”

ANY PROGRAM STEEPED IN RESEARCH must itself be assessed methodically. The Haddix program has plenty of data to draw from. The results so far?

“This program has engaged so many high school students in meaningful research work,” says Kayode Oshin, PhD, associate professor and director of the Haddix program. “I am grateful to all Creighton faculty members who have mentored these scholars. I am equally grateful to the Haddix family for directing their philanthropic efforts toward this kind of program

because it makes a real difference and truly impacts the career trajectory of each student participant.”

Of the dozens of Haddix scholars who have graduated high school, nearly all are now attending college, most pursuing STEM degrees.

Having actual research experience has helped the students in their college applications. Many have received national awards and scholarships because of their Haddix work. There are a few especially notable success stories.

Former Haddix scholar and Omaha North graduate Audrey Anderson, for instance, parlayed her research project with biology professor Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, into more than \$70,000 in scholarships.

Meanwhile, Central High grad Xzavier Herbert — who conducted research with Nathan Pennington, PhD, associate professor of mathematics — is one of three Haddix scholars to be accepted into MIT, where he’s studying theoretical mathematics. He has continued to conduct research, spending one summer working on “space math” at NASA.

Herbert had been teaching himself advanced math concepts since eighth grade, but before the Haddix program, he didn’t really know what mathematical research entailed.

“It was very enlightening,” he says. “But it’s not just a research program; it also helps you apply to college, develop some really essential skills and figure out what you want to do (or not do) with your life.”

Some Haddix scholars end up coming to Creighton.

Before participating in the program, North High graduate and Creighton chemistry sophomore Jamie Alarcon Soto hadn’t even considered the University an option. But that experience — and a Creighton scholarship — changed everything.

“It’s still hard to believe that as a high school student I got to do actual research that’s going to mean something,” says Soto, whose Haddix project with biology professor Annemarie

Shibata, PhD, BS’92, studied the neural effects of suppressing CPT2 proteins. “The experience opened my eyes to what research actually is and the different paths I could choose.”

Sydney Westphal — a Central High grad and Creighton junior majoring in environmental sustainability — was a member of the first Haddix cohort, her project surveying flora and fauna on the Nebraska prairie under the mentorship of biology professor Theodore Burk, DPhil. Thanks to that experience, she had multiple Creighton mentors before she even started her freshman year.

“Creighton takes mentorship seriously,” Westphal says. “My professors have helped me explore science at a deeper level. They’ve helped me form new thinking, new approaches, new ways of seeing the world.”

One great thing the Haddix program does for its scholars — especially first-generation students — is to normalize college, says Alexandra Griswold, a North High grad and psychology/philosophy junior at Creighton who conducted research with Jake Siedlik, PhD, assistant professor of exercise science.

“I remember my summer in the program, that experience of walking across campus and into the building, meeting with my professor and doing my research,” she says. “I had so much authority in my project and autonomy in my life. I felt like I belonged here.”

Central High graduate and Creighton biochemistry sophomore Ashton Hagen — who conducted research with biochemistry associate professor Lynne Dieckman, PhD — says his Haddix experience drew him to the College of Arts and Sciences not just because of the opportunities for undergraduate research but for the mission underlying that research.

“I need to know what I’m working on will eventually benefit someone else,” says Hagen, whose Haddix project studied how cloned proteins would interact with cancerous cells. “That’s true for my peers, too. You won’t find a lot of people here who do research just to build a resume. We want to help others. That’s the purpose of research at Creighton.”

“Sometimes, it can be difficult to see the difference you’re making. That’s not the case with this program. We see what it’s doing, and we see how these students are flourishing. It’s one of the best things George and I have ever been a part of.”

SUSAN HADDIX

THE BENEFITS OF THE HADDIX program have been as significant for the community as they have for Creighton.

“This program is exactly what’s been needed in Omaha for some time,” says Dan Sitzman, longtime science educator and president of Omaha’s Metropolitan Science & Engineering Fair. “It’s a phenomenal way to help create opportunities.”

The program, he says, “gives students the opportunity to conduct meaningful research at a prestigious university with a Creighton professor who will take the time to get to know them as a person.”

The program’s reach extends far beyond the Haddix scholars themselves, says LaDeidre Jackson, curriculum specialist for science and art at Omaha North.

“The Haddix program has been the best thing to happen to our own science program in many years,” she says. “A lot of high school students don’t think they like science. But when the Haddix scholars come back and tell their classmates about their experience, a lot of students get excited.”

At Omaha Central, the Haddix program has even shifted the way faculty teach high school science.

“The program has encouraged our teachers to incorporate more research into the classroom,” says Janis Elliott, former science department chair at Central High. “They now promote a broad application of research and encourage our students to pursue their own work. Central High School even started its own research class.”

The Haddix program has likewise been

a game-changing experience for faculty at Creighton.

“Our faculty have become aware of the caliber of students accepted into this program and how transformative this experience is for them,” says Oshin. “As a result, many research-active faculty are willing and excited to serve as mentors to new scholars each summer.”

Due to faculty enthusiasm, the Haddix program has expanded. Originally, the program admitted 13 high school students each summer. That number has since grown to 21, thanks to two Creighton faculty members who secured external funding to support more students participating in the program.

Dieckman received a National Science Foundation CAREER grant that supports six additional part-time Haddix scholars each year for five years. And recently, Joel Destino, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry, received a National Science Foundation CAREER grant, which will sponsor two additional Haddix scholars for the next five years.

Destino recalls one of his Haddix students — Eh Mo Khaing, a Central High School graduate — as “one of the most hard-working and intelligent people I’ve ever worked with. Getting to see her unique perspective on the world was a tremendous experience.”

Andrew Ekpenyong, PhD, MS’07, assistant professor of physics, says mentoring in the Haddix program has actually changed the way he teaches undergraduates.

“It has helped me discover even greater potential in young people,” he says. “I am no longer waiting for them to get to a certain level

before I ask for their help to attack a cutting-edge scientific question. They are already ready.”

One Haddix scholar who shifted Ekpenyong’s expectations? Central High senior Israel Bryant.

BRYANT’S RESEARCH DIDN’T END with the Haddix program. As her high school graduation nears, she’s continued to work with Ekpenyong at Creighton. The two co-authored a paper they presented at the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting, an international science conference, earlier this year.

Their research explores the physics of cancer, using a device called the microfluidic microcirculation mimetic (MMM), which mimics cell behavior in the body’s circulatory system.

The MMM allows Ekpenyong and Bryant to simulate the effects of chemotherapy drugs on cancer cells. Their hypothesis is that certain chemo drugs make the surviving cancer cells more likely to spread to other parts of the body.

Bryant knows that this research could lead to how cancer is treated, that it might one day save lives. She also knows that looks great for college and scholarship applications.

“But it also just feels good,” she says. “I’m still in high school, but I’ve already done something that’s going to help the world.”

That inquisitive girl glued to the TV screen is now a published scientist looking through the microscope. But for Bryant, the core questions remain the same for every endeavor ...

How does this work? Why does it work like that? Could it work another way?



© **Photo above:** Sydney Westphal conducts field work as part of her summer research project in 2018.

© **Photo right:** From left, Theodore Burk, DPhil, professor of biology, Sydney Westphal, George Haddix, PhD, MA’66, and Susan Haddix at the 2018 Haddix STEM Corridor Program poster presentation.



“Creighton takes mentorship seriously. My professors have helped me explore science at a deeper level. They’ve helped me form new thinking, new approaches, new ways of seeing the world.”

SYDNEY WESTPHAL
2018 Haddix STEM Scholar
Third-Year Environmental Science Major

Economic Stability and Health

BY Blake Ursch

Creighton researchers look to change the national conversation about financial education



Researchers at Creighton have published a study linking financial stability to better health outcomes. “Improving Health Through Action on Economic Stability: Results of the Finances First Randomized Controlled Trial of Financial Education and Coaching in Single Mothers of Low-Income” was recently published in the *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*.

The study is the result of a collaborative effort of several Creighton health sciences programs — the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, School of Medicine and College of Nursing — and the grant-funded Financial Hope Collaborative, housed in the Heider College of Business.

The research focused on a group of low-income single mothers in Omaha who were selected to receive financial coaching and education through the Financial Hope Collaborative, which works with low- and moderate-income families in the area to help them achieve financial stability.

The results: The women who completed the Financial Success Program “significantly reduced” their financial strain, making them more likely to quit smoking and less likely to avoid medical care due to cost.

The study — which the researchers believe is the first randomized, controlled trial examining the impact of financial education on health — is just one way in which experts at Creighton are examining the link between financial health and physical health.

In November 2021, the University announced that it would spearhead pioneering research investigating whether better finances can lead to better health outcomes in patients with diabetes, following a \$2.3 million investment from the Diabetes Care Foundation, co-founded by

former Board of Trustees member Jim Greisch, BSBA'80, and chaired by former Board of Trustees member Mark Huber, BSBA'83, JD'86.

"Income is the No. 1 predictor of your health in America," says Julie Kalkowski, founder and executive director of the Financial Hope Collaborative. "The higher your income, the better your health. The lower your income, the worse your health."

Economic stability is one of the five major domains of the Social Determinants of Health, defined by the World Health Organization as "the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes ... the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions

of daily life." They are things like income and social protection, education, food insecurity, housing and working conditions.

Though numbers vary on how much of a population's health can be directly attributed to the social determinants, most experts agree that their impact on health outcomes is significant.

"Physical and financial health are very highly interrelated," says Nicole Gillespie White, PharmD'10, associate professor of pharmacy practice in Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and one of the principal investigators of the Finances First study. "When you think about access to medical care, your income level plays an important role. Just being able to afford to see your doctor, to take

medications, is influenced by how much money you have."

But a person's financial situation impacts their health in more ways than whether they have the money to pay for doctor visits, White says. The problem goes much deeper than that.

"For one thing, any type of stress creates problems in the body," she says. "Stress increases inflammation in the body and dysregulates the immune system, both of which increase the risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other chronic conditions."

For another thing, continuous financial pressure erodes a person's ability to make healthy lifestyle decisions. The concept, Kalkowski says, can be explained using what social scientists have dubbed the "limited resource model of self-control."

The idea is that, in any given situation, a person has a limited amount of energy available to govern his or her own behavior. For example, if you haven't slept much in the last few days because you're worried about your bills, it's harder to focus on just about anything, let alone concentrate on eating healthier or exercising.

People with low incomes, White says, are forced to make difficult decisions and regulate their behavior more often than those with higher incomes. Over time, this can erode self-control and lead to the adoption of unhealthy habits, such as smoking, drinking, poor diet and reduced exercise.

In the Finances First study, which took place between April 2017 through August 2020, women who were known to be making less than 200% of the 2017 U.S. Federal Poverty Guideline were randomly assigned to either receive financial counseling via the Financial Hope Collaborative's Financial Success Program (FSP) or be assigned to a control group with no counseling.

The program, which has been around since 2009, focuses on monthly cashflow management. In the study, the single mothers selected for the program received one-on-one financial coaching and attended classes that taught them how to track their expenses, understand credit and credit reports and create a payment plan for bills and other expenses. The program was offered in both English and Spanish.

"We focus on the immediate, small steps that people can do to improve their situation every month," Kalkowski says. "That way, people begin to feel they have more control over

their lives and feel that things can get better. When things start to work, it motivates you to keep moving forward."

Deborah Dogba entered the Financial Success Program in 2020. She joined, she said, because she was trying to boost her income and get a handle on her finances as she worked to launch her own small business.

"I was really living paycheck to paycheck, but my paycheck was invested in my business," she says. "At the end of the day, I didn't have a lot left."

She says she benefitted most from the accountability the program provided through regular meetings with her financial success coach.

