

BY BLAKE URSCH

THEY'RE NEW JAYS, TOO

Fall at Creighton sees a sea of new faces – most of them eager young students from varied backgrounds, ready to start the next chapter of their lives.

But every year, Creighton also welcomes dozens of new faculty members who will teach these students – in and out of the classroom – the skills they need to succeed. They come from different places and different disciplines, but they all have one thing in common: They're excited to be at Creighton.

Here, meet seven new faculty members who started new roles with the University this fall.



HEATHER MCCAIN

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KRISTINA MEDERO, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies

AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT in South Florida, Kristina Medero had a talent for speech and debate.

Those skills eventually landed her a scholarship to Western Kentucky University, where she majored in health sciences, hoping to eventually go to medical school and become a physician. But an initially temporary stint volunteering for a nonprofit in South Africa, One Heart Source, changed the course of her career. She wound up working for the organization for five years.

"The volunteer work really got me focused on community health," Medero says. There, she became interested in the environmental and social factors that cause widespread disease in different populations.

She eventually found her professional interests in community health aligned with her background in speech and debate and began to pursue an academic career in communications, using storytelling to help eliminate health inequalities. Her research focuses on how narratives about stigmatized social groups affect beliefs and behaviors among the public and within those groups.

"I think humans are natural storytellers. That's how we connect with one another. That's how we exercise our empathy," she says. "It seems, from my research, to be the strongest weapon we have against stigma and these health inequalities."

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Medero says she "likes games of every variety" — video, board, etc. She also plays pickup basketball with friends on weekends.



HEATHER MCCAIN

HEIDER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DERRICK GANYE, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting and Business Intelligence & Analytics

AS A NEW FACULTY MEMBER at Creighton, Derrick Ganye looks for inspiration from a former academic advisor, whom he worked with while attaining his master's degree in management information systems in his native Ghana.

"He was very supportive, such that, OK, if I want to be in academia, I want to be like this guy," Ganye says. "He kind of inspired me to — if you want to go into academia and teach, you also want to be inspiring young people."

Ganye, originally from the twin cities of Sekondi-Takoradi in the Western region of Ghana, studied electrical engineering as an undergraduate. His career path, which began at a mining company in Ghana, eventually led him to product management in the telecommunications industry. The transition led him to pursue a master's at Henley Business School and, later, a PhD in information systems at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He came to the U.S. in 2021 and finished his program earlier this year.

"I was convinced at that time that I wanted to be in academia and not go back to industry," he says.

Ganye says he was looking for schools that would allow him to pursue his research interests — which include cybersecurity and understanding the impact of remote work on organizations — while also valuing classroom instruction. Creighton, he says, felt like a perfect fit.

"I felt that there was a kind of family feel to how they interacted with faculty and how they interacted with me in the interview process," he says. "When I got an offer, it wasn't a hard decision to make."

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Ganye loves sports, particularly soccer, and loves to travel. "My Saturday routine is waking up early in the morning to catch the soccer games being played in Europe."



HEATHER MCCAIN

COLLEGE OF NURSING

EUGENE FURNACE, DBH, APRN, BSN'22

Assistant Professor

FOR EUGENE FURNACE, there's a line connecting biblical scripture and healthcare. All you have to do is look closely.

"We look at evidence from the Bible, that we call truth, and we look at evidence from research that we call facts, and we take those two evidences and bring them together for healthy living," he says. "These two bodies, these two works of literature, I would say produce evidence that have always agreed with each other."

Furnace — whose career includes stints in healthcare administration, psychology and integrated medicine — eventually made the transition to nursing.

He graduated from the Creighton College of Nursing's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 2022. He later worked as a staff nurse on a medical-surgical unit, in an emergency department and in nursing leadership for a medical psychiatric unit.

Furnace has served as special faculty at Creighton for two years. This fall is his first full-time position with the University.

Faith, he says, has been a guiding light throughout his career.

"*Cura personalis*, that Jesuit value, resonates so strongly with me," he says. "It is impossible to ... separate out a person into the silos that we often offer in healthcare. A person's physical health is undoubtedly and inextricably tied to their mental health, and those two things are also tied to a person's spiritual health."

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Furnace is particularly interested in men's health. Men, he says, often neglect their health because of the fear of being perceived as weak. He's interested in starting a gym that doubles as a wellness center. "Rather than fighting against that stigma of guys going to the doctor's office, let's try and get them somewhere they will go," he says.



HEATHER MCCAIN

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

KYUCHUL OH, DDS, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Periodontology

BORN AND RAISED IN JAPAN, Kyuchul Oh completed a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree and a PhD in periodontology, which he earned one year earlier than expected, from Tokyo Medical and Dental University, in Tokyo, Japan, before moving to the U.S. in 2020 to pursue his dream of becoming an American periodontist. His father practices periodontics in Tokyo.

