



Engaging the Community

After a particularly long, cold, and snowy Omaha winter, I am eagerly anticipating the warm breezes of spring, a Creighton campus once again alive with students gathering on the mall between classes, and the blossoming of our beautiful grounds.

Commencement is on the near horizon, with ceremonies planned for May 18. I am delighted that Bob Kerrey, HON'93, a former U.S. senator, Nebraska governor, and university president, has accepted the invitation to be our commencement speaker.

Our cover story for this issue chronicles the deplorable, brutal 1919 lynching of an African-American man, Will Brown, outside the courthouse in Omaha and how the legacy of the 1919 race riots in Omaha and nationally continue to affect our nation today.

The new Kingfisher Institute at Creighton is organizing events around race in America in connection with the 1919 race riots. The institute, which was created to explore the intersections between liberal arts and the professional fields, is addressing themes of critical social importance in its inaugural year. Fall programming focused on narratives of health and illness.

The newly established Presidential Committee on Community Engagement is working to develop an infrastructure for neighborhood inclusion and collaboration – with listening sessions and conversations with the North Omaha community already underway.

Earlier this year, I joined other University officials in meeting with the Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation and with representatives of the Empowerment Network. I also attended a meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress and hosted a luncheon with Baptist ministers and members of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

To attract a diverse and inclusive student body, we recently announced the launch of a test-optional admissions policy beginning with the freshman class of 2020. While prospective students are still encouraged to take the SAT, ACT, and other standard collegiate admissions tests, we recognize that those instruments do not always accurately reflect a student's academic abilities and college readiness.

I am pleased to welcome to our alumni ranks the first graduates of our accelerated nursing program in Phoenix, who participated in a pinning ceremony at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix in December. Interest in our nursing program in Phoenix continues to remain strong.

Finally, Creighton is applying to host a presidential debate during the 2020 election cycle, and University officials are working with staff from the Commission on Presidential Debates in Washington, D.C., on requirements. If Creighton is chosen, the University would be notified this fall. Stay tuned.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President



Follow me:
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CreightonPresident

© Erin Walter, front, and Zachary Brittain carry piping for a community aqueduct in the Dominican Republic. The sophomores in the College of Arts and Sciences are students in the *Encuentro Dominicano* program this semester.

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Popular with alumni, students and others, St. John's hosts about twice as many weddings as any Catholic church in Omaha. For many, it feels like home.



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KEEPING DANCERS ON POINT

Alumna Michelle McLaughlin Reilly, DPT'08, BSHS'08, has found an energizing and fulfilling way to satisfy her passion for both ballet and physical therapy.



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PUBLISHER

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PRESIDENT

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICER

Jim Berscheidt

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rick Davis

ASSOC. DIRECTORS OF COMMUNICATIONS

Cindy Murphy McMahon
Sheila Swanson

WRITERS

Amanda Brandt
Adam Klinker
Emily Rust

ILLUSTRATION

Emily Haasch
LA Johnson
Gary Neill
David Pohl

CONTACT

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

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

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CREIGHTON MAGAZINE'S PURPOSE

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

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Voices

"These are such joyous events. Sixty, 80 or even 100 people gather in a house for Mass and little kids are running all over the place and enjoying themselves. I read the prayers in their language, which is a tonal language that I am not able to speak. I am not really sure what I am saying. However, the community is familiar with the Catholic prayers at Mass and responds."

THE REV. ALEXANDER ROEDLACH, SVD, PHD, medical anthropology professor, on ministering to Omaha's Karenni community

"When you organize people, you go door to door and organize people. We trusted ourselves to do that. It's how the movement happened."

DIANE NASH, civil rights activist who spoke at Creighton in January as part of Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative events

"If it is peace we are after, true peace, then it really makes no sense to use the kind of combative language that we have been using when it comes to North Korea and its nuclear weapons."

MAORONG JIANG, PHD, director of Creighton's Asian World Center, who presented a study to the Department of Defense in January

"The program is mutually beneficial as it gives students the opportunity to apply lessons learned in the Principles of Taxation classroom ... to make a difference in the lives of people in their community."

THOMAS PURCELL III, PHD, BSBA'72, JD'77, professor and chair of accounting, on student participation in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for low-income individuals and families

Let's Get Social

@Creighton: Creighton students Katrina Nesbit and Abby Weber had quite the adventure during dead week, with their appearance on **@TheEllenShow**.

@hilary_moser: One of my professors **@Creighton** just sent me an email congratulating me on a high test score. THIS is part of why I chose Creighton!!

@GenoaCitySchool: Congratulations to Mr. McCabe for getting his dissertation published. This past November, McCabe completed his doctorate at Creighton University Interdisciplinary Leadership Programs. Way to make us **#MustangProud!**

creighton1878: Did we just become best friends? **@cocoathecounselor** meets Billy Bluejay!





© Ashton Legenza, far left, a senior exercise science major, works in the lab of Eric Bredahl, PhD, right, assistant professor of exercise science and pre-health professions.

MIKE KLEVETER

Cancer, Chemotherapy and Exercise

BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88

Basic science research at Creighton explores the benefits of physical activity, creatine

Eric Bredahl, PhD, assistant professor of exercise science and pre-health professions, and a team of undergraduate researchers are adding to the growing — but relatively new — body of evidence pointing to the benefits of exercise for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Bredahl became fascinated with this line of study as a graduate research assistant working at the Rocky Mountain Cancer Rehabilitation Institute (now the Cancer Rehabilitation Institute) at the University of Northern Colorado, where he earned his PhD in sports and exercise science in 2015.

“Some of the work we did conclusively showed that if you had a cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy and they were able to perform low-intensity exercise, their prognosis was greatly improved,” says Bredahl, who has continued that line of research at Creighton for the past four years.

“Your body is meant to move,” he says. “Even if you’re sick or you’re going through chemo, the outcome is markedly better just by moving.”

Chemotherapy agents, he explains, can have cardiotoxic effects — meaning they cause damage to the heart. With chemotherapy, the heart muscle gets smaller, while the inside chamber enlarges, thinning the walls of the heart.

“But if you exercise, that loss of cardiac muscle is reduced,” he says. “So, you have cancer patients who are able to tolerate chemotherapy longer, which means there is a better chance of the cancer being killed and they can maintain a better quality of life. In other words, they have more energy to perform day-to-day tasks.”

Bredahl and his students conduct basic science research, working with various research models. They have found that low-intensity exercise

slows tumor growth, and when chemotherapy is introduced, exercise reduces heart damage and maintains muscle function.

A review of recent research literature, he says, shows that exercise can be beneficial in all stages of the treatment process — before someone begins chemotherapy, during treatments and then afterward as part of recovery.

Bredahl is also collaborating with the School of Medicine to look at low-cost interventions that can improve outcomes during chemotherapy. Specifically, he and his students are looking at creatine, a compound produced naturally in the body that is also widely used as a supplement.

“When you hear of creatine, you think of gym guys,” says Bredahl, himself an avid weightlifter. However, its benefits have been found to extend beyond the gym.

In his lab, undergraduate exercise

science and pre-health profession students have cultured skeletal muscle cells — treating one group with chemotherapy and another with chemotherapy and creatine.

“What we find is that creatine is cytoprotective — it preserves cell health and cell viability,” Bredahl says.

This could be very beneficial for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy who, for other health reasons, are not able to exercise to the extent needed for outcome benefits.

“What if we were able to give them a supplement — or nutraceutical, if you will — that’s available in just about every store, it’s low cost to produce and it’s a high yield,” says Bredahl, speaking of creatine.

“There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered before you make clinical recommendations. There’s still a word of caution to it, but we’re starting this line and the initial results are very promising.”

Bredahl says that exercise for cancer patients does not necessarily mean hitting the gym every day or running on a treadmill. Simple routines — a few daily walks, some body-resistance exercises or practicing yoga — “can have profound impacts on the health of your body during chemotherapy,” he says. A little bit of exercise can also stimulate appetite, especially important for those cancer patients who experience weight loss, particularly prominent in those suffering from cancer cachexia.

Bredahl is particularly excited to have undergraduate students involved in the research, which at other institutions would primarily be reserved for graduate students.

“What we do is very much graduate-level research,” Bredahl says. “It’s a testament to Creighton undergrads that I can bring these students in, and in three or four months they’re self-sufficient researchers.”

Wisam Najdawi, a senior exercise science major from Sioux City, Iowa, has been working in Bredahl’s lab since his sophomore year.



A BEST VALUE

The Princeton Review named Creighton one of the nation’s best-value institutions in its 2019 edition of *Best Value Colleges: 200 Schools with Exceptional ROI for Your Tuition Investment.*

“Dr. Bredahl has given me a lot of opportunities, responsibilities and independence in the lab to really grow as a researcher,” says Najdawi, who has shared findings at national and international conferences, and plans to attend medical school next year to pursue an MD/PhD dual degree.

Ashton Legenza, a senior exercise science major from Elkhorn, Nebraska, who also plans to attend medical school after graduation, adds that the students’ work in the lab is “very hands-on” and that Bredahl takes “the time to teach us and coach us through the process.”

Both are keenly aware of the importance of the lab’s work.

“Cancer is something that most, if not all, people will deal with during their lifetime,” Najdawi says. “The idea that we can potentially help reduce the adverse effects of both cancer and chemotherapy for so many people is something very special to me.”



BOB KERREY ▶

Bob Kerrey, HON’93, will deliver the 2019 Commencement address on May 18. Kerrey received an honorary degree from Creighton in 1993.

Kerrey to Deliver Commencement Address

Bob Kerrey, HON’93, will deliver the commencement address at Creighton University’s 2019 commencement exercises on May 18.

Kerrey, who served one term as Nebraska’s governor, represented Nebraska in the U.S. Senate from 1989 to 2001. His public service since leaving Congress includes: the 9/11 Commission; advisory board of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association; co-chair of the Concord Coalition; and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

From 2001 to 2011 Kerrey was president of The New School, a university founded on democratic ideals and daring educational practices. On his watch, The New School experienced unprecedented growth in enrollment, faculty, scholarships, capital projects, research and international engagement.

Today, Kerrey is managing director at Allen & Company. He is also executive ▶

chairman of the Minerva Institute for Research and Scholarship, supporting The Minerva Project.

Kerrey served as a U.S. Navy SEAL during the Vietnam War, and received the Medal of Honor for his service.

Creighton Cupboard Addresses Food Insecurity

A new food pantry on campus, called Creighton Cupboard, opened in the lower level of McGloin Hall in January.

The program, a Division of Student Life initiative, aims to address food insecurity among students, and will provide complete meals for undergraduate, graduate and professional students who identify as food insecure.

Food insecurity is classified as reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet, or disrupted eating and reduced food intake. Creighton joins more than 650 on-campus food pantries in the U.S., according to a study by the U.S.

Government Accountability Office.

In the first week of operation, more than a dozen students registered for Creighton Cupboard, says Michele Bogard, PhD, associate vice provost for student engagement.

“While we wish there would not be a need (for the program), we are encouraged that the word is spreading, so we can help remove a barrier from students’ success,” Bogard says.

The work of Creighton Cupboard is twofold, she says. First, it is addressing the immediate need of hunger within the student population — helping students to be successful in classes, labs and internships. The second is to raise awareness that food insecurity is a global issue and affects college students, even those on Creighton’s campus.

While it is funded by a collaboration of the Division of Student Life, Creighton Dining and Creighton Students Union, the pantry does accept donations. To learn more about the project, visit creighton.edu/cupboard.



REV. MATTHEW CREIGHTON, SJ ▶

The Rev. Matthew Creighton, SJ, served as president of the University from 1978 to 1981.

© Denisse Navarro-Perez, student intern for education and outreach in the Department of Student Life, stocks shelves at the Creighton Cupboard.

‘Centennial President’ Dies at 91

The Rev. Matthew Creighton, SJ, 21st president of Creighton University, died on Nov. 23 in Clarkston, Michigan. Fr. Creighton, who was not related to the University’s founding family, was 91 years old.

President of the University from 1978 to 1981, Fr. Creighton was called the University’s “centennial president” because he began his service 100 years after Creighton’s founding.

‘Expanding Possibilities’ in China

Creighton University is expanding its outreach to China through an agreement signed by representatives from Creighton and Shandong Jiaotong University in November.

Shandong Jiaotong professor Song Fang shadowed Tim McMahon, PhD, a marketing professor in the Heider College of Business, in 2017, and McMahon has since taught on several occasions abroad in China, as a result. The new agreement calls for more student and faculty exchanges and a sharing of knowledge. Plans are also in place for an executive education trip for Creighton alumni and friends.

“Jesuits have been a global link in education,” McMahon says. “We are just following up on that pledge to ‘go set the world on fire.’”

McMahon sees China as a global leader in business, and the opportunity to share knowledge is essential, specifically cultural, business practices and relationship development.

“While our countries have different opinions, we share many beliefs,” McMahon says. “Beliefs about learning, growing in knowledge, sharing knowledge in an open and honest exchange.”

The agreement will send Creighton students to China and vice versa, expanding horizons for undergraduate and graduate students alike.

“Most people come here (to Creighton) as undergrads having an interest in countries from where their ancestors came, mostly Europe. Asia represents the future and presents a benefit for students to explore and understand,” McMahon says. “We are living in a global world.”

McMahon says his China experience has made him a better teacher. Shandong Jiaotong University bestowed upon McMahon the title of “Honorary Professor,” further cementing the relationship between the two universities.

“The whole idea of a college education is expanding possibilities,” McMahon says, “and, at Creighton, that is being done in harmony with the University’s Global Initiative.”

International Science Conference

Two Jesuit universities convened in January to introduce the idea of clinical and translational science to India. Devendra Agrawal, PhD, MBA’04, MS’05, professor in the Creighton School of Medicine, was a convener of the international science conference, From Health to Well Being: An Interdisciplinary Approach from Fundamental Sciences to Translational Medicine.

The conference, held at St. Xavier’s College, a Jesuit school in Mumbai, brought together various areas of expertise to explain the idea of translational science — something new to India. One highlight of the conference was a debate on the strengths and weaknesses of Ayurveda and allopathy, facilitated by Agrawal. Ayurveda, rooted in India, is an ancient medicine that uses herbal drugs. Attendees questioned which discipline was better for certain diseases, an interdisciplinary approach fundamental to the study of clinical and translational sciences.

“You cannot effectively answer a clinical question without bringing the knowledge of different disciplines,” Agrawal says. “It is of the utmost

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

“Dangerous Ballast: Zebra Mussels and the Ecological Critique of Globalization in the Anthropocene”

STUDENT RESEARCHER

Patrick Driscoll; junior, majoring in environmental science (global and environmental systems track); Redwood City, California

FACULTY MENTOR

Adam Sundberg, PhD, assistant professor of history and digital humanities

WHAT IT MEANS The zebra mussel, a small European freshwater mussel, has become an archetypal invasive species in the U.S. This project explores how scientists and policymakers transformed the zebra mussel from a localized economic nuisance into a critique of globalization. Cargo ships likely transported the zebra mussel to the U.S. in ballast water (water carried on ships to improve stability) in the late 1980s. By 1990, it had become an ecological and economic disaster. Subsequent decades saw increasing public interest in exotic species, regulation of introduction pathways and the growth of “invasion biology.” Right now, 10,000 species are being transported around the globe in ballast water alone. Zebra mussels represent the unintended costs of 20th century globalization.

importance to have an interdisciplinary approach.”

