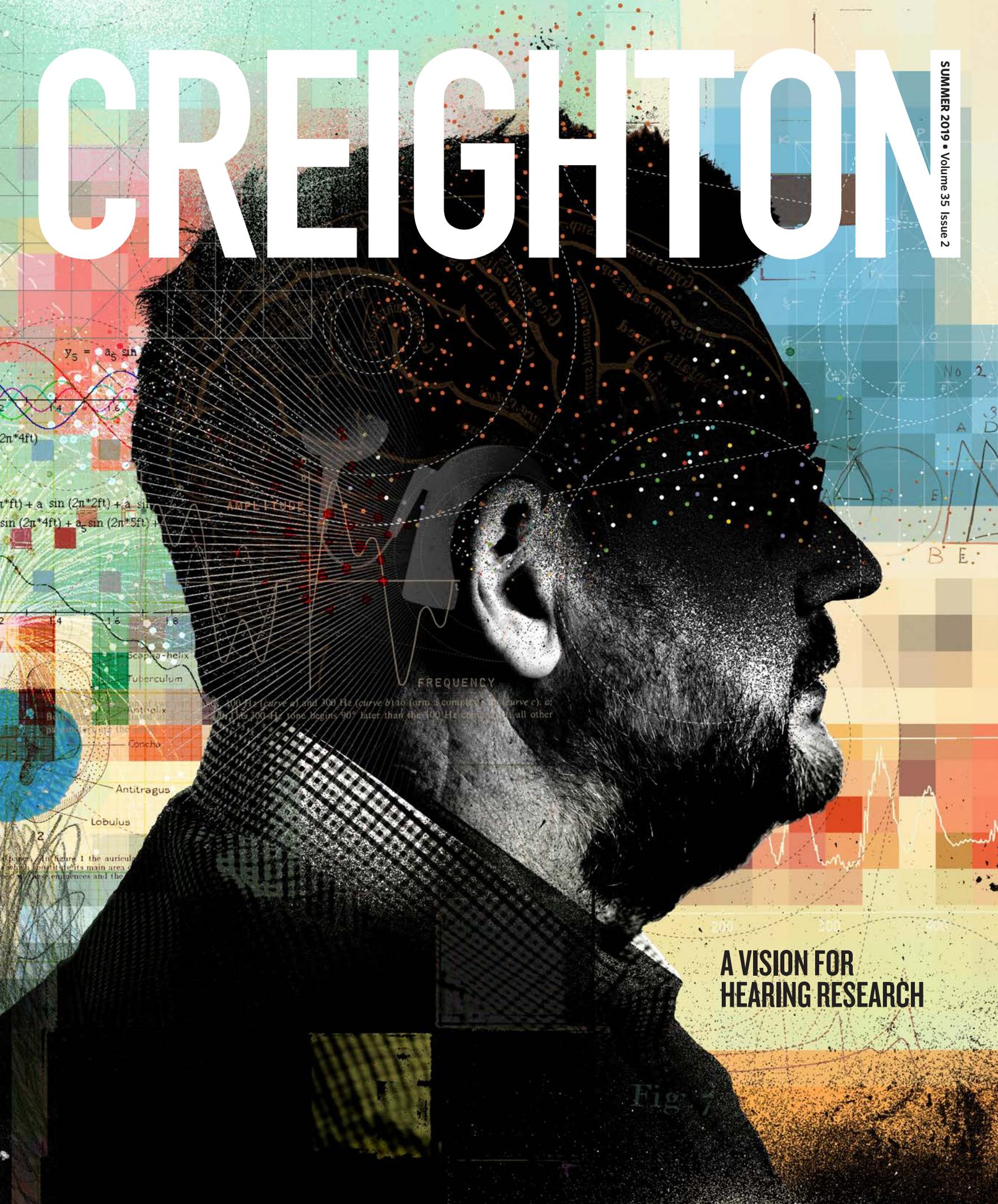


CREIGHTON

SUMMER 2019 • Volume 35 Issue 2



AMPLITUDE

FREQUENCY

... 300 Hz (curve a) and 300 Hz (curve b) to form a complex (curve c); at the same time, the 300 Hz tone begins 90° later than the 400 Hz component, all other

**A VISION FOR
HEARING RESEARCH**

Fig 7



© The Kingfisher Award statuette, left, was created by wildlife sculptor Dan Ostermiller and inspired by the poem *As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame*. The new award recognizes outstanding Creighton faculty and staff who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the enduring values, principles and practices of the humanities. Fr. Hendrickson will announce the inaugural recipient of the award during Mission Week in September.

Looking Ahead

In May, we awarded nearly 1,900 diplomas during two commencement ceremonies. I was proud to welcome Kyle Korver, BA'03, back to campus as our commencement speaker, celebrate several distinguished honorees, and welcome an outstanding class into our alumni ranks. I felt a special kinship with this year's graduates, as four years ago, on Aug. 25, 2015, we began the academic year together in my first year as Creighton's president.

Now, I am eager to welcome the Class of 2023 to campus. While final numbers may fluctuate, we anticipate another large and talented freshman class — with as many as 1,060 to 1,070 students. That would represent our third- or fourth-largest class in history, only behind our previous two record years in 2017 and 2018. A quarter scored a 30 or higher on the ACT, nearly 60% had a high school GPA of 3.8 or higher, and 80% were involved in service in high school.

Our second cohort of the Creighton Global Scholars program begins its first semester of studies at the University of Sydney this fall. The Global Scholars, in connection with our Global Engagement Office, will bring 2018 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Nadia Murad to campus for a Sept. 16 talk, as part of a yearlong theme on genocide and pursuing justice in the world.

Our summer immersion programs had students learning and serving in 12 countries through Faculty-Led Programs Abroad (FLPA); working on water quality and summer health programs in the Dominican Republic through the Institute for Latin American Concern; and gaining a deeper understanding of global health disparities through international trips coordinated by medical students in Project CURA.

On Sept. 25, we will join government officials and dignitaries in Arizona for the groundbreaking of our new health sciences campus in Phoenix. In May, the trustees of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust awarded Creighton a \$10 million grant to support construction of a health sciences building in midtown Phoenix. The campus is set to open in 2021.

Locally, I continue to meet with organizations and leaders, along with members of the Presidential Committee on Community Engagement, to engage in community dialogue and relationship-building. Groups we have met with include the Empowerment Network, National Black Catholic Congress, St. Benedict's Parish Council, and the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, to name a few.

The Presidential Lecture Series will continue this fall as we welcome former U.S. senator, Nebraska governor, and university president Bob Kerrey, HON'93, to campus for an Oct. 22 address. We will also celebrate our inaugural Mission Week this fall with a series of events, including a Sept. 9 keynote address by the Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries and author of *Tattoos on the Heart* and *Barking to the Choir*.

With increased enrollment in our Heider College of Business, we began renovations to the Harper Center this summer to provide more classroom and learning space. We also welcomed two new deans. Joshua Fershee, JD, joins us as dean of the School of Law, and Evan Robinson, PhD, as dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. Finally, I would like to congratulate nursing professor Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, who was selected nationally as one of five Macy Faculty Scholars. (Read more on Page 12.)

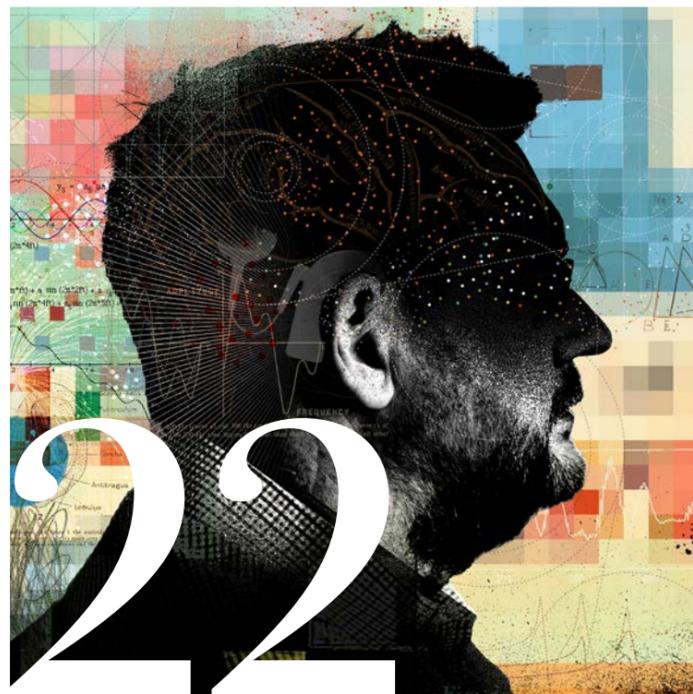
There, indeed, is exciting momentum as we enter another academic year at Creighton University. Thank you for your continued support as we move purposefully forward toward our bold tomorrow.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President



Follow me:

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on the cover

A VISION FOR HEARING RESEARCH

The new Translational Hearing Center brings to life the spirit and legacy of a Creighton alumnus, as it holds great promise to prevent hearing loss and restore hearing for millions of people.

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A Creighton photojournalism student spent his final semester on an internship in Rome — and got a front seat to the Vatican and Pope Francis.

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Two students — one a cancer survivor — have collaborated on a book to help those touched by cancer.

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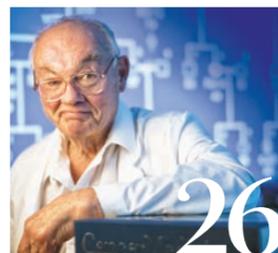
A study being conducted at the Financial Hope Collaborative is determining if education to reduce financial stress can improve health.

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Provost Tom Murray, PhD, discusses what Creighton’s move to national status through the new classification as a Doctoral/Professional University means.

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REMEMBERING ONE OF THE GREATS, HENRY LYNCH, MD

Founder and director of Creighton’s Hereditary Cancer Center, Henry Lynch, MD, was a legendary international pioneer in cancer genetics.



SWITCHING GEARS

A passion for cycling and the law has led two-time Creighton graduate Megan Hottman to a legal career representing bicyclists and advocacy for safer cycling.



FEELS GOOD TO GIVE BACK

Once a month, Creighton medical students in Phoenix drive four hours into Mexico to volunteer at a medical clinic founded by a Creighton alumnus and his wife.



SOARING, FLYING WITH BILLY BLUEJAY

Dental graduate Nathan Hansen for four years changed the persona of the University’s beloved mascot with backflips, handstands, high-flying aerial acts and more.



BREAKING DOWN BIASES

In a philosophy class taught by Amy Wendling, PhD, Creighton students visited a correctional facility to ponder philosophical questions with incarcerated youth — and find they have a lot in common.

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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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Voices

“You have been selected to be here at this time because of the urgency of this moment, because our common home is in serious jeopardy. You answered the call because you care.”

DAN MISLEH, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, at the inaugural gathering of “*Laudato Si’*” and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home,” held at Creighton. Read more on Page 7.

“It seemed to me to be a good idea to do one last concert and say thank you to God and thank you to the people who have supported this music by singing it.”

THE REV. ROC O’CONNOR, SJ, former rector of Creighton’s Jesuit community, on a final concert of the St. Louis Jesuits planned for Sept. 29 at Powell Hall in St. Louis.

“These hearings invite knowledgeable panelists to participate, allowing discourse, knowledge and insights to be shared, which in turn can influence policymaking and enforcement efforts.”

EDWARD MORSE, JD, Creighton law professor, on a Federal Trade Commission hearing on competition and consumer protection held at Creighton.

“It was one of those things where we said, ‘We’ve got to finish together.’ We knew we could. She encouraged me.”

LISA BECKER CHIPPS, BA’97, MS’00, EdD’19, on earning her third degree from Creighton alongside her friend since high school, Anne Smith Harty, BSN’97, MS’00, FNPC’00, EdD’19 — the latest a doctorate in interdisciplinary leadership this May.

Let’s Get Social

@dougmcdermott: Thank you **@Creighton** for an amazing 4 years! Congrats **@ATolliver44** ... I guess we’re getting old.
@ATolliver44: I am humbled and honored! Much love. (Doug McDermott, BSBA’14, and Anthony Tolliver, BSBA’07, will be inducted into Creighton’s Athletics Hall of Fame on Aug. 24.)

@eticusrex: My dad first came to the US 51y ago, working at a meat packing plant in Omaha. He was deported soon after, but came back to make a life in CA. Today we return for my graduation from Creighton with a Master of Health Care Ethics. Because **#Immigrants #WeGetTheJobDone #CreightonGrad**



@DrB_CreightonU: No rest for these **@Creighton_CCAS** seniors during Senior Week. Instead, they are installing electric energy monitoring for a local nonprofit to help maximize its efficiency and save costs! **#eGauge**



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Icebreaker

BY ADAM KLINKER

While Neil Armstrong was walking on the moon, another exploration of historic significance was taking shape in the Arctic. Creighton’s Betsy Elliot-Meisel, PhD, profiles the ice pilot of the *SS Manhattan*.

It’s called “The Attic,” and for millennia, the Arctic remained the last frontier — its frigid, forbidding climate unnavigable by all but an intrepid native population that weathered not only the frozen tundra but the push of colonial powers, Cold Warriors and now economic development in the region.

In the 1960s and 1970s, as the Arctic became increasingly central to the Cold War and oil reserves were discovered there, a renewed push to open the Northwest Passage to regular travel

resulted in a race at the top of the world, one that strained relations not only between adversaries like the United States and the Soviet Union, but also longtime allies like the U.S. and Canada.

In August 1969, just a month after Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the *SS Manhattan*, a 115,000-ton, 1,000-foot-long oil tanker, embarked on its own, terrestrial voyage of exploration: from Baffin Bay in Canada’s extreme northeastern islands, through the old Northwest Passage to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, where oil had been discovered.



Capt. T.C. Pullen

Aboard the privately owned American ship was arguably the world’s foremost ice pilot, retired Capt. T.C. Pullen of the Royal Canadian Navy. Now, Pullen and the Arctic voyage of the *Manhattan* are the subjects of a Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant in which Betsy Elliot-Meisel, PhD, Creighton University associate professor of history, is a collaborator, composing Pullen’s biography.

“With Pullen aboard, you had the last Canadian captain of an all-season

icebreaker. You had, quite possibly, the greatest ice captain who ever lived,” says Elliot-Meisel, who has written extensively on Canadian history, the Cold War and the Arctic. “It was an American ship and the Americans were going to get to Prudhoe Bay. But while there was an American captain, it was Pullen’s expertise that safely guided the biggest ship of its day and got it through the roughest ice conditions on the planet.”

In just under a month, the *Manhattan*, accompanied by Canada’s famed icebreaking vessel, *CCGS John A. Macdonald*, navigated some 3,000 miles of heavily iced seas and steamed into Point Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost point of U.S. territory. The *Manhattan* took on its cargo, a single barrel of Prudhoe crude, and the next day sailed back the way it had come.

Though the route, proven navigable by the intrepidity of Pullen, shaved

thousands of miles off other seafaring passages, the U.S. ultimately scrapped any future plans for hauling oil by sea and instead built the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

In so doing, the U.S. essentially beat an informal retreat from the Arctic while still wishing to maintain some influence in the region, over and above the sovereignty of Canada and other nations. The policy continues to this day. When the Cold War ended, U.S. policy interests in the Arctic dropped to nothing, though economic and defense interests persist.

For nearly 50 years, the U.S. has not signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a treaty to which more than 160 nations are party.

“American hubris is such that we say, ‘Well, we’ll do what we want,’” Elliot-Meisel says. “But that’s gone for the Arctic. It’s detrimental because we’re now seeing a lot of non-Arctic countries in the Arctic. For example, China is in the Arctic, which concerns us. Further, we don’t have a seat at the table for competing continental shelf claims among the Arctic states.”

But the *Manhattan’s* voyage, given Pullen’s work, also kicked off Canada’s northern strategy.

Canada’s sovereignty, the sovereignty of the First Nations and other indigenous people in the Arctic, and the environmental impact being felt in the Arctic are also now in play as competition in the region continues between proponents of, among other things, development and resource extraction and those committed to environmental protection and stewardship.

For Elliot-Meisel, it stirs up the image of Pullen, the ice-hardened navy captain who was nonetheless sensitive to what was happening at the top of the world. Pullen’s personal papers, recently published and forming a large basis of Elliot-Meisel’s biography, show a leader who understood breaking the ice both physically and metaphorically.

“Pullen was a proud Canadian and one who believed that Canada had the expertise to be a leading Arctic state,”

TEDx

POPULAR TALK

A TEDxCreightonU talk on navigating the multigenerational workplace by Creighton social psychologist Leah Skovran Georges, PhD, BA’06, currently has more than 1.4 million views. Watch this and other talks from the 2018 event at tedxcreightonu.com.

Elliot-Meisel says. “He advocated for a year-round Arctic presence with icebreakers to assist shipping and to protect Canadian sovereignty. But his support of continental security also meant cooperation between Canada and the U.S. which started in World War II and continued during the Cold War.

“He died too early, in 1990. But I think that had he lived, he would have advocated a different conversation around the Arctic. While he supported resource development, he was mindful of the indigenous people and their use of the Arctic land and waters. With his influence in Canada and his work with Americans, we might have seen more U.S.-Canada cooperation and the U.S. more serious about what’s happening ecologically and environmentally.”



JOSHUA FERSHEE ▶

Joshua Fershee, JD, is the new dean of the School of Law.



EVAN ROBINSON ▶

Evan Robinson, PhD, is the new dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

New Deans for Law; Pharmacy and Health Professions

Creighton University has named new deans for the School of Law and School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Joshua Fershee, JD, joins Creighton as dean of the School of Law. Most recently Fershee was professor of law and served as director of LLM and concentration programs in energy and sustainable development law at the West Virginia University College of Law.

Fershee’s research and scholarship focus primarily on energy law and business law issues. At West Virginia, he facilitated creation of the law college’s first LLM Program in Energy and Sustainable Development. He also served as associate dean for faculty research and development from 2015 to 2018, during which time he coordinated a successful accreditation site visit from the American Bar Association.

Fershee graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social science from Michigan State University in 1995, and *magna cum laude* from Tulane Law School in 2003.

Evan Robinson, PhD, is the new dean of the School of Pharmacy and

Health Professions. Prior to his position at Creighton, Robinson was the dean at Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where he served since 2008.

Robinson facilitated the development of the pharmacy program at Western New England University, a private university in Springfield, Massachusetts, as the founding dean of the university's College of Pharmacy. Beginning in 2017, he facilitated the development of a new entry-level doctor of occupational therapy program within the college, and oversaw the transition of the college to the newly named College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Robinson received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration from St. Louis College of Pharmacy and his PhD in pharmacy administration from the Department of Pharmacy Care Systems at Auburn University.

From Carpet-Weaver to Creighton Student

Afghani student reaches for his dreams with inaugural Creighton Global Initiative scholarship

Neman Karimi considers himself an optimist. But life hasn't been easy for the 25-year-old from Herat, Afghanistan.

"I had a tough childhood," says Karimi, who worked as a carpet-weaving apprentice as a child. "I remember working almost 18 hours a day to only earn 30 rupees a week."

That's about \$24 (U.S.) per week. Some of that money went back to assist his financially struggling parents and his five siblings.

But he remained hopeful. "I had big ideas in my mind," he says. "I had aspirations of becoming an educated person."

As a teenager, he finally had an opportunity to attend school. He struggled



◀ NEMAN KARIMI

© The Rev. Peter Balleis, SJ, executive president of JWL, (farthest from camera) delivers books to students in Bamyán, Afghanistan, who received scholarships through a Creighton Global Initiative grant and are enrolled in the University's online bachelor's degree in leadership studies. Neman Karimi, who lives in the Herat Province, is not pictured.

at first, but remained determined. He was then introduced to an English as a Foreign Language program through Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL).