"The FSP brought a lot of clarity to me on my journey to financial freedom. The accountability aspect of it made it possible to achieve goals such as paying off debt," she says. "One key component that provided a clear picture of my financial situation at that time was tracking income and expenses — budgeting."

Since completing the program, Dogba has been able to quit her regular job and run her

business consulting and publishing company, Afro Swag Media and Magazine, full-time.

The women who participated in the Financial Success Program reported greater income and ability to save than those who didn't — a somewhat surprising outcome, given that the final year of the study took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, White says. In a subanalysis of 40 women who completed the 12-month program, participants were found to have experienced fewer job losses and an increase in median salary, along with an increase in resilience.

"When people aren't stressed out of their minds, they perform better, and their supervisors notice," Kalkowski says. "That leads to promotions and sometimes even a new job at a much higher salary."

As a result, the study showed that the women who participated in the Financial Success Program reduced their tobacco use after a 12-month period from 23.4% to 18.3%. Conversely, the women in the control group increased their use of tobacco, jumping from 19.3% to 22.2%.

© Julie Kalkowski, left, meets with Deborah Dogba, a participant in the Financial Success Program through the Financial Hope Collaborative, housed in the Heider College of Business.

The study also showed that women who participated in the program were less likely to avoid medical care due to cost after 12 months, with the percentage of those reporting they had avoided care dropping from 49% to 32.6%. The control group remained unchanged.

The Finances First study and the upcoming research funded by the Diabetes Care Foundation open the door to creating a more comprehensive picture of what health care can be, White says. So much of health care, she says, currently focuses on reactively treating physical disease instead of proactively preventing illness.

"With research increasingly tying better health outcomes to greater financial stability," White says, "there's the potential to create a new model that incorporates the financial element of care and gives patients the resources to build healthier lives."

"With research increasingly tying better health outcomes to greater financial stability, there's the potential to create a new model that incorporates the financial element of care and gives patients the resources to build healthier lives."

NICOLE GILLESPIE WHITE, PHARM D'10



JIM FACKLER



JIM FACKLER



ADRIAN BAIRD

Creighton Answers the Question: **What is Ignatian Leadership and Why Does It Matter**

BY CINDY MURPHY MCMAHON, BA'74

Nearly 500 years ago, St. Ignatius of Loyola quietly started a spiritual revolution that reverberated through the ages and has found fresh dynamism at Creighton. The founder of the Society of Jesus initiated innovative teaching and learning methods through the Spiritual Exercises and developed tools and practices to form leaders empowered to change the world.

Today, fostering Ignatian-inspired leadership is at the core of Creighton's mission in a multitude of ways, and especially in the development of students — both in and outside the classroom.

What exactly does Ignatian leadership look like? Is it possible to learn it, and employ it in your own life, even long after you have graduated from Creighton?

At its root, Ignatian-inspired leadership development provides a structure and context for people to learn more about themselves and those they serve.

"Ignatian leadership does not begin from anything other than our relationship to God," says Tom Kelly, PhD, professor of theology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"It is not based on outcomes or money gained," says Kelly. "One can be immensely successful according to the dictates of the 'world' but if we lack love, what does it benefit us? This is our driving question in Ignatian leadership."

A FOCUS ON REFLECTION

A primary component in Creighton's Ignatian-inspired programs — including those in the undergraduate, graduate and professional schools, student advising and programs through the divisions of Mission and Ministry

and Student Life — is reflection, just as it was for Ignatius and his followers.

That means before, during and after experiences that promote Ignatian-inspired student leadership development, students are asked to reflect — to look within themselves for the movements of God. Faculty and staff who work with the students also engage in the same type of reflection.

For example, Nicole Piemonte, PhD, assistant dean of student affairs for the medical school in Phoenix, assistant professor of medical humanities and the Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine, says written personal reflections are embedded throughout the medical school curriculum.

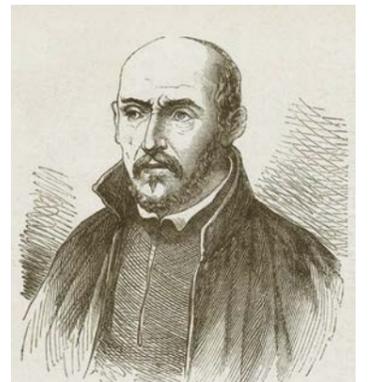
"I spend time discussing with students the idea that being a future Creighton doctor means being an advocate for the marginalized, underserved and disenfranchised, in addition to being a competent and compassionate clinician," Piemonte says.

In Creighton's Heider College of Business, the mission statement and the entire undergraduate curriculum, called the Heider Mindset, are shaped by Ignatian values.

The Heider mission statement reads: "Guided by our Jesuit heritage, we form leaders who promote justice and use their business knowledge to improve the world."

The Heider Mindset undergraduate curriculum came about through the work of dozens of the college's faculty members through a task force that began in the summer of 2017 and completed its work in 2020.

"We felt it was vital that any revisions to our undergraduate curriculum both reflect and strengthen the mission of the Heider College," says Matt SeEVERS, PhD, professor of marketing,



The Ignatian Year

May 20, 2021, to July 31, 2022, is being celebrated as the "Ignatian Year" by the Society of Jesus and the worldwide Ignatian family.

It commemorates the 500th anniversary of the devastating battle injury Ignatius of Loyola, a Basque soldier at the time, suffered in 1521. The cannonball injury to his leg changed the course of his life and ultimately led to his founding of the Jesuits, as well as changes in the Church and education through the centuries.

The Ignatian spirituality that came about through St. Ignatius of Loyola's conversion experience has continued to influence generation after generation. And Ignatian leadership development, discussed on these pages of *Creighton* magazine, is one way the Spanish saint's influence remains strong and vital on Creighton's campuses today.



“

One can be immensely successful according to the dictates of the ‘world’ but if we lack love, what does it benefit us? This is our driving question in Ignatian leadership.

TOM KELLY, PHD
Professor of Theology



“

Who our students are becoming as people matters just as much as who they are becoming as physicians.

NICOLE PIEMONTE, PHD
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Phoenix)



“

We want our graduates to see business as an opportunity to be for and with others, and to seek justice, especially for the poor and marginalized.

MATT SEEVERS, PHD
Professor of Marketing



“

It only requires one short step toward this curiosity, and suddenly, the desire to grow in Ignatian spirituality and Ignatian leadership is fostered.

JENNIFER MOSS BREEN, PHD
Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies



“

I take St. Ignatius’ challenge to ‘go set the world on fire’ seriously, and as co-founder and CEO, one of my desires is to create other leaders. It is a leadership mandate, in my opinion, to lift others as we climb.

CHARLES THOMAS JR., MS'09, EDD'14
Creighton Alumnus

associate dean for undergraduate programs and a member of the task force.

“We want our graduates to see business as an opportunity to be for and with others, and to seek justice, especially for the poor and marginalized,” says Seevers. “And we want our students to see leadership in business as an opportunity not just for personal gain, but to be an instrument to positively transform society.”

Like Seevers, other Creighton faculty are eager to discuss the difference they see in Creighton students because of the emphasis on Ignatian leadership principles.

“Who our students are becoming as people matters just as much as who they are becoming as physicians,” says the medical school’s Piemonte. “We are committed to their character formation and virtue development so that our students can continue to grow into people who advocate for and care well for patients when they need it most.”

She says Creighton medical students are being prepared to be leaders who expect more from the health care system: “Leaders who believe that actions should be aligned with values and that patients should always be at the center of every decision.”

BRINGING SOMETHING MORE

It’s because Creighton seeks to impart Ignatian values in each student, including Ignatian-inspired leadership values, says Jennifer Moss Breen, PhD, an associate professor in leadership in the Graduate School, that Creighton graduates bring something more to their professions.

Moss Breen is an expert on leadership and has been tasked with leading the effort to gather data on Creighton’s commitment to leader development and leadership education for the public good. (See the story on Page 31 about Creighton being one of only 13 institutions invited to participate in a new Carnegie Foundation leadership classification pilot process.)

Moss Breen is also the author of the recently published book *Women Courageous: Leading Through the Labyrinth*, a collection of experiences of women worldwide leading in the political, academic, nonprofit public and private sectors. She says while students who choose Creighton are aware it is a Jesuit university, they are not upon arrival necessarily familiar with Ignatian-based ideas or pedagogy.

“Students who choose to attend a Jesuit institution such as Creighton may be familiar with the Jesuit mission, but it is just as likely the Ignatian tradition or Ignatian leadership are completely unfamiliar to them.

“Some students may be surprised with discussions that, on the surface, seem to not contribute to advancing in their chosen field. They might even present a sort of ‘push back’ when discussions of faith, St. Ignatius or spirituality are meshed with concrete knowledge and application of field-based topics,” she adds.

But when lessons are created and delivered in a manner akin to that of St. Ignatius, which asks faculty to adapt to the needs of students, she says students see Jesuit education in “a new light.”

Creighton students have many opportunities to engage with, and be curious about, leading in a manner like St. Ignatius. “It only requires one short step toward this curiosity, and suddenly, the desire to grow in Ignatian spirituality and Ignatian leadership is fostered,” says Moss Breen.

Students and graduates then bring this to life every day in their work. “They invest their lives in serving others, building communities and promoting social justice. And through their work, they can ‘set the world on fire’ indeed, as St. Ignatius encouraged his followers.”

CREATING OTHER LEADERS

One graduate who is thoroughly steeped in Ignatian leadership principles is Charles Thomas Jr., MS’09, EdD’14, who holds two degrees from Creighton — a master’s degree in negotiation and dispute resolution and a doctorate in interdisciplinary leadership.

Today, Thomas is CEO and co-founder of Clear Cloud, a cloud engineering company that offers specialized cloud services to intelligence community customers.

Thomas says that while he doesn’t wish to discount other leadership models, he finds Ignatian-based leadership training has served him well, largely because of “three salient components” that are pivotal in his desire, willingness and ability to lead:

Freedom from attachment. This Ignatian principle taught Thomas the importance of focusing on the process and not the outcome. “As long as I take the necessary steps to achieve

the desired goal, I can confidently look at myself and say that I did my best. The outcome is less important than the system/process.”

Magis, which is Latin for more. Says Thomas: “Ignatian-based leadership teaches us to learn more so that we can do more and be more for ourselves and others. If I do not put in mega effort to make myself better, how can I be of value to others? If I don’t take the necessary steps to reach my potential, how can I ask that of others?”

Cura personalis, which translates as care for the whole person. “We live in a world in which a deficit model seems to reign supreme,” says Thomas. “An individual could do 99 things right, one thing incorrectly, and we focus on the one negative. I prefer to consider the whole person. I know they are flawed vessels, traveling in unknown waters, just like I am. As such, I choose grace. I am neither superior nor inferior to anyone and lead accordingly. I ask for patience and flexibility from others and I do my very best to offer the same to them.”

Thomas says he doesn’t panic when he starts to move into uncharted territory. “My Creighton education taught me I don’t have to know all the answers right away. When I’m not sure what to do, I simply make the next right decision, and that is usually a small step in the desired direction. As long as I can do that, I can lead myself and others to our desired destination.”

As one of the leaders of Clear Cloud, he says his “entire focus is to lead well. Every day, when I engage a customer, current or potential teammate, or a teaming partner, I take that as an opportunity to offer value. I take St. Ignatius’ challenge to ‘go set the world on fire’ seriously, and as co-founder and CEO, one of my desires is to create other leaders. It is a leadership mandate, in my opinion, to lift others as we climb.”

He adds, “Leading is not about telling people what to do. It is about creating a vision, being thoughtful, leading by example, and pursuing excellence as a demonstration of human potential.”