Agrawal was joined by Creighton’s vice provost for Global Engagement, René Padilla, PhD; professor and vice chair of surgery Juan Asensio, MD; associate professor of psychiatry Vithyalakshmi Selvaraj, MBBS; research assistant professor Mohamed Radwan, MBBCH; and postdoctoral fellow Finosh Thankam, PhD.

Fresh Idea

Creighton pilots new food pharmacy program

BY AMANDA BRANDT, BA’14

A new, innovative food pharmacy program is promoting wellness and community at the Creighton University location in the Highlander Accelerator, a community enrichment center in North Omaha.

The food pharmacy, a collaboration with Charles Drew Health Center and Whispering Roots, focuses on improving health by providing fresh and nutritious produce for those who have a chronic disease and lack access to affordable, nutritious food. The one-year pilot program, which started this spring, enrolled people who have Type 2 diabetes.

The 10 inaugural participants receive additional visits with their primary care physician and a dietician at Charles Drew Health Center, as well as fresh produce, educational classes and health coaching from Creighton.

“(A food pharmacy) is a pretty new concept, but it’s something that is gaining momentum,” says Thomas Lenz, BA’92, PharmD’99, MA’17, director of the Creighton space in the Highlander community. “This is a great way to have an impact on someone’s life, and someone’s health.”

Eventually, the produce for the program will be harvested from the Whispering Roots greenhouse located on-site in the Highlander Accelerator. Whispering Roots grows produce using aquaponics, a symbiotic system



DAVE WEAVER

that mixes raising fish (called aquaculture) and growing plants without soil (called hydroponics). The nonprofit's Highlander site is anticipated to be up and running in the fall.

"It doesn't get any more local than from across the parking lot," says Lenz, who is also a professor in the Graduate School and the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

The educational classes will cover topics from food safety and storage to how to best navigate the grocery store while being strategic with resources such as SNAP benefits. These courses will be taught through the culinary skills program at Metropolitan Community College.

Lenz says there are several areas in which they hope to see successful outcomes for the project participants. Those include better management of the participants' diabetes, based on clinical signs, symptoms and tests, and greater access for participants to fresh food.

The benefits can extend beyond individual participants and positively affect families.

"In order to bring about the most successful outcomes, it's better if the whole family is involved," says Kim Sauer, an accelerated bachelor's to master's program student studying health and wellness coaching. "If everybody is involved, it's easier for a person with a chronic disease to manage their condition."

Creighton students, such as Sauer, play an important role in the food pharmacy program. Johanna Gniffke, BA'99, BSN'05, is working toward her third degree from Creighton — this time, a master's degree in health and wellness coaching. She helped set up the program during her practicum course. After previously studying philosophy and nursing, Gniffke says this is a logical next step for her.

"What's exciting to me about the program is it really brings together all of my passions: working with

people, helping them with their health and addressing health needs in a proactive way," she says.

Phoenix is Rising for Creighton

Site work on Creighton's new health sciences campus in Phoenix is scheduled to begin this summer, with an opening slated for 2021.

The expansion is an answer to Arizona's looming shortage of health care professionals and will include medical, physician assistant, nursing, pharmacy, and occupational and physical therapy programs. Graduate and professional student enrollment of nearly 900 by 2025 is projected.

The campus is expected to meet the University's current needs with room to grow in the midtown Park Central area. The location offers light rail connections and proximity to the hospitals where students will be doing clinical training.

© Below is an architectural rendering of the new health sciences campus that will be located at Park Central in midtown Phoenix. Site preparation will begin this summer.



Creighton's connection in Phoenix began some 14 years ago, with medical students completing rotations at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. That relationship expanded several years later when Creighton's Phoenix Regional Campus was established for third- and fourth-year medical students, and in 2017 the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance was formed with three Arizona health care partners.

Law Clinic Welcomes First Paralegal Student

Creighton's Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic welcomed its first paralegal student from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha in January as part of a new initiative between the two schools.

"This new bridge between the College of Saint Mary paralegal program and our legal clinic is a perfect articulation of the mission of both of these amazing Catholic educational institutions, and we are so fortunate that Yesica Lara is the first student to cross that bridge," said Michael Kelly, Creighton's interim law dean. "We look forward to more coming across in the future."

Lara, 22, is a native of Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico, and has been in the U.S. since 2007. She is in the country legally as part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy of 2012.

Lara plans to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) in the fall and graduate with her bachelor's degree in legal studies in December. She will work at the legal clinic until May.

"I enjoy it," she says of the clinic work. "Everyone here — from the staff attorneys to the office manager to the clinic director and the senior certified law students — is teaching me how to do things step by step and I'm learning a lot.

"It's my dream to start my own nonprofit law firm where I can help others immigrate here. But I leave it all to God. If He opens doors, I will follow."



LA JOHNSON

Creighton Unveils New Test-Optional Admission

Creighton University will become the first Midwest Jesuit University to adopt test-optional admission for undergraduate freshman applicants, beginning in 2020.

"Creighton is drawing on its Jesuit mission and strategic initiative of diversity and inclusion to allow more students to pursue a Creighton education," Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, said. "We are committed to access and inclusion and to celebrating a rich diversity of identities, backgrounds, and experiences."

Test-optional admission allows prospective students to choose whether to include ACT or SAT scores in their admission application, as some students may feel their scores don't fully reflect their academic abilities.

The new policy does not include individuals applying to the College of Nursing. In addition, some form of standardized testing will be required for students who attend high school outside the United States, as well as for home-schooled students.

The move underscores the University's commitment to removing test bias and other barriers facing students who would otherwise thrive at the University. For more information about the test-optional admission policy, visit admissions.creighton.edu/test-optional.



DAVE WEAVER

‘I Want to Make Things Better’

BY EMILY RUST

Forced from her home in Iraq, Nibras Khudaida continues to pursue educational dreams at Creighton

In an instant, Nibras Khudaida’s joy changed to fear. The rush of the last day of school, and earning the student of the year award, abruptly ended as she and her classmates in the small Iraq village of Sreshka looked ahead and saw a dreaded situation come to life. In the flat plains, a mob of people was coming closer to their village. Islamic State fighters were descending — much faster than anticipated.

“We thought there was no way. We have an army, we’d fight at least, have a warning to leave,” Khudaida says.

Quickly, Khudaida ran home, gathering together with her family, taking only her passport and the clothes on her back, to escape the Islamist militants. Twelve people piled into a small car to flee north with no idea of when, if ever, they would be able to return home.

At 16, Khudaida’s life changed forever, a journey that would lead to immigrating to Lincoln, Nebraska, and then joining Creighton University’s Class of 2022.

Now a freshman in the Heider College of Business, Khudaida is focused on education equality for Iraqis, a journey that led her to the United Nations’ Youth Assembly in February, where she served as a delegate for Iraq.

“I want to make things better for students back home,” Khudaida says. “I want everybody to have the opportunities that I have right now in the United States.”

Attending school as a woman in Iraq was especially challenging. “People didn’t believe that women should go to school,” Khudaida says. She remembers one teacher telling her she should “stay in the kitchen.”

People in her village constantly questioned her family for sending Khudaida to school, but

her father, a strong advocate for education, insisted she go.

“He loved education,” Khudaida says. “He said, ‘If I’m going to send my son to school, why not send you to school?’”

Even after fleeing Islamic State fighters in Sreshka in 2014, Khudaida faced obstacles to her education in Erbil, where her family resettled temporarily. She enrolled in a nearby school, where the new principal asked for her transcript, which was back in Mosul under Islamic State control.

The Erbil principal insisted. So, she and her dad went back to the village to get her transcript signed from her Sreshka school principal, who was fighting with the Peshmerga — Kurdish military forces.

“He had a gun in his hand when he was signing my transcript,” Khudaida says.

“I knew about Creighton when I was back home (in Iraq). I searched every single college in the U.S. I was so excited about all these opportunities. It was, for me, a dream.”

With her studies toward a bachelor’s degree underway, some people back home are now praising her educational pursuits.

It’s been an incredible journey, considering that when she first came to the United States in 2015, she didn’t speak any English. English-language learners (ELL) classes at North Star High School were difficult for the first year.

“There’s a metaphor that my dad used to say to me all the time, ‘deaf in a party.’ The whole first year, I didn’t know the language. You go to a party, the music is playing, you don’t understand anything,” Khudaida says.

The first year was heartbreaking. She was still devastated from being driven from her home by Islamic State forces and felt a familiar

feeling — she didn’t belong.

Khudaida practices the Yazidi faith. Yazidis are a religious minority in mostly Muslim Iraq and have been persecuted for centuries. In 2014, thousands died in Iraq after an Islamic State invasion of Sinjar, leading to U.S. intervention and airstrikes.

“It’s difficult to be treated for the way you were born,” Khudaida says, referring to her Yazidi faith. “That was the best part about America, nobody asked you about your religion. They cared about you as a person.”

Khudaida’s village of Sreshka was mostly Yazidi, but nearby Mosul, one of the larger cities in Iraq, was primarily Muslim. Her teachers were Muslim and spoke Arabic, a language she learned in school, while she spoke her native Kurdish at home.

Fortunately, Lincoln became a safe haven for Khudaida’s family and other Yazidis. Nebraska’s capital city is home to the largest population of Yazidis in the United States, about 3,000. The tight-knit ethnic community welcomes new incoming Yazidi immigrants the moment their flights land.

“Just imagine that: We came out of the airport, and we see a crowd of Yazidis with welcome signs,” Khudaida says. “They were speaking our language. It was the best feeling ever.”

Advancing in ELL classes and joining the speech and debate team at North Star gave Khudaida the confidence and ability to succeed in the U.S. and to attend Creighton.

“I knew about Creighton when I was back home (in Iraq),” Khudaida says. “I searched every single college in the U.S. I was so excited about all these opportunities. It was, for me, a dream.”

She hopes to make those opportunities available for others in Iraq, starting programs in refugee camps and advocating for education reform.

One day, she will return to her home in Sreshka to visit. Her father has been back but refuses to open the door to the house — he’s waiting to go with his family.

“We are all waiting to go back,” Khudaida says. “After we receive our U.S. citizenship, we’ll all go back together, for a week or two, just to open our home and see it.”

Into Africa

BY RACHEL BUTTNER, BA'03

A Namibian proverb tells us: “Learning expands great souls.” For students of Psychology of Africa: Decolonizing Love, Family and Forgiveness, learning happened in a Creighton classroom and came to life in the bush of Namibia.

Associate professor Jill Brown, PhD, crafted the honors seminar course — which is led by a different professor exploring a different topic every year — to her specialty in cross-cultural psychology and 20 years of research experience in Africa.

In 1996, Brown was assigned to Eenhana, a town on the border of Namibia and Angola, as a Peace Corps volunteer. She’s returned throughout

the years to conduct field work in issues such as HIV and masculinity, child fosterage and the influence of environment on who a person becomes. These topics permeated Brown’s course. Students examined the cultural bounds of psychology and how to conduct research “connected to and honoring the way Africans think about themselves and pass on that knowledge,” she says. “What does it mean for me as a westerner to go to another place and extract information?”

This question guided the students’ experience in Africa.

With travel funds from the CURAS Global Scholarship Fund, Brown, along with Lee Budesheim, PhD, associate professor of psychological sciences, and 11 students, made the 24-hour journey to Eenhana. Brown reunited with friends,

and the Creighton group split among two neighboring homesteads, staying with local families to do their research.

Brown called this method “accompaniment,” in which students paired up with the men, women and children of the community to follow along in their daily activities — doing chores, eating, playing, working and more. From these interactions, students singled out stories important to the person and collected them through audio recordings as qualitative psychological data.

One student, Olivia Kennedy, connected with 7-year-old Naledi. “Something that kept coming up in our conversations was this concept of what a stranger is to her,” Kennedy says, “because her definitions were different from my experience. So, I jumped on that.” Kennedy interviewed others

© A group of Creighton students and faculty visited Tsumkwe, Namibia, home to the San people (the indigenous people of Southern Africa), during winter break in late December and early January. The photo was taken in front of the largest Baobab tree in Namibia.



in different locations, tribes and age groups to further explore and analyze their perceptions of “stranger.”

The students collected an array of stories. Caitlin Martin shepherded goats alongside a herder boy, who emigrated from Angola; Ruben Quiros conversed in Spanish with a former member of the Namibian army who once lived in exile in Cuba; Dion Talamante interviewed a community advocate promoting basketball as an outlet for men otherwise drawn to trouble.

“The whole course was centered on the San (indigenous people of Southern Africa) code of research ethics of ‘walking through the door’ rather than looking through the window,” Kennedy says. For the students — many of whom have never been to a country outside of the United States — it was a lesson in meeting people where they are.

“We had great conversations, challenging stereotypes and our assumptions that we have the privilege to walk into somebody’s life and ask them questions,” Brown says. “The participants own the knowledge. They own these stories.” The students will finish out the spring semester compiling their research and producing podcasts from the recorded stories to share with the Namibian people.

Beyond Eenhana, the students spent nearly 45 hours on the road in the sparsely populated country, staying in both remote and urban areas. They joined a hunting and gathering expedition in the Kalahari Desert with the San people; saw native animals at the Etosha National Park; and spent time with a social worker tending to children living in the streets of Gobabis.

“It was hard to prepare for it because you don’t get it until you’re there,” says Kennedy, who, inspired by Brown’s career, plans to do graduate studies in human culture and developmental psychology. “These are people I’ve read about in books, but to see them run up and hug Jill (Brown), that isn’t something you can translate in an academic journal.”



DAVE WEAVER

A Bold Creation

Creighton professors give life to new ballet production on Genesis

“Now,” says Frederick Hanna, DMA, “we play.”

Hanna is here envisioning what comes next after the Creighton University professor of music penned his first ballet score — a musical treatment of the Genesis account — over the summer and handed it over to his collaborator, dance instructor Patrick Roddy, to create the choreography.

And this first time out in the genre, Roddy and Hanna are not playing around. The performance, titled *Knowing Good and Evil*, harkens to that original powerful play: Creation — told via the visions of Creighton professors through the instruments of 40 musicians and the motions of 30 dancers, all Creighton students.

“It’s going to be exciting,” Roddy says. “It’s going to be beautiful. There’s an energy that’s surrounding this that

© Creighton junior Alfred Ibsen, left, and senior Emma Welsh at a dance rehearsal for the ballet production *Knowing Good and Evil*. They will portray “Adam” and “Eve” in the production.

the students are feeling. To have confidence in the performers and to have the performers trust the faculty to create something fun, engaging and challenging, it’s what you hope to accomplish as an artist and a teacher.”

With a wide range of musical styles and dance — including classical ballet with flourishes of jazz, tap and modern — the production is also being pared down with simpler costumes and sets. In one scene, dancers thrust a Lycra sheet to the sky to embody the birthing of mountains.

Hanna says the rhythms of the church calendar were an inspiration in alighting upon the creation story and the production’s title, which aims at the human stain on God’s perfection, provided a point of crisis in more ways than one.

“The passage of ecclesial time has been moving to me throughout my life,” he says. “And I wanted to look at original sin — the very original sin, not just that we all fall short, but the actual sin that sets it off. An important inspiration”

for me was the verse, Genesis 3:5. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' It's where we got the title of the ballet."

Knowing Good and Evil is the culmination of more than a decade of conversations between Hanna and Roddy about putting their collective talents together. Time finally lined up last summer and fall, and the production will take the stage at the Lied Education Center for the Arts April 25 through 28.

