

*School of Law*  
**2024**  
**Hooding and  
Commencement  
Ceremony**

MAY 10, 2024



Creighton  
UNIVERSITY



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

*President, Creighton University*



Dear Creighton University Graduate,

Let me be among the first to say “congratulations” on reaching this important day. After much hard work and perseverance, it is time to gather in the company of family, friends, and supporters as we celebrate you and all you have achieved. From this day on you are now, officially, a proud member of the graduating Class of 2024!

Commencement is an incredibly special time, and it is yours to cherish as you close the book on one chapter and turn the page to discover what comes next. There is so much to look forward to as you continue your journey, and I join all those who helped you and supported you along the way in expressing that we cannot wait to see what you will accomplish in this world of endless possibility.

I encourage you to take time to reflect on the transformational journey that has brought you here. The rigor of your studies, the purposeful contributions you made, and personal investment you have shown in building a better world are not something anyone can achieve. You can now count yourself among those few. You have accomplished the extraordinary.

I hope you bring this same commitment to your profession and to your community. Know, too, you are not alone in your next journey. You are part of a Creighton alumni family that is close to 80,000 strong and stretches across the globe.

As a student, you were challenged to go to the edges of the Creighton campus and step out of your comfort zone; now you have an entire world to continue to explore. Keep that fire for discovery alive by maintaining all that a Jesuit, Catholic education offers—inquiry, imagination, and inspiration.

You are a changemaker and that means you do not wait for the world to come to you; you go forth with a mission to make it better. The world needs you, and I have faith that you will be a leader who remains steadfastly driven and compassionate because you are not just a graduate, you are a Creighton University graduate!

May God bless you and your families as you celebrate today. You have earned it.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD



# Order of Exercises

## PROCESSION

### MACE BEARER

**Kendra Fershée, JD**  
*Associate Dean and Professor of Law*

### GRAND MARSHAL'S OPENING REMARKS

**Yvonnda A. Summers, JD**  
*Associate Dean and Special Faculty*

### PROVOST'S WELCOME

**Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN**  
*Provost*

### INVOCATION

**Rev. Nicholas J. C. Santos, SJ, PhD**  
*Rector, Jesuit Community*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

### DEAN'S MESSAGE

**Joshua P. Fershée, JD**  
*Dean, Professor of Law*

### SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER AND PRESENTATION OF THE ERIC PEARSON OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

**Kevin S. Grossaint**  
*Class of 2024*

### THE ERIC PEARSON OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

**David P. Weber, JD**  
*Professor*

## BOARD AUTHORIZATION

Presented by  
*Board of Trustees Member*

## DEGREE CONFERRAL STATEMENT

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

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

**Joshua P. Fershée, JD**  
*Dean, Professor of Law*

Names read by  
**David P. Weber, JD**  
*Professor*

Hooding of candidates by  
**Craig W. Dallon, JD**  
*Professor of Law*

**Leigh A. Ellis, JD**  
*Assistant Professor*

**Hossein Fazilatfar, JD, LLM, SJD,**  
*Associate Professor*

**Irina V. Fox, JD**  
*Professor of Law*

**Rachel J. Goedken, JD**  
*Associate Professor*

**Victoria J. Haneman, JD, LLM**  
*Professor of Law*

**Carol C. Knoepfler, JD**  
*Associate Professor*

**R. Collin Mangrum, JD, SJD**  
*Professor of Law*

**Edward A. Morse, JD**  
*Professor of Law*

**Dagmar R. Myslinska, JD, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*

**Kent J. Neumeister, JD**  
*Professor*

**Diane K. Uchimiya, JD, LLM**  
*Director, Abrahams Legal Clinic*

## TURNING OF THE TASSEL

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

## STAGE PARTY, FACULTY, AND GRADUATE RECESSIONAL



## Mission Statement

At Creighton School of Law, our mission is to provide the men and women of our student body intellectual challenge, academic rigor and an opportunity to develop a foundation of moral values for lifelong service in the law, to offer an environment to our faculty which encourages personal growth and scholarly achievement and to continue our long-established tradition of service to the Bar and citizens of the community.



# CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

Joshua P. Fershée, JD, Dean

## JURIS DOCTOR

Reem Hani Al Zubair  
*Muscat, Mauritius*

Katherine Marie Amyot  
*Hastings, Nebraska*

Casey Steven Anderson  
*Warroad, Minnesota*

Mary Grace Arena  
*Hammonton, New Jersey*

Ethan Arrey Ashu  
*Kansas City, Missouri*

Meagan LeeAnne Bailey Deall  
*Aurora, Colorado*

Alexandre Michael  
Nelson Barbour  
*Fairway, Kansas*

Cody Michael Bell  
*Tucson, Arizona*

Peyton J. Bellon  
magna cum laude  
*Gillette, Wyoming*

Sydney R. Bonnett  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Grace Colleen Boothe-Hanna  
*Fremont, Nebraska*

Emily Elizabeth Breit  
*Lincoln, Nebraska*

Dallin L. Brooks  
cum laude  
*Cedar City, Utah*

Abigail Elisabeth Brown  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

Gavin Jay Brown  
*Grand Junction, Colorado*

Jared R. Brown  
*Bellevue, Nebraska*

Johanne Monique  
Alexander Brown  
*Bellevue, Nebraska*

Thomas James Bruce  
*Fort Collins, Colorado*

Spencer Davis Buchanan  
*Salt Lake City, Utah*

Mykaylan Diane Rose Burner  
*North Sioux City, South Dakota*

Brenna Marin Bushey  
cum laude  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Jamell Rashad Brandon Collins  
*Bronx, New York*

Jonathan K. Collins ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Michael Eugene Cooley  
*Carter Lake, Iowa*

Marin T. Coughlin  
magna cum laude  
*Manhattan, Kansas*

Meghan A. Coughlin  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

James Driscoll Crabbe ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Suwanee, Georgia*

Julia Anne Crump ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Bolton, Ontario, Canada*

Emily Claire Cvitanov  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Olivia Eve D'Amato  
*Parker, Colorado*

Molly Kathryn Dean  
*Glenwood, Iowa*

Alicia Christine Derr  
*Chandler, Arizona*

Carson Lynn Drake  
magna cum laude  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Jack Roosevelt Dresslar  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Jacob Clark Erickson  
*Philomath, Oregon*

Austin Christopher Exline  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Marley Marie Farrell  
*Long Beach, California*

Christina Marie Finch  
*Aurora, Colorado*

Tanner Jay Fitzgerald  
*Yankton, South Dakota*

Michael E. Flinn  
magna cum laude  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Arthur George Formas III  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Amber Marie Gould ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Semmes, Alabama*

Sydney Michelle Grad  
cum laude  
*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Jacob Alexander Grissom  
*Nampa, Idaho*

Kevin Scott Grossaint  
cum laude  
*Greeley, Colorado*

J. Jaren Hackleman  
*Bellevue, Nebraska*

Tera J. Hanson  
*Corona, South Dakota*

Amy Marie Hart  
cum laude  
*Portland, Oregon*

Leighandra Nikole Hazlett  
*St. Joseph, Missouri*

Kevin Ivan Hernandez  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Sean Patrick Herrick  
*Glenwood, Iowa*

Ana Victoria Hingorani  
cum laude  
*Gretna, Nebraska*

Krista Nicole Holzworth  
*Scottsbluff, Nebraska*

Ethan Hoogeveen  
cum laude  
*Park City, Utah*

Catherine McGee Howitt ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Huntersville, North Carolina*

Christopher Gregory Jenkins  
cum laude  
*Winnebago, Minnesota*

Jorium Philip-Andrew Jones  
*Thomasville, Georgia*

Haley Judd  
magna cum laude  
*Mesa, Arizona*

Hannah Carolyn Junk ♦  
Master of Business Administration  
*Salina, Kansas*

Bryce Yuji Kasamoto  
*Diamond Bar, California*

Anne Marie Keating  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Grant D. Keiser  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Theresa C. Kelly  
magna cum laude  
*Bellevue, Nebraska*