He was inspired by the JWL-JRS outreach, which has a scope of assisting refugees and other marginalized people worldwide. He would earn a diploma in liberal studies through a JWL program with Regis University.

"That had a special impact on me," Karimi says. "It helped me to have a different ... more profound perception of humanity, societies and moral issues surrounding us."

Like other graduates of the 45-credit hour diploma program, he used his education to teach English at local sites through JRS. "I have been able to teach what I have learned to the people of my community," Karimi says.

In the fall of 2018, he became a student once more.

Karimi was selected as one of 10 JWL-Regis diploma graduates from Afghanistan (including six women) to receive an inaugural scholarship, funded by a Creighton Global Initiative grant, to enroll in Creighton's online bachelor's degree in leadership studies.

Two scholarships were awarded to JWL students from Jordan in January, and eight more scholarships will be awarded to JWL students worldwide this fall.

"We are the first Jesuit university to offer scholarships to these students," says Martha Habash, PhD, associate professor of classical and Near Eastern studies, and the faculty advisor and liaison for the JWL students.

For Karimi, the Creighton scholarship furthers his dream of one day earning his PhD.

"I want to serve my community and be an agent of social change," he says.

Lofty goals. But Karimi is ever the optimist.

Creighton Hosts First in a Series of Planned Conferences on the Climate

We know climate change is an issue. We know it's an ecological issue. We know it's an economic issue. We know it's a policy issue.

But at the inaugural gathering of "Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home," held at Creighton June 27-29, one thing was clear: We need to start looking at climate change as a spiritual issue.

The gathering at Creighton was the first of three planned biennial conferences. All are aimed at inspiring current and future environmental and Church leaders to more thoroughly execute *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical decrying climate change and its devastating effects on poor communities around the world.

Sponsored by Creighton and the Catholic Climate Covenant, the

WAIT...WHAT?

Creighton is among only 90 universities in the country recognized for undergraduate opportunities for research, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Here's a snapshot of one student's research project.



TITLE OF RESEARCH

"The Diffusion of State Utilization of Private Prisons"

STUDENT RESEARCHER

Bethany Winslow, BA'19; international relations and economics major, sustainable energy minor; Austin, Texas

FACULTY MENTOR

Erika Moreno, PhD, associate professor of political science and international relations

WHAT IT MEANS During the 1980s war on drugs, a number of states (as high as 47 at one point) began contracting with private prisons to handle increased incarcerations. This study examines why private prison contracts are continuing, despite relative decreases in prison population growth, concerns for inmate and officer safety, and lack of proof of cost efficiency. It concludes that a state's decision to contract with a private prison is influenced by political contributions from private prison corporations, larger percentages of minority populations, having neighboring states that use private prisons, and a propensity to be open to initiating new policies. Understanding the motivations behind legislation to utilize private prisons could contribute to determining whether that is the best public policy.

conference featured addresses from spiritual leaders and environmental advocates. Following the lectures, conference participants split up into small groups and discussed how to integrate *Laudato Si'* into eight areas of Catholic life: adult faith, advocacy, creation care teams, energy management, higher education, liturgy, school education and young adult ministry.

"You have been selected to be here at this time because of the urgency of this moment, because our common home is in serious jeopardy. You answered the call because you care," Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, told the crowd. "We all have been chosen to be co-creators with God on this beautiful blue planet that is under threat by our own hand."

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, welcomed visitors to campus and outlined the ways the University has committed itself to environmental responsibility: reducing greenhouse gas emissions from purchased electricity by almost 25%, installing solar and wind energy systems on campus, and pledging to be carbon neutral before 2050.

In addition, he said, Creighton's bachelor's degree programs in sustainability and environmental science offer students the chance to learn about ecological issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.

"In a sense, we at Creighton University have committed ourselves to help the Catholic Church discern adequate responses to the contemporary challenges like ecological degradation and climate change," he said. "In many ways, this commitment emerges from our mission and experience: Discernment is at the heart of Ignatian spirituality which grounds our University, and Creighton continues to discern what prudent care for God's creation requires of us."



When in Rome

“He looked me in the eyes, and I started to shake a little. I shook his hand and said, ‘I want to be a photojournalist when I grow up, to give a voice to the voiceless. I want to thank you for lending your voice and helping those in need, and I want you to know I’m praying for you.’”

A.J. Olnes nearly lost his voice in the stirring moment. “The pope put his other hand on my arm, and said, ‘Thank you. I’ll need all the prayers I can get, and may God bless you.’”

Meeting Pope Francis moved Olnes to tears. “We were looking at each other right in the eye; it was just,” he says, “peace.”

Olnes spent three months of his spring senior semester as a public affairs intern at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See in Rome. In his final week, he earned a ticket to a papal audience. Photographing the pope was part of Olnes’ internship duties, but meeting the pope was a divine bonus and one of many extraordinary experiences in Rome. “It did change my life,” he says, “both spiritually and by reaffirming who I want to be in the future.”

The road to the Eternal City started a year prior, when Carol Zuegner, PhD, BA’77, chair of the Department of Journalism, Media and Computing, urged Olnes to apply. It was an opportunity to connect his photography interests and public relations major with his faith.

At the Holy See, which refers to the governmental branch of the Roman Catholic Church, Olnes worked closely with Ambassador Callista Gingrich and the embassy’s small staff. He collected news from the Vatican and Holy See to draft reports sent on to Washington, D.C., planned events, tweeted, designed graphics and

worked with the media. “Trial by fire,” Olnes explains, “but it was the way I like to learn. I was treated as an equal with everybody in the embassy, which was awesome.”

Olnes had a large hand in organizing the embassy’s Stand Together to Defend International Religious Freedom symposium, marking the 35th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Holy See. The *L’Osservatore Romano* published his photography from the symposium, giving Olnes his first international photo credit.

Another special credit came during Easter Mass in St. Peter’s Square. As the pope spoke to the thousands gathered, Olnes, outfitted with *Creightonian* press credentials, and photographers from the Associated Press, Reuters and Catholic News Service took panoramic shots from atop the plaza’s massive colonnades — an area open to photographers just twice a year. “Wow, I’m thinking, ‘I’m living my dream right now,’” he says of a moment when his faith and photojournalist aspirations united.

Self-reflection is a habit for Olnes. When he discovered the Chiesa di Sant’Andrea Apostolo, a small 14th-century church at Lake Como, he sat alone for two hours “thinking about how much my life has changed — how God works in mysterious ways.” Olnes spent his first two years at Creighton as a business student before converting to journalism following a Backpack Journalism trip to the Nogales, Arizona/Mexico border. Through it all, faith was constant for Olnes, a Sunday regular at Creighton’s Candlelight Mass and leader for Campus Ministry retreats.

Even in Rome, he was never too far from Creighton. When an Ignatian pilgrimage group from Creighton, which included Zuegner, passed through the city, Olnes joined them for a tour of the Rooms of St. Ignatius and the Vatican Museums. He also spent time with the Rev. Don Doll, SJ, professor emeritus of photojournalism, who was traveling from India and showed Olnes around the Jesuit Curia, the worldwide headquarters of the Society of Jesus.

“I’ve been lucky, but God has always been there, and my friends, my family, the Creighton community,” he says. “I wouldn’t say I’m more Catholic now; I’m seeing my faith and practicing my faith in a different way.”

But still seeing God in all things.

— BY RACHEL BUTTNER, BA’03

Creighton to Offer New FinTech Degree This Fall

Creighton’s new FinTech degree program was featured in *Forbes* in May, as one of the first of its kind in the United States.

The program merges finance principles with technical skills to prepare finance students for the real-world financial services industry. It combines Creighton’s finance degree program with the business intelligence and analytics (BIA) program, which are both ranked in the top-25 by *U.S. News & World Report*.

“Compared to, say, five years ago, the field of finance has become far more data-driven in all subdisciplines of finance,” says Lee Dunham, PhD, associate professor of finance, chair of the Economics and Finance Department at the Heider College of Business and initiator of the FinTech major at Creighton. “Consequently, having finance majors just acquire the relevant finance ‘text-book knowledge’ is becoming increasingly insufficient to be competitive in the workforce.”

Creighton’s undergraduate program will begin on campus in the fall 2019 semester.

The new major will include five finance courses and five BIA courses, all of which are closely linked to the technologies used by firms in the financial services industry.

The FinTech major will not only make students more competitive in the job market, but it will also “provide them with a thorough understanding of how these technologies are disrupting traditional financial institutions, and how these institutions are starting to respond,” says Dunham.

All the while, he says, “our amazing finance faculty will continue to deliver incredible instruction of the finance coursework, while our amazing BIA faculty will now deliver the necessary technical classes on the technology side of the FinTech major.”

© Students in the Heider College of Business will now be able to pursue a FinTech degree, which combines the finance program with the business intelligence and analytics program.



COLIN CONCES



ROBIN FARIAS-EISNER ▶
Robin Farias-Eisner, MD, PhD, is the new director of the Hereditary Cancer Center in the School of Medicine.

Farias-Eisner Named New Director of Hereditary Cancer Center

Robin Farias-Eisner, MD, PhD, has a lot to reflect on in his professional life.

A medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin; a PhD in molecular biology from the University of California, Los Angeles; patents, papers and patients’ lives saved.

In July, Farias-Eisner, formerly the chief of gynecologic oncology and vice chair of administration in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UCLA, joined Creighton University as the new director of the Hereditary Cancer Center in the School of Medicine.

“I like the Jesuit, faith-based philosophy. It’s commensurate with my own philosophy of helping those in need,” Farias-Eisner says. “Creighton is a wonderful opportunity to take those philosophies and mission and vision

of the University to national and international preeminence through new drug development, high-quality patient care, cutting-edge research, high-quality education, community engagement and development.”

In addition to heading the Hereditary Cancer Center, Farias-Eisner will serve as the chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and associate dean for women’s health at Creighton. He will also be starting a new gynecologic oncology program, says Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81, dean of the medical school.

“The values that he’s demonstrated in his personal and professional life make him a great fit for a leadership position at the Creighton University School of Medicine,” Dunlay says. “He has excellent leadership skills that he’s honed through years of service at UCLA. He’s also a well-known physician scientist with an active lab.”

Early in his career, Farias-Eisner found himself drawn to women’s

medicine, particularly cancer cases in which patients were critically ill. This led him to pursue surgical oncology, and after his residency, Farias-Eisner accepted a fellowship in gynecological oncology at his alma mater, UCLA.

“(Women’s health) was an area that was underrepresented, perhaps. It was an area of surgery and science in which a need existed for high-quality academic excellence,” Farias-Eisner says. “I felt that I could contribute in a large way.”

After his fellowship, Farias-Eisner remained at UCLA as a professor and began pursuing his research interests. Through the university’s STAR (Specialty Training in Advanced Research) program, he earned a PhD in molecular biology and eventually started his own laboratory specializing in women’s cancer research.

Through his lab work, Farias-Eisner discovered new genetic markers for ovarian cancer, which proved to be extremely accurate in distinguishing between benign and malignant ovarian cysts. Other research has focused on developing new pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of ovarian cancer and other diseases.

At Creighton’s Hereditary Cancer Center, Farias-Eisner succeeds founder Henry Lynch, MD, who died in June.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to take the work of Jane and Henry Lynch further,” Farias-Eisner says. “I think that there’s a tremendous amount of opportunity in the School of Medicine. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Hereditary Cancer Center are outstanding academic institutions. There’s amazing talent that exists in each one of these components of the School of Medicine, and I feel that my role will be to enhance and contribute to the growth of those outstanding enterprises.”

Five New Leaders Join Board of Trustees

The Creighton University Board of Trustees welcomed five new members May 10, as the Board held its annual meeting on campus.

The new trustees are: **Diane Duren, BSBA’81**, retired executive vice president/chief administrative officer at Union Pacific, and chair of the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA) board in Omaha; **Bob Greenwood, BSPH’77**, pharmacist and community and professional leader in Waterloo, Iowa; **Mark Henkels, BSBA’83**, managing director at Moelis & Company, a global investment bank based in New York; **Tobin Schropp**, senior vice president and general counsel at Kiewit Corporation in Omaha; and **Mark Walter, BSBA’82**, co-founder of Guggenheim Partners, a financial services firm, chairman of the L.A. Dodgers and an owner of the WNBA’s Los Angeles Sparks.

The University also recognized a trustee emeritus, Bruce Grewcock, former vice chair of the Board of Trustees who has served on the Board since 2008. Grewcock is chairman and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons’ Inc.

\$10 Million Grant to Establish Health Sciences Building in Phoenix

The trustees of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust have awarded a \$10 million grant to Creighton to support the construction of the building on the Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus — a 180,000-square-foot, nearly \$100 million campus set to open in the heart of midtown Phoenix in 2021.

The Piper Trust supports organizations that enrich health, well-being and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County, Arizona, a mission that perfectly aligns with Creighton’s expansion in Phoenix.



STUDYING THE SANDHILLS

Creighton was awarded a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for an interdisciplinary research project looking at the stability and vulnerability of the Nebraska Sandhills. Leading the research are professors Mary Ann Vinton, PhD, biology; Jay Leighter, PhD, communication studies; and John O’Keefe, PhD, theology.



MEDICAL HUMANITIES CHAIR

The Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD, was named the inaugural chair of the newly formed Department of Medical Humanities in the School of Medicine, which will support the mission-driven formation of students in the medical school. Fr. FitzGerald is the John A. Creighton University Professor and an associate professor in the School of Medicine.

“This investment from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will be transformative as we look forward to 2021 and the opening of the Creighton University Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Sciences Building,” Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, says.

Creighton’s Phoenix campus will serve nearly 900 health sciences students seeking degrees in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and other health care professions. The campus is scheduled to open in the fall of 2021, with full enrollment by 2025.

Arizona is facing a growing shortage in most health care professions. Creighton’s presence is not only bringing more health care professionals to the state, it’s keeping them there. Overall, 70% of the medical residents Creighton has placed in Arizona over the past decade remain in the state.

“The generous investment by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will bring future Creighton physicians and health care providers to Maricopa County who are educated in the Jesuit tradition of caring for the whole person,” says School of Medicine Dean Robert “Bo” Dunlay, MD’81. “With the expansion of the Phoenix campus, Creighton University will become the largest Catholic health sciences educator in the United States.”

Business Enrollment Growth Spurs Renovations

With a 74% increase in undergraduate enrollment and a nearly 33% increase in graduate enrollment in less than a decade, Creighton’s Heider College of Business is in need of more space.

“The Heider College of Business has worked hard over the past several years to continuously enhance the quality of our educational product, with special attention to adding real-world skills to drive value to employers,” says Heider College of Business Dean Anthony Hendrickson, PhD. “This has led to significant growth in our enrollment



over the past five to six years. At the same time, we have consistently added exceptional faculty in order to make the enrollment growth sustainable while maintaining a low student-to-professor ratio.”

Undergraduate enrollment in the Heider College of Business has topped 1,000 students. The college enrolled 648 undergraduate students in 2010 and 1,129 in the fall of 2018 — a 74% increase.

With a need for more classrooms, faculty offices and collaboration and study space, renovations to the Harper Center began this summer and are expected to be completed by late 2020. The Heider Family Foundation, led by Scott Heider, is donating the lead gift for the project.

“We’re extremely excited for the future of our students and the college,” says Hendrickson. “Alongside our physical growth, we will be rolling out a new 21st century curriculum, with our Heider Mindsets, one of the first major innovations in collegiate business education in the past several decades.”

Student Competes on American Ninja Warrior; Raises Funds, Awareness for Charity

College of Arts and Sciences senior Michael Galeski’s appearance on NBC’s *American Ninja Warrior* combined his competitive spirit with his drive to better the world.

In April, Galeski traveled to Oklahoma City with his parents and a handful of friends from Creighton to compete in the regional round of the competition. (Galeski’s mom, Laurie Vinduska Galeski, BS’83, MS’89, works at Creighton as an academic coach.) The episode aired on NBC in June, and part of his run was broadcast.

The Omaha Central High School graduate made it through several obstacles before falling on the “coconut climb.”

Galeski, a sustainability major minoring in business and African studies, dedicated his performance on the show to Pencils of Promise, a national nonprofit organization that builds schools in developing countries.

© Michael Galeski, above, competes on the *American Ninja Warrior* course at the Oklahoma City regional round in April. Galeski is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

He traveled with the organization to Laos in November 2018 to learn more about the group’s efforts to build schools in that country’s rural areas.

“I would have loved to finish the course, but I’m proud to have made it to the obstacle before the warped wall (the final obstacle) in my rookie season,” says Galeski, who trained for the show at special gyms in Minnesota and Lincoln, Nebraska.

“I’m so grateful for this opportunity to represent Pencils of Promise and raise awareness for global education on a national stage,” he says. “I’m also thankful for the generosity of all the people who donated after watching the show. We still have work to do before we complete the school, but this progress is exciting.”

Program Improves Health and Saves Costs

Creighton and its clinical partner in Nebraska and Iowa, CHI Health, piloted a successful program to improve health outcomes, save costs and reduce hospital readmissions due to infection.

As the pipeline for antibiotics is decreasing and antibiotic resistance is increasing, health care providers are turning attention to the wisest use of antibiotics. Antimicrobial stewardship was mandated in January 2017 by the Joint Commission, the U.S. health care accrediting organization.

The Creighton team was ahead of the curve, initially implementing an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) at Creighton University Medical Center beginning in 2011; because of the program's success, it has been used throughout the CHI Health system, which includes 14 hospitals in the region.

"The positive results and success made the program a natural fit to continue when CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy became the primary teaching hospital for the health system," says Renuga Vivekanandan, MD, director of hospital epidemiology and the ASP. The expansion to all CHI Health hospitals brought the program to facilities of all sizes, including those in rural communities.

The ASP consists of a collaborative team that includes physicians, pharmacists, microbiologists, nurses and others. It focuses on reducing patients' readmission to hospitals from infection with *Clostridiodes difficile*, also called *C. difficile*, a bacterium that causes serious gastrointestinal illness, including life-threatening colon inflammation. Older adults in hospitals or long-term care facilities who have taken antibiotics are particularly at risk.

The CHI Health ASP research study found an immediate impact on patient care and safety and a sizable reduction in readmission for *C. difficile*, to the tune of about \$1.3 million in one year.

Jennifer Petersen Anthone, PharmD'08, was the study's lead author and is the ASP pharmacist and Pharmacy Residency Program director at Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy. "The pharmacy residents are exposed to antimicrobial



COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMIT

Creighton professor David Reed, PhD, was invited to participate in the first National Computer Science Summit for State Leaders in Little Rock, Arkansas, in June. His trip was made possible by a travel fund established by Susan M. and George F. Haddix, PhD, MA'66.



AMANDA BOESCH KIRKPATRICK

Amanda Boesch Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, assistant professor of nursing, was chosen as one of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation's 2019 Macy Faculty Scholars.

stewardship daily during multiple rotations," Anthone says, "and also can take an antimicrobial stewardship elective for further training."

Pharmacy residents are not the only Creighton health professional trainees who benefit from the program. Members of the ASP also work very closely with School of Medicine learners, including medical residents and students, in addition to pharmacy and nursing students.

"We provide real-time education to providers on antimicrobial therapy and work collaboratively to deliver the best patient care possible," Anthone says.

Awareness of the ASP program is spreading, as members of the team have presented at national infectious disease meetings. Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) facilities in other states are considering expanding antimicrobial stewardship services modeled after the success of the Creighton-CHI Health team.