Both Hanna and Roddy are no strangers to big, original productions. Hanna has penned several symphonies and worked in collaboration with visual artists, and Roddy has led the Creighton Dance Company through ambitious works like *Giselle*, last fall's production, and the biennial staging of a Creighton favorite, *The Nutcracker*.

"Fred and I have always talked about doing something together," Roddy says. "This became the moment and it's quite a moment."

While the stage overflows with flowering plants and animals, sun, moon and stars, the full orchestra and dance company, Hanna says amid it all are the devil's wiles, opening questions of just what this figure is and what it looks like.

"Does the devil wear red with horns and carry a pitchfork?" Hanna says. "Or could the devil look like anyone else sitting next to you? Is this just everyone's feel-good production number or is there some torment? And that's the second act."

Writing the score in large chunks of time over the summer, Hanna says he turned eagerly to the work and saw it unfolding in dance in the theater of his mind. He shared bits and pieces with students, who continue to anticipate what the full production will look and sound like.

Roddy, on the other hand, has kept some of his choreography a bit nebulous, hoping to tease out of students new and different reactions to the music and movements.



CREIGHTON

In February, Creighton opened the Ruth Scott Training Center. The facility – nicknamed "The Ruth," and made possible thanks to many generous donors, including lead benefactors Ruth and Bill Scott – will serve as a training center for Creighton women's basketball and volleyball. Below are eight milestones or interesting facts about women's athletics at Creighton.

- 1 The Ruth is located just west of the Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena, which opened in 2009.
- 2 Creighton has eight Division I women's sports: basketball, cross country, golf, rowing, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball.
- 3 The volleyball team has made eight NCAA Tournament appearances, and in 2018 captured its fifth consecutive BIG EAST Conference regular-season and tournament titles.
- 4 The women's basketball program has made 11 post-season appearances as of 2018; the team has gone to the NCAA Tournament seven times and won the Women's NIT in 2004.
- 5 In 1991, the softball team played a 56-inning doubleheader against Utah in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament. The opener, which Creighton won 1-0, was the longest game in NCAA softball history — spanning 31 innings and lasting 6 hours, 21 minutes.
- 6 Twenty-one female student-athletes are in the Creighton Athletics Hall of Fame.
- 7 Creighton volleyball set an NCAA attendance record for a regular-season, volleyball-only crowd when it hosted 14,022 fans at the CHI Health Center Omaha in 2018 for a home match against Nebraska.
- 8 Seventeen Bluejay women have earned 21 CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) Academic All-America honors.

"I like to be a little dramatic," he says. "That's where the confidence in our dancers comes in. Confidence to see it, to feel it and be moved by it without my input. We're going to have the planets coming into existence on stage. It's a lot. How could I possibly explain that?"

Inaugural Phoenix Nursing Class Graduates

The inaugural graduating class of the nursing program at Creighton University's Phoenix Regional Campus received a warm welcome into the profession during the Nurse Pinning Ceremony Dec. 15 at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

The students earned their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) after an intense, 12-month accelerated program taught by Creighton faculty. The students gained clinical experience at St. Joseph's, Maricopa Integrated Health System and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

College of Nursing Dean Catherine Toderò, PhD, BSN'72, told the graduates that being part of the very first class of Creighton nurses from the Phoenix-based program is something they should always remember proudly. Creighton began offering an accelerated nursing program degree in Omaha in 1975.

"I know they will go out there and practice nursing with passion and compassion," she said.

Although the program is a year for students, the actual planning for the Phoenix program began in 2016, she noted.

"For us, this has been a three-year journey of planning, creating partnerships and gaining state regulatory approval," Toderò said.

During the ceremony, it was noted that several of the graduates had already landed jobs and others were interviewing and engaged in the job search. 



JESUIT GARDENS

Jesuit Locksmith

You could say that Brother Jim Heidrick, SJ, is "key" to keeping Creighton University secure. After all, he is the keeper of all the keys – the University's locksmith.

Every key on campus — an estimated 30,000 total — has been through the workshop of Br. Heidrick, where he meticulously checks each one to ensure it is logged on the computer system he developed.

If you ever got locked out of your residence hall room, chances are the replacement key was made by Br. Heidrick, who has worked on campus for nearly 55 years.

"As a Jesuit brother, he sees his vocation as being of permanent service here at Creighton," Terry Kult, nurse to Creighton's Jesuit community, says.

Unlike Jesuit priests, Jesuit brothers do not preside at Mass or celebrate other sacraments of the Catholic Church. They still take vows and are committed to serving the Society of Jesus through occupations that match their skills.

Creighton has been the only assignment for Br. Heidrick since joining the Jesuits after high school. He repaired dental equipment and televisions and worked on electrical needs and telephones before later becoming the full-time locksmith.

"When I was a kid, I always wanted to be a brother," Br. Heidrick says. "I didn't know what order I wanted to be in. My dad asked me if I would like to go to the Jesuit life to be a brother."

Br. Heidrick lost his hearing as a young child and went to St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis before attending technical school for high school.

In an effort to unplug from the hearing world, Br. Heidrick travels to North Bend, Nebraska, where he relaxes at a small house he built himself in 1985.

On campus, Br. Heidrick is known for

traveling around on his red scooter. At 80 years old, he has had many surgeries to treat some of the ailments associated with decades of manual labor. He receives around 10 work orders a day, which he begins at 6 a.m. No work orders ever go past two or three days — Br. Heidrick is dedicated to his craft.

"His main concern is that campus needs to be secure and safe," Kult says. "He would prefer that people be careful with their keys, for the safety of everyone."

Br. Heidrick's interest in working as a locksmith started after he saw the residence hall records, which at the time were handwritten and disorganized. He went around to all the buildings and checked each room to ensure the locks were correct.

It's not just students who lose their keys, Br. Heidrick says. Faculty and administrators do, too — along with a president or two, though he won't say which ones.

"Behind the scenes, he's a guardian angel," Kult says. — **BY EMILY RUST**

‘Look What You Made Me Do’

Music may help runners shorten their strides, lessen knee pain

For runners who experience knee pain, Taylor Swift may be just the ticket to a gentler workout.

Physical therapy researchers at Creighton are using music to help runners find a beat to their paces, shortening strides and thereby lessening impact on the knees.

“The idea is that we can decrease their everyday knee pain by changing their running cadence,” says Brooke Farmer, a research assistant in the department.

The playlists have a range of musical genres – everything from rock and hip-hop to country and classical. T-Swift not your jam? There’s Styx, T.I., U2, Outkast, Huey Lewis and the News, Tim McGraw, Coolio. And, of course, who can’t find their stride listening to Beyoncé?

“We wanted some breadth in there so everyone could find something comfortable,” says Danny McAndrew, a third-year physical therapy student who is leading the research with faculty advisor and physical therapy professor Terry Grindstaff, DPT, and Farmer.

The researchers use sensors and a battery of cameras to get a baseline assessment of the subject’s running gait. They then provide participants with a playlist aimed at helping them develop a cadence that more evenly distributes the forces on their knees.

The study also has potential applications for movement or gait disorders such as those found in Parkinson’s disease, according to the researchers.

Compounds May Help Treat Cystic Fibrosis

A group of Creighton University pharmacy students and their professor may have opened a new treatment option for cystic fibrosis patients.

In 2017, **E. Jeffrey North, PhD**, a medicinal chemist and assistant professor of pharmacy sciences in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, was wrapping up a paper on novel compounds evaluated for their antimycobacterial activity.

North and the students set about synthesizing 30 different indole-based compounds, testing them on a panel of mycobacterial pathogens. Two of the compounds were shown to be nontoxic and efficacious in a *Mycobacterium abscessus*-infected mouse model, according to findings by North and his students, published earlier this year in the journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. Chris Destache, PharmD, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Kristen Drescher, PhD, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and two researchers from Colorado State University collaborated on the research.

“It was one of those lucky things where we started with some preliminary experiments helping to train Creighton pharmacy students in practical laboratory research and wound up with a series of compounds that shows promise,” North says. “It is an interesting paper that validates the series. It is difficult to successfully develop a drug to the market, but our latest experiments with these compounds show they work in vivo and are a significant step toward that goal.”



In October, Doll spoke at the fall Institute of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC), held in Phoenix, on the topic of designing interprofessional scholarship. She also was selected as the keynote speaker for EPIC2019, a joint gathering of the World Federation of Chiropractic and the European Chiropractors’ Union, in Berlin in March, and the Strengthening the Health Care Team Conference at the University of Southern Indiana in May.

Her TEDx talk delved into the cultivation of collaboration, both in health care and in one’s own life. The talk so far has garnered nearly 6,000 views on YouTube.

Type 1 Diabetes Research Focus of National Award

A collaborative, interprofessional team of Creighton researchers and community stakeholders has been awarded \$247,020 through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), to support building rural stakeholder engagement in patient-centered Type 1 diabetes research.

Vanessa Jewell, PhD, assistant professor of occupational therapy and director of the Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program, will lead the engagement project at Creighton.

The project will focus on helping people make informed health care decisions and improving health care delivery and outcomes by producing and promoting high-integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers and the broader health care community.

Other members of the team include co-investigator Amy Abbott, PhD, BSN’92, MS’98, associate professor of nursing; Emily Knezevich, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice; Laci Naber, executive director of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Omaha; and Mary Dowd, a patient representative and mother of a child diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

“We are looking forward to collaborating with community members to find out what the stakeholders’ specific needs are and how we can build a future research agenda together to meet their needs,” Jewell says.



TEDxCreightonU Talk Gains International Attention

Joy Doll, OTD’03, executive director of the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research, has been invited to numerous conferences since delivering an insightful talk on campus a year ago as part of TEDxCreightonU.

Doll was a featured speaker at last spring’s TEDx event, which tapped Creighton faculty, students and alumni to engage a live audience on a host of topics centered on the theme of “Lead.”

Interest in her talk — titled “Collaboration in Health Care: The Journey of an Accidental Expert?” — has helped spark several invitations to conferences far and wide.



“You can always tell a Creighton nurse,” said Creighton Provost Tom Murray, PhD. “They are critical thinkers, well-prepared academically and they embrace Jesuit values — it’s part of everything they do.”

A second cohort of nursing students, roughly twice the size of the first class, will graduate in August and a third cohort of 48 students began in January.

Online Programs Earn U.S. News Rankings

Six Creighton University online programs earned rankings in the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Online Programs, announced by the magazine in January as part of its eighth annual edition on online higher education.

The rankings evaluated more than 1,200 online education programs for bachelor’s and graduate degrees in

business, education, nursing, engineering and computer technology.

Creighton’s online program categories recognized are: No. 17 in Best Online MBA; No. 20 in Best Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA); No. 16 in Best Online Graduate Education Programs; No. 33 in Best Online Bachelor’s Programs; and No. 9 for both Best Online Graduate Business Programs for Veterans (Excluding MBA) and Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans.

In the rankings, only degree-granting programs at regionally accredited institutions offering courses entirely online were considered. *U.S. News & World Report* used reputation, student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student excellence, technology and other factors to determine its rankings. The rankings also included peer review data based on schools’ evaluations of each other.

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How to Spot 'Fake News'

They're there, have always been there and will always be there. Crooks, deceivers, scammers and worse who seek to confuse, aggravate and even disrupt the defense of nations. These modern charlatans, however, are immeasurably more potent in a world in which two people can deploy armies of digital bots, spreading bogus tweets, posts and web pages far and wide, polluting public discourse with what has come to be known as "fake news."

Arrayed against these fraudsters are legions of computer experts, who track the bad guys through the infinity of cyberspace, following HTML code and other digital clues in an ongoing effort to stop the duplicity.

Samer Al-khateeb, PhD, an assistant professor of computer science and informatics, is one of these.

The phenomenon of "fake news," he says, is more than simply looking at the same real news event in different ways, which is merely the influence of opinion on reporting; or even when incorrect information is disseminated through honest error or poor journalism. Fake news is intended to deceive, he says, and although it is sometimes a relatively harmless hobby of troublemakers, often it is funded by hostile governments with malevolent intent.

Sometimes, he says, a small number of fakers inundate commercial websites with thousands of complaint posts hoping to influence company officials to adopt or abandon certain policies. If a site is suddenly and quickly flooded by such posts, he says, there's a high likelihood of fakery.

Identifying fake news is a skill modern Americans need to develop, Al-khateeb says.

"Some stories could be completely false, which you might think would be the easiest ones to identify," Al-khateeb says. "But they also sometimes take a legitimate article and maybe modify a few things, which can mean that identifying fake news isn't always easy."

Al-khateeb, who is working on a book about social cyber-forensics, is among the least likely to be deceived due to his expertise in tracking the source of online misinformation, which he says is increasing and multiplying at dizzying speed.

For the rest of us, however, accustomed to assuming the legitimacy of articles appearing ostensibly under the logos of reputable news organizations, the dangers can be far more real. For such digital civilians, Al-khateeb offers a few tricks or hacks, what he calls "heuristics," to help spot fakery.

1. Be skeptical. If a story appears on a website you've never heard of, be wary. Check reputable websites to see if a similar story appears there.

2. Even if the website appears to be legitimate, glance at the URL. Fakers are sometimes able to make convincing imitations of trusted brands. If a story appears to be displayed at *CNN.com*, for example, be sure the URL doesn't say something like *CNN.com.de/* or *CNN.com.co/* or some similar representation. Those additional designations are giveaways.

3. Click the "Contact Us" button. Since, obviously, the fakers don't really want to be contacted, this will often be a dead link, or lead to a nonsense page, or even to another fake web page.

4. Get beyond attention-grabbing headlines, which often exaggerate the content of the stories they describe. The story, if legitimate, often will not reflect the headline.

5. Use Google Reverse Image Search to check the legitimacy of a photo purporting to illustrate stories as silly as a shark swimming in the waters of a flooded highway, or more scandalous images. The program is available at *images.google.com*. Pasting a photograph's URL there, or even the photo itself, will show all the websites that have used it, all the stories it has illustrated and how many years it has been kicking (or swimming) around.

BY EUGENE CURTIN

6. Consult fact-checking websites that specialize in debunking fake news stories. Among these are *politifact.com*, *snopes.com*, *mediabiasfactcheck.com* and *factcheck.org*.

7. Pay attention to website design. If it appears poorly done, it is highly unlikely to be the home of a legitimate news organization.

8. Do not be impressed by ubiquity. Fakers sometimes deploy both "cross media" and "mix media" strategies where identical articles are posted on multiple fake websites, or, more nefariously, are posted on multiple websites with significant alterations to text or headlines to make them appear to be the original work of multiple reporters.

Perhaps the most important thing news consumers can do, Al-khateeb says, is to help one another out. The comments section, which fakers use to monitor their impact, are a critical defensive tool. If you know a story to be fake, Al-khateeb says, let people know by posting. He says he has seen fake news stories where hundreds of comments declaring their falsity have rendered them useless from the faker's point of view.

"This is one of the things that we are hoping to see," Al-khateeb says. "Active citizens who know something is not true and want to educate others. We need to help each other. If you know something is not true, and it could hurt and send things in a very bad direction, why not educate people by saying it's fake?"

"That way we all can get involved combating this kind of thing."

No matter the historical era, crooks and scammers have always plied their trades, Al-khateeb says, and no doubt always will. But awareness and conscientious effort on the part of regular citizens can help reduce the damage.

"You always try to have a society that is crime free, but does that really happen?" he says. "No. You always have criminals, but we can reduce the crime rate by educating citizens."