“Periodontics is a comprehensive field in dentistry You need to do an assessment of medical history, diagnosis and treatment-planning comprehensively for patients with a birds-eye view,” Oh says. “It does include a lot of fields such as biology, immunology, anatomy, material science, etc., which is really attractive to me.”

Oh completed an internship and periodontics residency program with an MSD degree obtained at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston before joining Creighton in 2025 as an assistant professor in the School of Dentistry. His research interests include regenerative therapy for implants and natural teeth, as well as the relationship between overall systemic health and periodontal disease.

At Creighton, he says, he’s excited to share his experience with students in the classroom.

“Teaching is deeply intriguing to me. What fascinates me most is that the more I teach, the more I realize how much I still have to learn,” he says. “That realization continually drives me to keep learning — and to return to the classroom with new insights to share, creating a positive and ever-growing cycle.”

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Oh loves to exercise and enjoys golf, basketball and tennis. He has also participated in marathons.



HEATHER MCCAIN

SCHOOL OF LAW

MARYL SATTLER, JD

Assistant Professor | Assistant Dean of Academic Success and Bar Preparation

FOR MARYL SATTLER, the best part of teaching is helping students connect what they read in their casebooks with practicing law in the real world.

“A lawyer’s job is not just to understand legal rules, but to figure out how those rules can be applied to a client’s unique — and sometimes messy — circumstances. Those clients are real people with real lives, families and businesses that are impacted,” she says.

Sattler, a native of Lincoln, Nebraska, says it’s helping people navigate those unique circumstances that has propelled her through a career that has included stints as a clerk for a federal judge in Charleston, West Virginia, and as a partner at Omaha’s McGrath North.

She has spent the last three years as a visiting professor at Creighton and began a new role in the School of Law in 2025.

“I do think that the care we’re able to give students here is unique,” she says, pointing to the collaborative legal community in Omaha. “Professors here at the law school are really interested in helping students — the idea of caring for the whole person is something that I really do see in practice.”

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Sattler enjoys spending time with her three children, ages 7, 5 and 2.

“They’re really, really fun ages,” she says.



REBECCA GRATZ

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DILASHA NEUPANE, MD, BA'14

Associate Professor | Headache Medicine Specialist, CHI Health

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “I have a headache,” it’s common for most to write it off as a minor inconvenience.

Not for Dilasha Neupane.

“Headaches are the second-leading cause of disability in the U.S.,” she says.

Neupane, an associate professor in the School of Medicine, is working to start a headache clinic at CHI Health Immanuel.

A native of Kathmandu, Nepal, who first moved to Omaha at age 12, Neupane became aware of Creighton as a high school student through University recruitment events. Before graduating, she received the Gates Scholarship, which would have likely allowed her to attend most universities in the U.S.

She chose Creighton.

“I just fell in love with the people,” she says. “I loved the value of integrating spirituality into medicine.”

In her new role as both a clinic leader and an educator, Neupane hopes to emphasize the importance of recognizing headaches as both a potential disability and as part of a holistic approach to overall health.

“Headache patients often get the runaround,” she says. “I want to make sure our community feels heard and seen — and that they can do something about it.”

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Neupane loves to read, particularly on spirituality, theology and philosophy.



LAURA SEGALL

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MALLORY KARGELA, DPT

Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy

SHE KNOWS IT SOUNDS CORNY to say out loud, but for Mallory Kargela, coming to Creighton “has been a dream of mine.”

Kargela, who first became interested in physical therapy after sustaining an injury while playing basketball in high school, says she was attracted to Creighton’s status as a high-ranking school for physical therapy. Then she was introduced to Gail Jensen, PhD, professor of physical therapy and Creighton administrator, at a grant-writing workshop.

“She became a mentor of mine,” Kargela says, “She helped me see Creighton as a viable dream. It felt like a pipe dream, but she really helped push me along.”

Kargela, who grew up in Ohio and now teaches at the Creighton Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix, says her interests meet at the intersection of the clinical and the academic — in her free time, she says, she helps practicing physical therapists find the time to explore their research interests.

“I really try to help clinicians break that barrier into academia,” she says. “If you can’t find the answer to your question in your own brain, you need to go to what the research tells you ... that’s always been a big part of who I am as a human.”

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Kargela says much of her free time is spent with her husband, daughter and “blind yellow lab.” She no longer plays basketball, she says, but she’s picked up volleyball and pickleball in the years since her injury. “Oddly enough, I love the summer heat,” she says. “Summer is my jam in Arizona.”