Aissa Anton Kidess ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Altoona, Wisconsin*

Maya Maryetta Kindle  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Thomas James Kingston  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

David J. Kinkennon  
*Katy, Texas*

Benedict Robert Kinnison  
cum laude  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

Jack Leonard Klementz  
*Hudson, Wisconsin*

Riley Jordan Knobloch  
*Lester, Iowa*

Reghan Rochelle Kort  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Taylor Katherine Kumpf  
cum laude  
*Columbus, Nebraska*

Connor A. Lane  
*Greenwood, Indiana*

Haley Alyssa Leis ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Alexandria, Virginia*

Megan Elizabeth Leise  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Timothy D. Lovewell  
cum laude  
*La Vista, Nebraska*

Spencer Jin Lueders  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Gena Alise MacKenzie  
*Kansas City, Missouri*

Guillermo Matthew Martinez  
cum laude  
*Sinton, Texas*

Courtney Mae Mascarenas  
cum laude  
*Pueblo, Colorado*

Kathryn Gavriel Matthews  
cum laude  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

Kylie O'Kelley McCrory  
cum laude  
*Loveland, Colorado*

David Sinclair McGuire  
*Houston, Texas*

Kaitlin Ann McKenna ♦  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Omaha, Nebraska*



**Lauren M. Merfeld**  
cum laude  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Chelsea Wyatt Meyer**  
*Roscoe, Illinois*

**Jelena Milakovic**  
*Bennington, Nebraska*

**Hayden James Miller**  
*Nebraska City, Nebraska*

**Jack Michael Mitchell**  
magna cum laude  
*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

**John Crawford Mitchell**  
*Denver, Colorado*

**Jonathan Allan Moats**  
*Elkhorn, Nebraska*

**Timothy Edward Murphy**  
*Layton, Utah*

**Andrew Pokioli Naai**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

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*La Mirada, California*

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*Honolulu, Hawaii*

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**Kaia R. Phelps ♦**  
Master of Science, Government  
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Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
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summa cum laude  
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*Phoenix, Arizona*

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*Fargo, North Dakota*

**John Matthew Schmitt**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Hannah Jean Schweitzer**  
cum laude  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

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*Omaha, Nebraska*

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*Delta, Colorado*

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*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

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*St. Louis, Missouri*

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cum laude  
*Wesley, Iowa*

**Adam Patrick Smith**  
cum laude  
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*Bellevue, Nebraska*

**Michael G. Snedaker**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

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*Brampton, Ontario, Canada*

**Shelby Siera Soper**  
*Adair, Iowa*

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summa cum laude  
*Magnolia, Texas*

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summa cum laude  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Papillion, Nebraska*

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**Jonathan Ray Tilden**  
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Master of Science, Government  
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magna cum laude  
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**Atziri Viridiana Valadez Campos**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

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*Elmhurst, Illinois*

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magna cum laude  
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**Emily Jane Wilson**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Grace M. Wiseman**  
*Gretna, Nebraska*

**Natalie Louise  
Reynolds-Wisnieski**  
cum laude  
*Norfolk, Nebraska*

**Jessica Eve Witters**  
*Elkhorn, Nebraska*

**John Andrew Wolfe**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Stefanie Emma Wood**  
*Colorado Springs, Colorado*

**Sydney Anne Wurdeman**  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

**Peyton Renae Young ♦**  
Master of Science, Government  
Organization and Leadership  
*Buffalo Grove, Illinois*

# Traditions of Creighton



## Creighton Seal

The Creighton University seal includes elements representing the Creighton family, Creighton's Jesuit tradition and the Omaha Archdiocese.

The gold stripes on the red field, in the upper left-hand quadrant of the shield, come from the family coat of arms of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The lion rampant comes from the Creighton family coat of arms, and the three seashells on a field of white and red sable come from the Wareham family coat of arms—paying homage to Creighton University's founding families. The design for the shield's final quadrant, in the lower left, comes from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Omaha. The starburst behind the shield comes from the seal of the Society of Jesus.