SHAPED BY IGNATIAN PRINCIPLES

Faculty who impart Ignatian-based principles to their students find that they, too, are shaped by these same ideas. If they weren’t, they probably wouldn’t be nearly as effective.

Theology professor Kelly says teaching, for

him, is a way of serving God and others. “I do so in light of what the students need, not what I need. This may mean continually revising and changing how I teach theology, so that my students can grow and become the people they are supposed to become. I listen to them and often reflect on whether my teaching is meeting their spiritual and intellectual needs.”

Heider College of Business’ Seevers says Ignatian principles greatly influence all aspects of his work. “I believe my work is a calling. My roles as a teacher, advisor and mentor are an opportunity to reflect God’s love for me and to extend care and love to others.”

And Piemonte, in the School of Medicine, says Ignatian principles deeply affect both her teaching and her work as assistant dean for student affairs. “Promoting social justice is core to so much of my teaching, especially the importance of reflection, *cura personalis* and social justice.

“I love that Ignatian values allow us to be bold when it comes to caring for those who may be less fortunate, or less privileged. And in my role as assistant dean, I am guided by *cura personalis*, not only encouraging students to see patients as whole people, but for me to see, address and care for students as whole people.”

And for Creighton alumni who may have graduated without as much awareness of the leadership framework that is so prevalent today, the Graduate School’s Moss Breen has some advice.

“Applying Ignatian leadership into our daily lives is a lifelong practice, but there are some simple actions you can embrace that can inspire it within you,” she says.

“Creighton alumni likely were exposed during their time on campus to the Jesuit practice of daily reflection. Reflective practices, especially those related to transcendent values, are reinforced through Ignatian leadership.

“Reflective styles such as anticipatory (What do I expect to happen?), in-the-moment (What is going on right now that I can impact positively?) and retrospective (What happened and how could I have done things differently?), just to name a few, offer leaders insights into their own thinking and how they’d like to lead, particularly in an effort to promote justice and service to others.”



CREIGHTON PURSUING LEADERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Creighton has successfully completed a Carnegie Foundation pilot application process for a new Leadership for Public Purpose Elective Classification. Creighton was among just 13 universities, and the only Jesuit institution, invited to participate in the pilot process.

The new elective classification recognizing colleges and universities for leadership for “public purpose” refers to how well they prepare educated, engaged graduates who contribute to the public good in their careers, communities and broader society. The Carnegie project is a partnership with the Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice University.

The elective classification process requires rigorous self-study by universities in order to receive the Carnegie designation. Successfully achieving the Leadership for Public Purpose Classification would elevate Creighton to an even greater extent as a national leader in leadership education and development.

Jennifer Moss Breen, PhD, associate professor in the EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership program, is leading Creighton’s University-wide self-assessment in the year-long elective classification application process, with the full support of Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, and Provost Mardell Wilson, EdD.

“Everyone involved with the pilot process is grateful to Fr. Hendrickson and Provost Wilson for supporting this important initiative,” Moss Breen says. “Going forward now with the formal application and self-study helps Creighton fully define our deep commitment to developing leaders for the improvement of our world.”

Creighton alumna
discovers parents'
World War II love
letters

By Blake Ursch

An American Love Story



Jan. 28, 1945

A young sailor sits hunched in his quarters in San Francisco on a Sunday evening. He's due to ship out to the Pacific any day now. But right now, there's only one thing on his mind.

And, curiously enough, the radio in his room seems to know what it is.

*Oh Rose Marie, I love you
I'm always dreaming of you*

Ensign Cletus Joseph McCann, BS'41, JD'48, makes note of the song — the title track from the 1936 MGM musical *Rose Marie* — as he scribbles a letter in hasty cursive to his fiancée, Ensign Rosemary Mulligan, BS'41.

The two had gotten engaged just two weeks previously at Colonial Lake in Charleston, South Carolina, when Cletus paid a whirlwind visit to Rosemary at her duty station. Now, Cletus writes, he feels overwhelmed with all the things he wants to say that he can't seem to put on paper.

"Well," he writes, "we can make it up when this is all over, and we sit around on an evening telling the children sea stories, and (about) when we were in the Navy — and about Colonial Lake and the great event that took place on its shore."

The love letter is just one of 100 others that Cletus (who later went by his middle name, Joseph) wrote to Rosemary between December 1944 and October 1945. In meticulous detail, the letters document the young couple's relationship as they navigated an engagement and marriage during the waning months of World War II.

For any reader, the letters are an almost cinematic glimpse into the personal lives of two young Creighton alumni at a critical turning point in their lives, when their futures were still being shaped by historic world events. But for Maureen McCann Waldron, BA'75, MA'98, retired associate director in Creighton's Collaborative Ministry Office and the fourth of the couple's six children, they're even more precious.

"They're a chance to get to know my parents as young people," says Maureen, who, after discovering the letters in a drawer at her mother's assisted living facility after her father's death, had them copied and bound for her siblings. She has since sent the originals to the Center for American War Letters at Chapman University.



The collection consists of only one side of the correspondence: Cletus' letters to Rosemary. Maureen suspects that her father, stationed on several vessels during the Pacific Theater of the war, probably had to toss her mother's letters overboard in the interest of traveling light.

Still, she says, the letters have given her a vivid new perspective on who her parents, now both deceased, were.

"I knew my father as a typical '50s dad of six children," Maureen says. "But in these letters, he's so romantic, so optimistic, so hopeful about the future. In the letters, I can see the beginnings of the people they both grew to be."

Pre-War

CLETUS WAS BORN IN 1918 in Creston, Iowa. He graduated high school at the age of 16 and eventually enrolled at Creighton.

One night, while a student at Creighton, he went on a double date with another couple. The woman in the other couple was a fellow undergraduate, Rosemary Mulligan. And though the two would remember each other after this date, they went their separate ways.

Cletus graduated from Creighton in 1941 and, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 of that year, joined the U.S. Navy. Though he joined as an enlisted man, he was eventually accepted into an officer training program and attended classes at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Rosemary was born in Omaha in 1920 and grew up on 26th Street in the shadow of Creighton's campus. She attended St. John's grade school on campus and, after high school, eventually transferred to Creighton after a year studying at Rosary College in Illinois. She graduated from Creighton in 1941.

With her mother's encouragement, Rosemary joined the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program and shipped out to Boston for training.

One weekend in 1944, Cletus McCann attended a Catholic officers' dance in the basement of a church in Boston. As the story goes, Cletus, who stood over 6 feet tall, spied a tall redhead across the room.

"When I made my way over there," he later told his children, "standing next to her was little Rosemary Mulligan (5-foot-2)."

The two began talking and, in Maureen's words, "it was love at second sight."

Dec. 16, 1944 - Jan. 4, 1945

THE LETTERS BEGIN WITH CLETUS writing to Rosemary from the Naval Operating Base in Norfolk, Virginia. As he will in many other letters to come, he writes about the mundanities of military life: his living conditions ("The quarters themselves are of a war-time structure of small frame buildings, plainly furnished but clean") and his work schedule ("was plenty glad to hear that I don't start work until Monday morning. I can use the extra time to catch up on sleep ...").

Occasionally though, the sadness of the war they were fighting creeps in, such as when Cletus writes of meeting an old professor who "talked long and enthusiastically about the post-war prospects and this 'G.I. Bill of Rights,'" but also mentioned, "the number of names on the (Creighton) Gold Star list (those who died in service) was increasing rapidly the past few months."

In early January, Cletus begins writing of his plans to make a trip to Charleston to see Rosemary for the weekend.

Jan. 15, 1945 - Aug. 22, 1945

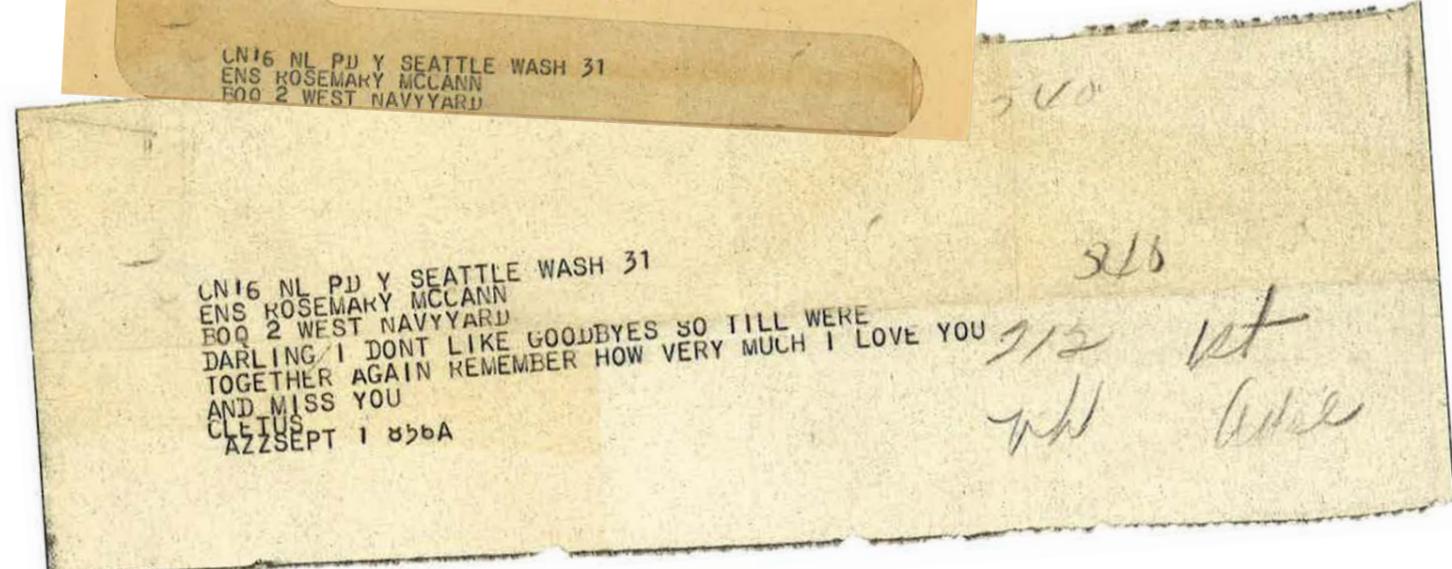
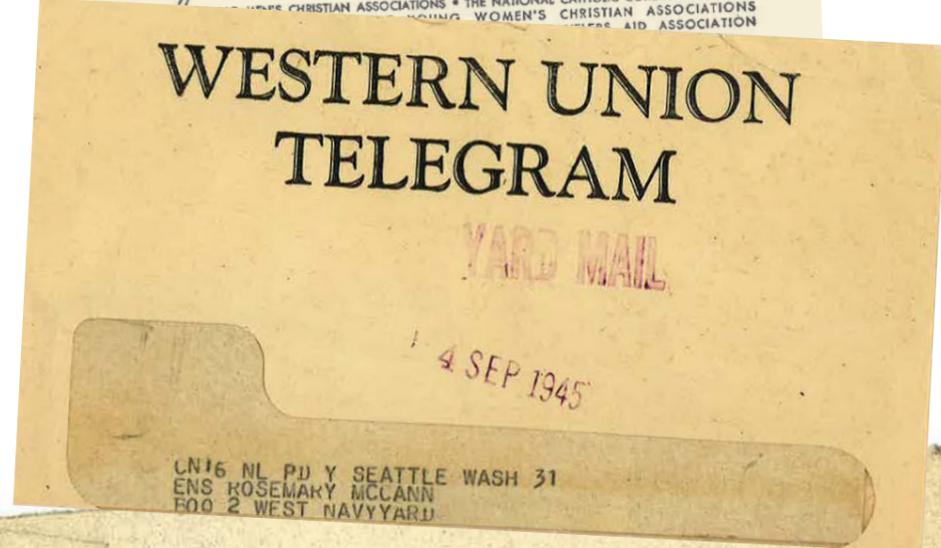
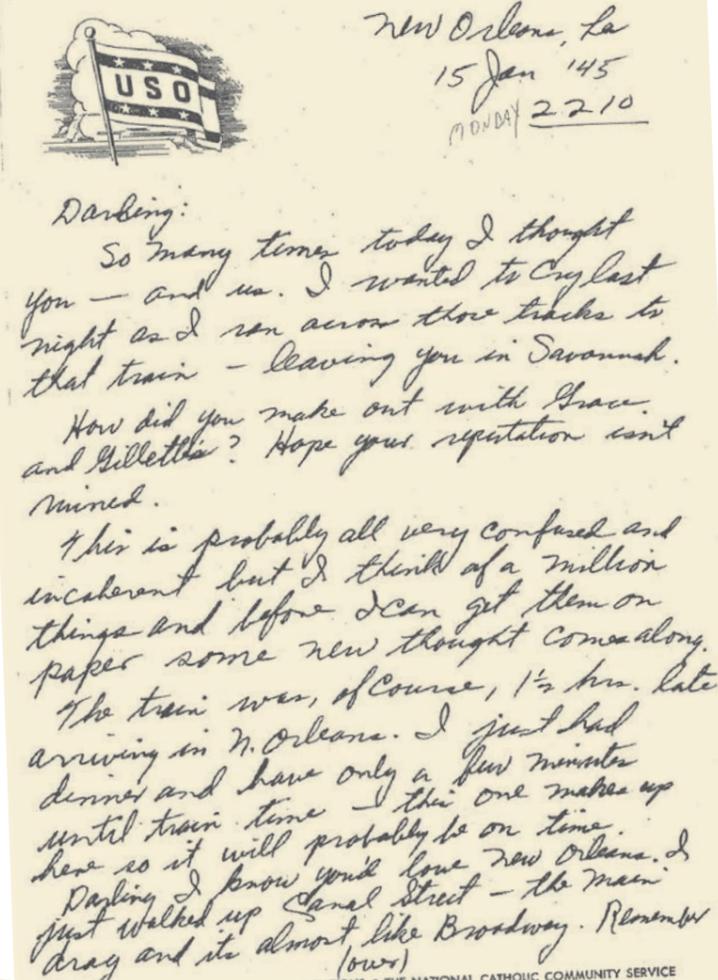
"DARLING," BEGINS CLETUS' LETTER of Monday, Jan. 15, 1945, "So many times today I thought (of) you — and us. I wanted to cry last night as I ran across those tracks to that train — leaving you in Savannah."