Creighton Nursing Professor Named National Macy Scholar

Amanda Boesch Kirkpatrick, PhD, BSN'05, knew she wanted to be a nurse at 14. She was helping to care for a neighbor with dementia, and the man's full-time caregiver encouraged her to find work as a certified nursing assistant in a local nursing home.

"It was there, working in the Alzheimer's unit, that I discovered my passion for nursing," Kirkpatrick says.

That passion drove her to achieve; it fueled her through bachelor's, master's and PhD programs. Today, Kirkpatrick is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing. And her star is on the rise.

Kirkpatrick has been chosen as one of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation's 2019 Macy Faculty Scholars. The program, open to educators in medicine and nursing nationwide, selects up to five scholars annually to receive salary support and extensive career development training.

The program, which received more

than 70 applicants this year, aims to identify innovators in medicine and nursing education and give them the resources to establish new programs at their respective institutions. The chosen scholars also receive mentoring and career advice from a national committee of professionals.

"The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation is really interested in developing the next generation of innovators in interprofessional education. They want to develop national leaders," says Gail Jensen, PhD, dean of the Graduate School and College of Professional Studies at Creighton. "Mandy's a delight. She's a rock star. She's going to go far. She's a great example of what learning is all about, and she's doing this for all the right reasons."

The foundation seeks scholars with the potential to change health care education at the national level, says Jensen, whom Kirkpatrick selected as a senior faculty mentor. Applicants must identify and outline educational initiatives they hope to implement at home; Kirkpatrick's goal is to expand and improve Creighton's palliative care education, making it more comprehensive and applicable to distance-learning students.

"She is at the perfect stage in her career, where the Macy award would have maximum impact," says Catherine Todero, PhD, BSN'72, dean of the College of Nursing. "Her proposed project could become a driver for changing the health education system in ways that would more adequately meet the health care needs of the public and substantially advance the conversations around palliative and end-of-life care."

Kirkpatrick also has pioneered the implementation of palliative care coursework in Creighton's health care curriculum. Working alongside faculty in the College of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, as well as members of CHI Health's palliative care and hospice teams, Kirkpatrick and her colleagues developed an interdisciplinary elective, in which students engage in live-action

Korver Tells Graduates 'Shoot It to Make It'

Creighton journalism graduate Kyle Korver, BA'03, a 16-year NBA veteran and one of the premier 3-point shooters in league history, urged Creighton's May graduates to be men and women who are "fully alive."

"Don't just shoot it to shoot it; shoot it to make it," said Korver, Creighton's 2019 commencement speaker, who was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

"Each of you is made up of many parts, many interests, many opinions, many experiences," he said. "Own these. Share these. Don't let the world convince you that your voice isn't important."

Korver, who has been inducted into the Creighton Athletics and Missouri Valley Conference Halls of Fame, helped guide the Bluejays to four NCAA Tournament appearances as a student-athlete at Creighton from 1999 to 2003.

A second-round NBA Draft selection, Korver has played with five NBA teams, appeared in two NBA Finals, and has been an NBA All-Star selection. He currently ranks fourth all-time in 3-point field goals, with 2,351.

In addition to his success on the court, Korver is also noted for his philanthropy and community service, and has used his unique position as a professional athlete to speak out on issues of social justice, including a recent essay on race and white privilege that appeared in *The Players' Tribune*.

"Class of 2019, my hope for you is that you can find purpose in your work, your relationships, your adventures in life. But I also hope you can find meaning in how you engage with the world outside of yourself."



2019 COMMENCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly **1,900** diplomas awarded

three Honorary Degrees

Kyle Korver, BA'03
Professional basketball player
Doctor of Humane Letters
Commencement speaker



Sr. Maurita Soukup, RSM, PhD
Health trustee and nurse
consultant/researcher
Doctor of Humane Letters



Dan Semrad, BSBA'71, MA'09, MA'18
Financial advisor
Doctor of Humane Letters

one

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement

Annemarie Shibata, PhD, BS'92
Associate professor
Department of Biology
College of Arts and Sciences

2 Spirit of Creighton Awards

Nathan Hansen, DDS'19
School of Dentistry

Hannah O'Hagan, BSChM'19
College of Arts and Sciences

scenarios, making treatment decisions for palliative care patients played by actors. Distance learners interact with “patients” through internet video platforms, such as Zoom, in what Kirkpatrick calls Virtual Interprofessional Simulations, or VISION.

Through her selection by the Macy Foundation, Kirkpatrick hopes to grow the number of VISION scenarios, allowing students to engage in palliative care situations that they could encounter in actual practice, including those involving pediatric, multicultural or veteran patients.

“Dr. Kirkpatrick has a track record of leading innovative projects, with a clear vision of her research trajectory,” says Joan Lappe, PhD, MS’85, associate dean for research in the College of Nursing. “This is a tremendous opportunity for Dr. Kirkpatrick to focus on her palliative care initiative as a step to becoming an outstanding nurse leader who will advance nursing science and education in palliative care to momentous levels.”

BlueBox Project Named an Innovation That Inspires

The BlueBox Project was recently recognized as a 2019 Innovation That Inspires by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The idea was conceived by Charles Braymen, PhD, associate professor of economics, after he had trouble installing educational software on outdated computers at a school in Tanzania while on a mission trip in 2015.

Braymen collaborated with Dustin Ormond, PhD, assistant professor of business intelligence and analytics, and Creighton’s Radlab to create the BlueBox — which houses an inexpensive minicomputer capable of disseminating open-source educational materials to anyone with a cell phone. In areas without electricity, a solar version can be deployed. The device has been installed at locations in the Dominican Republic and Peru by students in Creighton’s Faculty-Led Programs Abroad.

HEALTH BRIEFS

Using Tai Chi, Yoga and Pilates to Help Patients with Parkinson’s Disease

Creighton physical therapy students are getting patients with Parkinson’s disease moving in a whole new way. With techniques from tai chi, yoga and Pilates, students are learning alternative methods to improve patients’ function and way of life.

“Evidence has shown movement, in general, is really good for slowing the disease,” says Kelli Wrolstad, a third-year physical therapy student. But, she adds, it’s not realistic to tell most Parkinson’s patients to “hop on a treadmill.”

Instead, alternative exercises can be modified to fit the patient’s needs. This spring, Creighton physical therapy students did just that, working with Parkinson’s patients in the physical therapy lab.

The positive outcomes can stretch beyond improving general health, says Jessica Niski, DPT’12, BSBS’12, assistant professor of physical therapy.

“If we can maximize their function and participation,” she says, “they can maintain their independence.”



© During a visit to the physical therapy lab, Suzanne Arney, left, works on improving her movement with help from third-year physical therapy students Samantha Erickson, middle, and Kristine Vaz, right.

Study Examines Rural Homelessness

Data gathered by a Creighton professor and a recent School of Medicine graduate will help state and local leaders in the U.S. better meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in rural communities. Their research provides insight into a public health issue that is currently understudied in research literature.

Sriram Ramaswamy, MD, professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry, and Anthony Easterday, BS’15, MD’19, recently published a study in the *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless*. Ramaswamy and Easterday’s study looked at the socio-demographics and physical and mental health of those experiencing homelessness in rural areas, as well as their ability to use technology and the barriers to their access to care.

Video Games May Pay Off for Surgeons

For all those parents who lament children playing video games too much, a Creighton professor may be poking a few holes in their argument.

It turns out, playing video games actually may be helpful if you want to be a surgeon.

John Cote, MD’97, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the School of Medicine and an avid video-game player,

thinks research published in the *Archives of Surgery* is worth further study.

The article reported in 2007 that surgeons who played video games for more than three hours a week made 37% fewer mistakes. They were also 27% faster than surgeons who never played.

Cote, who completed medical school and residency at Creighton, admits to being a longtime gamer, “since the days of Pong,” which was one of the first video games produced in the early ‘70s. He had noticed the similarities between video-game playing and laparoscopic surgery and was aware of the 2007 study.

An “invited critique” on the original research stated that further studies “are needed before we include video-game play as an adjunct to skill training in laparoscopic surgery or before we relax our concerns about video-game playing among children.”

Cote is doing just that, with the goal of publishing his results and encouraging the adoption of video-game warmups for OB-GYN residents if a positive correlation is found.

Students Collaborate in Dental Clinic

This May, 86 dental students and 45 occupational therapy students participated in a joint activity designed to broaden their respective health care perspectives.

The “Accommodations and Transfers” activity, held in the Creighton Dental Clinic,

concentrated on issues dental patients with mobility issues and other physical limitations might face, such as moving from a wheelchair to the dental chair and learning how to properly clean their teeth.

The interprofessional education (IPE) activity is part of a growing collaborative effort in health care, and between Creighton’s School of Dentistry and School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Another IPE activity at the dental clinic involves pharmacy and dental students collaborating on medication management of adult dental clinic patients. A pharmacist and team of pharmacy students consult with the dental students on patient care, providing medication therapy management, identifying drug-related problems, recommending medications and more.

Creighton has made interprofessional education a priority, with the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) serving as the hub.

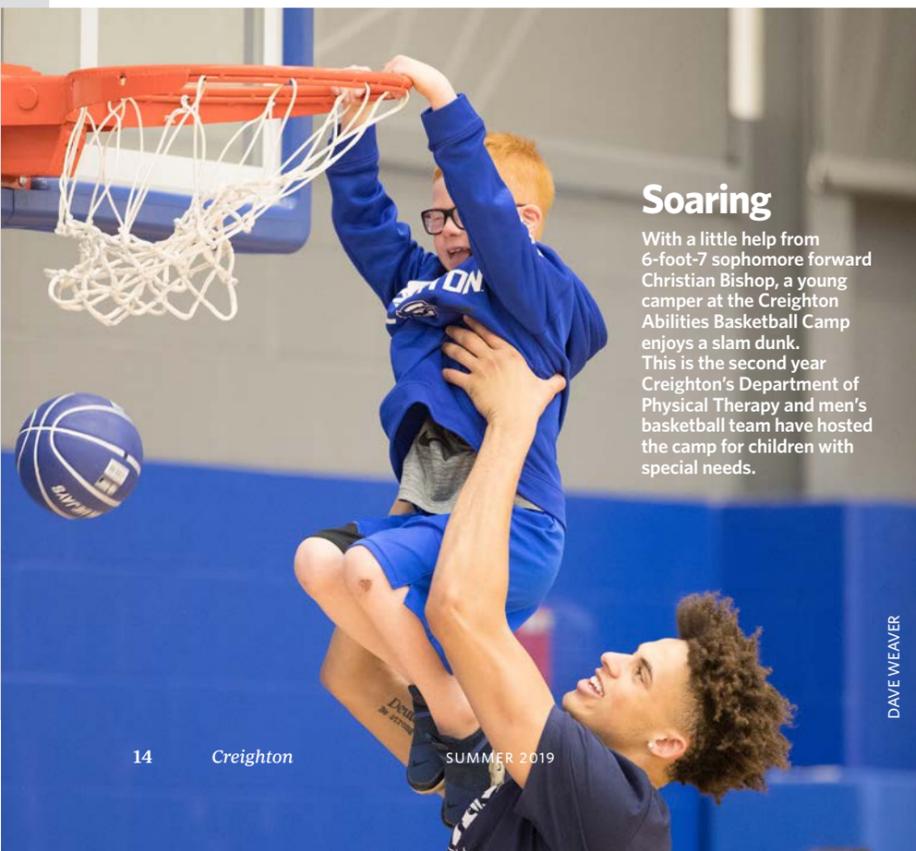
NIH Grant Aids Research to Battle TB

An old drug may become important in the worldwide fight against tuberculosis, according to the research of two scientists in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Justin Tolman, PharmD, PhD, and Jeffrey North, PhD, are participating in a two-year, \$600,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to determine the potential for the antibiotic clofazimine — synthesized 65 years ago, now only used to treat leprosy, and known for adverse side effects including severe nausea and skin discoloration — to combat TB, especially as drug-resistant strains of the disease arise.

Tolman said the health care community is concerned about TB treatment options as many drugs currently used are becoming ineffective. “Clofazimine is what you might call a ‘bad drug,’ but we’re seeing if we use it in a new way, it has the possibility to be effective against tuberculosis,” he says.

The NIH grant stems from a study Tolman and North undertook with the aid of a Jack and Lois Wareham Faculty Research Award, in which they improved upon the results of a paper that showed clofazimine, when inhaled rather than taken orally, is effective against a mouse model of tuberculosis.



Soaring

With a little help from 6-foot-7 sophomore forward Christian Bishop, a young camper at the Creighton Abilities Basketball Camp enjoys a slam dunk. This is the second year Creighton’s Department of Physical Therapy and men’s basketball team have hosted the camp for children with special needs.

DAVE WEAVER

Is Time Travel Possible?

BY TOM WONG, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

Tom Wong's research interests include quantum computing, and he leads the Quantum Computing Group at Creighton. Wong also serves on the editorial board of *Quantum Information Processing*, a quantum computing journal.

THE BIG QUESTION

Recent Hollywood blockbuster *Avengers: Endgame* is the latest in a long line of movies in which time travel features prominently in the plot. But is it plausible, considering the laws of physics?

Spoiler alert! We're about to discuss plot elements of *Avengers: Endgame*. Time travel is central to *Endgame*, as the Avengers attempt to go back in time, retrieve the all-important infinity stones and bring them back to the present. Scientifically, time travel to the future is commonplace, but there is no evidence that time travel to the past is possible.

First, time travel into the future is constantly occurring, since in one second, you will be one second into the future. If everyone else has also aged one second, this may not be very interesting.

But an amazing fact from Albert Einstein's famous framework of general relativity is that clocks tick faster or slower for people depending on the strength of gravity or how fast they are moving. Experiment after experiment has validated relativity.

Consider the case of black holes.

Imagine a hypothetical man (John) who stays on earth, while his friend (Mary) travels near a black hole. Since earth's gravity is less than the black hole's, time ticks more quickly for John on earth, and more slowly for Mary. When Mary returns, 20 years may have passed for John, and only a week for Mary. To Mary, it's like she has traveled 20 years into the future. This idea was depicted quite well in the 2015 movie *Interstellar*.

Notice that both John and Mary age, just at different speeds. Neither is getting younger, which would constitute going backward in time. In fact, time travel to the past defies the laws of thermodynamics, which assert that natural processes increase the amount of "disorder" (entropy) of a system. This is why we see eggs break, but broken eggs do not reassemble. To go backward in time would be to reassemble broken eggs, violating thermodynamics.

So we are constantly traveling in time into the future, even at different rates thanks to relativity. But unlike in Hollywood movies, we



cannot travel back in time without violating thermodynamics and other arguments.

The physics of quantum mechanics also relates to another important element of *Endgame*: parallel universes.

In quantum mechanics, events occur with probabilities. For example, a quantum computer bit can be a combination of 0 and 1, not simply only 0 or 1. When we measure it, however, we get a definite value of 0 or 1. How this combination becomes a definite value is still a topic of debate and research.

The most common view among physicists is the Copenhagen interpretation, which states that a quantum combination simply becomes definite when measured, and there is nothing more.

Another view is the many-worlds interpretation. It proposes that when a measurement is taken, both outcomes occur, but each in a parallel universe. So the bit is 0 in one universe and 1 in another.

The many-worlds interpretation is likely the inspiration for the Sorcerer Supreme's explanation in *Endgame*, that if one of the infinity stones is taken, another universe will be created.

Scientifically, however, the universes are parallel, meaning they cannot interact with each other. You are in your universe, and you cannot access the other(s).

Traveling back in time. Jumping universes. For now, it's only possible with the Avengers. (Assemble!)

Name-Dropping

One of the ways movies sound convincing is to name-drop actual scientific terms. A perfect example from *Endgame* is when Captain America, Natasha Romanoff and Ant Man visit Tony Stark to propose using the quantum realm to go back in time. Tony dismisses it, saying, "Quantum fluctuation messes with the Planck scale, which then triggers the Deutsch Proposition."

These three terms each have some meaning, but together, the sentence is meaningless. Quantum fluctuations refer to temporary fluctuations in energy due to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. The name "fluctuations" may suggest an intimidating or worrisome instability, but they are normal, everywhere, and constantly occurring, even playing a role in the interactions between fundamental particles.

The Planck scale refers to incredibly small lengths, times and energies for which a quantum theory of gravity is necessary. Quantum fluctuations and the Planck scale do not "mess" with each other, as Stark claims.

Finally, there is no such thing as the Deutsch Proposition, although David Deutsch is a real scientist. And while Stark's phrase is scientific gobbledygook, at least the ideas are each related to quantum mechanics, and it just might inspire a future scientist.

Friends Collaborate to Help Those Touched by Cancer

The long-distance friendship of two Creighton students – Anthony Maranise, pursuing a doctorate in interdisciplinary leadership, and Mirjana Walther, a senior in elementary education – resulted in an award-winning book to assist people affected by cancer. *Cross of a Different Kind: Cancer and Christian Spirituality* was inspired by Maranise's 21-year remission after being treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia when he was 5 to 7 years old; Walther created four illustrations for the book.

Maranise lives in Memphis, Tennessee, while Walther is a Bellevue, Nebraska, native; they met online and discovered mutual interests surrounding their Christian faith. Maranise is a board-certified chaplain and has researched and written on the intersections between sports and spirituality, education, health and religion.

The book is a field guide for anyone touched by cancer, including those battling cancer, cancer survivors and those who have lost loved ones. It received a Best Book Award in the Religion-Christianity category at the American Book Fest in Los Angeles last year and has been nominated for other awards. Proceeds from sales of the book and illustration litho-prints benefit nonprofits, especially St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, where Maranise received his treatment.

CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: How has your personal experience with cancer affected your life?

Walther: Many people in my life have dealt with cancer, and watching their battles, each story is amazing and inspiring. It's always been something close to my heart.

Maranise: I'm often asked if I can remember my experiences with it — the chemo, the spinal aspirations, etc. — because I was so young at the time, and that question always astounds me. How could I ever forget? Though it was absolute hell-on-earth, especially with the nearly constant nausea from the chemo and pain from the equally frequent blood tests, there were good — dare I even say, beautiful — moments throughout the experience.

I actually tell people that St. Jude is the holiest place in all of Memphis — maybe even in all the South — because of the bravery of the children treated there. I remember that bravery. I remember friends I made who were other patients, brilliant physicians and incredibly dedicated nurses. I remember the generosity of my family and even total strangers who gave up places in lines or seats for me when I was so sick.

CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: How has cancer influenced your faith?

Maranise: That early experience of standing sort of "at the veil" between life and life eternal encouraged, strengthened and solidified my faith.

I have seen God's face reflected in my family, friends, doctors, nurses and other caregivers who, pouring out their love in care for me and others like me, nearly constantly reflected God's face before me. I don't know if, had I not experienced cancer so young, I would have this interest and the goals of encouraging others in the faith I so dearly love.

Walther: I have learned a lot about the strength and the significance of the battle itself. Everyone deals with it differently. I have learned so much about how St. Jude came to be and all they do to help their patients. I really came to understand how cancer affects way more than the person who has it. Mostly, I learned that you really can't go through something like this without faith. It's so necessary and can turn something so ugly into something so touching and beautiful.

CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: What led to creating this book?