## Ceremonial Mace

In the Middle Ages, the mace was a club used in battle and carried by a bodyguard to defend a person of authority. Over the years, it began to lose its warlike image and became a symbol of peaceful leadership.

At an academic institution, the mace is the symbol of the legal and chartered authority of the leadership to whom the board of trustees has delegated authority. When the ceremonial mace is present, the authority of the University is present. Use of the mace is reserved for occasions of outstanding importance, and it is an honor to bear the mace.

The Creighton University mace was designed and fashioned by Brian K. Besack, operations supervisor of the University's carpenter shop, at the invitation of then president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, SJ, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the University.

Using a cherry wood baluster from a long-abandoned staircase in the attic of Creighton Hall, the oldest building on Creighton's campus, Besack designed and fashioned the shaft, head and foot of the mace. Each facet of the nine-sided head displays a bronze, gold-plated medallion bearing the name and founding date of the University's schools and colleges. Its foot is sheathed in gold-plated brass, and cradled in its shaft rests the official seal of the University. At its top, the mace is crowned with a three-dimensional blue and gold medallion symbol of the Society of Jesus.





## Credo of Creighton

Creighton, a Jesuit, Catholic university, is convinced that the hope of humanity is in the ability of men and women to seek truths and values essential to human life. Creighton aims to lead all of its members in discovering and embracing the challenge of using their intelligence and freedom in a way that values all persons. We therefore profess, and pledge our commitment to, the following creed:

*We believe* in God, our loving Creator.

*We believe* each person, created in God's image, is called to be God's child, and therefore possesses intrinsic value as a human being. This includes all persons and excludes any form of discrimination.

*We believe* that the deepest purpose of each person is to enrich and share life through love and reverence for the human community. This motivates our open and continuous pursuit of truth. For this reason, we foster reverence for life in all of its human potential.

*We believe* in supporting all persons in their responsible contributions to the community through family, social interactions and all life endeavors.

*We believe* that we must strive for a human community based on justice, mutual respect and concern. In this context, we must cultivate care for our planet and its resources.

*We believe* that laws exist for the benefit and well-being of individual persons, that legal systems must express the common good, and that governments must be respectful and open to thoughtful criticism by intelligent and responsible citizens.

*We believe* that the laws of justice and love must regulate the personal, family, economic and global components of our lives if civilization is to progress.

*We believe* in the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

## Academic Attire

The scholastic dress worn at academic ceremonies is a customary practice which dates back to the Middle Ages when people dressed according to class distinction. The clergy was the literate class, thus, the dress worn by scholars was that of the church—gowns. Hoods were also worn because the buildings where scholars lived and studied were often cold.

The academic dress worn today by the graduating law students and the faculty members identifies the institution from which they received, or will receive, their degrees and also the nature of the degrees received.

The gowns worn by today's Juris Doctor degree candidates are black, and are marked by three horizontal velvet bars on each sleeve. The greatest degree of symbolism, however, is shown by the hood. The doctor's hood has a purple velvet border marking the law degree received, and is lined with blue and white, the colors of Creighton University. Similarly, the colors of the gowns and the colors of the hoods worn by the faculty mark the institution from which they received their degrees.





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\*Creighton alumnus/alumna

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*Associate Professor, School of Medicine*

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Health Professions, Phoenix Campus*

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*Dean, School of Pharmacy  
and Health Professions*

W. Wayne Young Jr., PhD\*  
*Vice Provost, Student Success*

\*Creighton alumnus/alumna



# Endowed Chairs

## SCHOOL OF LAW

**A.A. and Ethel Yossem Endowed Chair in Legal Ethics (1991)**

R. Collin Mangrum, JD, SJD

**Catherine Mahern Endowed Chair in Clinical Legal Education (2001)**

Diane K. Uchimiya, JD, LL.M.

**McGrath North Mullin and Kratz Endowed Chair in Business Law (2006)**

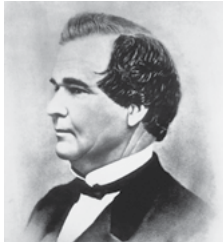
Edward A. Morse, JD

**Senator Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law (2009)**

Michael J. Kelly, JD, LL.M.