The two had become engaged that weekend in Charleston, and Cletus begins including magazine clippings of engagement ring ads and photos of sailors with their brides.

So begins the couple's complicated journey of maintaining a long-distance engagement ... during a world war. While stationed in San Francisco, awaiting deployment, Cletus writes of his challenges in getting Rosemary an engagement ring: "I'll try my very best, but darned if I'll (be) rushed into something I don't like to get the ring before I leave. If I don't have time, I'll get one in Pearl (Harbor) and send it — I'll still miss out on being there to slip it on that bare-looking third finger, left hand!"

As the weeks pass, Cletus grows frustrated that he's cooling his heels in California: "I'm a little bitter about the fact that the Navy would only permit me a couple of days in Charleston with you, but keeps me stuck here for a couple of weeks ... It's just a matter of living from hour to hour."

He writes of morning drills and the difficulties of making phone calls to each other. ("I wasn't going to call but just had



to tell you again that I love you and hear your voice just once more before I leave.")

In February, he addresses a letter to Miss Rosemary Mulligan. In his next letter, he makes a point of writing Ensign Rosemary Mulligan, underlined, leading Maureen to believe her mother chastised him for neglecting her own military title — the same one as his.

Cletus ships out to Hawaii and later to Guam, Saipan and the Philippines, often having to write vaguely about his duties and whereabouts to comply with wartime censorship requirements. The letters are personal, but occasionally Cletus mentions the war outside. ("Sounds like it's still rough going on Iwo Jima," he writes near the end of February.)

His nights are lonely without her, he writes, but he passes them socializing with his shipmates, and most often watching movies. In one poignant episode, he describes one of these movie nights for Rosemary:

"Like any movie in this part of the world, it was shown in an outdoor theater. As the moon came up out of the sea, a huge, yellow, tropical moon, the palm trees gently waving, etc. I could see why poets and songwriters were so enthusiastic about the Pacific islands."

Whenever he can, he types his letters to avoid what he calls his "school-boy scrawl." He asks for a picture of Rosemary so that he can say goodnight to it. He sends her pictures of himself and his shipmates. Always, he urges her to write and laments that he receives most of her letters in batches, often weeks late, due to mail delays.

"As long as you continue to do such a faithful job of writing, I know that the time will pass much more quickly and maybe the months won't seem too long until we can be together," he writes.

In April, he comments on the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt — "even the most bitter anti-Roosevelt men were sad to hear the news," he says, adding his own personal take: "I hate the thought of this man Truman being president." In May, the news of Germany's surrender to the Allies begins to spread: "Isn't it wonderful?" Cletus writes. "I suppose that it will be some months yet before most (of) the fellows will get back from over there."

"I knew my father as a typical '50s dad of six children. But in these letters, he's so romantic, so optimistic, so hopeful about the future. In the letters, I can see the beginnings of the people they both grew to be."

MAUREEN MCCANN WALDRON, BA'75, MA'98

One lonely day, Cletus writes that he briefly wished they had rushed the wedding through in South Carolina or Georgia, but then backpedals: "Of course it will be much nicer to have a real wedding at St. John's with all our friends and relatives there — don't you think so?"

By August, he will have his answer.

Aug. 22, 1945 - Oct. 25, 1945

ON AUG. 22, CLETUS ADDRESSES his first letter to Ensign Rosemary McCann. The two were married in Omaha at St. John's Church on Aug. 14.

Returning to duty in Seattle, Cletus writes that among the back slaps and congratulations, his friends ask him "How many points do you have?" referring to the Navy's accumulated point system used to discharge sailors as the war effort winds down. Because Cletus and Rosemary were married Aug. 14 — the day before an Aug. 15 deadline — he received an extra 10 points — enough to go home.

Over the next several weeks, through the surrender of Japan in September, Cletus' letters are filled with excitement for their lives together. As censorship relaxes, the letters become more tender, and Cletus begins signing them as "Smoke Eyes" and calling Rosemary "Mrs. Smoke Eyes." Their first vehicle together, he writes, will hopefully be "a car and not a small push-type buggy!"

The two would raise six children together, living up and down the East Coast and remaining married until Cletus' death in June 2002. Rosemary would follow in 2008. Funeral services for both were held at St. John's. Home at last.

In September 1945, 10 days after Japan officially signed documents of surrender aboard the *USS Missouri*, Cletus wrote to his new bride, taking a moment to pause and ponder the whirlwind of the previous year.

"Just think what an eventful year this has been," he writes, at once wistful and optimistic. "It started on 14 January and has been getting better all along. I think the years to come are going to be even better ... Those long and peaceful years ahead."

A new book by Creighton's president focuses on how Jesuit higher education can address the crisis of modern Western secularism

Restoring 'Fullness'

The following is adapted from *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age: A Response to Charles Taylor and the Crisis of Fullness* (Georgetown University Press, April 2022), a new book by the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, president of Creighton, which focuses on the loss of "fullness" in our lives and the distinction and relevance of Jesuit higher education today in educating students toward a better self-awareness, a stronger sense of global solidarity, and a greater aptitude for inspiration, awe, and gratitude.

I have long been inspired by Charles Taylor, PhD, a Canadian professor and Catholic philosopher whose renowned 2007 book, *A Secular Age*, challenged Western culture to rediscover the significance of genuine spiritual experience and thereby to better appreciate a sense of "fullness" in our lives, or a lack thereof. Taylor is the recipient of the Templeton Prize, the Kyoto Prize, the Kluge Prize, and the Berggruen Prize.

In this book, then, I discuss Taylor's diagnosis of the crisis of modern Western secularism by focusing on the loss of "fullness" in our lives — essential points of contact with our interior lives; communities of family, friends, and associates; and beyond us, a greater "ontic" reality.

Defining and applying Taylor's concept of fullness, I articulate how Jesuit higher education restores contact with ourselves, others, and an Other through three "pedagogies of fullness." These pedagogies of study, solidarity, and grace reflect the Renaissance origins of Jesuit education as they seek to restore for us a sense of wholeness. As such, Jesuit higher education facilitates ways to enjoy and envision meaningful connections, and a richer, broader sense of relationship. This Jesuit imaginary — if you will, a way of envisioning the world around us and our role in it — educates students toward a better self-awareness, a stronger sense of global solidarity, and a greater aptitude for inspiration, awe, gratitude, and God.

I begin with Taylor's diagnosis, expressed primarily through *A Secular Age*. He argues that the kind of secularism influencing our lives in North



© Fr. Hendrickson greets students at the fall 2021 Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. John's Church.

America and Western Europe is lessening, weakening, or diminishing essential "points of contact," and that an ultimate point of contact is with God, or a higher power, or what he refers to in the book as an "ontic" reality. As such, Taylor describes us as less "porous" — less able to feel the impact of others and the world upon us. Instead, we are "buffered," protecting ourselves from the power of our emotions, the needs of others, and even the call of God. Taylor speaks about a sense of "disenchantment," then, and hopes that we are once again more haunted by joy, beauty, disgust, injustice, equality, the Holy Spirit, and so on. That is, Taylor wants us to be enchanted by the realities beyond us.

Jesuit higher education, I propose, can make us porous. We can be reenchanted. Our way of educating facilitates a "Jesuit imaginary" — an envisioning of all the relational possibilities around us, and a greater appreciation of all the realities of our lives that are beyond our control.

In the book, I trace the origins of the fundamental values and ideals of Jesuit education from Greek antiquity through Rome's Cicero to Pier Paolo Vergerio, the first educational theorist of the Italian Renaissance whose *De Ingenius Moribus et Liberalibus Studiis, The Character and Studies Befitting a Free-born Youth (c.1403)*, represents a paradigm shift in Western teaching and learning that continues to inform educational practices.

For Vergerio, as with ancient Greeks and Romans, the upright life of the individual is an individual-in-community. Unlike the Scholastic interest in esoteric truths, a return to comprehensive approaches of educating, and really, to humanism, demonstrated a practical concern about daily life of the public, which for Vergerio necessitated an active and responsible execution of one's citizenship.

The earliest vision of Jesuit higher education augmented a humanistic movement that was in active rebirth when Ignatius of Loyola was completing his studies at the University of Paris, and becomes the heart and the soul of Jesuit education, both in its origins and in its impressive proliferation around the world. Ignatius and his companions did not invent humanism, but they deployed it in a new form through fresh tools and networks. They recognized the importance of their holistic

approach as a pedagogy and carried it to a new level. That is part of why Jesuit education expanded so quickly, and so internationally.