Maranise: I've felt my own "calling" to research, teach and write about matters of the heart and soul, particularly through the lenses of Judeo-Christian theology, for more than 14 years. I've personally experienced all three possible ways that a person can experience cancer. I've lost loved ones to it; I've personally fought my own battle against it; and now, I live as a survivor. Those three means of experiencing cancer form the three sections of the book. In my years of academic study and personal application,

especially as a chaplain and cancer coach, I've seen and experienced firsthand how great the spiritual and existential struggles can be for persons facing cancer in any of these ways. This book is about assurance, and not necessarily the assurance of faith alone, but that others have gone through, are going through, and will go through the same things. It's a reminder that we need not face our journeys alone.

Walther: Throughout my life, I have always been interested in art and loved to draw and paint. Anthony asked if I would be interested in doing the artwork for the book cover after seeing some of my work. I drew a couple of ideas and Anthony decided to use one for each section of the book. When he told me the proceeds would go to St. Jude, I couldn't say no. What an amazing way to give back and help.

CREIGHTON MAGAZINE: What does it mean to you that the book has won and been nominated for awards?

Maranise and Walther: We were pretty shocked when we got the news of our first win, the American Book Fest award. It never occurred to us that we would be an award-winning author-illustrator duo. The awards and nominations are great and all, but we both agree that our biggest reward comes in being able to help children at St. Jude fight (and hopefully win) their own battles with cancer. God puts the right people in our lives; we think our story proves that.



REFLECTIONS

A Sacred Sighting

Atop Velian Hill across from Rome's Colosseum, Pope Francis presided over the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The practice, dating back to the 18th century, portrays the final moments of the Passion of the Christ. While thousands gathered outside the Colosseum, Creighton student A.J. Olnes was part of a small group inside, where he photographed moments throughout the holy celebration. Read more about Olnes' experience on Page 8.





Vision for Hearing Research

BY Adam Klinker

Creighton's new Translational Hearing Center seeks significant breakthroughs, buoyed by a gift from the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation and a director who, himself, experienced childhood hearing loss.

Eighty years ago, an aspiring physician, the son of Italian immigrants to the United States, landed at the Creighton University School of Medicine.

He graduated in 1942 and returned to his native New York City, where he made some of the 20th century's most important contributions in the fields of otology and otolaryngology, loaning his name to several procedures and instruments that have helped the deaf to hear and staved off hearing loss for many.

About 25 years after Richard Bellucci, MD'42, graduated from Creighton, a 14-month-old boy in Manchester, England, contracted bacterial meningitis. Physicians managed to save the child's life through a course of aminoglycoside antibiotics, but a side effect of those drugs robbed him of his hearing.

Now, Peter Steyger, PhD, with a doctorate in neuroscience and hundreds of publications on ototoxicity and cochlear anatomy, has dedicated his life and career to preventing a similar fate for other children. He is doing so in the spirit and legacy of Bellucci, a man who Steyger says has inspired a generation of physicians and researchers in the field of hearing loss. In May, Steyger joined Creighton as director of the School of Medicine's Translational Hearing Center (THC), in a move that he says is "a dream scenario that will help me fulfill my life's goals."

"The vision here at Creighton to do the preclinical, otoprotective work and the collaborative environment here is absolutely phenomenal and central to translational medicine," says Steyger, who spent more than two decades at the Oregon Health & Science University and the Oregon Hearing Research Center.

Steyger joins the chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Jian Zuo, PhD, in inaugurating the work of the Translational Hearing Center, perpetuating the work of Bellucci, whose pioneering surgical and otolaryngology work continues to inspire.

A longtime president of the American Otological Society, Bellucci's middle-ear prosthesis and his invention and advancement of a procedure to remove a portion of the middle ear to help improve hearing remain storied moments in the physician's career.

Bellucci started the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation in part to connect his longtime loves — medicine, helping his patients and his alma mater.

"Dr. Bellucci was a very humble man, a very intelligent man," says Kevin O'Leary, president of the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation, and a friend of Bellucci's in the physician's later years. Bellucci, who died in 2005 at the age of 91, received Creighton's highest alumni honor, the Alumni Achievement Citation, in 2004.

"At the end of the day, everything came back to a few things: his love of practicing medicine, of helping patients and his great love for Creighton. The Translational Hearing Center fits all of those perfectly, and we at the foundation are looking forward to seeing what great work is going to come out of the center. Dr. Steyger and Dr. Zuo are doing the work that Dr. Bellucci wanted the foundation to do."

Steyger says Bellucci's career is evidence of just how clinical and bench researchers, surgical and laboratory work, can go hand in glove in crucial, collaborative ways.

"I've worked with some wonderful, brilliant researchers on very difficult problems, yet we were all in our own zone," Steyger says. "What Creighton has done across disciplines and in partnering with other institutions gives us the opportunity to learn and discover alongside one another and translate those discoveries to prevent hearing loss or restore hearing to a lot of people. Dr. Bellucci translated his vision and ideas into practice and the Translational Hearing Center seeks to recapitulate what he did. That we can do it at Creighton, at his alma mater, is especially meaningful."

The Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation has donated \$300,000 to the Translational

Hearing Center to further its work and, in May, the Department of Biomedical Sciences hosted the inaugural Bellucci Symposium on Hearing Research, sponsored by the Bellucci DePaoli Family Foundation.

At the symposium, physicians and researchers in hearing loss learned more about Bellucci's contributions to the field and learned about how the Translational Hearing Center will build on basic science discoveries that enhance the potential to restore hearing.

The center also will collaborate with Boys Town National Research Hospital and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The expansive effort, Steyger says, makes it all the more likely that researchers will make significant breakthroughs.

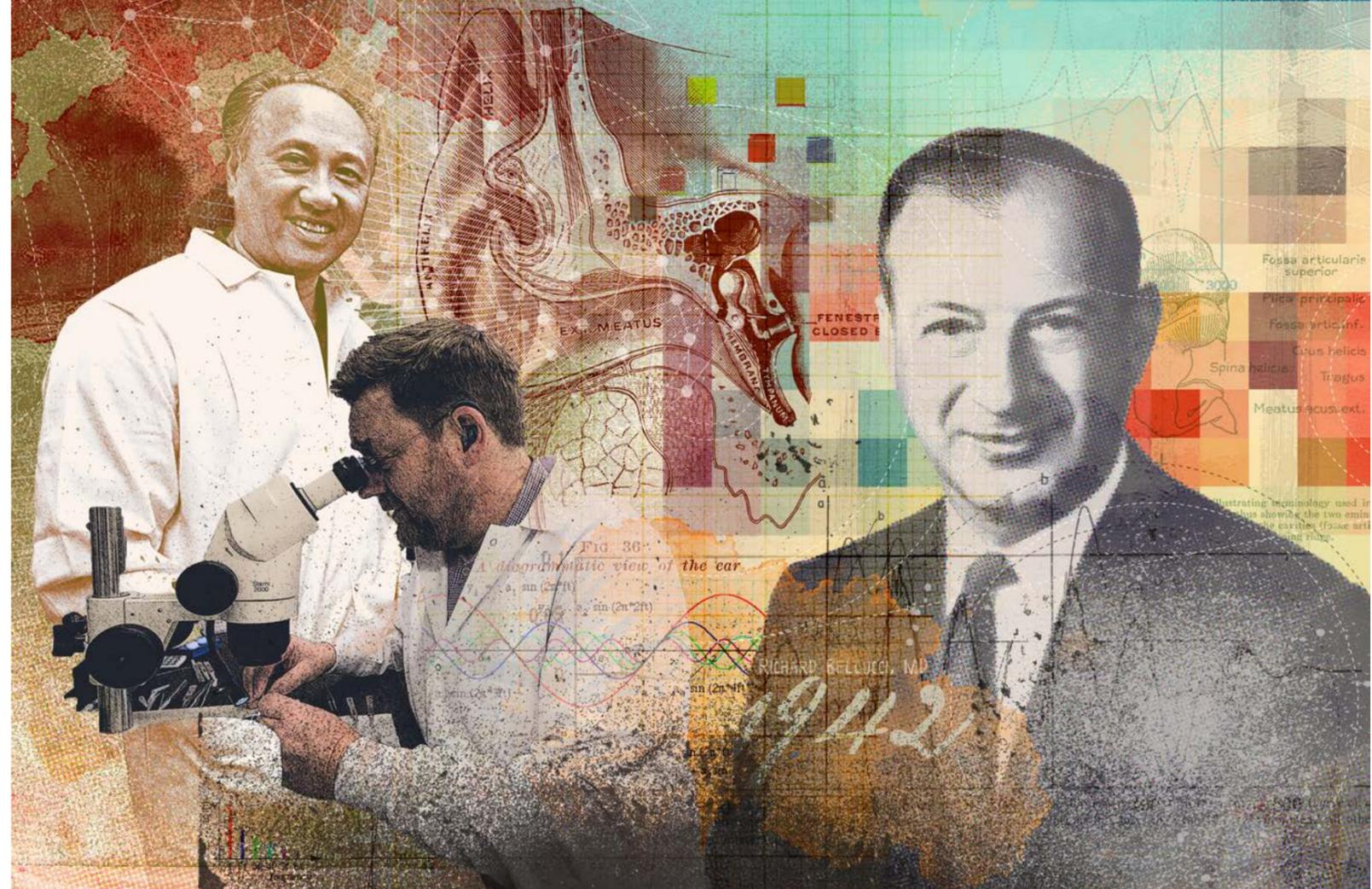
"We can move with more velocity," Steyger says. "Creighton has a long history in auditory research, as does Boys Town. The kinds of credentials these researchers have and their willingness to work collaboratively was a major reason I came to Creighton."

Steyger arrived at Creighton with a major National Institutes of Health grant in tow and another \$3.5 million grant on the way from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). The grants are dedicated to preventing, through clinical or pharmaceutical interventions, the kind of hearing loss Steyger experienced. The center will also examine the potential to restore hearing via repairing or replacing damaged hearing cells.

Ten Creighton faculty from the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry and the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, with another three new faculty researchers to be hired, will comprise the Translational

“What Creighton has done across disciplines and in partnering with other institutions gives us the opportunity to learn and discover alongside one another and translate those discoveries to prevent hearing loss or restore hearing to a lot of people.”

PETER STEYGER, PHD
Director, Translational Hearing Center



Hearing Center. Graduate students and undergraduates will also play crucial roles in the THC laboratories.

Zuo will head up drug design for the center. "There is a lot of synergy on this, a lot of interprofessional collaboration that is making this possible," says Zuo, who was hired in April 2018 and is working on a project to target at what point and in what populations antibiotics or chemotherapy drugs for cancer affect hearing. "There are some very promising pathways that Dr. Steyger has identified, and some compounds that we've identified. The great thing is that our vision, our goals, are identical in this: to develop the first drug that could prevent this kind of hearing loss in children."

Steyger notes the incidence of hearing loss for children in the U.S. under the age of 2 is about 1 in 200, typically caused by trauma, infection or antibiotic drugs. By 18, about 1 in 20 children experience hearing loss. From there, the frequency increases with age-related hearing loss added into the mix.

Since he was 2, Steyger has been outfitted with the latest in technological advances in hearing aids and cochlear implants that, ironically, give him an advantage as he gets older and hears better.

"Many in my age bracket are now experiencing age-related hearing loss," he says. "I'm going the other way. The technology is really amazing in rehabilitating hearing loss. But what would be even better is if we could prevent hearing loss in the first place and give everyone that natural ability to hear."

In any given year, some 100,000 people in the U.S. are treated with aminoglycosides, the antibiotics that caused Steyger's hearing loss, and up to another 500,000 are treated with chemotherapy drugs that cause hearing loss. Developing an effective compound to forestall that side effect is the center's primary aim.

The THC also will be looking at the potential to regrow the cochlear hair cells that, when depleted, lead to deafness. These sensory cells, which do not regenerate in humans, are

© The work of Richard Bellucci, MD'42, right, continues at Creighton through hearing research being conducted by Jian Zuo, PhD, above left, and Peter Steyger, PhD, center.

readily renewed in fish, amphibians and birds. Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, PhD, assistant dean for research in the School of Dentistry, has begun work on such a project and will be one of the core faculty at the THC.

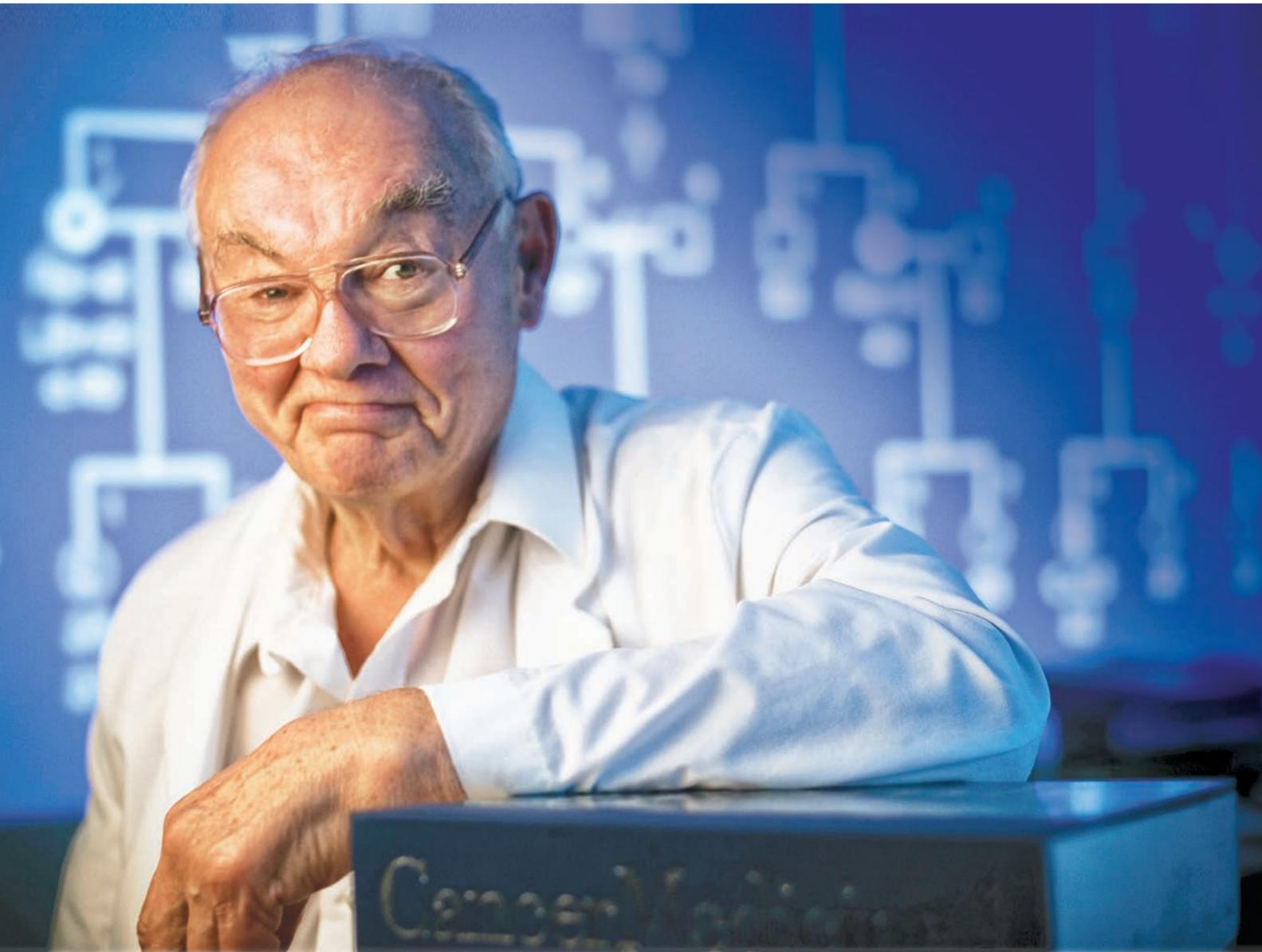
After several visits to Creighton, Steyger is eager to begin the work that, for him, was set into motion when he was a youngster.

"It gets me up out of bed in the morning," he says. "I'm very passionate about this, and it keeps me motivated when setbacks occur. It's a way to pay forward the support I have received in the past. Hearing is vital to communication. Perceiving sound is integral to music, listening to stories, theater. That all contributes to the richness of human experience."

Remembering the life of eminent Creighton researcher, professor Henry Lynch, MD

One of the ‘Greatest Cancer Geneticists of the Modern Era’

BY BLAKE URSCH



About three years ago, Henry Lynch, MD, was on dialysis. And things didn't look good. His health had suffered in the years following the death of his wife, Jane. His heart was failing, and his fellow physicians were concerned about his well-being through what looked to be his final days.

So Robert "Bo" Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the School of Medicine, approached Lynch to talk about retiring and enjoying whatever time he had left.

Lynch wasn't having it. "I've got a lot of work left to do," he told Dunlay. And he began to sketch out his projects for the next 10 years.

Recounting the story at Lynch's June 10 funeral at St. John's Church, Dunlay posed a question, one that was likely already on the minds of many gathered there to honor the life of the renowned researcher: "What fuels a guy like Henry Lynch?"

Lynch, founder and director of Creighton's Hereditary Cancer Center and a pioneer in the field of cancer genetics, died June 2 at the age of 91. His death prompted family, friends, former patients and medical professionals from around the country to share stories of the man whose grit and dedication to his work led to our modern understanding of cancer.

"Henry Lynch occupies a distinguished place in the pantheon of the greatest cancer geneticists of the modern era," said Kenneth Offit, MD, chief of the Clinical Genetics Service at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, in the *Washington Post*. "He defined the hereditary basis of common human cancers during a period when these views were considered heretical, and lived to see the genetic basis of cancers become part of the practice of preventive medicine."

Lynch didn't follow the most traditional path into medicine. Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on Jan. 4, 1928, he grew up in a poor area in New York City. In 1944, when he was just 16, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy under an older cousin's name. During World War II, he served in Europe and as a gunner on a merchant marine ship in the Pacific.

After his discharge in 1946, Lynch, who stood 6-foot-5, became a professional boxer, competing in New York state and the San Francisco Bay Area under the nickname "Hammerin' Hank."

“He defined the hereditary basis of common human cancers during a period when these views were considered heretical and lived to see the genetic basis of cancers become part of the practice of preventive medicine.”

KENNETH OFFIT, MD

Chief of the Clinical Genetics Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City

In the late 1940s, Lynch enrolled at the University of Oklahoma after taking a high school qualifying exam. Though he originally sought to become a clinical psychologist, Lynch shifted gears, eventually earning his medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1960 after completing all the coursework toward a PhD in human genetics in Austin. He came to Creighton in 1967.

It was in the 1960s that Lynch began to research whether certain cancers could be tied to genetics. Using what doctors today call "shoe-leather epidemiology," Lynch met and interviewed various cancer patients and drew detailed family trees. By keeping meticulous records, he began to find and trace the inheritance patterns of certain cancers through multiple generations.

But the medical establishment wasn't convinced. At that time, most experts believed cancer was primarily caused by environmental factors.

"Nobody believed me," Lynch once said of these early years. "But I knew we had something here. I knew we could potentially save lives."

Lynch's son, Patrick Lynch, JD'75, MD'83, compares his father's work with that of other trailblazers from history, like the Wright brothers. Today, the notion of genetic cancer is widespread, and researchers now estimate between 5% to 10% of cancers are inherited, according to the National Cancer Institute. But at the time, Lynch was pushing back against popular opinion.

"He was a pioneer in some stuff that's widely become mainstream," Patrick said. "Somebody had to be persistent."

In 1984, Lynch founded the Hereditary

Cancer Center at Creighton, which aims at prevention through identifying hereditary cancer syndromes. (The University has named Robin Farias-Eisner, MD, PhD, as Lynch's successor.) In his honor, the Jane and Henry Lynch Endowed Research Fund was established in 2016 to provide financial support for research conducted at the cancer center.