Larry L. Teply, JD





Edward Creighton



Mary Lucretia Creighton



John Creighton



Sarah Emily Creighton

## History of Creighton University

Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton, along with Edward's brother, John, settled in Omaha in the 1850s. John married Mary Lucretia's sister, Sarah Emily Wareham, in 1868, and the four are considered the founders of Creighton University. Edward's work with the transcontinental telegraph and freighting, ranching, railroading and banking became a major force in the city's economic development. The two brothers were widely known for their business enterprises, and the two couples were also widely regarded for their philanthropy.

Edward died in 1874, and his widow included \$100,000 in her will to establish Creighton College in memory of her husband. Mary Lucretia died in 1876, and her executors, who included her brother-in-law John, purchased 6.2 acres of land at the northwest corner of what is currently 24th and California streets. The land and additional securities were transferred to Bishop James O'Connor of Omaha, and construction began on the school.

The bishop asked the Jesuits to operate the school and the first president, Roman A. Shaffel, S.J., arrived in Omaha in late 1877; the school opened on Sept. 2, 1878. One priest, two scholastics, a layman and a laywoman formed the faculty. The school began with 120 students ranging in age from 6 to 30. On Aug. 14, 1879, Bishop O'Connor surrendered his trust to the Jesuits, who incorporated "The Creighton University" under Nebraska law. Much of the initial teaching was below the collegiate level; in 1891, Creighton University awarded its first baccalaureate degree.