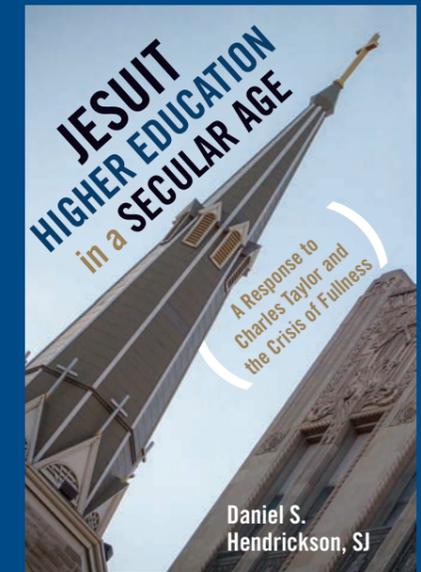
Jesuit education facilitates a broader, deeper awareness. Its commitment to the humanities, whereby we study ourselves and others; the practice of discernment, wherein we become both more self-aware and socially conscious; the work of community engagement and global study and immersion, allowing students to encounter others who look and live quite differently; and myriad programs, such as retreats, liturgies, genuine conversation, mentoring, and so much more let awe, gratitude, and wonder fill our lives.

Although current expressions of Jesuit higher education in the United States are vulnerable to current trends of fragmentation, superficiality, and instrumentality, recent gestures through the highest superiors of the Jesuit organization suggest a steadfast relationship with the humanist origins of Jesuit education and investments in addressing specific social ills regarding the rights and dignities of the underprivileged, the forces of socioeconomic poverty, and environmental and ecological devastation.

The pedagogies of fullness help to equip students of Jesuit higher learning with a common imaginary. Deeply and personally inquisitive, easily adaptive and widely relational, and open to the inexplicable is one way to frame the Jesuit imaginary. Holistic of self, justly related, and receptive of beauty is another way to regard it. So, too, are conceptions of being at home with oneself and with others, and of being hospitable to an Other (or a transcendent power).

Forming a learned imagination for students of Jesuit education — that is, a Jesuit imaginary — is my purpose in proposing these pedagogies of study, solidarity, and grace. A Jesuit imaginary is fueled by the distinctive tradition and pedagogy of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, and regards the self, society, and our world hopefully. In how the self is studied, how solidarity with alterity is ever possible, and how the world and we are graced, hope is prevalent in the pedagogies of fullness.

— BY THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD



Book Description

In *A Secular Age*, the philosopher Charles Taylor challenges us to appreciate the significance of genuine spiritual experience in human life, an occurrence he refers to as "fullness." Western societies, however, are becoming increasingly secular, and personal occasions of fullness are becoming less possible.

In *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age*, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, shows how Jesuit education can respond to the crisis of modernity by offering three pedagogies of fullness: study, solidarity, and grace. A pedagogy of study encourages students to explore their full range of thoughts and emotions to help amplify their self-awareness, while a pedagogy of solidarity helps them relate to the lives of others, including disparate cultural and socioeconomic realities. Together, these two pedagogies cultivate an openness in students that can help them achieve a pedagogy of grace, which validates their awareness of and receptivity to the extraordinary spiritual Other that impacts our lives.

Fr. Hendrickson demonstrates how this Jesuit imaginary — inspired by the Renaissance humanistic origins of Jesuit pedagogy — educates students toward a better self-awareness, a stronger sense of global solidarity, and a greater aptitude for inspiration, awe, and gratitude.

"In this timely book, Fr. Hendrickson provides a path to revitalize Jesuit higher education for our secular age," writes James K.A. Smith, professor of philosophy at Calvin University and author of *How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor*. "This book should catalyze a conversation across all sectors of higher education."

New Endowed Chair Continues Creighton Couple's Legacy

Nearly 50 years ago, Subhash Bhatia, MD, arrived at Omaha's Eppley Airfield with \$8 in his pocket and no place to stay for the night.

It might have been an unsettling experience were it not for the friendly man from Creighton waiting for him.

Beverly Mead, MD, chair of Creighton's psychiatry department at the time, drove Bhatia to a Ramada Inn, paid for his room and had a faculty member pick him up that following morning for work.

"Dr. Mead was so kind to us; being Hindu and from India, we probably feel like we were related to him in our previous life," says Shashi Bhatia, MD, Subhash's wife of 50 years.

The better part of a lifetime later, the Bhatias see that moment as the first in a long line of kindnesses they experienced at Creighton.

The Bhatias — professors emeriti and longtime leaders in the School of Medicine's psychiatry department — say that they established the Drs. Shashi and Subhash Bhatia, Bhatia Family Endowed Chair in the Department of Psychiatry to pay back that kindness. And to pay it forward.



Beverly Mead, MD

Rajesh Tampi, MD

"We have been so blessed, and it's not just about hard work," Subhash says. "It's about the people who have changed our lives. This gift is our way of showing our gratitude."

Shashi adds, "You can never forget the places and people who have gotten you where you are. Coming to Creighton was the best thing that ever happened to us."

In March, Rajesh Tampi, MD, was installed as the inaugural Bhatia Family Endowed Chair. Tampi comes to Creighton from the Cleveland Clinic, where he served as the chief of geriatric psychiatry and the chair of psychiatry at Cleveland Clinic Akron General.

"I take the Bhatias' love for Creighton very seriously," Tampi says. "They have done so much for patient care, for education and for mentorship at Creighton."

As the first holder of the endowed chair bearing the Bhatias' name, Tampi says, he carries forward the legacy of a couple who helped shape and shepherd Creighton's Department of Psychiatry for more than 40 years.

© Subhash Bhatia, MD, left, and Shashi Bhatia, MD, recently retired and were longtime faculty members in the School of Medicine.

Even Robert "Bo" Dunlay, MD'81, studied under Subhash, back when the School of Medicine dean was a Creighton medical student.

"This has always been a strong, innovative department with some of the top teachers in the medical school," Dunlay says. "But even in the history of this terrific department, the Bhatias stand out as exceptional human beings."

The Bhatias say they see their gift of the endowed chair as the culmination of their collective careers of service and education at Creighton.

"We both came to America with nothing but our education," Shashi says. "God gave us the opportunity to find a place where we can give this priceless gift of a Creighton education to so many, and it has been our great joy."

— BY MICAH MERTES



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.

62 Paul D. Determan, BA, San Diego, was recently cited by *The Spoof* for being one of its most prolific and best-loved satire and spoof news writers.

69 Douglas E. Garland, MD, Pismo Beach, California, recently published *The Tall Poppy Syndrome - The Joy of Cutting Others Down*.

71 James F. Fenlon, JD, Omaha, was recently honored by the Nebraska State Bar Association for being a member of the association for 50 years. Fenlon, who retired from practicing law in 2015, also completed his goal of walking at least 5 kilometers in all 50 states in the U.S. plus Washington, D.C. Additionally, for the last 12 years, Fenlon has submitted grant applications on behalf of Cornbelt Diabetes Connection, a public foundation based in Omaha that operates a 38-foot Winnebago RV in which nurses and student nurses administer free screenings for diabetes and related conditions to economically disadvantaged individuals.

75 Dr. Amy M. Haddad, BSN, Omaha, recently published her first poetry collection titled *An Otherwise Healthy Woman*. The poems in the book delve

into the complexity of modern health care, illness and healing, offering an alternative narrative to heroics and miracles. Haddad is professor emerita in Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and served as director for the Center for Health Policy and Ethics at Creighton from 2004 to 2018, where during her tenure she led the development of a fully online graduate program in health care ethics.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was ranked among the Top 10 of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for the fourth consecutive year. He has been among the overall Top 100 of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for more than 15 years. Monnat has practiced across Kansas and Nebraska for 45 years, focusing on high-profile criminal defense, white-collar defense, appellate defense and bet-the-company litigation. His cases have attracted international attention, including the defense of an innocent man wrongly accused of being the notorious BTK Killer. **Dennis E. Pockey, MD**, Petaluma, California, retired from medicine and was recently elected to the Petaluma City Council. He led the

charge to ban new gas stations in the city, banned installation of natural gas in new construction, won a \$1 million "Cool City" award for the city and is working to establish a universal base income for city residents.

77 Michael G. May, BA, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, has been named editor of the *Catholic Voice* online news site in Omaha. He has been with the organization since 2015. **Mark A. Weber, BA'74, JD**, Omaha, recently published *A Spectrum of Legacies, The Gifts You Leave for Your Children and Community*. Weber also celebrated his 10th year anniversary of facilitating the Omaha Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP) study group program he started for professional advisors. Clients of the 130 CAP graduates have committed more than \$9 billion to charity.

78 Susan M. Dunn, BSN, Denver, was selected as a 2021 recipient of the Baldrige Leadership Award in the nonprofit category. Dunn, the former president and CEO of Donor Alliance, retired in 2020 after a career that spanned more than three decades. During her tenure, Donor Alliance achieved top decile performance in key industry

metrics to further the mission of providing organs and tissue for transplantation. In 2018, Donor Alliance was named a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award winner.

80 The Hon. James P. O'Hara, JD, Overland Park, Kansas, retired in November after 22 years of active, full-time service. He retired as chief magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. He continues to serve the court part time as a recalled (senior) judge.

82 Nancy White McCaig, JD, Salisbury, Maryland, retired in January from her career as a legal services attorney and most recent position as chief attorney of the Eastern Shore offices of Maryland Legal Aid.

83 The Hon. Mark A. Moreno, JD, Pierre, South Dakota, was appointed a full-time U.S. magistrate judge for the District of South Dakota in May 2021. Before his appointment, Moreno served the district as a part-time magistrate judge for 28 years and practiced law in a Pierre law firm for 35 years, specializing in mediation. As a judge, Moreno handles cases from six of the district's nine Indian reservations.

84 Donald J. Higgins, BSBA, Bartonville, Illinois, released his novel *But Who Will Save the Children*, a suspense/action thriller. **Carrie Martin Moyer, BSN,** Chicago, gave a virtual presentation at the Association of Vascular Access (AVA). Her presentation “Wait, What? There are complications I need to know when placing PICCs in ECMO patients” was co-presented with Gregory Schears, MD, from the Mayo Clinic.

91 The Hon. Stephanie A. Charter, JD, Las Vegas, was elected to the 8th Judicial District Court, Department Y, in Clark County, Nevada, in November 2020. She is assigned to hear child abuse and neglect cases.

92 Regena M. Frieden, BA, Portland, Oregon, joined Providence Health Plan as chief of staff, serving as a key communications strategist and advisor to the CEO.

93 Gerald L. Zimmerman Jr., JD, Aurora, Illinois, was named senior vice president and deputy general counsel for the Allstate Corporation. In this role, he leads a team that counsels the

corporation on government affairs and public policy at the state and federal levels.

95 Shun Lee Fong, BA, Valley Village, California, is celebrating 15 years of the Greenhouse Arts & Media, the Los Angeles-based community of creative artists and professionals that maximizes the potential and productivity of individuals engaged in the creative arts. He is president and creative director of the long-standing organization that equips members through relationships, mentoring, group discussions and artistic projects. The organization’s journal, *The Greenhouse Journal*, has featured writings by Eileen Wirth, PhD (professor emeritus of journalism at Creighton) and Brent Spencer, PhD (director of the Creative Writing Program at Creighton).

96 Mark A. Babbitt, DDS, Camarillo, California, has launched a website featuring his photography at *MarkBabbittPhotography.com*. **Denise Lani Pascual, BS,** Greenwood, Indiana, was recently featured in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis newspaper, *The Criterion*. The article discusses

her passion for helping others through baking. She is currently an adjunct professor at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indiana University Kokomo and Butler University.

02 James M. Pakiz, BSEvS’99, JD, Omaha, was the recipient of the George Wolfe Koonce award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in November 2021. Pakiz is the Omaha District’s deputy district counsel.

03 Sara E. Zabrowski-Gates, BS, Fremont, Nebraska, received her education specialist degree and her Doctorate of Education from Doane University. Her dissertation was titled “Leading Ladies: Why Credentialed Women Aren’t Cast in Leadership Roles.”