Also in 1984, the term "Lynch syndrome" was coined to refer to hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer. Lynch's work in identifying the condition has helped doctors more accurately predict a patient's risk for the disease, allowing treatment to start earlier.

In addition to his work with the cancer center, Lynch served as chairman of Creighton's Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health. In 2004, he was named the inaugural holder of the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research.

Creighton was home for Lynch, his son said. He was a deeply spiritual man who saw his work in medicine as a way to serve God, said the Rev. Jim Clifton, SJ, who delivered the homily at Lynch's funeral Mass.

Lynch "saw no conflict between science and faith," Fr. Clifton said. Throughout his career, even through criticism and condemnation, "he never took for granted the goodness of his patients and their trust in him."

Lynch was preceded in death by his wife, Jane, a psychiatric nurse who accompanied him on his travels and helped him collect data. He is survived by three children, son Patrick and his wife, Mary Tribulato Lynch, MD'79; daughter Kathy Pinder and her husband, Pat; daughter Ann Kelly and her husband, Jim; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Switching Gears

From law graduate to racing cyclist to 'cyclist lawyer,' Hottman follows her passion

BY Amanda Brandt, BA'14



A passion for cycling and the law has led Megan Hottman, BA'01, JD'04, to a career representing bicyclists and advocating for safer cycling across the U.S. Hottman, aptly nicknamed the “cyclist lawyer,” started her own law firm at the age of 29 in Golden, Colorado, where she specializes in cases involving cyclists. It’s a far leap from what she foresaw as her future as a Creighton School of Law student in the early 2000s.

“I thought, ‘Yes, this is my passion,’ but I thought ‘adulting’ had to look a certain way,” Hottman says. “Practicing law wasn’t going to be enjoyable, I thought, and I had to be responsible, but that wasn’t going to be much fun.”

When she first dabbled in cycling during law school, Hottman described it as a “distraction” from the rigorous coursework and schedule. Now, she’s a national advocate for biking, and has appeared in the national media for her prominence in the field of cycling law. She’s also cool. So cool, in fact, that she was named one of “Colorado’s top resident badassess” by *Elevation Outdoors* magazine.

But long before she caught the cycling bug or had even an inkling of opening her own law firm, Hottman was a graduate of Millard North High School in Omaha who decided last-minute to attend Creighton rather than a larger state school, a decision she is grateful for today.

“I had some molecule of maturity in me at that age,” Hottman says. “When you look back, you can see these inflection points where my future was affected by this small and spontaneous decision.”

She majored in communication studies, which sharpened her writing and public-speaking skills. During her sophomore year at Creighton, Hottman became “grossed out with myself” after going all-in on a not-so-healthy lifestyle, and pledged to make some changes. She gave up late-night fast-food runs and decided to get into shape. That willpower and determination made her fall in love with fitness, and Hottman began teaching group fitness classes and personal training as a part-time job.

After earning her undergraduate degree in 2001, law school seemed like a natural fit for Hottman, and following a “humbling” first semester, she stretched herself to succeed. She loved the close relationships students developed with the faculty, and one of her favorite law professors was G. Michael Fenner, who retired this year after 45 years at the law school.

Hottman first got into cycling her third year of law school, while she was training for a triathlon. “All those years of teaching spin class at the gym had helped me,” she says. And while many of her law school classmates were finding associate jobs at law firms, Hottman was looking for something different.

“I wasn’t motivated by money,” she says. “I was motivated by how I would have time to try bike racing.”

She ended up serving as a clerk for Judge Peggy Stevens McGraw, in the 16th Circuit Court in Missouri, which allowed weekends free to race. A few years later, she moved to Colorado with the hope of breaking into the professional cycling realm.

While working another judicial clerkship, this time with Judge Jack Berryhill in the 1st Judicial District in Colorado, Hottman continued to hone her cycling skills and improve her performance. She took the leap to full-time racing in 2008, but the financial crisis and recession meant money for sponsorships dried up. It was then that Hottman took an associate job at a law firm, trying to pursue her cycling passion on nights and weekends.

In early 2010, she decided to commit herself to training for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. “I knew it was a long shot, and I never thought it was realistic, but I wanted to see how far I could go,” Hottman says. She quit her job to train full time.

The 2010 season was one of her most successful racing campaigns. She raced all over the world and trained with someone who went on to compete in the Olympics. Hottman liked her underdog status and enjoyed figuring out the marketing angle of the sport. In 2011, she signed with a team, poised for more success. It didn’t come.

“The universe showed me that this was not where I was going to be,” she says. A handful of bad crashes sent her to the hospital.

“After the third one, I remember lying on the concrete, thinking, ‘OK, God, or the universe, it’s clear this is not what you have in mind for me,’” Hottman says.

After this tough decision to forego her cycling career, Hottman decided to once again practice law full time, but to do it on her own terms. While training and racing, she had sporadically agreed to represent fellow cyclists who had been hit by cars or involved in collisions.

Today, she focuses mainly on personal injury cases involving cyclists and bikes. Common situations include a cyclist hit by a car or attacked by a dog, issues with malfunctioning equipment, or street and construction-site problems.

“It’s been incredible,” Hottman says of growing the firm she started at age 29 to a successful business. “I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing.”

She is passionate about cases involving motorist behavior — from distracted driving to impaired driving due to alcohol or drugs.

“Hit-and-run-type stuff, I really get fired up about that,” Hottman says. “We have a chance to make a statement and make a difference.”

Hottman also gives educational presentations to law enforcement

about cycling and cyclists’ rights. She even co-authored a legal book about cycling and the law, titled *Bicycle Accidents, Crashes, and Collisions: Biomechanical, Engineering, and Legal Aspects*.

In 2015, *Outside Magazine* featured Hottman in an article in which she addressed the conflicts between bikes and cars on the road, and how cyclists have to be part of the solution. That led to being interviewed on HBO’s *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*.

“Life turns out in funny ways,” Hottman says. “I’m a lawyer from Omaha who wanted to race her bike, and I started my own firm, and the next thing you know, I’m in front of Bryant Gumbel.”

Hottman says there’s no doubt her experience at Creighton set her up with a good foundation to pursue the success she’s experiencing.

“It comes down to going to an institution that teaches you to be the right kind of person, an upstanding member of society. That helped reinforce what my parents taught me,” she says. “Seeing people you admire live out their principles and ethical standards, that makes sure your moral compass is pretty doggone strong. I would hope I’m a better person and lawyer for it, and I’m grateful for the experience I had at Creighton.”



CYCLING RIGHTS

Every state in the U.S. has a law stating cyclists have the same rights and obligations as the operators of motor vehicles, Hottman says, who is pictured at left. This means they have the right to use the road, and have to follow the same rules as the driver of an automobile, including stopping at lights, signaling turns, having lights on at night and obeying posted speed limits. Many cities have ordinances that make it illegal for cyclists to ride bikes on sidewalks. In a majority of states, motorists are beholden to a mandatory 3-foot passing law, which means when passing a cyclist, an automobile driver must give the cyclist clearance of at least 3 feet. “It goes both ways,” Hottman says of the behavior expected of cyclists and drivers. “That’s one of the big things we educate cyclists with — you don’t get to act like you own the road.”

Phoenix medical students volunteer at a medical clinic in Mexico started by a Creighton alumnus

'It Feels Good to Give Back'

BY JONATHAN HIGUERA

Once a month, medical students from the Creighton University Health Sciences – Phoenix Campus embark on a four-hour drive to the Mexican seaside town of Puerto Peñasco, better known to U.S. tourists as Rocky Point. They go to be part of a larger all-volunteer group of medical professionals staffing a health clinic that is providing needed medical care to the town's residents. Those residents are the ones often far from view from the city's popular tourist sites and sandy beaches on the Sea of Cortez.

The Rocky Point Clinic, as it is named, offers a free medical clinic one day a month. The stocked shelves of prescription drugs, medical equipment and other resources are donated by U.S.-based hospitals and other health care providers. But the biggest resource the clinic provides are the professional medical volunteers, who mostly come from Arizona to staff the clinic. On any given clinic day, between 100 to 200 or more patients are seen and treated by 20 to 40 medical volunteers.

Creighton medical students have been part of this medical entourage to the clinic since 2017. In return, they are getting a strong international experience without having to miss a day of clinical or classroom time.

"The resources aren't the same as we would find in a Phoenix clinic," says Briggs Hoyt, a fourth-year Creighton medical student who has volunteered four times at the clinic. "But the standard of care and the reach are the same."



The care ranges from treating relatively minor cases of back pain or prescribing medications for ongoing issues to handling more serious cases of diabetes complications, hypertension and open wounds. A surgical site is available at another location, so cases requiring certain types of surgery can be referred there.

On this beautifully sunny Saturday in February, about 30 medical volunteers – physicians, medical students, nurses and nursing students – are in full help mode. The volunteers hail from several hospitals and medical schools, including Creighton and Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

On this trip, Hoyt gets a medical history from the wife of a 55-year-old wheelchair-bound patient who has had multiple strokes and who is unable to speak. Now he is having a hard time swallowing. This is a good example of the challenging cases the volunteers will see on this day that would likely not get the needed medical attention were it not for the clinic.

After obtaining as much history as possible, Hoyt consults with Robert Garcia, MD, assistant dean of the School of Medicine at the Phoenix campus, and John Anwar, MD, an emergency room physician at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and a Creighton associate faculty member. Both are serving as attending physicians.

The patient's wife is given advice on how to better prepare soft foods until the clinic can further evaluate when and how a feeding tube can be surgically inserted. Surgeries are

scheduled at the off-site clinic. The timing often depends on when a volunteer specialist is available.

"If he had come into our hospital at St. Joseph's, we probably would have done a swallow study on him," says Hoyt.

For fourth-year medical student Justin Kochanski, the volunteer experience serves as a reminder of why he wants to be a physician.

"Third-year students often get slammed with a lot of responsibilities and it's go, go, go," he says. "For me, this is more of a spot check of why I got into medicine. It just feels good to give back and be engaged."

It's also a valuable student-learning experience of practicing medical care with fewer resources than they are accustomed to. "Seeing people who don't have constant access to care changes your plan," says Kochanski. "It requires you to think in a different way."

For example, he suspected a kidney infection in one patient, but instead of taking a culture and getting back to the person with the results, the attending physician and his team of students decide on a different plan.

"You might decide to give them antibiotics based on what you suspect because you may not see that person for a month or longer," Kochanski says. "It's more like a rural clinic in that respect."

Garcia says the international experience gives students a "firsthand look at underserved populations in other countries." It also gives them a chance to see the dramatic differences in the health care systems of different countries.

At least one Creighton medical school faculty member is required to be on the volunteer trips. About five Creighton faculty members rotate the assignment among themselves so it doesn't fall to one person to staff each clinic.

Thomas Gillespie, MD, a Creighton professor of surgery, was one of the faculty members in

© Fourth-year medical students Justin Kochanski, left, Emily Peterson, BS'16, and Briggs Hoyt have volunteered at the Rocky Point Clinic in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico.

attendance at one of the free clinic days last year. He spent his day at the surgical site repairing hernias. His wife, Jaya Raj, MD, who directs the internal medicine residency program at St. Joseph's, spent her day in the clinic as an attending physician for 10 Creighton medical students who were there that day.

"Much of what we provided wasn't direct medical care," says Gillespie, who also serves as clerkship director. "Many of the patients lacked basic medical knowledge and just needed someone who would listen to them and offer basic advice."

He notes that the Creighton students' open and thoughtful manner in dealing with the patients opened the door for a better experience for them and all involved. "I will say the level of respect and dignity the Creighton students showed them is what the patients really responded to," Gillespie says. "You could tell they really appreciated it."

As Creighton's Phoenix campus expands with programs in nursing, pharmacy, occupational and physical therapy, and a physician assistant program, there will be more opportunities for Creighton students and faculty to engage in service throughout the U.S. Southwest and extended region.

"Our students have had the opportunity to see the needs in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, and reach out to them with the same spirit of compassion and service that we offer here in Phoenix," says Randy Richardson, MD, interim vice provost and regional dean of medicine for Creighton University Health Sciences - Phoenix

"Our students have had the opportunity to see the needs in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, and reach out to them with the same spirit of compassion and service that we offer here in Phoenix."

RANDY RICHARDSON, MD
Interim Vice Provost and Regional Dean of Medicine, Creighton University Health Sciences - Phoenix Campus

Campus. "They work side by side with faculty members to give excellent medical care and take time to reflect on their experience."

The Rocky Point Clinic's existence is a testament to the Stavros family. Co-founders George, MD'62, and Susie Stavros moved to Rocky Point in 2011 after successfully starting, owning and managing methadone clinics in Phoenix and other areas around the country. George, a 1962 medical school alumnus, also practiced family medicine for decades before moving into owning and running drug addiction clinics.

During his time as a family medicine physician, he met Susie, who had been an RN at drug addiction clinics in Phoenix. They began focusing on helping drug addicts and opened their first methadone clinic in 1984 in the Arcadia area of Phoenix. In 1998, they did their first mission trip to Rocky Point with their church.

Last year, the Stavroses sold Community Medical Services to a group that has expanded services as the country's opioid addiction problem has grown. Their two sons and a daughter remain with the organization. One son, Nick, is currently the chief executive officer of the Scottsdale, Arizona-based company, and the other, Mark, MD'93, is medical director for several of the clinics.

The deeply religious family had been active in providing medical services in Rocky Point prior to moving there, but as residents they stepped up their time commitment to the medical clinics.

As George Stavros notes, "Retirement is not in the Bible." They began running a mobile health clinic, which led to a permanent spot at a local church. The patients were mostly poor and uninsured.

Eventually, their good work got the attention of the town's then mayor. Grateful for the services they were providing, the mayor found a permanent facility for them deep in a *barrio* away from the beaches. They have been at the current location for nearly four years. And it is growing, with the help of volunteers, many of whom come from Arizona churches and congregations to volunteer as part of their mission.

"I always wanted to be a missionary and it took me 50 years to do it," says George, only half joking.

On the land where the Rocky Point Clinic is located, the volunteers are building dormitories to house volunteers who provide children and others with myriad services. Because of the



Top: Susie and George Stavros, MD'62, are founders of the Rocky Point Clinic.

Middle: Matt Baer, fourth-year medical student, plays basketball with children visiting the clinic and greets a patient.

Bottom: Fourth-year medical student Matt Borchart and other volunteers pray for the speedy recovery and health of their patient who had a stomach cyst removed during her visit to the clinic.

Stavroses' religious convictions, clients do receive a healthy dose of Gospel in the form of prayer to start off the day and are asked to be in a prayer group. Most of the clients gladly accept the spiritual offerings.

The medical volunteers also benefit from the couple's generosity.

Many, particularly students, are provided a place to stay at one of several homes the Stavroses own in their development, which sits between two luxury condo towers along Sandy Beach. They also provide volunteers with a home-cooked meal in the evening after the clinic is done. All is free for the volunteers.

"This wouldn't be possible if someone didn't house us and feed us," says Hoyt. "Medical students usually don't have much expendable income."

Both Hoyt and fourth-year student Emily Peterson, BS'16, say another positive takeaway from their volunteer experience has been practicing their Spanish-language skills. Hoyt says he wants to build on the Spanish he already knows, and Peterson says she doesn't want to lose her current level of proficiency.

"It makes a difference when you can talk to people in their own language," adds Peterson. The clinic experience was her first time in Mexico, despite growing up in Huntington Beach, California, which is only a couple hours north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

While medical care is a staple at the clinic and the need for more supplies is ongoing, the facility is growing and will provide other services. In between clinic days, the facility serves as a community center named Palabras de Esperanza. It offers a food-assistance program, youth clubs, tutoring services, computer lab, English classes and education classes that allow youth to get the Mexican equivalent of a GED. It also provides preschool and sports programs.

Hoyt, who plans to continue volunteering at the clinic even as it gets more challenging because of the rigors of medical school, has had several international volunteer experiences. He likes this clinic's ability to have continuity in care.

"I've done a lot of volunteer work and a lot of groups don't have the best model for international care because there is no follow up," he says. "This clinic is held monthly and the people who come often return every month for prescriptions and care."

Indeed. The entire experience has extended Creighton's legacy of caring for the whole person and the underserved around the world.

Soaring, Flying with Billy Bluejay

BY Emily Rust

In 2015, right before a Creighton men's soccer match, Nathan Hansen, DDS'19, sat in the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center for a pregame briefing as he prepared for his debut as Creighton's beloved mascot, Billy Bluejay.

"Nathan had a lot of elaborate ideas," recalls Adrian Rider, BA'04, assistant athletic director, who, along with Joe Willman, director of marketing and broadcast services, was leading the meeting. "And we said, 'We would love to implement them, but let's just ease into it.'"

"We said, 'In the first half, Nathan, whatever you do, do not go down onto the field.'"

Prior to the starting whistle, Hansen — now fully outfitted as Billy — ran down the Morrison Stadium concourse to the north endzone, where he jumped onto the field and ran over to the referees.

He was just getting warmed up.

He rubbed the bald referee's head, jumped into the grandstands, sat next to two young fans, teased them, re-entered the field, sprinted down the sidelines, climbed a wall to join the student section, high-fived his way back behind the team bench, and did a backflip off the wall to return to the pitch.

"And we said ease into it," Rider says, laughing now. "At that point in time, Joe and I looked at each other, and we knew we had zero control."

"What he did in his first three or four minutes in a suit determined what the next

four years were going to look like. It truly was the change of Billy Bluejay."

Hansen was one of the most animated and acrobatic Billy Bluejay mascots ever. In his four years in the role, he not only cheered for the Bluejays, but flipped, dunked and spun on his head for them, too.

He is also believed to be the only professional student in Creighton's history to don the Billy Bluejay suit. Hansen graduated third in his class this May from Creighton's dental school and is currently in an orthodontics residency at Saint Louis University.

Hansen did gymnastics as a child, and his first year of college at Brigham Young University-Hawaii befriended a fellow student who was a break dancer and another who did parkour. Together, the trio would practice dancing and tricks, and even cliff dived. Hansen and one of the friends eventually enrolled at BYU's main campus in Provo, Utah, and continued flipping, this time as members of the university's competitive mascot squad.

Around the time of his arrival at Creighton, the Athletics Department had undergone a rebranding to coincide with the University's entrance into the BIG EAST Conference. That rebranding included a more sleek and athletic mascot costume. "Billy's rebrand kind of fit what Nathan brought to the mascot position," Willman says.

Gone were fuzzy gloves, replaced by ones worn by athletes. He sported a team jersey at basketball games. Billy was no longer just a

"smile and wave" cheerleader, but an animated mascot whose passion became an essential part of the fan experience.

With this change, Creighton had to classify Hansen as a student-athlete, getting mascot insurance for the first time. He was even required to complete a physical exam, just like any other Division I athlete. And for his role as Billy, Hansen received an athletics scholarship.

"Because of his energy and antics, our crowd goes crazy and this energy carries over into the game," says Bruce Rasmussen, the McCormick Endowed Athletic Director at Creighton. "Billy has assisted us in building a strong sense of community and tremendous school pride."

Hansen constantly pushed himself as Billy, trying new stunts.