"This (cyber-awareness) is the same kind of thing, in a new kind of virtual country that has no borders, and which you try to regulate in a way that, hopefully, will reduce this kind of activity and make citizens aware of what is going on.

"We will never be 100 percent safe, but we must try to make it as safe as possible."



The Plight of the Honeybee

BY AMANDA BRANDT, BA'14

A Creighton University professor is studying the plight of the honeybee – colony collapse disorder (CCD), which is causing large declines in honeybee populations across North America and Europe.

Inspired by her youth spent on a honeybee farm, biology professor Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, is spearheading the research. Although the cause for CCD has not been determined, the disorder occurs when the majority of worker bees disappear from a colony.

"It's sad," said Fassbinder-Orth of CCD. "It's hard to watch. In less than a day, you start to see them get really frantic. They know something's wrong. They're trying to leave, they're bouncing off the walls. Then they start to shake, and then it's paralysis. And by then, it's spread through the colony. It's rather sad to see the progression and then to see its aftermath in colony collapse disorder."

In her lab, Fassbinder-Orth, who received a 2018 Dr. George F. Haddix President's Faculty Research Grant to support her project, and her students are observing the dynamics of the hive when a virus that may cause CCD is introduced. The bees are kept close to the hive to see what behaviors they exhibit in the run-up to leaving and dying.

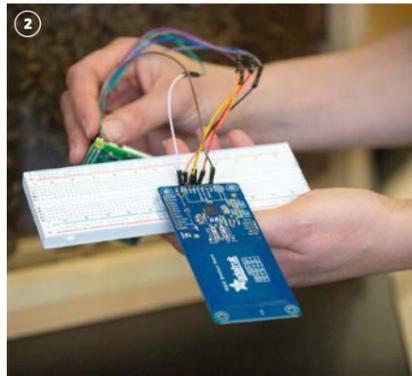
Two undergraduate students, Ryan Sabotin and Sam Hughes, are assisting with the research project.



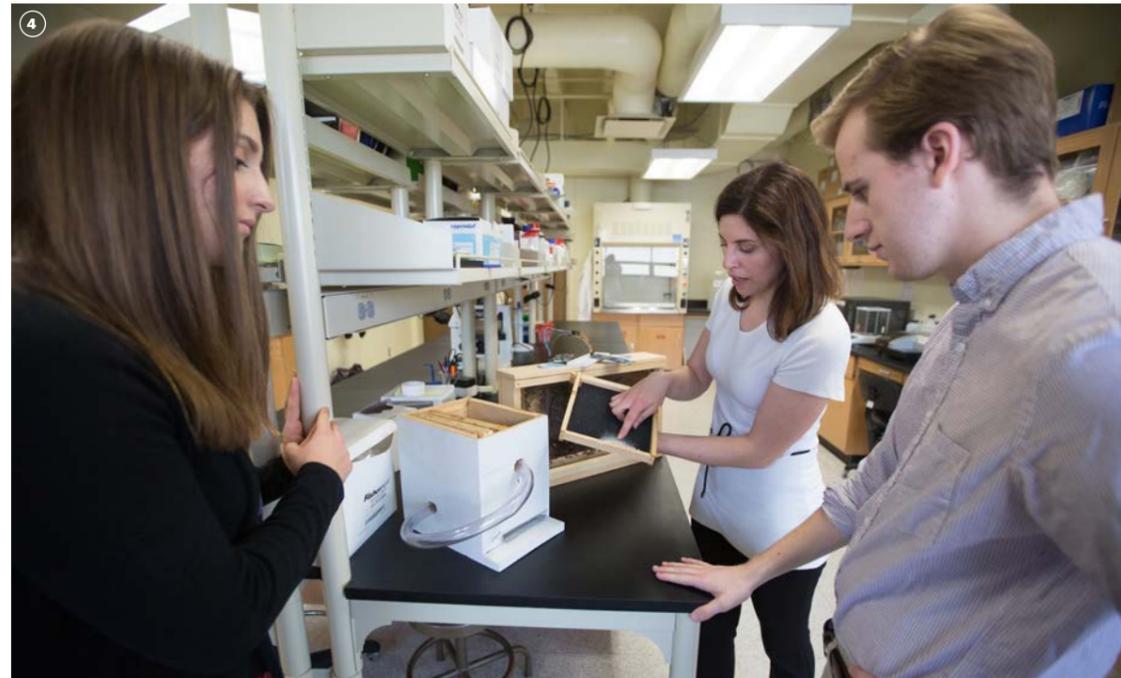
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1 For the experiments, tiny RFID (radio-frequency identification) chips are placed on the backs of some bees. The sensors transmit the insect's location inside of hives built for the experiment. Hughes, a junior computer science major, programmed a script to visualize the path of the bees throughout the hives.

2 Hughes, with assistance from Creighton's RaD (Research and Development) Lab, developed custom software on several Raspberry Pi computers. This software controlled the RFID readers. Hughes says she's learned many lessons from this research project, including resilience. "I've learned to not be afraid of trying and failing at something," she says. "I'm learning that's the way research is. Don't be scared of failing. It's not going to work at first, and that's OK. You learn as you go."

3 The bee specimens are tested for their levels of vitellogenin. One of Fassbinder-Orth's hypotheses is that varroa mites may introduce a virus that drains the vitellogenin protein from the bees, hastening the timeline in which the bees choose to leave the hive.

4 Hughes, Fassbinder-Orth and Sabotin examine the results of the experiment.

5 Inside the lab in the Rigge Science Building, the experiments take place in two small simulated hive environments. The system is equipped with transmitters that record the movements of the RFID-chipped bees. One hive is for healthy bees; the other is for bees infected with a virus that simulates CCD.

6 Fassbinder-Orth raises honeybees on a farm near Glenwood, Iowa. Here, she looks at the bee population in her hives.

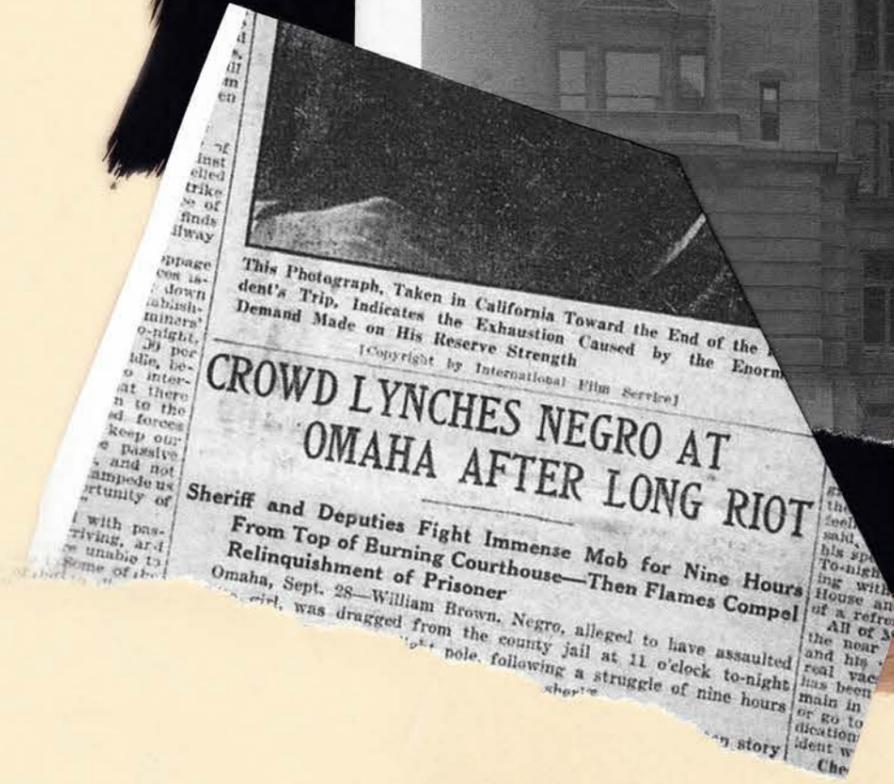
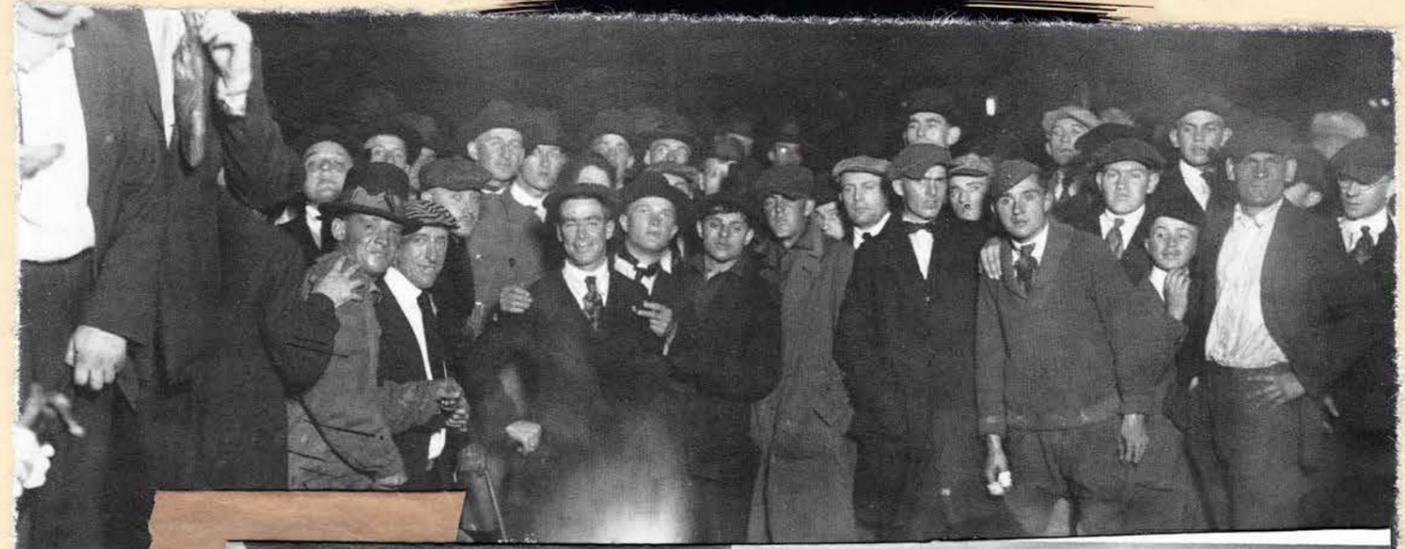
THE LEGACY OF 1919

BY ADAM KLINKER

It was an era of upheaval in America. Violence on an international scale spilled over into city streets. Distrust of immigrants and people of other races and religions ran high among white Americans. From the White House, the president openly promoted racism and sanctioned white supremacy. Scandal dogged politics and sport. Fake news splattered across the front pages of the nation's newspapers.

It was the United States in 1919.

And in the middle of the country, in Omaha, Nebraska, sparks from the fire engulfing much of the rest of the nation in that Red Summer ignited the most shameful passage in the city's history.



To inaugurate the study and work of Creighton University's newly formed Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions, Creighton is engaging students, faculty, staff and the wider Omaha community in a closer look at the events of the 1919 riot and how they echo a century later.

"The Kingfisher Institute is happy it could be part of an appropriate commemoration of those tragic events in 1919 and acknowledging that that history is important," said Tracy Leavelle, PhD, director of the Kingfisher Institute. "The prospect of being able to participate in and support conversations about race in our community going forward is exciting. It's hard but it's necessary."

As the city approaches the centennial mark of the riot, Creighton is positioned to explore the roots of the racial violence and its aftermath, says Christopher Whitt, PhD, Creighton's first vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Whitt sees a continuing confluence of 1919's bloodshed with events tinged with racial hatred in the present day, stemming from similar movements for justice and a condemnatory quietism from many Americans.

"So many people were just silent," Whitt says. "They didn't agree with what was going on, but they also didn't step up to help. We need to remember: In 100 years, what side of history do we want to be on? Will we let what's happening today fester and blow up like it did a century ago? And so, I see Creighton in a position to step up on issues of racial justice and lean into those elements of our mission that address it."

Part of the mission has been Creighton's

place on the new Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, an organization now meeting monthly and involving elected county and city officials, along with longtime advocates for racial justice, including the local NAACP and the Urban League. The council aims to work with the Equal Justice Initiative to place a marker acknowledging the 1919 lynching of Will Brown — as well as the 1891 lynching of George Smith — and begin a dialogue on Omaha's history and future.

"The question we want to confront is, how can we, as the inheritors of the legacy of 1919, leave a better legacy for those going forth from 2019?" Whitt says.

More than two dozen race riots — hateful, terroristic attacks incited by white people against African-Americans, many of whom were migrating from the South or were returning from service in World War I — had broken out in cities across the U.S. in the spring and summer of 1919 by the time Will Brown, a 41-year-old black man working in Omaha, was falsely and maliciously accused in the rape of a 19-year-old white woman, Agnes Loebeck.

It was late September and the atmosphere in Omaha was already stifling after tensions between white and black workers at the city's stockyards had nearly resulted in bloodshed a few weeks earlier. Omaha was amid a near doubling of its African-American population, becoming one of the fastest-growing cities for black migrants in the nation, a fact that riled both native-born white Omahans and new immigrants competing with black people for stockyard jobs.

David Krugler, BA'91, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, is author of the 2014 book *1919, the Year of Racial Violence: How African Americans Fought Back*. Krugler remembers first encountering the story of Will Brown and Omaha's riot in his undergraduate years at Creighton.

"In 1919, Omaha was very much a city grappling with change and conflict," Krugler says. "It was an important industrial and agricultural center, and there had already been labor turmoil as the wartime economy transformed into a peacetime economy. There were strikes, there was dislocation. A belief spread among the white working class that black people were coming in as strikebreakers to take their jobs and that perception took root."

Feeding the perception of a black takeover of the city was Omaha's infamous political and underworld boss, Tom Dennison. With the help of the *Omaha Bee* newspaper, Dennison pushed a narrative of African-American men assaulting white women. In some cases, Dennison employed his criminal operatives to go about the city in blackface, menacing whites and, in the case of Agnes Loebeck, attempting to commit assaults.

In 1918, Omahans had elected a reform-minded mayor in Edward Smith over 12-year incumbent James Dahlman, darling of the Dennison political machine. The movement toward cleaning up Omaha's rampant booze and flesh trade, led by Police Commissioner J. Dean Ringer, infuriated Dennison and he was intent on discrediting Smith and getting his puppet, Dahlman, back in the mayor's office.

"In some ways, Dennison didn't expect to succeed so wildly," Krugler says. "The fiction that the press, especially the *Omaha Bee*, was spinning in its pages was, I'm convinced, an orchestrated frameup of black people in Omaha and of Mayor Smith and J. Dean Ringer."

A pawn in the game, then, became the heretofore unknown and unassuming Will Brown.

The night of Sept. 25, 1919, Agnes Loebeck and the man who would become her husband, Milton Hoffman, were approached by what they said was a black man wielding a pistol. The assailant reportedly held the gun on Hoffman while overpowering and raping Loebeck. The next day, the two identified Brown as the perpetrator. Brown was arrested and taken to the Douglas County Courthouse as officers fended off a first effort at lynching him.

Running the story the next morning, the *Bee* published a complete falsehood, naming



Brown as the attacker and portraying Hoffman as hampered by a malformed leg. Decades later, when the late Omaha historian Orville Menard, PhD, the leading authority on the riot, tracked Hoffman down, the old man took umbrage at his depiction as crippled.