05 Erin L. Johnson, BA, Hertfordshire, England, recently signed a four-book deal for a historical mystery series. The first book in the series, *The Strangled Servant*, was released in January. The second book, *The Poisoned Clergyman*, will be released in June. Johnson writes under the name E.L. Johnson.

Dr. Jeanne P. Tiehen, BFA, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, published the book *The Theatre of Nuclear Science: Weapons, Power, and the Scientists Behind It All* in November 2021 as part of her research on science plays. Tiehen is assistant professor in the Department of Theatre at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove.

07 Michael J. Sullivan, BSAtS, Ames, Iowa, was appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds to the Human Rights Board for the state of Iowa. The board is made up of public members, legislators and representatives from each of the Department of Human Rights (DHR) commissions. The DHR board’s responsibilities include developing and monitoring a strategic plan, approving the budget recommended by the director, adopting administrative rules, and approving an annual report to the governor and general assembly.

11 Esther H. Lee, JD, Denver, has joined the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity’s 2022 Class of Pathfinders. The Leadership Council on Legal Diversity serves diverse attorneys throughout their

ALUMNI PROFILE

Creighton Law Grad Assigned Leading Role at Mayo Clinic

Twenty-four years after graduating from the Creighton School of Law, **CHRISTINA ZORN, JD’98**, will guide a 73,000-employee health care team at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic.

On Dec. 1, 2021, Zorn became chief administrative officer of Mayo Clinic, the country’s top hospital for the past six years as ranked in *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Hospitals guide.

In her new role, Zorn partners with Mayo Clinic President and CEO Gianrico Farrugia, MD, to oversee clinical practice, research and education, as well as the proper functioning of shared services, including development, enterprise risk management, facilities, finance, human resources, information technology, planning services, public affairs and security.

It’s a significant responsibility, Zorn says, but also one she approaches with confidence because of the strength of her team.

“Mayo Clinic hires only the best of the best,” she says. “We have highly talented teams. We seek talent who demonstrate drive, passion and diversity of thought. More so, we prioritize a commitment to values-based service not only to our patients but to each other and our communities.”

The key to her personal success, Zorn says, has been curiosity, courage and a willingness to volunteer for the most challenging projects, characteristics she says were nurtured during her years at Creighton.

“There’s immense value in being curious,” Zorn says. “We should all seek out different passions, expand our interests into different areas, and never stop exploring and learning. Creighton always stimulated and rewarded critical and creative thinking.

“Creighton allowed students to chart their own courses throughout their academic



careers,” she continues. “There were so many electives, not to mention the third-year self-study, where I really designed my own research project and curriculum, and where I was able to focus on what interested me. At Mayo Clinic, that kind of innovation is critical to our success.”

In her role as CAO, Zorn is responsible for the financial success of Mayo Clinic and its operations in Minnesota, Florida, Arizona, Wisconsin and Iowa, as well as internationally. While the budget is remarkable, Zorn says it reflects a purpose.

“Mayo Clinic inspires hope and promotes health through integrated clinical practice, education and research,” she says. “We are transforming medicine to connect and cure as the global authority in the care of serious or complex disease.”

For example, Mayo Clinic has been a trusted leader during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayo staff have treated nearly 160,000 COVID-19 patients, administered more than half a million vaccines and provided more than 21,000 monoclonal antibody infusions to date. The way Mayo Clinic cares for its patients is a source of pride for Zorn — as is Mayo’s vision for the future of health care.

The current health care system costs too much, she says, poses obstacles to access and is underperforming from a quality perspective as evidenced by COVID-19 mortality rates in some communities that compare unfavorably even with developing nations. The Mayo strategy for the future focuses on curing, not just alleviating, chronic illness; connecting people and data to make health care more intuitive and convenient; and transforming health care by harnessing the power of the digital revolution to give everyone better access to data and treatment.

“There’s never been a greater need for change in health care,” Zorn says. “And we’ve never been in a better position to drive it forward. I’m confident that over the next few years, we’ll see major progress.”

Zorn joined Mayo Clinic in 2002 as legal counsel. In 2009, she was named chair of the Florida division of Mayo Clinic’s legal department and served as chief administrative officer of Mayo Clinic in Florida for six years before taking her current role.

Prior to joining Mayo, Zorn practiced with the Milwaukee law firm Foley & Lardner LLP, with a focus on health care and transactional law. — **BY EUGENE CURTIN**

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Mindy Simon, MBA’16
Master of Business
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Charles Thomas Jr., MS’09, EdD’14
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legal careers. Lee is an attorney at Fox Rothschild LLP in the Denver office. **Brittany Mascio, BA**, Omaha/Los Angeles, most recently held the position of director of impact and marketing for award-winning Just Jump Films. Her work included the successful I Love Public Schools campaign and resulting I Love Public Schools Day, recognized nationally and celebrated annually by nearly 3 million people. She currently is a consulting creative producer piloting BrightFocus Foundation's new series on Alzheimer's, *Brain Info Live*, and developing a podcast for the Partnership for the Future of Learning. She also has had a Netflix and Hot Doc pitch for a short film advance in a "It's Funny Because It's True" documentary competition. **Matthew A. McCalip, JD**, Frisco, Texas, was promoted to partner at the law firm Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. Resident in the firm's Dallas office, McCalip is a member of the firm's corporate practice group and the mergers and acquisitions and health care teams.

12 Alexander D. Boyd, BSBA'09, JD, Platte City, Missouri, was elected to shareholder at the Polsinelli law firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Boyd is a member of the firm's technology transactions and data privacy practice group. **Ryan M. Jolicoeur, MSAPM**, Aurora, Colorado, is the director of data science governance at Charles Schwab in Lone Tree, Colorado, specializing in building out policies and procedures supporting artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities for the model risk oversight organization.

13 Angeline C. Larson, MBA, Omaha, recently became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation's leading professional society for health care leaders. Larson is the director of strategic business and operations at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha.

15 Jessica Brickey Duncan, BS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, was the recipient of several professional awards from Angels Care Home Health in Council Bluffs where she is a certified dementia practitioner

and account executive. Awards included: Account Executive of the Quarter for the third and fourth quarters of 2021; Account Executive of the Year 2021; and 2021 Platinum Producer. Angels Care Home Health is managed by AngMar Medical Holdings, Inc., in Mansfield, Texas.

17 Quinn R. Eaton, JD, Omaha, received a 2021 Pro Bono Leader Award from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. Eaton is an attorney at Jackson Lewis PC in Omaha. **Behnaz Sarrami, PharmD**, Wildwood, Missouri, director of consulting at Missouri Pharmacogenics Consulting, has received grant funding to help older adults with their medications who live in poor ZIP codes of her community. Sarrami also is a host to the PGx for Pharmacist Podcast, which is among the top 20 genomics podcasts in the nation.

20 Claire E. Johnson, BS, St. Paul, Minnesota, is a program manager at the National Kidney Foundation serving Minnesota and also is a kidney transplant patient. In 2021, Johnson worked with David Power, MD, to provide Continuing Medical Education to primary care providers throughout the country through a 12-part series. Power, who received his MD in Dublin, Ireland, and began his U.S. medical career at Creighton, is a primary care physician in Minnesota and has spent most of his career helping other primary care physicians address the growing problem of chronic kidney disease.

21 Arlene M. DeMar, MA, Blue Point, New York, recently published *The Coordinates of Time, Treasure, and Truth*. The book tells a beautiful story about love/relationship with God, self and others. DeMar is a certified spiritual director, trained in the Ignatian tradition. **Sarah K. Mielke, JD**, Denver, joined the law firm Woods Aitken LLP as an associate attorney in the Denver office as part of the litigation team, and works with clients in the construction law and commercial litigation practice areas.

ALUMNI PROFILE

'God's Opened These Doors for Me'

One Saturday in February, **WILLIE MILLER, BSN'21**, walked to his car, shut the door and let himself feel an impossibly complicated mix of emotion.

Anxiety. Relief. Resignation. Hope.

Miller, a former fullback with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cornhuskers who played on the 1997 national championship team, had just finished taking the required exam to become a licensed nurse in the United States. Years of struggle and study came down to this.

"I just thought, 'Whatever happens, God's opened these doors for me. Even if my result isn't the best today, next time it will be,'" Miller says.

It's an attitude that has seen Miller, who last year graduated from the College of Nursing's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, through his share of challenges over the years. He left UNL with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and severe back pain that led to a prescription for opioid painkillers — the beginning of a decades-long addiction.

After college, he landed a job in pharmaceutical sales — an industry that he soured on after a few years. Unhappy in his profession and battling addiction, Miller says his life slowly spun out of control. His weight ballooned up to about 400 pounds. Eventually, he experienced legal troubles that worsened the situation.

"I basically crashed and burned," he says. "I lost the house, the car, the job, everything. So, during that time, I went and lived at the Salvation Army for two years. I just didn't know what was going on with me mentally."

In 2017, thanks to a university program benefiting former Nebraska athletes, Miller received corrective surgery to alleviate his back pain. But, now without his prescription for painkillers, he turned to alcohol.

One day, in 2018, he drank himself into a coma.

"I had a bright-light experience," he says. "This light picked me up, told me that it loved me, and said, 'You're going to get this one last go-around, but this is your last one.' And that's when I knew I needed help."

He received treatment at a recovery program in Utah. With his addictions under control, he thought about his next steps and knew right away that he wanted to be a nurse. His mom had been one. But beyond that, he says, he figured he could bring a unique perspective to his patients.

"I know what it's like to be a patient, to be scared in that hospital room and not know what's going on," Miller says. "I wanted to make sure that, no matter who the patient was, I could go into their room and meet them where they're at and reassure them that they're being taken care of by someone with compassion and empathy and expertise."

As he puts it now, "God put Creighton in my head." He spoke with an admissions counselor and was forthcoming about his story. He took the prerequisite science classes at Metropolitan Community College (receiving straight A's) and began the 12-month program

in January 2021. He graduated in December.

"Many times, I questioned myself and wondered if I belonged in that room," Miller says. "It's an arduous program in every way, shape and form. But I worked my butt off and did the best that I could, and I'm pretty proud of how I did."

After a few restless days, Miller found out that he passed his licensing exam. Weeks later, he started a new job as a cardiovascular operating room nurse with Methodist Health System.

While at Creighton, Miller says he received positive feedback from his clinical instructors naming his ability to relate to patients as one of his strengths.

"That's a tribute to how we're taught at Creighton. It boils down to those Ignatian values," he says. "Having had my own personal journey, I can relate to those so strongly. I know what it's like to make six figures. I know what it's like to be homeless. So, for me, it doesn't matter what the patient looks like, I'm going to give loving care to every single one. Because that's what I'm called to do as a nurse." — **BY BLAKE URSCH**



DAVE WEAVER



TODD SINGOVER

Photo top: Willie Miller, BSN'21, visits with a vaccine recipient at the Creighton COVID-19 community vaccine clinic in March 2021.

Photo bottom: Miller receives his Creighton diploma from College of Nursing Dean Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, at the nursing pinning and hooding ceremony in December 2021.



Globally Prepared

For one group of Creighton University undergraduate student-scholars, the bricked walkways, multiple dining opportunities and modern buildings that enliven Creighton's Omaha campus are a portal to global adventure.

These are the Global Scholars, members of a program inaugurated four years ago by Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD. Born of Fr. Hendrickson's Creighton Global Initiative, which offers students, faculty and staff opportunities to embrace global perspectives, the program is celebrating its first graduating class of 16 Global Scholars in May.

"This marks a significant achievement for these students and a milestone for Creighton University," Fr. Hendrickson says. "Our Global Scholars go beyond their comfort zones to embrace both the beautiful and harsh realities of the world in order to become more globally conversant, critically engaged, and open-hearted global citizens."