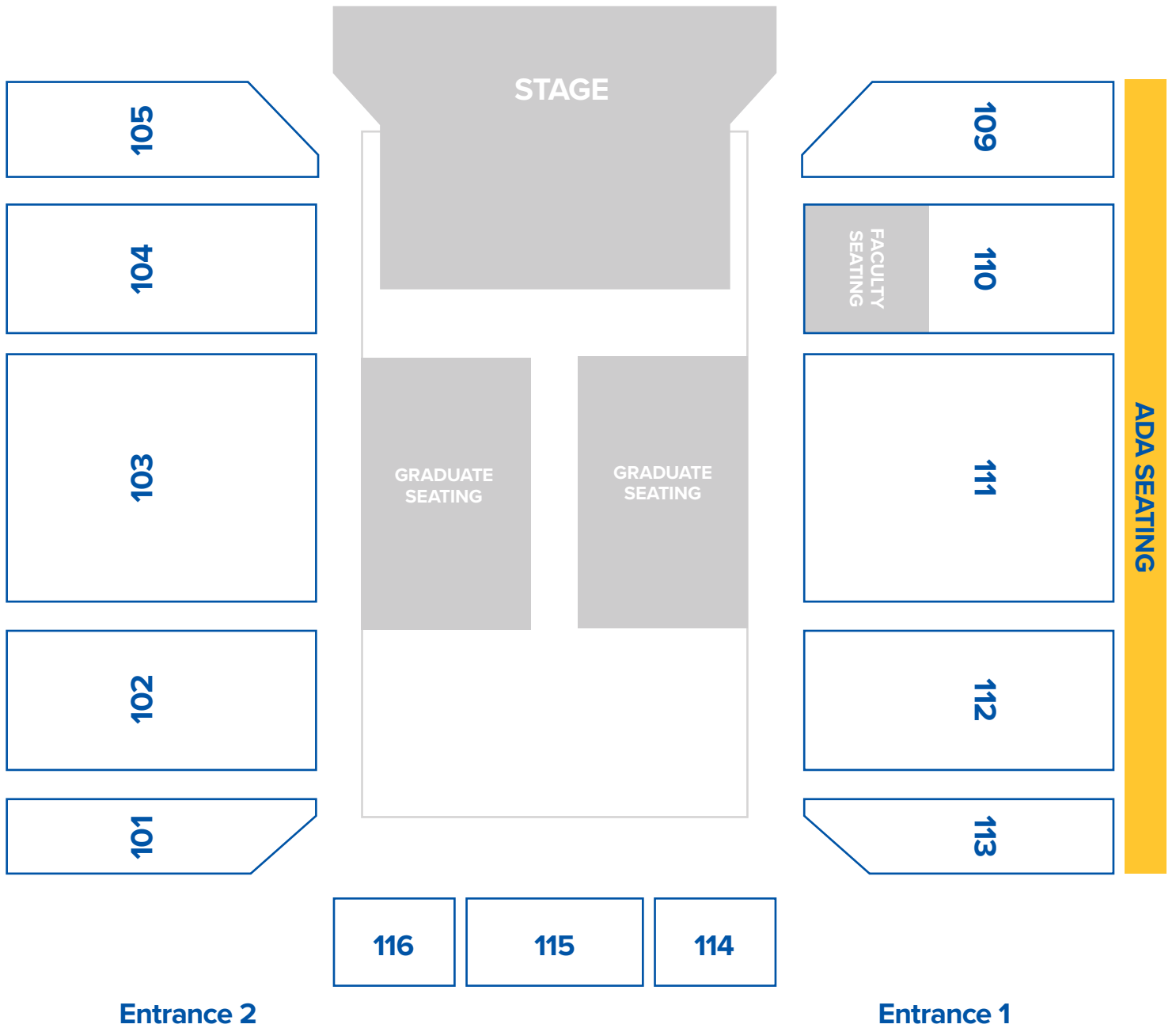


Edward and Mary Lucretia's generosity is credited with establishing Creighton College, while John and Sarah Emily's philanthropy enlarged it to a five-school university. Today, Creighton University consists of nine schools and colleges:

- College of Arts and Sciences (1878)
- School of Medicine (1892)
- School of Law (1904)
- School of Dentistry (1905)
- School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (1905)
- Heider College of Business (1920)
- Graduate School (1926)
- College of Nursing (1971; four-year bachelor's degree program began in 1958)
- College of Professional and Continuing Education (Established as University College in 1983)



# D.J. Sokol Arena Map





*Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward; save that of knowing that I am doing your will.*

*A Prayer for Generosity*

*St. Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)*



Connect to the Creighton Commencement experience using #CreightonGrad

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### Graduation Honors

Students may graduate with honors. Criteria for graduation honors can be found in the Creighton University catalogs. Honors for students with previously conferred degrees are listed in this program. Honors for students with May degrees met the honors criteria based on Fall 2023 cumulative grade point averages. Official honors will be awarded on the transcript and diploma based on Spring 2024 cumulative grade point averages. Honors for students who anticipate completing their degree requirements in August or December are not listed in this program. Honors will be awarded on the transcript and diploma at the time of degree conferral.

### Degree Conferral

Creighton University confers degrees three times per year: August, December, and May. Annual University commencement ceremonies are held in May for all Colleges and Schools. The hooding ritual is included in the commencement ceremony for master and doctoral level students. An additional graduate level commencement ceremony is held in December. Students who complete their degree programs in August or December may attend the commencement ceremony following completion, or with the approval of the Office of the Dean, in the preceding May. Participation in a commencement ceremony does not guarantee a degree is officially earned. A degree is conferred only after the dean verifies all academic requirements are met and the degree is posted on the student's transcript by the Office of the Registrar.

### Ceremony Photos

Ceremony Photos will photograph each graduate receiving his or her diploma. Graduates will be emailed a link to their photo proofs, or they can go to [ceremonyphotos.com](https://ceremonyphotos.com) for more information. Questions may be addressed to [service@ceremonyphotos.com](mailto:service@ceremonyphotos.com) or call 402.917.6518.



## *Welcome to the Creighton University alumni family,*

now nearly 80,000 strong. While your time as a student is coming to a close, your time in our global alumni community is just getting started. No matter where life takes you, we will be here to support you with opportunities and benefits to help you stay connected.

**Bluejays for life.**



[alumni.creighton.edu](http://alumni.creighton.edu)

*Alumni & Family Weekend*

# CREIGHTON DAYS

**SEPT. 20–22, 2024**

Reconnect with classmates. Reminisce about your college days. And remember that Creighton forever remains your home away from home.

More info: [creighton.edu/creightondays](http://creighton.edu/creightondays)

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