In fact, it was Brown who had a malady, a severe case of rheumatism that would have made his participation in the crime impossible. But it was no matter to the *Bee*, or to the flames it fanned in hundreds of Omahans who were convinced of Brown's guilt.

Three days later, Sept. 28, Hoffman was at the fore of a mob that swelled to more than 4,000 white people, who ultimately stormed the courthouse, set fire to the building, attempted to lynch Mayor Smith, and lynched, mutilated and burned the body of Will Brown, having dragged

him from the courthouse to 17th and Dodge streets. There, photographs published in Omaha newspapers captured a gleeful crowd beaming above Brown's smoldering remains. A headline accompanying the photo in the Sept. 29 *Omaha World-Herald* read: "Frenzied Thousands Join in Orgy of Blood and Fire."

"That photo," says Whitt, who began his tenure at the University in 2018. "I'd seen it before, but never made the connection. During the hiring process for me, I dug a little deeper into Omaha and I found that that famous photo was taken right here, just a few blocks from this campus."

For a century, that photo and others like it have borne silent witness to Brown's murder and served as a reminder that the specter of lynching was not just a problem in the

American South. No monument has ever been erected to remember Will Brown or the hundreds of other black Omahans who were threatened and beaten in the days following.

But the photos stand as a testament and, in 1919, they also served as an aid in tracking down the criminals who incited the riot, lit the courthouse and killed Will Brown. When U.S. Army troops led by Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood marched into the city on Sept. 29 to quell the rioting, Wood saw the photographs and ordered soldiers to begin investigating and searching out those who appeared in it. By mid-October, the troops assisting Omaha police had made more than 150 arrests, resulting in 120 indictments, with 535 witnesses to the riot and its aftermath, including Brown's murder.

"More white people were arrested in Omaha

"The Kingfisher Institute is happy it could be part of an appropriate commemoration of those tragic events in 1919 and acknowledging that that history is important."

TRACY LEAVELLE, PHD
Director, Kingfisher Institute

“So many people were just silent. They didn’t agree with what was going on, but they also didn’t step up to help. We need to remember: In 100 years, what side of history do we want to be on? Will we let what’s happening today fester and blow up like it did a century ago?”

CHRISTOPHER WHITT, PHD
Vice Provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

in 1919 for the riot that killed Will Brown than in any other riot targeting blacks that year,” Krugler says. “Those photographs helped Leonard Wood track down a lot of people. But while there were lots of arrests and trials, there were very few convictions. Juries were very reluctant to convict anyone and the pattern that emerged was that the more serious the charges, the more likely an acquittal.”

Of the 11 men charged in Will Brown’s murder, just one, a 17-year-old boy named Sam Novak, was convicted. He spent a year in a reformatory as his sentence.

One of the Kingfisher Institute’s initiatives is a campus-wide reading of the novel *Kings of Broken Things* by Creighton alumnus Ted Wheeler, MA’08, MFA’15. Through lenses including ones focused on Omaha’s baseball scene, the immigrant community and the Dennison political machine, Wheeler’s novel explores the run-up to the riot and the maelstrom left in its wake.

Wheeler’s research took him deep into the archives in the Omaha Public Library and at Creighton, where he began stitching together newspaper accounts of everyday life

for people like his characters. As he wrote, the historical touches of the novel dovetailed with present-day events.

“It took some time to put characters I’d grown fond of into something so aberrant and irredeemable,” Wheeler says. “But I was writing at the moment when Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson (Missouri). It was a reminder of how important these past events were in our time and history. It’s something I never thought I’d see growing up in suburban Lincoln (Nebraska).”

In the White House, President Woodrow Wilson, even as he was serving as the architect of the first international organization dedicated to governance and peace, the ill-fated League of Nations, was assenting to racial violence and screening the era’s most racially provocative and violent film, *Birth of a Nation*, with its heroic portrayal of the Ku Klux Klan and celebration of white supremacy.

Krugler’s book specifically identifies ways African-Americans confronted violence perpetrated by white Americans and white institutions. Three crucial areas of resistance included armed self-defense, the use of the law to win acquittals for black people falsely accused of crimes, and combating the fake

news of the day, such as the out-and-out lies published in papers like the *Omaha Bee*.

“You can draw a line between today’s Black Lives Matter movement and what was happening in the Red Summer,” Krugler says. “Black Lives Matter is seeking to ensure the application of justice is not done differently, not on the basis of color, and race is still unquestionably a factor for us today. That summer, winning the fight to correct the record was perhaps the most important part of the resistance, not only for the wrongly accused, but for posterity’s sake. In Omaha, you saw a massive test case of that fight, because the *Bee*, especially, was perpetuating a false narrative that was deadly for many African-Americans.”

In fact, the sensationalized accounts of what happened in Omaha percolated to other media outlets around the nation. Within days of Omaha’s riot, a massacre of 237 black people at the hands of white murderers in Phillips County, Arkansas, marked the bloodiest chapter of the Red Summer. The local paper in the days leading up to the bloodshed had been flush with headlines of Omaha’s riot.

A general desensitization to the violence was also happening, as the world reeled from more than four years of carnage in World War I.

“The U.S. has been at war my entire adulthood,” Wheeler says. “We have militarized cities, homes. That was a tenor that was struck in World War I, too. Violence seemed to be more acceptable and new weapons were being created. Internalize that violence and add a nativist character to it and you get people who become used to it, more likely to carry it out.”

While the nation and Omaha have made great strides in the century since the Red Summer, racist structures and systems continue to rear their heads. Racial disparities are still evident on the city’s streets and in the media.

“We have made great progress, no doubt, and that has come as a result of engaging our history as a community,” Whitt says. “But there’s also no question that structures still exist that can promote marginalization, structures that were in place 100 years ago. People often overlook elements of racism that started generations ago. There’s still a chasm of disparity when it comes to political voice, economic advancement, wealth advancement. The legacies from that era can still be our legacy. 1919 was a moment in time for an entire nation. 2019 is our moment and our opportunity to leave a legacy for the generations to come.”

Kingfisher Institute Continues to Take Shape

The Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions at Creighton University was inaugurated last fall and officially named its first director, **Tracy Leavelle, PhD**, at the beginning of the year.

Taking its name from the Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, poem *As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame*, which Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, included in his inaugural address in 2015, the institute seeks



to support innovative and inspiring approaches to education, research and community engagement. Yoking the liberal arts and sciences to the wider practice of professions, the institute hopes to foster more reflective students who will integrate these complementary values and dispositions into their personal and professional post-graduate lives.

“We can acknowledge the distinctive traditions of our institutions and disciplines while we also embrace the opportunity to find new ways of coming together around our core activities,” Leavelle says.

“Doing so offers a chance to improve and expand the transformational features of a Creighton education and to support and enhance the innovative research of our faculty and students. Together, we will create the future of Jesuit higher education.”

Already, the Kingfisher Institute has promoted two major programs — a collaboration with the Omaha community to mark the centenary of the tragic lynching of Will Brown in 1919, and an exploration of the intersections of the humanities and health sciences. The institute also is co-sponsoring interdisciplinary events, readings and discussion groups; inviting speakers to campus; and helping foster new interdisciplinary curricula across the University’s schools and colleges.

Bridget Keegan, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who led the strategic planning group that designed the institute, comments: “Through the Kingfisher Institute and with our unique combination of programs, Creighton is poised to become a national leader in proving how liberal arts and professional education work together to form students who will transform their communities.”



KINGFISHER INSTITUTE
for the Liberal Arts and Professions





DAVE WEAVER

Zuegner Named to Endowed Chair in Journalism

With two endowed chairs in its ranks, the Department of Journalism, Media and Computing in the College of Arts and Sciences is sitting pretty.

“We joke that we can almost furnish a whole living room,” says Carol Zuegner, PhD, BA’77, the inaugural holder of the Joella Cohen Endowed Chair in Journalism. “But it’s great for our department to have the opportunity to have two chairs, especially as we see journalism and digital media continue to expand in the world.”

Through establishment of endowed faculty chairs, donors provide perpetual support that ensures the highest quality scholarship and teaching. The Cohen chair is Creighton’s first in the academic field of journalism, while the Clare Boothe Luce Chair is held by a computer science faculty member in the department.

“There’s a crisis in journalism right now, from its ethical foundations on up, and who we need to be, as a University, is a place that creates journalists and critical thinkers,” says Zuegner.

“Everyone you talk to says, ‘Journalism is dead.’ Journalism is not dead. It’s different. It’s going to keep changing and Creighton graduates are going to go out into that world ready for that change and willing to work for the changes.”

A 1977 Creighton journalism graduate, Zuegner learned from professors such as David Haberman and her father, the late Chuck Zuegner, both longtime faculty members in the department. The emphasis then was as it remains today — with an eye toward creating discerning, critical minds to report the news.

“There’s a crisis in journalism right now, from its ethical foundations on up, and who we need to be, as a University, is a place that creates journalists and critical thinkers.”

CAROL ZUEGNER, PHD, BA’77
 Joella Cohen Endowed Chair in Journalism
 Chair, Department of Journalism, Media and Computing

“I think my dad would be incredulous that we’ve got an endowed chair in journalism,” she says. “But I think it’s something he would agree makes sense, given the world of news as it continues to evolve. I’m excited about the possibilities.

“With my dad, with Dave Haberman, I always felt the sense that I was being mentored, that I was being cared for, and that we, in turn, were caring for the human being at the end of every story. That’s the message I want to continue to bring out.”

In addition to being chair of the department, Zuegner teaches social media, entrepreneurial media, international mass communication, and information concepts and practices, and takes pride in creating a fun and stimulating learning environment for students.

She is also a seasoned practitioner who has worked extensively as a reporter and editor. For 10 years, she was with the Associated Press, and has also worked for the *Fremont Daily Tribune*, the *Omaha Sun Newspapers*, the *Terre Haute Indiana Tribune-Star* and the *Omaha World-Herald*. She recently was named to the board of directors of America Media, which features a magazine and online and social media content published by the Society of Jesus.

Zuegner earned a master’s degree from The Ohio State University as a Kiplinger Fellow in investigative reporting, and her doctorate in communications from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

With a three-year term, she’s eager to continue to initiate projects that spur interest in journalism and digital media. As one of three leaders of the University’s Backpack Journalism program, which has produced award-winning documentaries from places as far-flung as Alaska, Uganda and the U.S.-Mexico border, Zuegner hopes to continue putting a spotlight on how journalism can serve a crucial advocacy role.

She also wants to devise new ways of fostering data journalism in the curriculum. As part of a department that includes computer science, she sees opportunities to integrate traditional narrative storytelling with numbers that drive home the facts.

“It’s about putting all those pieces together,” she says. “The human element, the data science. We’re a small department, but we’re operating with some big plans that we see at work every day. You still have to get the story, but you’re still always mindful that people are at the end of every piece you write.”

The chair’s namesake, the late Joella Cohen, BS’48, was an Omaha native and 1948 Creighton journalism graduate who had served as managing editor of the *Creightonian* student newspaper. Her estate established the chair to recognize a faculty member with a record of excellence in

Above left: Carol Zuegner, PhD, BA’77, teaches social media, entrepreneurial media, international mass communication, and information concepts and practices.

Right: Joella Cohen, BS’48, enjoyed a successful career in news and public relations. She also loved antiques and became an antique dealer in Omaha.

journalism teaching and research or creative activity related to journalism and media.

Cohen enjoyed a successful career in news and public relations that began at Omaha’s WOW radio, where she was a news writer and assistant to the sales staff.

For the next 10 years, she worked with area nonprofits, serving four years in media relations with the American Red Cross in Omaha and two years with the Red Cross in Kansas City.

She also was the managing editor of the *Douglas County Legionnaire*, a weekly tabloid for what was — at the time — the world’s largest installation of the post-war American Legion. In 1958, she moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, and focused on broadcast journalism. She produced commercials and other promotions for NBC affiliate WFRV-TV.

Two years later, she was named public service director and sales coordinator at radio station WHB in Kansas City. In 1962, she was hired by Savage-Dow Advertising in Omaha to counsel clients on the most profitable ways to leverage broadcast dollars.

Cohen then accepted an offer from Columbia Pictures in New York City to promote the movie version of the television series *The New Interns*, which starred promising new talent including Dean Jones, Telly Savalas, Stefanie Powers, Barbara Eden, George Segal and Bob Crane.

Eventually, a desire to have her own business inspired her to pursue her love of antiques. She returned to Omaha and became an antique dealer and curator of the Omaha Auction Center.

Her generous estate gift will help Creighton journalism students achieve a standard of excellence that will facilitate their own advancement through the ranks of the profession.



OMAHA WORLD-HERALD/BILL BATSON

Keeping Dancers on Point

BY Glenn Antonucci



It was a broken foot that steered Michelle McLaughlin Reilly, DPT'08, BSBS'08, into her life's work.

She'd been a dancer since the age of 3. Through her grade school years and into her teens, dancing remained a constant. Her first love, happily discovered as a toddler, steadily grew into her passion.

In eighth grade, while dancing in a production of *The Nutcracker*, Reilly suffered what would prove to be a life-altering injury.

She had fractured her foot.

Recovery — getting back on her feet and, more importantly, back on the stage — would necessitate a stint in physical therapy.

And that's when everything changed.

Enter the physical therapist who not only helped fix her, but would set her on a new, wholly unexpected course.

"I'd found a PT that was really aware of what I needed to do as a dancer," Reilly says, "and worked really hard to make sure I could get back to those things."

"That's what really got me passionate about PT — that I could help people get back to the things they cared about."

Back to dancing she would go, but the career in performing arts she had begun to envision faded. Stepping into the spotlight was a new, very different dream: to become a physical therapist, like the one who helped mend her.

FIRST STEPS

Reilly's first determined steps on this new journey took place during her junior year of high school. Over spring break, she and her dad embarked on a tour of campuses, setting out from their home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Their first stop was Creighton. The other 13 schools on the route, as it turned out, just wouldn't do.

"I walked into St. John's with my dad, and I looked at him and I said, 'Dad, I'm going to get married here.'"

Indeed, she met her future husband, Matt Reilly, BSBA'06, in 2002, while they were freshmen on Creighton's campus.

They married in August 2009. At St. John's Church, of course.

But well before that prophesized matrimony, Reilly, whose maiden name is McLaughlin, would earn her undergraduate degree in

exercise science and gain acceptance into the physical therapy program at Creighton's School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

As she progressed through the rigors of the program on her way to her professional degree, she began homing in on the specialty she yearned for.

"I remember talking to my clinical advisor — 'Hey, I would love to get into a clinical before I graduate that would expose me to performing arts therapy,'" she recalls. "But they were few and far between. There was not a lot of it out there."

Compounding the scarcity, she says, is the natural reticence of performers — and athletes in general — to show any whiff of weakness.

"It's almost secretive," Reilly says, "because it kind of ruins the façade of what performing artists are. They're beautiful, they're on stage, they're ethereal. So to think of them as fragile and breakable and having those problems is almost not shared with the public. So they're pretty protective of who they let backstage and behind the scenes to really see what's happening."

BREAKING IN

Her break came once she'd earned her doctorate in physical therapy — also from Creighton — and started her residency. A mentor connected her with a clinician, Mark Longacre, who was working with the Omaha Ballet Theater.

Reilly asked to shadow him, but Longacre reported that the ballet was on sabbatical. Maybe in the fall, she was told.