Grace Hilbert, a biology major, says her Global Scholars experience in the remote mountain community of Venú in the Dominican Republic confirmed her decision to attend medical school after graduation.

"That experience shaped my understanding of the privilege of access to health care and the implications of a lack thereof for persons and communities," she says.

© Grace Hilbert is graduating in May as part of Creighton's inaugural Global Scholars cohort. Here, she feeds a kangaroo in Australia.

WEDDING

15 **Mary Kate Hawes, BSN**, and **Carson Shaefer**, Oct. 9, 2021, living in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

BIRTHS

03 **Zachary Stanko, BA**, and **Rachel Buttner Stanko, BA**, Bennington, Nebraska, a daughter, **Sadie Maeve**, Aug. 6, 2021.

05 **Michael F. Walsh, BSBA**, and **Annelise Shepherd**, Denver, a son, **Owen Shepherd Walsh**, June 26, 2021.

13 **Dane Pauley** and **Abby L. Pauley, OTD**, Omaha, a daughter, **Alexis Mae**, July 29, 2021.

19 **Sefik Becirovic, DDS**, and **Nermina Becirovic, BSBA'14**, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a son, **Isak**, Dec. 5, 2021.

DEATHS

40 **Lt. Col. Margaret L. Bischof, SJN**, Raytown, Missouri, Aug. 14, 2021.

43 **Ezio E. Grossi, BS'42, DDS**, Flossmoor, Illinois, Nov. 14, 2021.

46 **Kathryn Erdman McLeod, SJN**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Nov. 24, 2021.

47 **Patricia O'Connell Laughlin, SCN**, Omaha, Oct. 5, 2021. **Ione Mae Stewart, BSChM**, Omaha, Nov. 30, 2021.

48 **Mary McDonald Safrank, SCN**, Omaha, Dec. 13, 2021.

49 **Rita Homan Huelskamp, Pharm**, Omaha, Feb. 18, 2022. **Elizabeth McVanev Sheehy, SCN**, San Rafael, California, Nov. 16, 2021. **Richard J. Ternes, BS**, Columbus, Nebraska, Dec. 26, 2021.

50 **Dorothy Waters Higgins, BUSADM**, Omaha, March 12, 2022.

51 **Fred J. Araas Jr., MD**, Sheridan, Wyoming, Jan. 7, 2022. **Gerald T. Ronan, BS**, Torrance, California, Dec. 9, 2021. **Patrick O. Shaeffer, BS**, Indianapolis, Aug. 7, 2021.

52 **Edward L. Brown, DDS**, Aberdeen, South Dakota, Jan. 1, 2022. **The Hon. Robert V. Burkhard, JD**, Omaha, Dec. 11, 2021. **Mary Eileen Gouger McManus, SJN**,

Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 15, 2021. **Patricia Thompson Meyers, SJN**, Fort Worth, Texas, Aug. 29, 2021. **John W. Ord, MD**, San Antonio, Sept. 15, 2021. **Charles C. Reuland, ARTS**, Rock Hill, South Carolina, Jan. 4, 2022.

53 **Sr. Catherine Durr, CSJ, BSMT**, St. Louis, May 22, 2021. **Howard J. Hughes, ARTS**, Columbus, Nebraska, Dec. 20, 2021. **Sr. M. Jessica Slack, OP, BS**, Hazel Green, Wisconsin, Sept. 30, 2021.

54 **Charles W. Brau, PHARM**, Omaha, Nov. 25, 2021. **Shirley Maloney Hanna, SCN**, Omaha, March 14, 2022. **Bernice Waters Heider, ARTS**, Papillion, Nebraska, April 10, 2021. **John F. Hughes, BS**, Cherokee, Iowa, Nov. 14, 2021. **Gerald D. McEllistrem, MD**, St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 2, 2022. **John A. Tobin, MD**, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 7, 2022.

55 **Patrick L. Forristal, BUSADM**, Holstein, Iowa, March 10, 2022. **Manny R. Goldberg, BSPha**, Boca Raton, Florida, Jan. 27, 2022. **Dr. Donald P. Kohns, BS**, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, Dec. 12, 2021. **Hugh J. Manhart, BS**, Omaha, Oct. 2, 2021.

56 **Jo Anne Reed Archibald, SCN**, Omaha, Nov. 21, 2021. **James J. Ashen, DDS**, Sacramento, California, Aug. 18, 2021. **William A. Corso, BS'52, DDS**, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Feb. 19, 2022. **Clinton B. Dorwart, BSPha**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sept. 28, 2021. **Peter F. Frenzer, BS**, Powell, Ohio, July 22, 2021. **Carleen R. Hess, BS**, Imperial Beach, California, Aug. 18, 2021. **Ronald W. Olnhausen, MD**, Omaha, March 3, 2022. **Victor D. Wortman, BS**, Santa Monica, California, Jan. 13, 2022.

57 **Daniel E. Clifford, DDS**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, July 10, 2021. **John R. Dunn, Pharm**, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, May 15, 2021. **John F. Marley, DDS**, Glenwood, Iowa, Dec. 30, 2021.

58 **Lester L. Carter Jr., BSPha**, Milwaukee, Jan. 31, 2022. **Keith E. Kappenman, DDS**, Madison, South Dakota, Jan. 30, 2022. **Frank A. Perrone, BSBA**, Omaha, Nov. 30, 2021. **Margaret Ann Bock Pierson, SCN**, Omaha, Nov. 23, 2021. **William M. Silverstrand, BS**, McPherson, Kansas, Dec. 2, 2021. **Michael R. Torre, DDS**, Palm Coast,



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Florida, Sept. 26, 2021. **William L. Wardle, DDS**, Tucson, Arizona, Dec. 12, 2021.

59 **Rosemary Suiter Anderson, BS**, McLean, Virginia, Dec. 6, 2021. **James F. DiLeo, BA**, Philadelphia, Nov. 3, 2021. **William J. Hotovec, BSBA**, Johnston, Iowa, March 27, 2021. **Mary O'Connor Murray, SJN'58, BSN**, Sioux City, Iowa, Oct. 9, 2021. **William J. Pazderka, BSPha**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Oct. 25, 2021. **E. Michael Reilly, ARTS**, Lawrence, Kansas, Dec. 23, 2021.

60 **Patricia Shannon Barnett, SJN'57, BSN**, Denver, Oct. 11, 2021. **Joseph C. Byrne, JD**, Brookfield, Illinois, Oct. 1, 2021. **Lawrence R. Huber, DDS**, Davenport, Iowa, Oct. 18, 2021. **J. Terence Sullivan, DDS**, Bellevue, Nebraska, Sept. 29, 2021. **Thomas E. Walsh, BSBA**, Omaha, Nov. 26, 2021. **Virgil J. Wiesner, BA**, Dallas, Nov. 13, 2021.

61 **Joseph R. Cali, MD**, Mattituck, New York, Dec. 8, 2021. **Samuel J. Watson, ARTS**, Omaha,

Jan. 21, 2022. **Rev. John A. Zastrow, MSEDu**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 2, 2022.

62 **William A. Begley, BUSADM**, Omaha, Nov. 19, 2021. **Robert L. Bray, BSBA'60, JD**, Lenexa, Kansas, Oct. 1, 2021. **Anna Mary Lyons Delaney, BS**, Minneapolis, Dec. 12, 2021. **John G. Manesis, MD**, Fargo, North Dakota, Oct. 20, 2021. **Patricia O'Brien Phalen, BA**, Omaha, Jan. 31, 2022. **David P. Schlautman, BSBA**, Omaha, Nov. 25, 2021. **George W. Venteicher II, JD**, Omaha, March 4, 2022.

63 **Joseph K. Meusey, ARTS**, Omaha, Nov. 15, 2021. **James J. Rakowski, BA**, Bremen, Indiana, Jan. 23, 2022. **Mary Duffy Reemts, SJN**, Omaha, Jan. 8, 2022. **Delbert L. Sempek, BSBA**, Omaha, Jan. 27, 2022.

64 **Paul Bartek, BS**, Orange, California, Nov. 7, 2021. **Daniel W. Hughes, BS**, San Diego, March 20, 2021. **Edward A. Hutchinson III, MD**, Dennis, Massachusetts, Dec. 21, 2021. **William R. Kochis, JD**, Washington, D.C., Oct. 4, 2021.

Dr. Gerard A. Matthys, BA, Prairie Village, Kansas, Feb. 2, 2022. **Thomas McGarvey, DDS**, Laramie, Wyoming, May 17, 2020.

65 **Richard A. Riederer, ARTS**, Omaha, Jan. 10, 2022. **James V. Scutero, MD**, Portsmouth, Virginia, Jan. 28, 2021.

66 **Dion D. Campisi, DDS**, San Jose, California, Dec. 20, 2021. **Joseph T. Comerford, BSPha**, Omaha, Dec. 31, 2021. **Michael G. Kealey, BSBA**, Sunnyvale, California, Nov. 3, 2021. **Louis W. Mitera, BA**, Edina, Minnesota, Nov. 22, 2021. **Joanne Strehle Rice, SJN**, Fremont, Nebraska, Nov. 27, 2021. **Gary L. Ritchie, MD**, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, Oct. 22, 2021. **Wilma Dugan Smith, BA**, New York, Oct. 14, 2021.

67 **Donald L. Anderson, BSPha**, Wichita, Kansas, Jan. 11, 2022. **Daniel F. Carney, BA**, Fort Dodge, Iowa, Nov. 16, 2021. **Jim T. Leary, BA**, Omaha, Oct. 13, 2021. **Alan J. Mackiewicz, BA'65, JD**, Omaha, Nov. 1, 2021. **James E. McShane, JD**, Edison,

New Jersey, Sept. 21, 2021. **Rev. James R. Smith, MSEDu**, Spirit Lake, Iowa, Jan. 3, 2022.

68 **Louis Giblin, BA'66, MBA**, Oak Creek, Wisconsin, June 10, 2020. **Margaret Carstensen Hughes, BSN**, Spokane, Washington, Jan. 12, 2022. **Nicholas K. Johnson, BSBA**, La Vista, Nebraska, Jan. 29, 2022.

69 **Margaret Stutesman Campagna, SJN**, Brea, California, Oct. 30, 2021. **Robert D. Kinniburgh, DDS**, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, Dec. 21, 2021. **Sharon Wickert Massara, BS**, Austin, Texas, Nov. 6, 2021. **Mary Bierman Miller, ARTS**, Omaha, Feb. 25, 2022. **Gerald A. Mornin, BS**, Omaha, Oct. 25, 2021. **Candace Christensen Werve, ARTS**, Laguna Niguel, California, Feb. 25, 2022.

70 **Robert M. Hughes, DDS**, Spokane, Washington, Jan. 27, 2022. **Juanita Hanger Johnson, MSGuid**, Omaha, Dec. 4, 2021. **Michael T. Massara, BS**, Austin, Texas, March 10, 2022.

71 Thomas M. O'Doriso, MD, Ostrander, Ohio, Feb. 2, 2022. **William S. Poppleton, JD,** Omaha, Dec. 8, 2021. **Sr. Jo Ellen Sumpter, MS,** Atherton, California, Nov. 16, 2021. **William A. Sweigard, BSBA,** Omaha, Feb. 23, 2022. **James T. Worley, BSBA,** Woodridge, Illinois, Jan. 2, 2022.

72 Sylvia Landreth Evers, BSSoc, Lewiston, Idaho, April 25, 2020. **Kenneth P. Shreves, ARTS,** Plattsmouth, Nebraska, Oct. 5, 2021. **Evelyn Hade Whitehill, MA,** Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nov. 3, 2021.

73 Robert G. Mahlin, JD, Dallas, Oct. 9, 2021. **Mark O. McDermott, BA,** Omaha, Oct. 8, 2021. **Kathleen R. Moran, MA,** Omaha, Oct. 11, 2021.