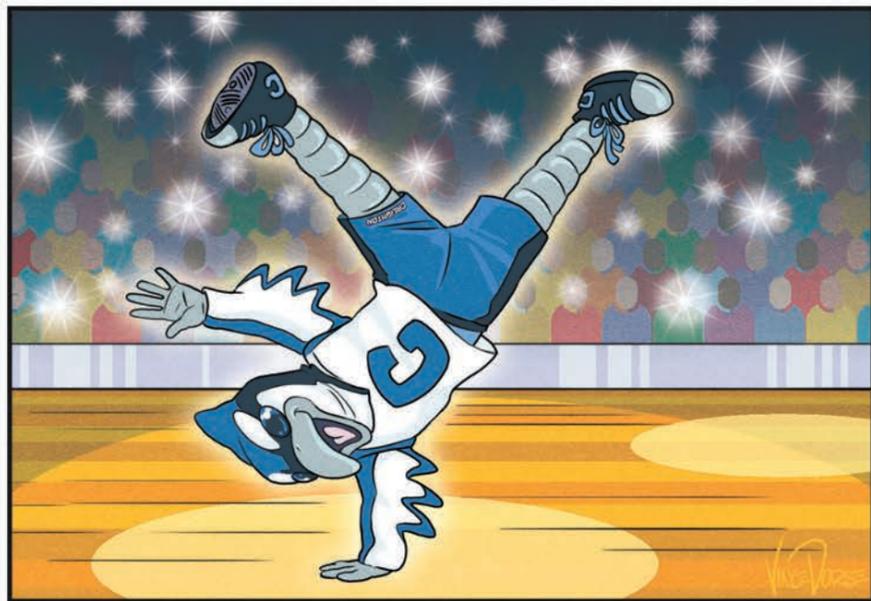
"We beat Villanova last year at home, and the game ends. We're all excited and you turned your head, and there's Nathan. He's standing on top of the backboard," Willman says.

Then there was the time at Madison Square Garden, during the BIG EAST Tournament, when Hansen challenged Villanova's mascot, Will D. Cat, to a dance battle.

"I don't know why he decided to do it, but he decided to roll like a log," Hansen says of Villanova's mascot. "I was like, 'I've got to take advantage of this.' So, I ran up toward him, did a flip over him, kind of in his face."

"When Nathan was destroying the competition in front of 20,000-plus fans, you knew that he not only had the love of our fans, he had the love of all New York," Rider says.





But there were limits, too. Like the time Nathan asked if he could repel down from the CHI Health Center Omaha rafters for a basketball game honoring Wounded Warriors. Rider and Willman looked into repelling certification classes for Hansen, but it was ultimately decided the stunt was too risky.

"The feedback on Billy is that he is sincerely the best mascot in the country," Rider says. "We know what the power of a good mascot can be."

Billy was not Hansen's first foray into the mascot world. As an undergraduate at Brigham Young University, Hansen was a member of "Team Cosmo" — a group of students who performed as BYU's Cosmo the Cougar.

Hansen practiced every morning at 6 a.m., focusing on strength and conditioning. Three times a week, he would go to an additional two-hour practice.

"Training was really intense," Hansen says. He continued to train at Creighton — a must for the backflips, handstands, high-flying aerial acts and other acrobatics he performed in the 25-pound Billy costume.

"What he does in a full suit is not normal," Rider says. "It took lots of practice to get to that level."

He also had to balance the rigors of dental school. He would wake up daily at 6 a.m. to work out, before heading to class. After a full day of classes, he either went to the Rasmussen Center on campus to practice flips or, on basketball game days, to CHI Health Center Omaha.

"There have been times we are at basketball games where he has his notes with him. In between certain breaks, he's studying away in his suit," says Neil Norton, PhD, professor of oral biology in the School of Dentistry and Creighton's NCAA faculty representative.

"There would be days where I would just get two hours of sleep at night, then take a test and go do a basketball game," Nathan says. "You've got to be prepared if that's what you want to do."

Oftentimes, Hansen's wife, Amy, would join him in the locker room, keeping him company during breaks and encouraging him in his studies. Nathan and Amy met as

undergraduates, and she was supportive of his work as Creighton's mascot.

"I was excited for him, because it's something he's passionate about," Amy says. "It is a good outlet for him when he's not studying."

It wasn't until six months into their relationship that Amy found out about Nathan's role as BYU's mascot.

"He would randomly disappear sometimes and say, 'I have to go,' and say he was part of a dance group," Amy says.

One day, while hanging out with friends who were also on Team Cosmo, someone spilled Nathan's secret identity. But Nathan already had a plan in place to surprise his future wife.

"We were at a football game and Cosmo came up to where I was sitting," Amy says. "He had ... a rose. All the girls were like, 'Pick me, pick me, I want it.' He gave it to me, and all the girls were so jealous I got a rose from Cosmo."

It was because of Amy that Nathan considered dental school in the first place. Before they met, he seriously thought of dropping out of school and going to California to be a stunt double.

"Then I met my wife, Amy, and I thought I better take my future seriously and thought about my life and what I need to do," Nathan says.

By the time he graduated in May, Hansen had been involved in five major dental research projects, presented at two national conferences, been president of the Creighton chapter of the American Dental Education Association, and served at dental clinics locally and abroad.

"He's an extremely intelligent young man, a very driven man," Norton says.

His undergraduate Spanish degree proved valuable in interacting with diverse patient populations at Creighton's Dental Clinic, and at service sites such as Omaha's OneWorld Clinic and the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic. As president of Creighton's Spanish Dental Club, he also taught fellow students Spanish words and phrases useful in dentistry.

At May commencement, Hansen was honored with the Spirit of Creighton Award,

"There have been times we are at basketball games where he has his notes with him. In between certain breaks, he's studying away in his suit."

NEIL NORTON, PHD
Professor of Oral Biology
School of Dentistry

which is given to students who represent the spirit of the University's founders in their dedication to service and consistent effort to examine and engage the world. It is the highest student award presented by the University.

"He really wants to make the world a better place," Norton says.

Between the School of Dentistry and Creighton Athletics, Hansen will be missed at the University. He, too, will miss the support of the Bluejays, who he says, "made me feel like family."

"Coming here to Creighton, hearing people say, 'Oh, it's so fun to watch you. It's so cool what you did. Good job. Thanks for all the hard work.' Things like that really mean a lot," Hansen says. "I think that's one of the biggest things I'll remember."

From the time he raced onto Morrison Field, this high-flying Bluejay has brought Creighton's lovable mascot to new heights.

"He's raised the bar for Billy Bluejay," Willman says.

A Day with Nathan Hansen During the basketball season, a typical day for Nathan Hansen, DDS'19, would include arriving at the dental school around 8 a.m. and leaving at 4:30 p.m. During service trips to elementary schools in Omaha, Hansen would don the Billy costume and entertain and educate students on good oral health care. After arriving at the CHI Health Center Omaha, Hansen would study in the locker room with his wife, Amy, by his side. After warming up, Hansen would hit the court and entertain the thousands of fans in the arena.

Breaking Down Biases

BY EMILY RUST

Creighton professor finds students, incarcerated youth connecting through philosophy



DAVE WEAVER

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE for the past couple of months, when, one day, your boss waves you over.

He pulls you into his trailer and sits you down at his desk. It's close to lunch, and he's hungry. Shockingly, he asks you to swipe a co-worker's large blue lunchbox, filled with a nice big sandwich, a bag of chips and a thermos of hot soup.

If you don't grab it for him, he says, he will make up a fake worksite violation about the table saw you were using and make sure you lose your job. You really need this job to provide for your family.

Do you steal the lunch? And if you do, did you do so freely?

How do you define free will? After reading this scenario, Creighton undergraduate students in Philosophy 426: The Carceral State probed and contemplated that question in conversation with young adults at an area youth correctional facility.

For three semesters, students in philosophy courses taught by Amy Wendling, PhD, associate dean for humanities and fine arts in the College of Arts and Sciences, visited the facility to engage in philosophical thought exercises with groups of incarcerated youth, mostly ranging in age from 17-21.

"Rather rapidly, (the Creighton students) realized they have a lot in common with the (incarcerated) youth," Wendling says. "They discover they have the same answers to the questions."

© Amy Wendling, PhD, professor of philosophy and associate dean for humanities and fine arts, has found that student reflection and discussion are much richer in her academic service-learning courses.

So, did they decide to steal the lunch? In one group, both the students and the youth said yes, because they didn't want to lose their job. But they agreed, they had done so freely. They had made a choice.

Students in Wendling's course, all juniors and seniors, engaged the youth inmates three times a semester, in scenarios covering a variety of topics — from restorative justice to forgiveness and trust, the ideal society and basic fallacies. There are no right or wrong answers, Wendling says — the goal is to formulate thoughts and start conversations.

"Philosophy, it's cool in the sense that everyone can do it," says Brandon Calderon, BA'19, a student in the spring 2018 class and member of Wendling's student research team. "Philosophy has a really good way of having nebulous ideas become concrete."

In Wendling's academic service-learning course, the students read and discussed issues around the correctional system in class while also volunteering at the facility.

In the classroom, students spent the semester looking at justification of punishment via various philosophical theories, including utilitarianism, retributivism and abolitionism. They reviewed juvenile court cases, read *Discipline and Punish* by Michel Foucault (a French philosopher who looked at Parisian prisons in the 1970s) and studied other texts such as *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, *Rise of the Warrior Cop* by Radley Balko and *Solitary Confinement* by Lisa Guenther.

Reading about topics such as solitary confinement, "those are a little bit harder hitting," Savannah Arguello, BSBA'19, says. "Knowing what's actually going on behind bars is something we don't take a lot of time in our daily lives to consider."

Through in-class and written discussions, the students shared their thoughts and observations after each visit to the facility. Most students said they were surprised after their first visit. Oftentimes, the incarcerated youth and Creighton students had similar answers to questions in philosophical scenarios.

"Students are breaking down biases or assumptions of what the youth in the prison system might be like because they're actually engaging with them," says Dan Walsh, BA'09, senior program administrator in the Office of Academic Service-Learning. "They challenge some of their expectations and emotions about the subject matter and put a real human face on the issue."

The youth correctional facility can house

up to 60 male youths, age 14-21. Most are there for armed robbery convictions, as well as a range of nonviolent crimes. A high percentage are arrested for a new crime within five years of release.

To participate in the philosophy program, the incarcerated youth must be in good standing at the facility. If they attend three sessions, they earn a certificate.

"The real success of this experiment though is why they like to come, because philosophy is weird," Wendling says. "We're calling upon them to have an opinion about a philosophical issue. Turns out, everybody likes that ... I think a lot of these youth just haven't experienced anything like that."

Each thought exercise is edited in Wendling's class to remove scenarios that may tap into insecurities in a youth's background. For example, one traditional thought experiment asks one to think about food shortage. For many incarcerated youth, food insecurity has been a significant issue in their lives. So Wendling's class changed the resource to water.

"It was eye-opening for me. The idea of privilege was really concrete when we got there," Calderon says. "I didn't know about all of the privileges I was afforded. I couldn't

mention things like parents in the curriculum, or food insecurity."

There's a sort of "hunger" for humanities in the correctional facility, Wendling says. Prior to her class visits, the youth had access to vocational training and high school courses, but there was nothing focused solely on philosophy. It's much more common for criminal justice or social work classes to visit the facility.

"Creighton students benefit because they're applying some learning material, but they're also reflecting on this rich context of being in a prison and interacting," Walsh says. "So, when they talk about concepts ... they have a real, lived experience from which to draw and reflect upon."

"The youthful offenders benefit because they're developing pro-social skills that hopefully might assist them in their successful transition back into society."

For the past two years, Wendling and a few of her students have worked to create a guide for duplicating the course and share their findings.

"Being willing to continue learning about the system," Arguello says, "to share with other students, other people in our lives, to be better advocates and agents of change is really a satisfying thing."

What is Academic Service-Learning?

As part of the Creighton Global Initiative initiated by Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, the Office of Academic Service-Learning was founded in 2017 to enhance student learning by connecting community partners to courses at the University.

"It makes us more of a Jesuit institution," says Tom Kelly, PhD, professor of theology and director of the Office of Academic Service-Learning. "Our concern for the common good isn't just in words or ideas, but in actual interaction in the community."



Tom Kelly, PhD

There has been high interest from across campus, with more than 50 courses already receiving academic service-learning designation. Ideally, once a course is designated as academic service-learning, it will repeat for several semesters to continue a working relationship with the community partner and enrich learning.

"What Dr. Wendling found is that the student reflection and discussion were much richer (in the academic service-learning course) than when she taught in the more traditional approach

inside the classroom, doing case studies," says Dan Walsh, BA'09, senior program administrator in the Office of Academic Service-Learning.

Each course is assessed by the office to ensure that its curriculum will match the self-identified goals of the community partner. Every course must also include a reflection component.

Other examples of academic service-learning courses include Arts and Civic Engagement: Empty Bowls, through which students work in partnership with the Siena/Francis House Homeless Shelter; and Discovering Peru, which has students traveling to the South American country to engage with a Catholic health clinic operating in the slums.

"Thinking about our subject matters and seeing how they are lived out ... there's a whole other level of learning that we don't achieve without it," Kelly says.



REFLECTIONS

A Pioneering Spirit

Creighton professor Littleton Alston, MFA, will be the first African American sculptor to have a piece in National Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., when his commissioned 7-foot bronze statue of American novelist Willa Cather is installed next year.

The Willa Cather National Statuary Hall Selection Committee worked with the Nebraska Arts Council to select Alston from among 70 artist applicants nationwide.

The hall's collection features two statues of historical figures from each state. Last year, the Nebraska Legislature approved replacing statues of Julius Sterling Morton and William Jennings Bryan with Cather and Ponca Chief Standing Bear. Cather, who settled with her family in Nebraska in 1883, achieved literary acclaim for her depiction of frontier life.

"I aim to capture her standing, as if surrounded by nature, at home in the Nebraska prairie," says Alston, pictured at left in his studio with a model of the statue.



IMPACT

JIM FACKLER

Financial Health May Equate to Better Overall Health

JULIE KALKOWSKI believes that a good financial education won't just save you money; it might also save your life. Now she's trying to prove it.

Kalkowski is the executive director of the Financial Hope Collaborative, which helps low-to-moderate-income families in the Omaha area get their financial lives on track.

Housed in the Heider College of Business, the Financial Hope Collaborative's key effort is the Financial Success Program, a year-long course that teaches single working mothers such skills as tracking expenses, saving for emergencies and repairing credit reports.

"The program taught me how to budget better and manage my time," says Auntin  Holland, a 27-year-old single mother in Omaha.

Since completing the program, Holland used what she learned to get a new job and now has more time to spend with her children.

More than 750 students have gone through the program since 2009, many of whom went on to get raises at work, reduce their debt and purchase homes.

Along the way, Kalkowski began to notice

something about her students: They weren't just saving better; they were feeling better. They'd become healthier.

At this point, Kalkowski and her team's observations were anecdotal. She wanted hard data. She enlisted the help of Creighton faculty.

They're now two years into a three-year study, supported in part by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The study is looking at the mental and physical health of more than 400 single working mothers. Single working mothers earning a median income of \$35,000 or less represent 13% of U.S. households. Half the women will go through the program, half will not.

Katie Elliott Packard, PharmD'01, MS'01, professor of pharmacy and one of the study's lead researchers, says the clinical trial was inspired by the hope they saw in these women. Now they're measuring the positive effects of that hope. The researchers are looking at many data points and hoping to show that a reduction in financial stress can lead to a reduction in risk for strokes, diabetes and heart disease.

"If we can show that the program helps make people healthier, that would really change the national conversation about financial education," Packard says.

Money continues to be the top cause of stress for Americans, according to the American Psychological Association, with nearly three in four people reporting regular financial stress. Kalkowski believes that financial stress is not an individualized budgetary problem but a national health crisis. And one that can be addressed at a fairly low cost.

If she can prove it, she might be able to give the Financial Success Program a much bigger platform, she says. Help more people. Save more lives.

She sees potential ripple effects in the health care system and the economy at large.

"I'm optimistic enough to believe that we can influence the national dialogue concerning health care," she says, "and that we can save money by focusing on prevention and eliminate a lot of human misery in the process."

As the researchers await the data, the Financial Hope Collaborative continues to receive funding from several foundations and corporations, including the Sherwood Foundation, Weitz Family Foundation, William and Ruth Scott Foundation, First National Bank of Omaha, Peter Kiewit Foundation, Sokolof Foundation and Centris Federal Credit Union. — **BY MICAH MERTES**

  Julie Kalkowski, left, meets with Marche Damper, a participant in the Financial Success Program, which is part of the Financial Hope Collaborative in the Heider College of Business.

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.

66 Albert C. Coco, DDS, Omaha, published a book titled *Reflections from the South Side* detailing the assimilation of his family and neighbors who emigrated from southern Italy to the U.S. and the influence and support they gave to subsequent generations by prioritizing their education. This story also includes a section about the role Creighton played in the lives of Coco and his wife, **Mary Lee O'Keefe Coco, BA'64.**

71 John J. Kirby, DDS, Hillsborough, California, participated with the Mending Faces Cleft Lip/Palate Mission in Lucena, Quezon Province, Philippines, for a week in late January and early February. This is the third year in a row that Kirby provided pro bono treatment for the organization, which will move to Kalibo, Aklan Province, Philippines, next year to begin another extended mission there.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was ranked by Chambers USA 2019 as one of Kansas' top litigators in white-collar crime and government investigations.

77 Larry E. Butler, JD, Kearney, Nebraska, closed the

law firm of Butler Voight PC in Kearney and rejoined the law firm of Tye & Rowling PC in Kearney as of counsel. Butler continues to serve as treasurer of the CHI Health board of directors.

79 Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson, BSPha, Chicago, was installed as the 119th president of the National Medical Association (NMA) in August 2018, and served until July 2019. NMA represents more than 50,000 African American physicians in the U.S. and its territories, provides a collective voice for African American physicians, and is a leading force for parity and justice in medicine.

80 Thomas W. Moran IV, JD, Guangzhou, China, was made a full professor of foreign studies at Jinan University in Guangzhou. **Randy K. Newby, DDS,** Wichita, Kansas, authored the following articles for the *Journal of the American Orthodontic Society*: "Key Four in Class II Correction: Orthopedic Effect" (spring 2016); "Key Five in Early Mixed Dentition Class II Correction: Utilization of Leeway Space" (summer 2016); "Key Six in Early Late (Permanent) Mixed Dentition Class II Correction: Distalization Mechanics Part 1"

(fall 2016); and "Key Six Early Late (Permanent) Mixed Dentition Class II Correction: Distalization Mechanics Part 2" (winter 2017).

81 Hon. Daniel A. Morris, MBA, JD, Hartford, Connecticut, is serving as a temporary member of the appellate court for the U.S. Immigration Courts, called the Board of Immigration Appeals, in Washington, D.C. After he concludes his one-year appointment, Morris will continue to serve as an immigration judge, a position he has held for 10 years. West Publishing Company has continuously published his treatise *Federal Tort Claims* for 25 years, and has issued seven editions of his book *Nebraska Trials*, which he now updates and releases annually. Morris is also a trustee of the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford.

82 John D. Barnes, BSBA, Boyds, Maryland, was selected to serve as the CEO of the Heart Failure Society of America located in Rockville, Maryland. **Dr. Ann Towe Glow, BSN,** North Platte, Nebraska, received the spring 2019 Excellence in Teaching Award at Clarkson College in Omaha, where she is the nurse anesthesia program coordinator.

83 Michael J. Finley, BSBA, Encinitas, California, was named CEO of Boingo Wireless in Los Angeles in March. Boingo acquires long-term wireless rights at venues, such as airports, transportation hubs, stadiums, arenas, universities, military bases and multi-family properties, and builds wireless networks.