Before that could materialize, however, she wound up getting hired at Longacre's clinic. And, as it turns out, he was ready to hand off his ballet work.

Right place, right time.

"I said, 'Please pick me,' and it worked out. The rest is history," Reilly says.

That was 2009. A decade later, she is still working behind the scenes with the very same company, whose name changed to Ballet Nebraska and, just recently, American Midwest Ballet.

The company performs at the Orpheum Theater, Joslyn Art Museum and Iowa Western Community College. ("Wherever they can find a stage," she says.)

Some of the dancers have been there since

Reilly started working with the ballet. She says that's one of the things that keeps her coming back.

"I know what things pop up with them really frequently," she says. "I know their habits. I know which things they'll do, which things they won't do, and how to get their buy-in into what I want them to do."

Long-tenured and brand new to the ballet, Reilly treats them all. She typically visits them every other week at rehearsals, giving each dancer a "quick" 20-minute evaluation.

Most often, she encounters foot and ankle problems. Overuse issues are common, including Achilles tendinitis, posterior tibial tendinitis and "dancer's tendinitis," or irritation of the flexor hallucis longus.

"And then back pain," she says. "They're folding themselves in half, this way and that."

The important thing, Reilly notes, is to take care of issues preventatively in those biweekly visits.

"I really love it when I can catch issues before they progress to something like, 'Man, you need physical therapy for about six weeks to take care of this,'" she says.

"Honestly, one of my biggest roles is to say, 'Listen, you can't self-treat this anymore. It's time to go see a doctor.'"

That's tough to hear for some of the dancers.

"They love to self-treat, and they will frequently dance through the pain and just assume that things are going to get better," she says. "So it's just being able to have these really honest conversations about what their goal is and what they want to be able to do."

A MATTER OF TRUST

Trust, Reilly says, is key. As both a fixture behind the scenes of the ballet, and as a former dancer herself, the company members trust her implicitly.

Kelsey Schwenker is in her ninth season with American Midwest Ballet. Reilly has been treating her for that entire run. At a recent rehearsal, she was eagerly first in line to see her longtime physical therapist. Her first concern was a troublesome ankle, but she had "a few other aches that needed to be addressed," too.

In having Reilly on hand, Schwenker and her fellow performers "are definitely privileged," the dancer says.

"What makes her special is she was a dancer herself," Schwenker says. "She knows the mechanics of our bodies and can anticipate things better than others."

© Michelle McLaughlin Reilly, DPT'08, BSHS'08, treats a dancer from American Midwest Ballet, where she has been helping performers with various ailments since 2009.



DAVE WEAVER

In addition to trust, Reilly also relies on creativity to treat her performer patients. She often employs pool therapy — "because I can get them in the water and let them do dance-specific things that are much less demanding on the body" — along with instrument-assisted soft tissue mobilization and dry-needling.

There are plenty of parallels to "traditional" PT, too. Reilly's dancers often get homework to do on the side. She says they take that homework very seriously.

"Compared to the other patients I've had in PT, they are the most dedicated patients," she says. "If I tell them to do an exercise, they will do it, without fail. And do it as many times as they need to — and probably more. They care about it that much."

Reilly's work with performers doesn't stop at Omaha's ballet company. She also treats members of traveling companies who come through town with touring Broadway shows. *The Book of Mormon*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Color Purple*, *Finding Neverland*, *Phantom of the*

Opera and *Cinderella* are among the shows that she's worked.

The transient nature of that work can make it challenging.

"They see a different PT in every city," she says. "This PT tells them this thing, and this PT tells them that thing, so sometimes it's hard to crack that shell. I have 20 minutes total with them, and I never see them again. The continuity of care there is my biggest challenge. I don't get to make sure everything's going OK."

The source of their ailments is often different than her regulars, too.

"With those clients, it's a lot of neck pain, because they're traveling a lot," she says. "They're in buses and planes and different hotel rooms every night, so I'm helping them manage the stresses of a touring life."

THERAPIST, TEACHER, WIFE, MOTHER

Much has transpired since Reilly broke in with the ballet. She took a clinical position with OrthoNebraska (formerly Nebraska

Orthopedic Hospital), started a teaching career in 2010, became a board-certified specialist in orthopedic physical therapy in 2011 and joined Creighton's physical therapy faculty in 2016.

She and husband Matt have two boys — Cooper, 7, and Landon, 4. Another boy is on the way, due in August.

Matt, an attorney, is fond of her work with the ballet.

"He really likes this gig, because we get to see a lot of shows together," she says. "My clinics are usually before the shows, so we'll come downtown, he'll drop me off, go meet a friend for dinner or something and then meet me right before the show, and we'll go in. Usually through the backstage entrance, which he thinks is pretty cool, too."

As an educator, she says she loves "seeing the light bulbs go off" in her students, and seeing them make connections between the classroom and their clinical work.

"Seeing them make those connections to

what life is going to be like when they're a PT and how they can apply (their classroom work) is really exciting," she says.

Reilly regularly brings students and residents with her to her backstage sessions with her dancers.

"It's those students who had a dance history or have had a past with performing arts who tend to gravitate toward wanting to do those things," she says. "Then they see it, and they get pretty excited about it. I think it's important that they see what I'm doing and my involvement in the community, then also that they get some exposure to what PT can look like."

With a full teaching load and a family, does she see staying connected to performing arts?

"Absolutely," she says, without hesitation. "And my chair (Kirk Peck, PT, PhD) is very supportive of it. He thinks it's imperative."

FULL CIRCLE

So, the young girl who first found her passion in dancing has come full circle, finding her



A Wedding Story

St. John's Church offers support for engaged couples, remains popular location to exchange vows

BY Rick Davis, BA'88

Maggie Rogers couldn't imagine getting married anywhere else. "It's like a fairytale to get married in St. John's Church," says the former Maggie Carter, who wed her college sweetheart, Andrew Rogers, there on Sept. 22, 2018.

The iconic, 130-year-old St. John's Church, on the heart of Creighton's campus, is the most popular Catholic church in Omaha for weddings, according to the Omaha Archdiocese — a trend that has held constant for at least the last 17 years.

St. John's hosts about twice as many weddings as any other church in the archdiocese, according to the latest archdiocesan figures. In 2018, 75 weddings were celebrated at the church, and the same number is expected in 2019, says Kathy Martin, coordinator of marriage preparation for Creighton and St. John's.

"For many Creighton students and alumni, St. John's feels like home," Martin says.

That was the case for Maggie and Andrew.





BEN RAMOS PHOTOGRAPHY

Weddings at St. John's Church

POPULAR MONTHS:

September and October are becoming the busiest months for weddings at St. John's, superseding the more traditional months of June and July.

WEDDINGS PER WEEKEND:

St. John's will host up to three weddings on busy weekends — one Friday evening and two on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (2 p.m. Saturday is the most popular time.)

BRIDE AND/OR GROOM:

55% Creighton alumni, 40% students in professional school, 4% children of alumni and 1% parishioners of St. John's.

SCHEDULE A WEDDING:

St. John's books weddings up to two years out, with a minimum six months advance notice required. To schedule a wedding, contact Kathleen Denne at 402.280.2975. To begin marriage preparation, call Kathy Martin at 402.280.2205.

Wedding Statistics Nationally

Average Wedding Cost: \$33,391 (excludes honeymoon)

Average Spent on a Wedding Dress: \$1,509

Average Marrying Age: Bride, 29.2; Groom, 30.9

Average Number of Guests: 136

Average Number of Bridesmaids: 5

Average Number of Groomsmen: 5

Most Popular Month to Get Engaged: December (16%)

Average Length of Engagement: 14 months

Most Popular Months to Get Married: September (16%), June (15%) and October (14%)

Popular Wedding Colors: Ivory/Champagne (37%), Dark Blue (32%) and Gold (30%)

(Source: *The Knot 2017 Real Weddings Study*)



JOEKREIKAMP

A friend captured the special moment when Andrew proposed to Maggie, at their favorite bench outside St. John's Church.

Maggie earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Creighton in 2016, and her accelerated nursing degree in 2017. She is currently a nurse at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha. Andrew graduated with a degree in finance and business intelligence and analytics in 2016, and works at the Carson Group in Omaha.

The two met the first week of their freshman year at Creighton in 2012. Maggie was from Denver, and Andrew from Sacramento, California. They met through a mutual friend after a Creighton soccer match.

They soon began dating, and would often meet — before and after classes — on the bench outside Swanson Hall, facing St. John's.

"We would meet there all the time," Maggie says. "We would just sit out in front of the church and talk. Or we would meet there and then walk to class or go to dinner."

It became their spot. Andrew would propose to Maggie on that same bench in March of their senior year.

So, getting married at St. John's Church was a priority.

By May 2016, they had selected their wedding date, Sept. 22, 2018, and one of their first calls was to the office at St. John's Church — as popular dates tend to fill fast.

"They said, 'That's great, but we don't reserve couples more than two years in advance,'" Maggie says. "So, I called them again on Sept. 22, 2016 — exactly two years before our wedding — at 8 a.m."

When no one answered the phone, Maggie planned to stop by the church office later in the day. "But then they called back and said, 'Don't worry, you got it.'"

"We really felt this was where our story was and where our relationship really bloomed into what it is," Maggie says. "This just seemed like the right place to make our vows."

Many other alumni and students feel the same way.

St. John's Church is made available for weddings of Creighton students, alumni, faculty and staff, along with children of Creighton graduates and members of St. John's parish registered for at least six months.

The Catholic Church views marriage as both a sacrament and a vocation, and Pope Francis has called marriage "the icon of God's love for us."

Before the wedding day, the Catholic Church requires that couples complete some form of marriage preparation — which can vary by diocese or parish. St. John's asks couples to complete the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communications, Understanding and Study) inventory.

The FOCCUS inventory — developed in 1985 by the Omaha Archdiocese — is a 156-item questionnaire designed to facilitate discussion on topics important to marital success — from finances to childrearing.

Couples are guided in the process by trained facilitators, and choose either a married couple or a Jesuit. St. John's has 16 married couples

and seven Creighton Jesuits who serve as facilitators.

Maggie and Andrew loved their marriage prep facilitators — Sue and Bill Selde.

"Bill and Sue made it an incredible experience," Andrew says. "We even invited them to our wedding. They are just great people."

"Andrew and I have known each other for much of our adult lives," Maggie adds. "I expected that since we already knew so much about each other — we talked about getting married for so long, and we have a pretty good vision of what we want our marriage and future to look like — I wasn't anticipating to gain much more."

"But I think Bill and Sue asked questions that we may not have talked about when we were with them, but on our drive home or over dinner the next night, we would say, 'Hey, we talked about this before, but let's dig a little deeper.'"

Sue Selde is an instructor and the academic success coordinator in the College of Nursing, while her husband, Bill, BSBA'84, JD'87, is a Creighton graduate and an attorney at Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler & Brennan PC. The Seldes, who were married at St. John's and are now parishioners there, have been facilitators for about two years.

"It has really enhanced our relationship," Sue says of the experience. "We've been married for almost 38 years, and we got married at St. John's. We have benefited as much as our couples. And we love our couples."

“Bill and Sue asked questions that we may not have talked about when we were with them, but on our drive home or over dinner the next night, we would say, ‘Hey, we talked about this before, but let’s dig a little deeper.’”

MAGGIE CARTER ROGERS, BS’16, BSN’17

© From left, Bill Selde, BSBA’84, JD’87; Andrew Rogers, BSBA’16; Maggie Carter Rogers, BS’16, BSN’17; and Sue Selde.

Couples typically meet with facilitators five or six times for 60- to 90-minute sessions. The facilitators’ role is to get the couples to talk to each other, covering areas highlighted in the FOCCUS inventory.

“They (the couples) naturally want to answer to you, as the facilitator,” Sue says. “But we set the chairs so they are looking at each other. We are not the target of their discussion. We always ask them to talk to each other. We are simply asking questions that might start their conversation.”

“You can really see them mature in their communication skills,” Bill adds. “The (FOCCUS) instrument asks all kinds of questions you would never think of, until you’re four or five years into your marriage and something comes up. So, it does prepare these couples.”

The process has couples addressing the practical issues of married life, such as finances, communication skills, demands of career and parenting, sexuality, and spirituality and religion. Couples then meet with a priest, typically the one who will preside at the ceremony, to plan the liturgy and discuss the theological implications of marriage, including vocation and marriage as a covenant.

“It is a truly unique method of working effectively with busy young professionals

to help them have an effective and inspiring premarriage experience,” Martin says.

Creighton alumni and students from other parishes outside of Omaha can get married at St. John’s. In addition, couples who live in Omaha and are affiliated with Creighton or St. John’s can take marriage preparation classes at St. John’s and have their wedding ceremony at their home parish.

Interfaith and ecumenical weddings are also performed at St. John’s Church, as long as either the bride or groom is Catholic. A 2015 Pew Research Center study found that 39 percent of Americans who have married since 2010 have a spouse who is in a different religious group.

A Catholic who wishes to marry a non-Catholic Christian in the Catholic Church requires permission from the diocese, while marriage to a non-Christian requires a more rigorous “dispensation” from the local bishop. The Catholic party also must agree to continue following the Catholic faith and to raise children in the faith.

About 45 percent of weddings at St. John’s involve a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic Christian, and 5 percent a Catholic marrying a non-Christian or a person of no faith.

In all cases, Martin says, marriage preparation is valuable. A 2003 study, cited by FOCCUS, found that couples taking premarriage preparation had a 30 percent higher rate of marital success than those couples who did not.

Couples can choose one of Creighton’s Jesuit priests to perform the wedding ceremony and Mass, or a favorite priest from another diocese. Andrew and Maggie chose Creighton’s the Rev. Greg Carlson, SJ.

“He asked a lot of questions about our family, so he could create a day for us that was what we wanted it to be,” Maggie says. “It was very much a Mass that celebrated our marriage.”

When their wedding day arrived, it was 72 and sunny — not a cloud in the sky. Some 180 family and friends — including the Seldes and some 70 classmates from Creighton — gathered inside St. John’s Church.

“It was so cool to bring our family and friends to a place that is so special to us, and has such strong meaning for us,” Maggie says.

“It was a perfect day. We couldn’t have asked for a more perfect wedding.”

Love on the Brain

As a professor of pharmacology and neurological sciences at Rush University, Creighton alumnus Paul Carvey, PhD, BS’72, MS’75, studies complex human behaviors. And, perhaps, no behavior is as complex as love.

How do we fall in love?

Well, from a neurobiological standpoint, Carvey explains, Cupid’s arrow is primarily a chemical in our brain called oxytocin.

“That chemical, that hormone, is often referred to as the love hormone or the social hormone, and it’s responsible for bonding,” Carvey says.