74 Kenneth V. Carpenter, MD, Columbia Falls, Montana, March 7, 2022. **Rev. Francis W. Lordemann, MSGuid,** Boys Town, Nebraska, Oct. 22, 2021. **David L. Putnam, BSPha,** Council Bluffs, Iowa, Jan. 21, 2022.

76 Paul G. Cleary, JD, Buffalo, New York, May 5, 2020.

John P. Grant, JD, Omaha, Oct. 3, 2021. **Robert R. Jacobshagen, DDS,** Canon City, Colorado, Oct. 26, 2021. **Nancy Ricceri Major, BSMth,** Englewood, Colorado, Feb. 19, 2022. **Milton A. Munson, BSPha,** Omaha, Nov. 16, 2021. **Sally Wilson Patten, BSBA,** Omaha, Feb. 5, 2022.

77 Barbara A. Flynn, MChrSp, Marlborough, Massachusetts, Dec. 13, 2021. **Janet Bauman Klein, MA,** Omaha, Dec. 22, 2021. **John P. Krejci, BA,** Omaha, Aug. 11, 2021. **Cardellia Baggett Vaughn, BS,** Kansas City, Missouri, Aug. 18, 2021. **Ann Wiegman Wilhite, MA,** Fremont, Nebraska, Oct. 23, 2021.

78 John C. Kinney, JD, Independence, Missouri, Sept. 11, 2021.

79 Robert F. Vacek, JD, Omaha, Sept. 29, 2021.

80 Charles M. Meyer, JD, Stanton, Nebraska, Oct. 1, 2021. **Jack J. White, JD,** Missouri Valley, Iowa, March 13, 2022.

Edward R. Zech, MD, Potomac, Maryland, Nov. 15, 2021.

81 David J. Earle, JD, Los Angeles, Dec. 11, 2021. **Paul H. Garner,**

BSPha, Hampton, Illinois, Feb. 8, 2022. **Michael J. Ulch, BA'76, MS,** Downers Grove, Illinois, Jan. 1, 2022. **Susan M. Vander Haar, BSBA,** St. Louis, Oct. 20, 2021.

82 Gregg J. Coffman, BSBA'80, JD, Estes Park, Colorado, Nov. 3, 2021.

83 Sr. Marie J. Dorado, OSB, MChrSp, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Oct. 22, 2021. **Thomas J. Monteith, BSBA'76, MBA, JD,** Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 26, 2022. **Rev. Patrick J. O'Kane, MS,** Onawa, Iowa, Jan. 2, 2022. **Janet R. Perryman-Butler, BSMT,** Laurel, Maryland, March 7, 2022.

84 H.J. Cummins Anderson, MA, Minneapolis, Nov. 13, 2021. **Chris A. Salberg, MS,** Springfield, Nebraska, Oct. 15, 2021.

85 Margaret E. Carnazzo, BA, Omaha, Dec. 12, 2021.

86 Richard C. Giblin III, MPA, Omaha, Dec. 29, 2021.

88 Timothy L. Lukavsky, BA'80, DDS, Mesa, Arizona, Dec. 24, 2021. **William R. Manning, BS'71, BSPha,** Omaha, Jan. 27, 2022.

Martin P. Robinson, BA, Gretna, Nebraska, Nov. 9, 2021.

89 John J. Ferry, MD'64, MBA, Omaha, Jan. 15, 2022. **Charles H. Lemon, MD,** Provo, Utah, Oct. 20, 2021. **Gina Zaner Semin, BSN,** Omaha, Sept. 30, 2021.

90 Rev. Leo J. McKernan, MChrSp, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Jan. 23, 2022.

91 John F. McIntyre, BSBA, Omaha, Nov. 25, 2021.

94 Bro. Michael R. Wilmot, SJ, MS'91, MS, Omaha, Feb. 24, 2022.

95 Kimera A. Bartee, BUSADM, Buford, Georgia, Dec. 20, 2021. **Deborah L. Tekdogan, DDS,** Northfield, Illinois, Jan. 24, 2022.

97 Corey L. Scott, BSBA, Ashland, Nebraska, Dec. 2, 2021.

00 Sarah E. Schondelmeyer, BS, Neola, Iowa, Jan. 6, 2022.

04 Anthony W. Liakos, BSBA'02, JD, Omaha, Oct. 16, 2021.

06 Lori A. Allison, PharmD, Lincoln, Nebraska, July 19, 2020.

08 Jacob C. Walter, MD, Evans, Colorado, Nov. 13, 2020.

17 Philip A. Hageman, DPT, Chicago, Dec. 12, 2021.

Correction: Mary Stamper Goblirsch, ARTS'76, Maple Grove, Minnesota, was mistakenly listed in the deaths section of the Fall 2021 *Creighton* magazine.

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

James E. Platz, PhD, professor emeritus, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences, Nov. 7, 2021.

L. Kirk Benedict, PhD, dean emeritus, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Dec. 28, 2021.

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



ALUMNI PROFILE

Creighton Alumnus Named Bishop in Michigan

THE MOST REV. JEFFREY WALSH, MA'98, will always feel a sense of loyalty when it comes to Creighton. It is, after all, why he keeps coming back. "I had a very, very positive experience at Creighton, and I do feel it prepared me in a very positive way spiritually," he says.

In March, Walsh, an alumnus of Creighton's Christian Spirituality program, was installed as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord in Michigan. But throughout his decades-long career with the Church, he has tried to find time, every three or four years, to return to Omaha to serve as a spiritual advisor with the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF), headquartered on Creighton's main campus.

"I love the campus, and I love the city," Bishop Walsh says. "And I always thought that, since the diocese invested in me getting a degree from Creighton, I wanted to go back and pay it forward."

Bishop Walsh came to study at Creighton in the mid-1990s at the behest of the bishop of the Diocese of Scranton in Pennsylvania. While completing his degree, he encountered the then newly formed IPF, which is dedicated to helping seminarians, priests and bishops grow in their faith.

"Once I got my degree, I came back to Creighton every few years to serve as spiritual director for men preparing for the priesthood during their eight-day retreat," Bishop Walsh says. "I've always looked at it as a way to keep those lessons fresh in my mind as well."

Before being named Bishop of Gaylord, Walsh served as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

The transition, while exhausting, has been "absolutely wonderful," he says. "I couldn't be happier or more filled with gratitude and joy. What I've experienced here in Gaylord has been a wonderful outpouring of hospitality and warmth."

In September, Bishop Walsh will travel to Rome for the so-called "baby bishops' school," in which he and other new bishops will become more familiar with the governing structures of the Holy See.

Bishop Walsh says his time at Creighton has prepared him academically, spiritually and professionally for his latest challenge. For one thing, he says, his summers on campus have provided him with valuable opportunities to network with priests from all over the country.

And his academic experience, he says, continues to bear fruit.

"At Creighton, I had the opportunity to delve into the firsthand accounts of saints who wrote books that I wouldn't have had access to or wouldn't have taken the time to read otherwise," Bishop Walsh says. "That element of Ignatian spirituality led to an understanding of the dynamics of our faith which has benefitted me in every aspect of my ministry ever since."

— BY BLAKE URSCH



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"It doesn't matter at what point you are in your career, you can always learn by hearing from others and where they are. When you think about continuous improvement and evolving where you are at as an individual, education is one way that can help you do that."

—Mindy Simon, MBA'16

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COLIN CONCES

Fostering Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In November 2021, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, named **Sarah Walker, PhD**, vice president of the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). The Heider College of Business professor had been interim VP since March 2021. The division collaboratively leads the University in developing and deepening its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Last fall, Walker helped direct a campuswide climate survey of students, faculty and staff to help determine what initiatives best foster a sense of inclusion and belonging at the University.

Walker also co-hosts, with Heider College of Business professor Todd Darnold, PhD, a new Creighton-produced EDI podcast, *Threads of Equality*, that features interviews and conversations on a national scale. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Play.

How would you define the terms equity, diversity and inclusion?

There is a simple analogy that diversity is being invited to the party, and inclusion is being invited to dance. Diversity is about differences — each person's status — and today that goes beyond race to include gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, disability and even hairstyles and weight in certain states. You can have diversity, but if you don't have inclusion, people will not dance and stay. Equity is about fairness and justice, acknowledging that we don't all start from the same place and that there are systemic and structural barriers, both intentional and unintentional, limiting personal growth and success for everyone.

Where would you say Creighton is right now in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion?

There are some things we're doing really well as a university. There are some opportunities for us to get better. We — as faculty, students and staff — do not yet reflect the communities that we serve. We've seen some significant gains since a cabinet-level position in diversity and inclusion was created in 2018, and it's important we keep

up this momentum and do what we need to do to create a place where everyone will flourish.

How do we best recruit and retain students from underrepresented minority groups?

The biggest barrier continues to be the cost of attendance. Scholarships are the key to providing more opportunities for underrepresented minorities. Funds like the Union Pacific Diversity Scholarship and the Next Generation Leaders Scholarship are doing so much to support individuals who haven't historically been in these spaces. But ultimately, Creighton needs more full-tuition scholarships to create a more diverse campus.

Once these students come to Creighton, it's about providing opportunities for them to fully participate in the life of the University. The students we retain are really embedded in the campus community. That means mission trips or student activities or studying abroad. If you do not have enough money to do these things, you are not fully experiencing everything Creighton has to offer. We need the resources to give our students the opportunities to really engage, and as a result they will be more likely to persist, to stay and to graduate.

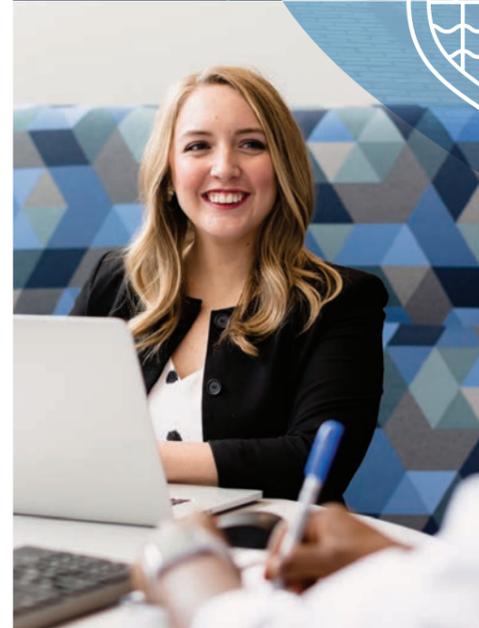
How is Creighton reaching out to the local community?

We continue to work to strengthen the University's relationship with the Omaha community, particularly with our neighbors to the north and south. In January, Creighton celebrated a week of events around Martin Luther King Jr. Day. In February, the University launched a Presidential Lecture Series focused on race. Our goal was to use these events, which were open to the public, as a launchpad to change discussions and change experiences and increase inclusivity here at Creighton.

What has been the reaction from campus and alumni?

There is such a willingness to want to grow and develop within the Creighton community. I do not think that is true everywhere. It's exciting to know that in the students, faculty, staff, alumni and leaders, I have true partners who want us to be better — and believe that we can be.

Want to support the many exciting initiatives of the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion? Make a gift to Creighton's Forward Blue campaign at creighton.edu/supportforwardblue.



Now is the time.

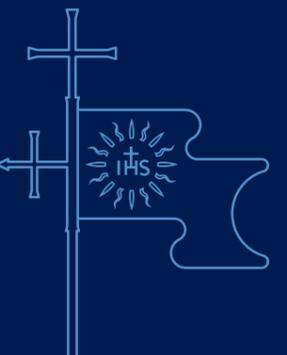
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