Dr. Elizabeth Freund Larus, BA, Fredericksburg, Virginia, professor of political science at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, was named the recipient of the 2019 Waple Faculty Professional Achievement Award in April. Larus is an international expert in the politics of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. She recently earned a Fulbright grant to conduct field research in Poland and parts of Eastern Europe in spring 2020. She will explore the impact that China's Belt and Road Initiative — known as the Silk Road — will have in Eastern and Central Europe.

85 David W. Schlosser, DDS, Silver Lake, Ohio, was named president of the Ohio Academy of General Dentistry at its fall meeting.

86 David H. Perrott, BS'77, DDS'81, MD, Sacramento, California, is the chair of the Joint Commission's Board of Commissioners. In this role, Perrott oversees activities of the board and its executive committee. Perrott is responsible for working with the Joint Commission's president and CEO and other members of the board to set goals and identify strategic issues in support of the Joint Commission's mission to continuously improve health care.

87 Mary Lou Connolly McCartan, BSBA, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the controller at Benchmark, Inc., in Cedar Rapids. She recently became a partner of the company's ownership team.

88 Dr. Marlene A. Tromp, BA, Boise, Idaho, was named president of Boise State University in April. Prior to her position at Boise State, Tromp was the campus provost and executive

vice chancellor at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

89 Gregory J. Melgares, BSBA, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, was promoted to deputy general counsel of Froedtert Health, Inc., a large health care system in Milwaukee. **Dr. Michelle M. Wong, BS**, Englewood, Colorado, participated with the Mending Faces Cleft Lip/Palate Mission in Lucena, Quezon Province, Philippines, for a week in late January and early February. This is the third year in a row that Wong provided pro bono treatment for the organization, which will move to Kalibo, Aklan Province, Philippines, next year to begin another extended mission there.

90 Douglas F. Steenblock, BA'83, MD, Marshalltown, Iowa, received the Award of Merit from the Iowa Medical Society. The award is given to a physician who has made outstanding contributions to the medical

profession and to the Iowa Medical Society.

92 Kelley Gannon McCaskill, BA, Milwaukee, was named vice president of philanthropy at Versiti Blood Research Institute in Milwaukee.

93 Keith E. Kramer, BS, Omaha, was the recipient of the 2019 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award. Given to 15 teachers annually, the award recognizes the achievements of skilled and dedicated educators in the Omaha Public Schools. Kramer is an information technology and robotics teacher at Marrs Middle School. **Donna Morris Rouch, PharmD**, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, was installed as third vice president of the National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC), the largest volunteering gardening organization in the world. In her role over the next two years, Rouch will serve as chair of several NGC national programs, including the

Organization Study Committee and the Award of Excellence initiative to recognize outstanding nonmember individuals and organizations that advance NGC causes. She also will help guide the national organization and work to advance NGC's mission: promoting civic and environmental responsibility, as well as a love of gardening and floral design. In addition, Rouch will support the organization's major objectives — to foster education and participation in NGC's many local, regional, national and international outreach programs, including Plant America, an initiative that focuses on gardens and gardening, with an emphasis on community service. **Kathryn M. Wells, MD**, Denver, was named the executive director of the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect in Aurora, Colorado. A board-certified specialist in child abuse pediatrics, Wells has

ALUMNI PROFILE

Inaba Has Got the Beat

What do the Bee Gees song *Stayin' Alive* and *Uptown Funk* featuring Bruno Mars have in common, besides being chart-topping hits from their respective eras? The '70s iconic disco song and the more modern, feel-good pop tune both have a beat that can literally save lives.

So says a Creighton graduate who has had a lot to do with getting that word out.

Alson Inaba, MD, BS'83, has been recognized for developing a CPR protocol to the tune of *Stayin' Alive*, used worldwide to resuscitate people who experience sudden cardiac arrest. Recently, the University of Hawaii medical school associate professor of pediatrics started using *Uptown Funk* in his CPR-training classes for medical students and pediatric residents.

In June, Inaba was honored with the American Heart Association's (AHA) inaugural Innovation at Heart award. At the ceremony in Dallas, Inaba rolled out his "update," doing CPR chest compressions to the beat of *Uptown Funk*, which was popularized by recording artist Bruno Mars in 2014.

"The younger generation isn't as familiar with the Bee Gees song," Inaba says, "so I wanted to find something they could relate to better."

After graduating from Creighton in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in biology, Inaba attended medical school at Tufts University. In addition to teaching at the University of Hawaii, he is a pediatric emergency room physician at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu.

Inaba likes to make lectures lively to maximize learning, first presenting a skit to *Stayin' Alive* in 2005. The approximate 100 beats per minute — remember "Ah-ha-ha-ha, stayin' alive, stayin' alive"? — is the same rate the AHA recommends for chest compressions.

The song's title and refrain made it perfect and easy to remember.

He was on a national AHA committee at the time, and within about a year, the AHA asked him to write an article about his technique. The idea caught on, and eventually the AHA procured song rights and produced international video public service announcements.

In one AHA video, actor-comedian-physician Ken Jeong headlines a hilarious yet instructive demonstration in which he deadpans: "Disco can save lives." A YouTube search reveals many locally produced videos as well carrying the same message.

Hands-only CPR was approved in 2008, making it easier for the lay rescuer who encounters an adult or teen who suddenly collapses and is unresponsive. "You just need to follow two simple steps: No. 1, call 911, and No. 2, push hard and fast in the center of the victim's chest at a rate of at least 100 compressions a minute. To stay on track, sing or hum *Stayin' Alive* — or have someone nearby do it," Inaba says.

"If you haven't been trained in conventional CPR, hands-only CPR can buy critical time until the paramedics arrive with an AED (automated external defibrillator) to shock the victim's heart into its normal rhythm."

Would-be rescuers sometimes are afraid they'll break a person's rib, Inaba says. "But I tell them, you can't hurt someone who technically is already dead. Don't be afraid. They can recover from a broken rib, but without your help, it may be too late by the time paramedics arrive."



© Alson Inaba, MD, BS'83, middle, is joined at the American Heart Association ceremony in Dallas by sons Adam Inaba, DDS'11, left, and Andrew Inaba, DDS'15, who are Creighton dental alumni. He received the inaugural Innovation at Heart award.

In 2012, he was part of an elaborate media event in New York City for National CPR Awareness Week. Dancers wore all-white '70s-era suits (like the one John Travolta wore in *Saturday Night Fever*) and performed the film's iconic theme song.

The experience was a whirlwind for Inaba, who did interviews with ABC, NBC, the *New York Times*, *Men's Health* magazine and others. The event launched a three-year, 24-city demonstration blitz.

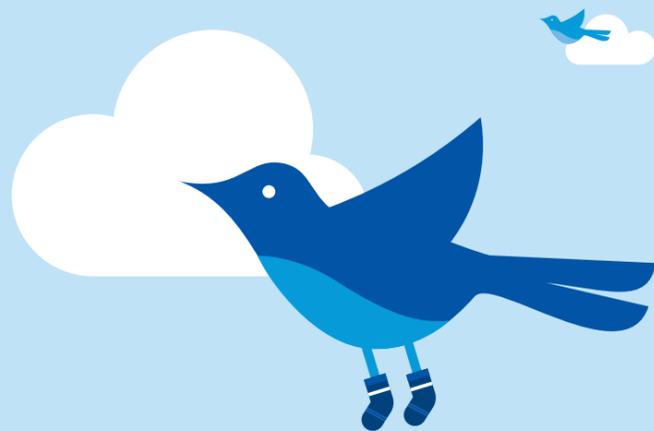
A highlight for Inaba was meeting a Floridian who was alive because a stranger, untrained in CPR, had seen a *Stayin' Alive* demonstration on the *Today* show and had the courage to try it.

To date, the teaching method has saved countless lives, and Inaba has many emails and other first-person accounts to show for it. In Hawaii, he especially has helped increase the number of AEDs and CPR awareness.

"The beauty is, you don't have to be a doctor, nurse or paramedic," Inaba says. "Each day about 1,000 people suffer sudden cardiac arrest in the U.S. If you have the courage to start CPR, you can double or triple their chances for survival." — **BY CINDY MURPHY MCAHON, BA'74**

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dedicated her career to protecting children and families and building communities where children have the opportunity to thrive. She will also serve as the section head for child abuse and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Prior to taking this position, Wells was the medical director of the Denver Health Clinic at the Family Crisis Center and an attending physician at Denver Health and with the Kempe child protection team at Children's Hospital Colorado.

94 Dr. Thomas R. Flagel, MA, Franklin, Tennessee, is the author of *War, Memory, and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion*. Flagel is an associate professor of history at Columbia State Community College in Franklin. The author of several books, Flagel also has worked with multiple historic preservation groups, including the Civil War Trust and the National Park Service.

95 Paul E. Flanagan, JD, West Chester, Pennsylvania, was promoted to assistant professor of law and the director of the Privacy, Cybersecurity and Compliance

Program at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law in Philadelphia. In addition, Flanagan was selected as a Fulbright Specialist, and will be teaching internationally in privacy, cybersecurity and compliance.

Hon. Susan C. Rowley, BA'90, JD, Lubbock, Texas, is a Lubbock County Precinct 2 justice of the peace.

00 David J. Wenthold, BSBA, Shakopee, Minnesota, was selected as a volunteer for the NCAA Tournament Men's Basketball Final Four, which was held in Minneapolis in April 2019. During Final Four weekend, Wenthold was invited on stage by Katy Perry for a cameo appearance during her Jam Fest Concert at the Minneapolis Armory.

02 Dr. Jason B. Dorwart, BFA, Oberlin, Ohio, is a visiting assistant professor of theater at Oberlin College in Ohio, where he recently directed the mainstage production. Dorwart, who received his PhD from the University of California San Diego (UCSD), received the UCSD Chancellor's Dissertation Medal

ALUMNI PROFILE

Finding Their Voice in Words

From a London history aficionado who also is the lead singer in a gothic progressive metal band to a Chicago novelist who once tiled her bedroom floor in over 60,000 pennies (all heads up for good luck) and a Xavier University communication professor who studies how being a Harry Potter fan may spur social action, these unique Creighton alumnae share one thing in common: a love of writing.

ERIN (E.L.) JOHNSON, BA'05

As a kid, Erin (E.L.) Johnson, BA'05, left a chocolate thumbprint in her father's leather-bound J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. She fell hard for history — both the real and the imagined. A Boston native, she came to Creighton to study the subject. "My teachers were especially inspiring," she says. "I thought how fun it would be to write stories of what life might have been like for people of those times."

Then, London called. Johnson went abroad to graduate school, earning master's degrees in history and medieval studies and a Master of Philosophy, studying 16th century medieval medical remedies.

Combating the loneliness of graduate research, Johnson joined the Hertford Writers' Circle and founded a book

Erin (E.L.) Johnson, BA'05, lower left, Emily Belden, BA'08, right, and Ashley Hinck, PhD, BA'08, far right, share a love of writing and are published authors.



club — now numbering 1,000 readers. She also auditioned for — and now fronts — the metal band Orpheum. When she happened upon National Novel Writing Month, a creative program to write a 50,000-word novel in a month, "I thought, wouldn't it be fun to write about a witch hunter and set it in medieval England? So I did."

Last March, Azure Spider Publications published *Wolf's Blood*, Johnson's first historical fantasy novel in the Witch Hunter Tales. "Some writers fear the blank page," says Johnson, a communications officer for the Institute of Biomedical Science in London, "but I love it; it's full of possibilities."

EMILY BELDEN, BA'08

After winning a contest to write for the *Chicago Tribune Kids' News* section, Emily Belden, BA'08, wanted to be a reporter. But, while studying journalism at Creighton, she found advertising a better match for her punchy writing style. After copywriting jobs with Omaha ad agencies Ervin & Smith and Turnpost, Belden returned home to Chicago.

Juggling friendships in multiple cities, Belden started a blog to easily share her tales

of dating and dining in the city. "That was the hardest part, finding the time to work on something I was excited about," she says of writing at midnight after a night out, "but the writing part was really easy. I love it."

With a growing fan base, she turned the posts into *Eightysixed: A Memoir about Unforgettable Men, Mistakes, and Meals* (Pandamoon Publishing, 2014). A magazine spread in *Michigan Avenue* gave Belden the big break and film producers and book agents came knocking. No stranger to a bit of fame, Belden's at-home penny project was covered on the *Today* show in 2013. She inked a two-book deal with HarperCollins, which published her restaurant rom-com *Hot Mess* in 2018.

At the Creighton Business Symposium last year, Belden, a keynote speaker, told students, "You can be successful being yourself and focusing on what you're good at." Belden's next book, *Husband Material*, hits shelves in December.

ASHLEY HINCK, PHD, BA'08

Ashley Hinck, PhD, BA'08, is most comfortable on the sidelines, she says, "watching social interactions and thinking about social

interactions." She challenged that natural instinct while working on her first book, *Politics for the Love of Fandom*, published in March by LSU Press. In it, she examines "fan-based citizenship," civic action stemming from a fan community, in cases such as Disney's *Star Wars*-inspired campaign for UNICEF.

The book began as a college paper on the Harry Potter Alliance, a fan-based and activism-oriented nonprofit. An internship at former Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey's office encouraged Hinck to further explore the fandom-to-politics connection. "I remember that the (communication) professors took my ideas seriously and invited me to develop those ideas," says Hinck, who hosted a book talk at the Creighton Bookstore in April.

Fieldwork for the book — such as LEGO club meetings and football games — was a bit outside her comfort zone, but the writing was not. "I love the kind of solitude involved in writing. It's really fun to imagine the future audience and just write," says Hinck, an assistant professor of communication at Xavier University. "This will be a lifetime of work that I'm really excited about." — **BY RACHEL BUTTNER, BA'03**

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ALUMNI PROFILE

© Paula Lavigne, MBA'09, on the set of ESPN's *Outside the Lines* with Bob Ley, who recently retired as host of the program.

Lavigne Part of ESPN Team that Earns Peabody Award

Since joining ESPN in 2008, **PAULA LAVIGNE, MBA'09**, has tackled some serious issues within the sports industry – from high-stakes gambling in youth athletics to sexual assault in college football.

“Our stories have a sports angle, but they dive into mainstream issues,” says Lavigne, an investigative reporter and data journalism and statistics specialist at ESPN. “Our unit has tackled stories on human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence, race relations, drug addiction, all sorts of white-collar crime and multiple other social issues that transcend sports. I work with some of the most talented journalists – not just sports journalists, but journalists, period – anywhere.”

Lavigne says her MBA degree has married well with her journalism career, advancing her

understanding of the financial aspect of sports. Creighton, she says, was appealing because of its reputation and flexible scheduling. She adds that her Creighton leadership courses, particularly those taught by the late Roger Fransecky, PhD, remain a source of inspiration and guidance.

“Journalism is oftentimes a frustrating and agonizing job, and I am completely honest when I say there are times when I go back to some of his emails or suggested readings to re-center myself, refocus and get back above the fray,” she says.

Plus, she adds, her MBA will be very beneficial “if I ever leave journalism or go into management within journalism.”

Which, given the year she has had, shouldn't be any time soon.

In 2019, Lavigne and her colleagues won a Peabody Award for “Spartan Silence,” which chronicled USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University doctor Larry Nassar's sexual abuse of more than 140 young women and athletes and the struggles and suppression faced by women who reported being assaulted by Michigan State student-athletes.

ESPN President Jimmy Pitaro calls “Spartan Silence” the “most impactful journalism the ESPN team has produced in our 40 years of exemplary storytelling.”

Lavigne says the Peabody Award recognizes the collective efforts of numerous people at ESPN, with much of the credit going to the brave women who shared their deeply personal stories with the journalists.

“Our first thoughts went to all the women and their advocates who trusted us with the most painful, intimate details of their lives, and how this award is a recognition of their bravery,” she says.

Lavigne and her colleagues also received the Sports Investigation Award from Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) for their Michigan State and Nassar coverage, and their work was nominated for a Sports Emmy award for journalism.

Awards are gratifying, says Lavigne, but the stories and the truths they expose are what's most important.

“I really do this work because it matters,” she says. — **BY MOLLY GARRIOTT, BA'89**

for Arts and Humanities, the UCSD Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action and Diversity University-Wide Award and the UCSD Teaching Assistant Achievement Award. He also was inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society at Yale University. **Dawn Eimers Landon, JD**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, is an attorney at Sell Law, PLC, in Glenwood, Iowa. She joined the firm after having served as an assistant Pottawattamie County attorney in Council Bluffs for 16 years. Landon is practicing in family, juvenile, criminal and probate matters. **Hon. Amy Moore, JD**, Ames, Iowa, was appointed by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds as a district court judge for Iowa Judicial District 28 in April. **Kurtis T. Morrison, BA**, Denver, received an appointment from Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser to serve as deputy attorney general for intergovernmental affairs for the state of Colorado. Morrison previously served as a deputy chief of staff and deputy legal counsel for Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. **Rochelle Shoemaker Schuka, BSN**, Gretna, Nebraska, graduated from Clarkson College in Omaha with a Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner in August 2018. She is a nurse practitioner with Children's Physicians in Omaha. **Amy J. Skogerson, JD**, Adel, Iowa, was featured in the November 2018 issue of *Iowa Lawyer* magazine. The cover story discusses how Skogerson and her partner, Andrea McGinn, are leading the way for cutting-edge law practice in Iowa at their firm The Law Shop by Skogerson McGinn LLC.

04 Margaret E. Douglas, BS, Omaha, was the recipient of the 2019 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award. Given to 15 teachers annually, the award recognizes the achievements of skilled and dedicated educators in the Omaha Public Schools. Douglas is a fifth-grade teacher at Wilson Focus School. **Tami Trewet-Sloop, BSDH**, Atlantic, Iowa, was named the teledentistry coordinator for the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry in Omaha. In her role, Trewet-Sloop will be building relationships and networks to address access to oral health care in rural Nebraska.

05 Vanessa Kruse, BS, Omaha, was the recipient of the 2019 Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award. Given to 15 teachers annually, the award recognizes the achievements of skilled and dedicated educators in the Omaha Public Schools. Kruse is a first-grade teacher at Picotte Elementary.

06 Scott V. Hahn, BA'01, JD, Omaha, is an attorney at Koeing/Dunne, PC, LLO, in Omaha. Hahn joined the firm having 12 years of experience in the area of family law, spending much of his career as an advocate for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

07 Brett D. Klug, BSBA, Omaha, owns and operates Blue Jay Development in Omaha.

10 Hon. Andrew C. Butler, JD, Hastings, Nebraska, was sworn in as district judge for the 9th Judicial District for the state of Nebraska in May. **Colleen E. McGarry, BA'06, JD**, Minneapolis, was elevated to partner at the Minneapolis office of Fox Rothschild LLP. McGarry is a litigation attorney who represents clients in a wide range of complex business and commercial disputes.

11 Ryan J. Muldoon, JD, Omaha, joined Simpson Legal Group, LLC, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, as a partner. He will continue to practice in the areas of personal injury, workers' compensation and commercial and family law.

13 Jason R. Dorfman, MS, Aliso Viejo, California, is the co-founder and president of Krisp Nutrition/Keto Krisp and also serves as the vice president of pet products for Medterra. Additionally, he is the senior vice president of sales for bDirect Companies LLC. **Ryan Holmgren, BA**, San Luis Obispo, California, was promoted to senior campaign manager at the Steier Group in Omaha. **Holly A. Schenzel, DNP**, Hinton, Iowa, completed her graduate certificate in psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner at the University of Iowa in August 2018. Schenzel is currently an acute care nurse practitioner at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She also



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O, What Opportunities!