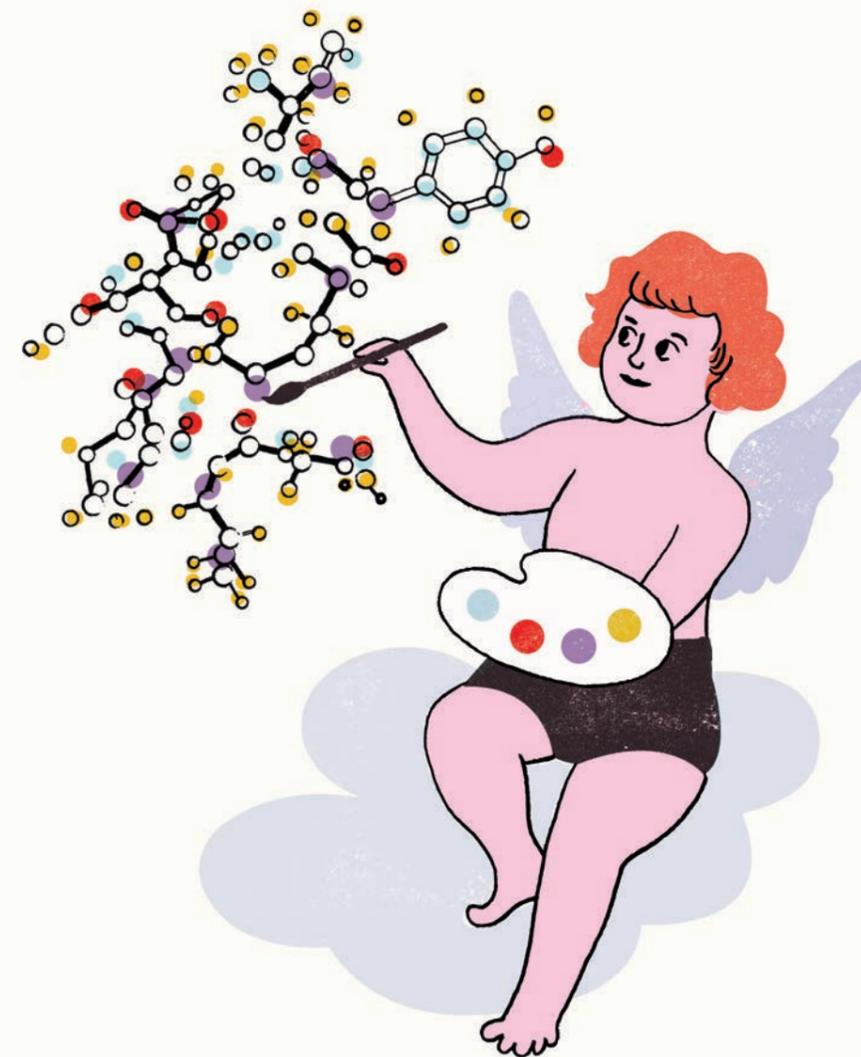
Carvey has been on the faculty at Rush University for more than 40 years. His primary areas of research are dedicated to Parkinson’s disease, dopamine systems in the brain and the effects of drug therapy on the brain.

He credits his Creighton education — a bachelor’s degree in biology and psychology, with a minor in chemistry, and a master’s degree in behavioral physiology — with teaching him how to think and remain curious ... fostering a love for learning, you might say.

He’s given presentations on the neurobiology of love, including one at Creighton.

Does he believe in love at first sight? “No, not really,” he says.

But what about Romeo, who, upon first glimpse of Juliet, gushes, “Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne’er saw true beauty till this night”?



DAVID POHL

“You can certainly have a strong chemical response to another individual, but that one exposure to increase oxytocin does not create love,” Carvey says, adding (for all you Romeos out there), “but it does start you on that path.”

Carvey and other scientific researchers are more apt to study love, not through the lens of Shakespearean verse, but by examining prairie voles. These cute little, hamster-like creatures, unlike most other rodents, typically form lifelong monogamous bonds with a mate. However, the closely related meadow and montane voles are nonmonogamous.

“In the monogamous pair, the animal produces oxytocin and also has receptors for the oxytocin,” Carvey says. “The vole that is not monogamous produces oxytocin, but expresses no receptors for it.”

In humans, for example, he says oxytocin levels will rise in women during childbirth — helping to create a strong bond between mother and child.

“There are other chemicals involved, but oxytocin seems to be one of the primary ones,” Carvey says.

While emotions and feelings certainly play important roles in love, the neurobiology behind it is something less than a Hallmark card.

“You have this pattern of activity that appears to be associated with increased levels of oxytocin in the brain, and that distributed network of chemical activation, we have a feeling of it, we experience that emotion, and then we eventually label it as love.

“It doesn’t sound very romantic, but that’s kind of how the brain works.”



JIM FACKLER

Two graduates find working with professional athletes rewarding

BY Adam Klinker

Game Time

When it comes to serving the community and honing one's craft, it's best to be where the action is.

Two Creighton University School of Dentistry alumni — Michael Zacher, DDS'91, and Jared Mosley, DDS'06 — have found that place to be on the sidelines for their local youth and professional sports teams. Both practitioners have found sports dentistry a rewarding pursuit — Zacher with the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals and Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks in his hometown of Phoenix, and Mosley with the Triple-A baseball Fresno Grizzlies.

Both Mosley and Zacher say a major part of keeping athletes' bodies functioning at their peak is making sure their teeth and mouths are healthy and protected. And what they've learned in the field has made its way into treatment in the clinic.

It's all part of what they learned and continue to learn as dentists molded in the Creighton way.

MIKE ZACHER, DDS'91

WHEN CHRIS IANNETTA took a 93-mph fastball to the mouth in 2017, Mike Zacher, DDS'91, got an urgent phone call about the then-Arizona Diamondbacks catcher's teeth.

A plastic surgeon ended up performing an all-night operation on Iannetta and first thing in the morning, the catcher was in Zacher's dentist chair for veneers to repair the damage.

"It was first thing in the morning and it was intense," Zacher recalls. "You don't want to get hit in the mouth the way he got hit in the mouth, but we got him ready to go and his career continues."

It's all in a season's work for Zacher, who, as the team dentist for the D-backs and the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals, watches the season change from baseball to football in his Phoenix practice.

Zacher was first approached to apply for the Cardinals job in 2014, when the team's physician let him know the previous dentist was retiring. A year after getting the Cardinals job, Zacher and his practice were performing so well that, when the team dentist of the Diamondbacks stepped down due to illness, the MLB team approached wondering if he'd be willing to take on another franchise.

"All the things I learned at Creighton came into play," he says. "Honesty, trustworthiness, a conservative approach to care — those are the things we pride ourselves on."

Zacher sees Cardinals and D-backs players and staff routinely throughout the year. In season, the NFL stipulates the home-team dentist is on the sidelines for those contests, available for both teams, and he's usually in the stands at least once a homestand during the baseball season.

A central job with the football team is the creation of mouthguards, the use of which Zacher preaches ardently. The little piece of protective gear is not only crucial for safeguarding teeth, but it also helps mitigate concussions and other potential injuries.

"Studies say that you can reduce concussions, jaw fractures and tooth damage by 85 percent with a mouthguard. Not everyone will wear it, but you're starting to see more and more guys recognize that this is important."

In baseball, something similar happened after Iannetta's injury. The extended earpieces on batting helmets have become a more prominent feature for many big-leaguers. Zacher says a push by MLB dentists also includes more awareness and proactive work in cutting down on the use of chewing tobacco, one of the main causes of oral cancers.

Zacher, who also has more than a quarter of a century in volunteer coaching youth sports, says he's been blessed to get the sports opportunities, pointing to the education and mentorship he received at Creighton. Toward that end, Zacher has also taken on mentorship of three dental students and counsels younger people with an interest in dentistry. He and a classmate, Steve Nikodem, DDS'91, have made a donation to name an operatory at the new School of Dentistry building at Creighton after one of their mentors, Thomas Cavel, DDS'70, a professor who has spent nearly half a century training Creighton dentists.

"Dr. Cavel is one of those people who did the right thing, the right way, and passed that on," Zacher says. "It's not just how skilled you are with the drill. It's how you treat people."



© Dental graduates Jared Mosley, above, and Mike Zacher, right, have found sports dentistry a rewarding pursuit.



JARED MOSLEY, DDS'06

JARED MOSLEY, DDS'06, cut his teeth in sports dentistry in the place where you're most likely to lose the pearly whites.

"I started rinkside at hockey games," Mosley says. "I had always wanted to get involved in learning about trauma, and the training at Creighton had put me in a position where I could do that through athletics and give back to the community in that way. If a kid comes in, he's fallen off a skateboard, split his lip and has loose teeth, you can help in that situation. The sports world is where that happens fairly regularly."

Starting out in a small practice in Fresno, California, Mosley started calling around to the region's local high school and minor-league teams. The city is home to the Fresno Grizzlies, the Triple-A affiliate of Major League Baseball's San Francisco Giants from 1998 to 2014, the Houston Astros from 2015 to 2018, and currently, the Washington Nationals. It's there that Mosley eventually landed after he inquired about the team's dental needs in 2011.

"They had a physician, an orthopedist, a physical therapist," he says. "So I asked the owner, 'Maybe you need a dentist?' A lot of what goes on in the mouth affects the body. If a guy's teeth hurt, he's got an abscess, it's hard to ignore that. So the owner told me to come on board."

Mosley has traveled to spring training for several years and keeps in regular contact with players whom he saw during their time in Fresno, be they Giants or Astros. Approaching nearly a decade with the Grizzlies and given the nature of baseball business, Mosley thinks he's had at least one patient appear on every Major League team.

Moreover, though the Giants moved their Triple-A operation to Sacramento, Mosley will still occasionally see players in his chair who are back in Fresno for a series with the Grizzlies and want to see their old dentist.

"I really feel we've done it right that way," he says. "The Creighton way is to treat people right and show the relevance and importance of dentistry across the medical spectrum, to all your patients."

Both the Giants and Astros franchises have been golden in the time that Mosley has served them. The Giants won World Series championships in 2012 and 2014, and the Astros claimed the crown in 2017. The Grizzlies also won the Triple-A National Championship in 2015, and Mosley's role with the team earned him a coveted piece of jewelry, a championship ring.

When Houston had its World Series rings struck after their win, Mosley got a call. It was the franchise's first Series win, and the Astros were determined to celebrate it right.

"The Creighton way is to treat people right and show the relevance and importance of dentistry across the medical spectrum, to all your patients."

JARED MOSLEY, DDS'06

"I was on a treadmill at the gym when I got the call," he says. "They told me they're going to give me a World Series ring and I just started screaming. It was an affirmation that dentistry is an integral part of performance."

Mosley also spreads the message and his work at the high school level, where he's often found on the sidelines during games. He crafts thousands of mouthguards each year for high school athletes and he also helps mentor students interested in making dentistry a career.

"That's just the kind of place that Creighton was," he says. "You saw other students, your professors, serving the community wherever and whenever they could. You're always on call to help. You're always in motion."

A Bird's-Eye View

A drone image of the Creighton campus mall from above, with the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library to the north and the Kiewit Fitness Center to the south.



College of Nursing Lights the FIRE

Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola charged his followers to “set the world on fire,” to ignite a passion, to spark a change – a calling that’s echoed through the generations and continues to find voice and form at Creighton University today.

That tradition, for instance, is alive in the College of Nursing’s new Center for Faculty Innovation, Research and Education (FIRE), which seeks to light the path of wisdom and knowledge within the profession.

“The center will build a transformative culture around scholarship that informs faculty efforts for teaching and best practices in patient care,” College of Nursing Dean Catherine Toderò, PhD, BSN’72, says.

The center will house top researchers, experts who will focus on critical issues in the nursing field. Faculty will continue to examine critical health care issues affecting our most vulnerable populations.

College of Nursing alumna **Beth Lenke, BSN’86**, and her husband, **Lawrence Lenke, MD**, a spinal surgeon in New York, who previously established the Lenke Family Scholarship in the College of Nursing, believe research and education go hand-in-hand. This understanding of the power of research has ignited the Lenkes to support the center’s endowed research fund.

“The point of research is to change things for the betterment of individuals and society at large,” Beth Lenke says. “Nursing research directly impacts patient care and thus the lives of so many people. To be a part of this initiative at a university level, especially at a place that

I believe in and love so much, is a great honor for us.”

The first Lenke scholar is assistant professor of nursing Meghan Walker Potthoff, PhD, BSN’01, who is focusing her research on pediatric palliative care — looking at how decisions are made around end-of-life care for children.

“With this opportunity, I am excited to continue to grow my work with mentors and to make an impact in the care provided to children and families that have to endure this unimaginable journey,” Potthoff says. “There is a tremendous need for increased research in pediatric palliative care, and I am honored to have the commitment from the Lenke family and the College of Nursing to pursue this passion.”

With the Lenke scholarship, Potthoff will be able to focus a portion of her faculty time solely on research, Toderò says.

“It’s the first step in establishing a scholarly culture — helping faculty adjust priorities, and moving Creighton College of Nursing forward,” Toderò says.

When Toderò came back to Creighton as

dean in 2015, she instantly realized that the talented faculty were dedicated to creative teaching methods but had little time for research.

“A big part of FIRE is having the resources to buy faculty time to work on their ideas,” Toderò says. “Bring in consultants, bring in visiting scholars to talk about scholarly elements of nursing.”

FIRE will help change the culture of the College of Nursing, creating a long-range plan around faculty development and building academic leaders for the future, Toderò says.

Students will benefit as well. One of the requirements to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is to complete a quality improvement project. Toderò says these students could work directly with Potthoff and other researchers to collaborate on both faculty and student projects.

“You want your nursing education to be cutting-edge, you want faculty who are engaged in discovery of the best ways to treat patients,” Toderò says. FIRE makes this possible.

— BY EMILY RUST



ALUMNI NOTES

Send Us Your News

Penned your long-awaited novel? Traveled around the world? Received that awesome promotion? Earned a prestigious honor? If so, we want to hear about it. Share your memories and milestones by emailing us at alumninews@creighton.edu.

62 C. Terrence Dolan, MD, Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the recipient of the 2018 Mayo Clinic Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is the highest honor Mayo Clinic bestows on members of the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association. He was recognized as a trailblazer in realizing the potential of data analytics in patient care and laboratory management. Dolan is director of Pathology Laboratories at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa; clinical professor of pathology at the University of Oklahoma Medical School and president of Regional Medical Laboratory Inc. in Tulsa.

70 Thomas A. Brown, JD, Aberdeen, Washington, recently retired after nearly 50 years in the practice of law.

74 Joseph M. LaTona, JD, Buffalo, New York, was the recipient of the 2019 Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award from the New York State Bar Association for outstanding work in the area of criminal defense. This award recognizes the professional career of a private practice defense attorney who exemplifies the highest ideals of criminal justice.

75 Stephen E. Millburg, BA, Birmingham, Alabama,

has launched an e-newsletter, *The Artisanal Grammarian*, about the fun side of grammar. Millburg, a freelance writer and editor, created the Monday through Friday newsletter to share his love of words and his fascination with the weirdness of the English language. It can be found at theartisanalgrammarian.com.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was named one of the “Top Ten” Super Lawyers in Kansas and Missouri. He also was again named to the “Top 100” list of Super Lawyers in Kansas and Missouri. It is Monnat’s first appearance on the elite top-10 list and his 13th appearance on the top-100 list. Monnat’s firm also received three “Best Law Firms” Tier 1 rankings in the areas of general practice criminal defense, white-collar criminal defense and appellate practice by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers*. **Jeffrey J. Pirruccello, BSBA’74, JD,** Omaha, partner at McGrath North in Omaha, was ranked in Band 1 in the 2018 Chambers High Net Worth guide. He was recognized for his extensive experience advising clients on estate and tax planning matters.

80 James D. Wegner, BSBA’77, JD, Omaha, partner at McGrath North in Omaha, was ranked in Band 2 in the 2018 Chambers High Net Worth guide. Wegner is a co-practice group leader and advises clients on tax planning and business succession issues, and also advises nonprofit organizations and charities.