Creighton theater major finds success designing live events and productions, including themed cruises with Oprah Winfrey

From an internship with Opera Omaha to working with Oprah, **JAKE MCCOY, BFA'12**, has had a front-row seat to the behind-the-scenes world of live event design and production.

The Andover, Massachusetts, native came to Omaha to study technical theater. When he left, graduating early with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree — not an easy feat — he walked straight into a full-time gig in New York City.

"It's been a crazy few years since I left Creighton," says McCoy.

McCoy credits his professors in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts for giving him opportunities within the department and getting him well-connected within the Omaha performing arts scene.

While interning with Opera Omaha, the New York City-based Broadway Dreams Foundation came through Omaha and put on a weeklong performing arts boot camp at the Holland Performing Arts Center. The nonprofit asked

Jake McCoy, BFA'12, credits his professors in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts for giving him the opportunities within the department and getting him well-connected within the Omaha performing arts scene.

McCoy to be the assistant stage manager for the week, but he aced the interview and was named production stage manager instead.

"I had really great training through Creighton," McCoy says. "It was a big step up for them."

The company was so impressed with McCoy that they offered him a job. But he was adamant about finishing his degree before moving to the Big Apple. He worked with his professors to take 21 credits per semester and complete his thesis — designing the scenic, lighting, projection, costumes and props for Creighton's 2012 production of *Almost, Maine*.

After graduating, McCoy started a full-time position as a production manager with Broadway Dreams. Then, in 2014, a professional associate called him up on Thanksgiving Day to ask if he wanted to be the assistant to the producer for singer Mariah Carey's revamped live Christmas musical show, "All I Want for Christmas is You."

"I said, 'Absolutely!' And that's when things got really busy," McCoy says.

In 2015, McCoy joined RWS Entertainment Group as a production manager, working primarily within the cruise line division.

He worked with Holland America Line to produce live entertainment on its fleet of ships. Typically, a cast is on one ship for six to eight months at a time, then the performers are switched out. He was on hand for these swaps to "re-tech" the shows with the new casts.

"I really got to see the entire world, from Japan, to the Bahamas, to Alaska," McCoy says. "It was a really cool experience."

And, ultimately, it was where he met his now husband, who was working on one of the Holland America ships.

In 2017, the cruise line partnered with *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and the brands announced a special theme cruise with Oprah Winfrey. That's where McCoy came in. Due to his professional experience, he worked with both Winfrey's team and the ship to produce all the Oprah-themed activities, including a talk show on board with Gayle King, Winfrey's friend and a CBS journalist.

Then, Holland America asked Winfrey to be the godmother of a new ship they were launching. (It's tradition to designate a "godmother" for a new cruise ship, though in



the case of Holland America, they are usually a member of European royalty.)

McCoy oversaw much more this time around.

He did talent and operations management, designed the shows, worked with the video teams and coordinated five semitrailers full of gear to Florida. And once Winfrey came on board, "that was my life for 72 hours," McCoy says. "I worked with her security, her chief of staff and made everything run smoothly. It was crazy."

Today, he is a production director in the new Experiences Department at RWS. Rather than focusing on events that have a live performance, his work is about interactive and integrated experiences that bring the senses to life. This ranges from light shows at launch parties to large-scale seasonal commercial décor at properties around the world.

Another Creighton technical theater graduate, Matthew Hamel, BFA'15, works at RWS, as well.

McCoy is grateful for the hands-on experience he received at Creighton.

"We (the students) benefitted because the department was flexible," he says. "My advanced drafting class was just me and Mark (Krejci, technical director and theater instructor). He had a syllabus, but asked me, 'What do you want to get out of this class?' So I told him, and that's what we focused on."

McCoy also thinks the emphasis Creighton places on the liberal arts has made him stand out, although at the time he wasn't too keen on taking all the core classes.

"The way (these classes) were presented to us, it just opened your mind up," McCoy says. "I look at things differently because of those classes."

His advice for those who are trying to break into the performing arts industry? Make sure you act with integrity and dependability.

"Especially in New York, everybody in the city is good at what they do," McCoy says. "It doesn't matter if you're a performer, designer, choreographer ... everybody is good. You have to be somebody who people want to work with."

— BY AMANDA BRANDT, BA'14

teaches as an associate professor in the Nylen School of Nursing at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

15 Tyler J. Grevengoed, JD, Rock Valley, Iowa, joined Petersen Law PLLC in Council Bluffs, Iowa, as an associate after serving as the assistant Sioux County attorney. He will be practicing in real estate, estate planning, probate, landlord/tenant and civil litigation.

BIRTHS

04 Justin Schmidt and Debra King Schmidt, DDS, Wichita, Kansas, a daughter, Leighton Wynter, Jan. 16, 2019. **Brett Selk and Melissa Unruh Selk, BSN**, Crescent, Iowa, a son, Nolan Stephen, Dec. 1, 2018.

12 Gavin J. Guldenpfenning, BA, and Amalie Appleton Guldenpfenning, BA, Grundy Center, Iowa, a daughter, Jedhaviave Marvel, Feb. 26, 2019. **Adam P. Riesberg, PharmD**, and Casey Riesberg, Papillion, Nebraska, a son, Charles, April 11, 2019.

14 Spencer W. Werth, BA'11, MS, JD, and Carrie Bonsutto Werth, BSHS'12, OTD'12, Omaha, a daughter, Michaela Kaye, Jan. 25, 2019.

DEATHS

47 Frances Burg Bachand, SJN'46, BSN, Missoula, Montana, May 2, 2019.

48 Lucille Perelman Kerr, BS, Mystic, Connecticut, May 15, 2019. **Francis P. Matthews, JD**, Omaha, April 12, 2019. **Mary Jo McGuire, SJN**, Omaha, May 20, 2019.

49 Edward A. Dougherty, MD, Moosic, Pennsylvania, Nov. 23, 2018. **Mary Buss Merwald, SJN**, Omaha, Feb. 20, 2019. **Dr. Ralph L. Smith, ARTS**, Atlantic, Iowa, Nov. 21, 2018.

50 John F. Burke, ARTS, New York, May 13, 2019. **Clement B. Crowley, BSPha**, Omaha, March 13, 2019. **Dr. John P. Malloy, BS'47, MA**, Tucson, Arizona, March 18, 2019. **Dr. Victor J. Rerucha, BS**, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, May 30, 2019.

51 Joseph C. Ranieri, DDS, Olathe, Kansas, May 15, 2019. **Robert C. Rawley, BS,** Omaha, April 21, 2019.

52 Edmund A. McGinn, JD, Council Bluffs, Iowa, March 26, 2019. **Leo J. Wilwerding, ARTS,** Omaha, April 10, 2019.

53 Leslie Noel Shannon, BS, Avalon, California, Dec. 12, 2018.

54 William C. Ellis, BS, Omaha, March 18, 2019. **James D. Rayl, BSPha,** Lindale, Texas, April 16, 2019.

55 Louis F. Barinaga, DDS, Bend, Oregon, Feb. 22, 2019. **Joseph R. Gentile, DDS,** Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 5, 2019.

56 Kenneth J. Kunce, BSPha, Bellevue, Nebraska, March 7, 2019. **Laurence D. Lucas, DDS,** Oklahoma City, April 2, 2019. **Daniel F. Shanahan, BS'52, MD,** Phoenix, March 1, 2019.

57 Maureen Powers Dungan, BSChm, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, March 20, 2019. **Joseph R. Von Tersch, BSPha,** Omaha, May 17, 2019.

58 Thomas H. Dorwart, BS, Sidney, Nebraska, April 28, 2019. **Alfred H. Schwartz Jr., BSPha,** Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 30, 2019.

59 Gerald F. McGuire, BA, Littleton, Colorado, May

16, 2019. **Michael E. Mullen, BS,** Carlsbad, California, Feb. 8, 2019.

60 James M. Keefe, DDS, Carmichael, California, Dec. 19, 2018. **Thomas J. Setter, MD,** Salt Lake City, Feb. 19, 2019.

61 John M. McElroy, DDS, Dannebrog, Nebraska, March

14, 2019. **John R. Privett, BS'57, MD,** La Canada, California, April 9, 2019. **Dianne Fellman Schachner, BA,** Potomac, Maryland, Aug. 28, 2018. **Stephen H. Schachner, MD,** Potomac, Maryland, May 11, 2019.

62 William M. Balak, ARTS, Omaha, Feb. 21, 2019.

63 Frank F. Fernandez, DDS, Phoenix, April 8, 2019. **Michael J. Mooney, BA'59, JD,** Omaha, May 10, 2019.

65 Wendell P. Fleet, MD, Seattle, Feb. 28, 2019. **John T. Houlihan, BSBA,** Katy, Texas, Feb. 14, 2019. **Paul W. Kantack, MD,** Columbus, Mississippi, May 2,

2019. **Paul M. Monahan, MD,** Zillah, Washington, Feb. 27, 2019. **William L. Surber, BA,** Poway, California, April 9, 2019. **John J. "Jay" Zielinski, MD,** Ocean Springs, Mississippi, May 10, 2019.

66 Raymond J. Darwell, DDS, Lakeside, California, March 17, 2019. **Charlene Swedenburg Meidlinger, BA,** Salina, Kansas, May 23, 2019. **Rita Osterman, SJN,** San Diego, Feb. 9, 2019.

67 Richard A. Cerveny, BA'65, JD, Omaha, Feb. 23, 2019. **Robert P. Wintz, BSBA,** Omaha, March 25, 2019.

68 William J. Lillis, JD, Urbandale, Iowa, May 8, 2019. **James K. Williams, BA,** Davenport, Iowa, March 20, 2019.

69 John W. Mullen, JD, Carlsbad, California, May 5, 2019.

70 Dr. Bernard A. Burton, BSMth, Wichita Falls, Texas, April 13, 2019. **Eileen Fitzgerald, BS,** Alexandria, Virginia, May 2, 2019. **Glen A. Ravelomanantsoa, BA,** Mission Hills, California, Jan. 17, 2019. **Reynold P. Welicky, BSBA,** Hayward, Wisconsin, Jan. 28, 2018.

71 Sr. Rosemary Weber, OSB, MSEdu, Yankton, South Dakota, March 5, 2019.

72 Richard L. Swenson, JD, Omaha, April 7, 2019.

73 Richard G. Buturff Jr., DDS, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 7, 2019. **Mary L. Kalamaja, BA'70, JD,** Omaha, March 21, 2019.

74 Rev. Wayne W. Schlautman, MA, Norfolk, Nebraska, April 14, 2019.

75 Mark L. Grams, MD, Elfrida, Arizona, Oct. 3, 2018. **Sr. Maria Smith, DC, MSEdu,** Shreveport, Louisiana, April 18, 2019.

76 Howard Levinsky, MD, River Forest, Illinois, Feb. 14, 2019. **Patricia Bailey Myhre, BSMth,** Rosemount, Minnesota, Jan. 13, 2019.

77 Katherine Stotts Theiler, MSGuid, Omaha, April 29, 2019.

78 David D. Johnson, JD, Las Vegas, April 18, 2019. **Gary V. Wells, BSBA,** Burnsville, Minnesota, March 30, 2019.

79 Catherine J. Harris, BS'75, MD, Paradise, Michigan, March 21, 2019. **Henry C. "Hank" Stork, JD,** Tekamah, Nebraska, June 17, 2018.

80 Janet Nichols Lewis, BA, Omaha, June 3, 2019.

81 David E. Jeffries, MBA, East Troy, Wisconsin, Feb. 28, 2019.

82 James E. Tresemer, BSMT, Papillion, Nebraska, April 21, 2019. **Steven D. Wingert, BA,** Orlando, Florida, March 18, 2019.

83 David M. Streich, JD, Ainsworth, Nebraska, May 23, 2019.

84 Claude L. Brinson, BA, Omaha, March 27, 2019.

87 David E. Petersen, DDS, South Jordan, Utah, Dec. 11, 2018.

89 Lance F. Gunnell, DDS, Wellsville, Utah, March 16, 2019. **Steven J. Oaks, BSBA'86, JD,** Mercer Island, Washington, Feb. 27, 2019. **Susan M. Rendon, BS'83, MD,** Lady Lake, Florida, March 28, 2019.

94 Jennifer Ramsour Miller, BSChm, Dodge City, Kansas, March 21, 2019.

96 Theresa Moriarty Davidson, BS, Omaha, June 6, 2019.

97 David P. Koelliker, DDS, Salt Lake City, Feb. 22, 2019.

98 Anita C. McGowan, MA, Kingston, Pennsylvania, Feb. 27, 2019.

17 Kelsea M. Julian, MED, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, Feb. 21, 2019.

GRADUATE SCHOOL PROFILE

Still Growing

Former NFL offensive lineman enrolls in Creighton's financial psychology program

When **LEVI BROWN** was researching financial psychology programs, he discovered a video of Paul (Ted) Klontz, PhD, associate professor of practice at the Heider College of Business. Klontz, who is also a psychologist and financial planner, used the lullaby *Hush Little Baby* to illustrate how children are indoctrinated, at a very young age, into believing that buying things brings happiness.

"I thought, 'This guy is either looney tunes or on to something,'" Brown recalls.

Brown, a former All-American offensive lineman at Penn State University who played seven seasons in the NFL, decided Klontz was "on to something" and is now enrolled in Creighton's online certificate program in financial psychology and behavioral finance. He hopes to eventually earn a degree from Creighton's nationally acclaimed MBA program.

It would be Brown's fourth collegiate degree. He holds two bachelor's degrees — in labor and industrial relations (2005) and psychology (2006) — and a master's degree in human resources and employment relations (2016) from Penn State. The latter he earned while playing for the Arizona Cardinals, taking courses during his off seasons.



"I've always liked learning," Brown says. "My wife says I am a lifetime student because I'm always looking for something new to learn. We aren't meant to stay stagnant. We are meant to learn and develop over time."

Klontz concurs and sees a natural curiosity in Brown, calling him "incredibly bright and extraordinarily motivated."

Klontz has more than 30 years of experience counseling high-profile individuals, such as professional athletes, entertainers, politicians and leaders of major corporations, "with the universal goal of trying to close the gap between what they want to have happen and what is currently happening in their finances."

And Creighton is uniquely positioned to assist adult learners such as Brown in reaching their goals through its badge, credential and certification program, which allows busy professionals the opportunity to dip their toe in the academic waters while considering an advanced degree.

"It's a pipeline into our programs of excellence," says Tricia Brundo Sharrar, BA'93, JD'96, vice provost for academic administration and partnerships and head of Creighton's Center for Professional and Corporate Excellence.

Brown's interest in investments was sparked when he began setting aside money for his family and for retirement. Hesitant to relinquish control of his finances to the sole care of someone else, he learned as much as he could, seeking advice from professionals in

the field. In 2019, he joined Surevest Wealth Management, headquartered in Phoenix, as a financial coach and behavioral finance specialist, working remotely from his home in Austin, Texas. He specializes in clients who encounter sudden wealth, helping them separate their finances from emotions.

"I was excited to put my money to work for me," Brown says, "and now I can help others do the same."

A first-round pick, and the No. 5 pick overall, in the 2007 NFL draft by the Arizona Cardinals, Brown dreamed of a long and storied career in the NFL. But, the 35-year-old Jacksonville, North Carolina, native, quoting Proverbs 16, says God had a different plan for him — one that channeled his adversity (he was sidelined with torn triceps in 2012, and ended his NFL playing days in 2014) and education into helping people navigate their financial paths.

Brown says he's found in Creighton "a community of likeminded people, both educationally and spiritually, who help me as I continue to search for purpose and meaning in life."

"As you grow as a person, you find out what is important," Brown adds.

He might just be on to something.

— **BY MOLLY GARRIOTT, BA'89**

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DAVE WEAVER

What does Creighton's New Carnegie Classification Mean?

Creighton was elevated earlier this year in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education from the Master's Colleges and Universities category to the newly created Doctoral/Professional Universities category.

The Carnegie classifications are the leading U.S. framework for recognizing institutional distinction in higher education and are used by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual rankings.

For Creighton — ranked the No. 1 master's college/university in the Midwest by *U.S. News* for 16 consecutive years — the new classification offers an opportunity for national distinction.

Tom Murray, PhD, Creighton provost, shares his thoughts here on what this change means for Creighton. Murray holds a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Washington School of Medicine, and first came to Creighton in 2006 as professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology in the School of Medicine. He was named associate vice president for health sciences research in 2010 and provost in 2017.

What factors do you think led to Creighton being reclassified in this new category?

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education recently altered its metrics for categorizing U.S. colleges and universities. The classification now includes "doctor's degree — professional practice" in the methodology. This change creates a new category of doctoral universities that offer at least 30 professional practice doctorates, such as MD, DNP, JD, DDS, PharmD, OTD and DPT, across a minimum of two programs. Given Creighton's professional practice doctorate programs in nursing, medicine, dentistry, law, pharmacy, occupational therapy and physical therapy, we far exceed the 30-degree threshold.

What effect do you think it will have on the University's reputation?

As a result of the change in Carnegie classification metrics, Creighton has moved from the Master's Colleges and Universities category to the Doctoral/Professional Universities category

and from being a Midwest-ranked institution to being included in the more prestigious national listing. This change is meaningful because it highlights Creighton's continuing commitment to strengthen our scholarly productivity and institutional focus on research and scholarship, which is also noted in our strategic plan. We are now included among peers in the highly regarded national category, which is clearly a new source of pride for the entire Creighton community.

How will it affect recruiting students and faculty?

This new classification signals what we at Creighton have always known: We are a top-flight research institution that, at its heart, continues to be driven by a teacher-scholar educational model. The new Carnegie classification will enhance our ability to grow the scope of our doctoral and professional programs and the research being undertaken across Creighton's nine schools and colleges. This in turn will continue to make Creighton attractive for recruitment of the highest caliber faculty and students.

Our faculty provide outstanding mentorship for undergraduate student research, largely through the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. It is therefore no surprise that this year two Creighton students received Fulbright Teaching Assistant Awards and three received Goldwater Scholarships. Over the last decade, Creighton has produced more Goldwater Scholars than any other Catholic university and ranks among the top 25 private universities producing such scholars — joining the ranks with Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and MIT.

How do you think Creighton's research affected the new status?

Creighton's funding from federal and major national organizations continues to climb. The research being undertaken by both faculty and students has a bearing on life around the globe in the arts, humanities, sciences, law and medicine. With over \$21 million in external research funding in 2018, our future expansion of PhD programs should allow Creighton to advance to the Carnegie classification of a Doctoral/Professional University with "high research activity."



A Tradition Continues

Creighton congratulates the most recent recipients of the Goldwater Scholarship and Fulbright Teaching Assistant Award.

Creighton is the No. 1 producer of Goldwater Scholars among Catholic universities over the past 10 years, and places among the top 25 private universities producing such scholars — joining the ranks with Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and MIT. In the past 15 years, Creighton has produced 23 Goldwater Scholars, and since 2005, 17 Fulbrights.



Pictured above, from left to right, are:

- Mason Rhodes**
Goldwater Scholar, Class of 2020, physics and mathematics major
- Siddharth Venkatraman**
Goldwater Scholar, Class of 2020, biochemistry and philosophy major
- Spencer Thompson**
Goldwater Scholar, Class of 2020, biochemistry major
- Sahil Sandhu, BS'19**
Fulbright Teaching Assistant Award, teaching English and serving as an American cultural ambassador in Tajikistan
- Mary Kate Wolken, BA'19**
Fulbright Teaching Assistant Award, teaching English and serving as an American cultural ambassador in Spain