82 Robert L. Wilson, DDS, Colorado Springs, Colorado, was named president of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry at its 2018 meeting in Chicago.

88 Kent L. Zimmerman, BSBA, Council Bluffs, Iowa, vice president of the John Day Company in Omaha, was elected second vice president of the Equipment Marketing & Distribution Association (EMDA). As second vice president, Zimmerman will aid the seven-person board of directors in supervising services to EMDA’s member firms located throughout the U.S. and Canada, and associate members worldwide. EMDA member firms are representatives and distributors of shortline agriculture and outdoor power equipment and related specialty products.

94 Stephen R. Martin II, JD, Denver, has joined StoneTurn in Denver as a partner. StoneTurn is a global advisory firm that assists companies, their counsel and government agencies on regulatory, risk and compliance issues, investigations, monitorships and business disputes.

96 Mark E. Ellerbeck, BSBA’91, MBA, Bennington, Nebraska, joined First Westroads Bank in Omaha as president. He also was appointed to the bank’s board of directors.

97 Dr. Todd R. Robinson, BA’93, MA, Omaha, had his second book of poetry, *Mass for Shut-Ins*, published by Backwaters Press in August 2018.

99 Dr. James A. Mello, MBA, Steubenville, Ohio, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness at Franciscan University of Steubenville, was a panelist at the closing plenary panel discussion at the annual meeting of the North East Association for Institutional Research in Pittsburgh in November 2018. The panel, “Data-Informed Decision Making: Challenges, Strategies, and Lessons Learned,” addressed

student success, internal and external policy making, and ethical considerations for decision makers in higher education. **Jason W. Ash, BS**, Norfolk, Nebraska, partner-plant operations at Weiland Inc. in Norfolk, celebrated the opening of the company's new 60,000-square-foot headquarters in October 2018. Weiland Inc. has grown from a company that built custom cold storage doors for area meat processors to one of the biggest brands in sanitary doors for food processors in North America.

01 Robert W. Haake, BA, Norfolk, Nebraska, partner-product development and project management at Weiland Inc. in Norfolk, celebrated the opening of the company's new 60,000-square-foot headquarters in October 2018. Weiland Inc. has grown from a company that built custom cold storage doors for area meat processors to one of the biggest brands in sanitary doors for food processors in North America.

04 Dan T. Harbeke, BSBA, Omaha, recently joined Google as area head of public policy and external affairs.

05 Joslyn Emerson Brown, PharmD, Charlotte, North Carolina, was promoted to administrative director of abdominal transplant at Carolinas Medical Center Transplant Center in Charlotte. Brown will have operational oversight of the liver, kidney and kidney/pancreas programs, including regulatory, personnel and budgeting. Brown joined the transplant center and Atrium Health in 2015 as a transplant pharmacist and her most recent role of program manager included oversight of the pediatric transplant programs.

06 Carl H. Weiland, BA, Norfolk, Nebraska, partner-new business development at Weiland Inc. in Norfolk, celebrated the opening of the company's new 60,000-square-foot headquarters in October 2018. Weiland Inc. has grown from a company that built custom cold storage doors for area meat processors to one of the biggest brands in sanitary doors for food processors in North America. **Dr. Justyna Dobrowolska Zakaria, BS**, Chicago, was promoted from postdoctoral research fellow to

research assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

10 Adam J. Wachal, JD, Omaha, has been elected as a shareholder of the Omaha law firm of Gross & Welch. Wachal's practice has been primarily focused on civil litigation, insurance defense, insurance coverage litigation and appellate practice.

12 Alyssa Fuerholzer Wees, BA, Crystal Lake, Illinois, had her debut novel published in March by Delacorte Press/Random House Children's. The young adult fantasy novel is titled *The Waking Forest*.

14 Steven G. Rupert, JD, Wichita, Kansas, was again nominated as a Rising Star in the field of criminal defense and recently joined the law firm of Stinson Leonard Street LLP in its Wichita office.

17 Anthony J. White, BSBA, St. Louis, launched his first business, Jon Blanco, a startup fashion brand.

18 Andrew Eggert, MS, Washington, Missouri, was among 109 St. Louis-area educators to receive the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in November 2018. The awards pay tribute to area educators for their achievement and dedication to the field of education. Eggert teaches English at St. Francis Borgia Regional High School in Washington. **Ashley L. Pavletich, EDD**, Bakersfield, California, is teaching research, methods and research, assessment and evaluation in the School of Social Sciences and Education at California State University, Bakersfield.

WEDDINGS

76 Martha Martell, JD, and Robert L. Teig, May 27, 2018, living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

02 Kelly E. Reardon, BA, and Timothy Hromadka, Nov. 11, 2018, living in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

08 Sarah C. Lukas, BA'02, MA, and Kevin McMahon, Sept. 8, 2018, living in Bennington, Nebraska.

13 Logan K. Goldberg, BS, and Louis C. Dunn, PharmD'17, BSBS'17, July 14, 2018, living in Salt Lake City.

14 Paula C. Bustamante, BA, and Collin P. Hoefler, BSBA, Nov. 10, 2018, living in Roeland Park, Kansas.

17 Maggie C. Carter, BS'16, BSN, and Andrew K. Rogers, BSBA'16, Sept. 22, 2018, living in Omaha.

BIRTHS

90 Robert M. Kowalski, JD, and Natalie Lira, Chicago, a son, Alexander Great, Nov. 14, 2018.

97 Gregory M. Nolle, BA, and Tonya Skelton Nolle, BS, Omaha, a son, Michael Gregory, Oct. 24, 2018.

99 Chad Sample and Amy Schroer Sample, BS, Gretna, Nebraska, a daughter, Camille Rose, Sept. 4, 2018.

04 Brendan J. Keating, BSBA, and Kati Heine Keating, BA'03, Las Vegas, a daughter, Morgan Evelyn, Oct. 23, 2018.

ALUMNI PROFILE

An Agent to Baseball's Stars



© From left, New York Mets outfielder Yoenis Céspedes, Brodie Van Wagenen and Kyle Thousand, JD'07, celebrate Céspedes' signing by the New York Mets in November 2016. At that time, with Van Wagenen and Thousand as his agents, Céspedes signed a record deal for a Major League outfielder: \$75 million over three years. The next year, Céspedes, Van Wagenen and Thousand renegotiated for a \$110-million contract over four years, setting both Mets franchise and MLB outfielder records. Van Wagenen has since been named the Mets' general manager and Thousand still represents Céspedes as managing director of baseball at Roc Nation Sports.

as Derek was coming toward the end of his career, doing a lot of his legal work. It was a phenomenal experience for a young lawyer. My first year as an agent, I was living on \$55,000 a year, having to dip into my 401(K), savings, you name it just to survive the expenses of living in Manhattan. But I was getting the kind of invaluable experience that has led me to the rest of my career path so far."

In four years with Excel, Thousand was part of building the infrastructure of the baseball division and growing the company's client list from eight ballplayers to more than 100.

Then, in April 2015, Thousand got a call from the CEO of a unique enterprise in sports management, Jay-Z's Roc Nation Sports. The agency had recently started a baseball division and wanted Thousand to run it. At 34, Thousand became perhaps the youngest head of baseball at a major agency.

Inheriting five players as he began Roc Nation's baseball enterprise, Thousand and the four agents he oversees now manage a stable of 19 players, with a strategic look toward expanding in the Major League ranks while also acquiring clients approaching the big-league draft.

Thousand makes a concerted effort to visit each of the players at least twice a year and stays in frequent telephone contact with those who want a more hands-on approach. He's visited nearly all 30 MLB parks, and he's on the road for a good chunk of his working hours.

"I've worn a lot of hats, and I've worked very hard along the way to get here," he says. "To be at Roc Nation Sports, to build the infrastructure the way we have and to have the keys to the baseball division the way I do, it's been an opportunity that's hard to really put into words. I've loved every minute."

— BY ADAM KLINKER

KYLE THOUSAND, JD'07, knows he's very fortunate to love what he does.

"Honestly, I get paid to watch baseball for a living," says Thousand, the managing director of baseball for the Jay-Z-owned Roc Nation Sports agency. "Baseball has always been a part of my life, and I feel very fortunate and blessed to have the job I have."

Thousand, a former All-Big Ten centerfielder at the University of Iowa, was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 2003 and spent a season with the organization's Single-A affiliate before a shoulder injury forced him into retirement.

The Sioux City, Iowa, native decided to pursue a law degree and came to Creighton in the fall of 2004, without an inkling that his athletic career and his legal career might one day intersect.

After graduating from Creighton law in 2007, Thousand was hired at the Chicago firm of Katten Muchin Rosenman, working mostly on the corporate side of sports and entertainment

law. As the economic downturn in the nation deepened, Thousand was caught in one of several rounds of layoffs at the firm.

He quickly landed at another Chicago firm. Then, as fate would have it, not more than a few months later, he received a call from law school classmate and former standout Creighton basketball player Mike Lindeman, BSBA'03, MBA'04, JD'07, then an agent in training at New York-based Excel Sports Management. Lindeman explained that his firm was starting a baseball division and bringing on one of the game's most respected agents, Casey Close. Would Thousand be interested in getting in on the ground floor?

By the way, Lindeman added, Close was also bringing with him a few clients, most notably Yankees shortstop, captain and arguably the greatest all-around player of his generation, Derek Jeter.

"I wasn't necessarily looking to get into the agent business, but to have the opportunity to learn from Casey and help him with Derek — I knew I would regret not giving it a shot," Thousand says. "I worked alongside Casey

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07 Andy Beagle and **Amy Patterson Beagle, OTD**, Omaha, a daughter, Ellen, Nov. 9, 2017.

08 Chad Bartholomew and **Kristin K. Lipka, OTD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, a son, Myles, Sept. 12, 2018.

09 **Ryan B. Dull, PharmD**, and **Stacey Friedman Dull, PharmD**, Omaha, twins, Emmalyn and Bennett, Feb. 25, 2018. **Luke T. Mohrhauser, JD**, and Megan Mohrhauser, Ankeny, Iowa, a son, Thomas Frederick, Dec. 25, 2018. **Michael C. Ritchie, BSBA**, and **Brianne Davis Ritchie, MBA'13, PharmD'13**, Rochester, Minnesota, a son, Sawyer James, March 8, 2018.

10 Mike Eveland and **Elizabeth Garganera Eveland, BSN**, Omaha, a daughter, Margaret, Nov. 19, 2018.

11 Jeremy Bustanoby and **Christina Martin Bustanoby, OTD**, Las Vegas, a son, Parker Fox, Sept. 11, 2018. David Hatch and

Noel Rasmussen Hatch, PharmD, BSHS, Emmetsburg, Iowa, a son, Ellis, Sept. 26, 2018. **Kale D. Langley, DDS**, and **Brooke A. Smars, DDS'12**, Minneapolis, a daughter, Ravelle Linnéa, Oct. 5, 2018. Joseph Evans and **Corrinne G. Lukkes, OTD, BSHS**, Bartlett, Illinois, a daughter, Samantha Jean, Oct. 24, 2018.

12 Myles Dangerfield and **Stephanie DeRosa Dangerfield, OTD**, Manassas, Virginia, a son, Devin Liam, Feb. 19, 2018. Dr. Tung Huu Nguyen and **Amy L. Dao, PharmD, BSHS**, Fountain Valley, California, a son, Trevor Trung, Sept. 2, 2018. **Justin M. Gripp, MBA'11, PharmD**, and **Susan Woods Gripp, BSN**, Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter, Clara, May 21, 2018. Matt Hawkins and **Natalie Sass Hawkins, DPT'07, BSHS**, Bennington, Nebraska, a son, Blake, Nov. 2, 2018. Seth Junker and **Jennifer Ternes Junker, OTD**, Parker, Colorado, a daughter, Nola Rose, Nov. 7, 2018. Clint Little and **Miranda R. Little, OTD**, Kearney,

Nebraska, a daughter, Raleigh Ranae, Jan. 14, 2019.

13 **Steven G. Dunning, BS'10, DPT**, and Molly Dunning, Bennington, Nebraska, twins, Helen and Harvey, July 27, 2018. Andrew Geis and **Ashley M. Geis, OTD**, Billings, Montana, a son, Warner Erick, July 18, 2018. Dale W. Holt and **Mary Foley Holt, BS'09, DPT**, Lincoln, Nebraska, a daughter, Miriam Rose, Aug. 4, 2018. Dane Pauley and **Abby L. Pauley, OTD**, Omaha, a daughter, Macy Jean, June 12, 2018. Jonathan Werz and **Melissa Uhl Werz, BA'08, OTD**, Durham, North Carolina, a son, Soren Alexander, July 29, 2018.

14 **Brittainy L. Allen, PharmD, BSHS**, Kansas City, Missouri, a daughter, Jurnee Ko, March 10, 2018. Joe Bailey and **Melissa Bouma Bailey, PharmD**, Omaha, a daughter, Stella Jayne, Dec. 28, 2018. Jake Vonnahme and **Megan Barta Vonnahme, PharmD**, Carroll, Iowa, a daughter, Priya Noelle, Dec. 21, 2018.

15 **Damon Fisher and Amanda Fox Fisher, PharmD**, Lubbock, Texas, twins, Annie Francis and Henry Alan, May 30, 2018. Zachary Perman and **Terelle Nash-Keller Perman, PharmD**, Selby, South Dakota, a daughter, Azalea Opal, Nov. 14, 2018. **Kevin M. Welch, MBA, PharmD**, and **Elizabeth Doyle Welch, PharmD'12, BSHS'12**, Lawrence, Kansas, a son, Dominic Jude, April 24, 2018. Nick Wohlgemuth and **Alexandra J. Wohlgemuth, PharmD**, Memphis, Tennessee, a daughter, Renata, March 16, 2018.

16 **Benjamin H. Thompson, BS**, and **Christina Laubenthal Thompson, BSBA**, Omaha, a son, Augustine Haase, June 20, 2018. Brad Monson and **Elizabeth Olafson Monson, PharmD**, West Fargo, North Dakota, a son, Grant William, Nov. 3, 2018. Robert Rodriguez and **Beatriz A. Rodriguez, BSN**, Santee, California, a daughter, Gwendoline, Dec. 28, 2018.

17 Mason Cook and **Amber Suhr Cook, DPT**, Marion, Iowa, a son, Jerry Donald, Nov. 10, 2018. Kyle Gaston and **Kelsey Timmerman Gaston, DPT**, Greenwood, Nebraska, a son, Bennet James, Dec. 4, 2018. Dylan Gill and **Adrienne Elmquist Gill, DPT**, Wood River, Nebraska, a daughter, Adeline Olivia, March 1, 2018. Ryan Zavacky and **Gloria A. Reynaga, OTD**, Mesa, Arizona, twins, Grace and Elle, Nov. 24, 2018. Brian Shelton and **Katy O'Meara Shelton, DPT**, Grand Island, Nebraska, a daughter, Matilda Keli Rose, Dec. 10, 2018.

DEATHS

39 **Leonard C. Schenk, BSPHa**, Wichita, Kansas, Jan. 14, 2019.

41 **Lt. Gen. Leo J. Dulacki, USMC (Ret.)**, BS, Sun City West, Arizona, Jan. 4, 2019. **Alphonse C. Dundis, BS**, Omaha, Nov. 8, 2018.

42 **John A. Edney, ARTS**, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Dec. 24, 2018.

44 **Irene Konat Delehant, BA**, San Francisco, Nov. 28, 2018.

45 **Alice Appel Duwal, BSPHa**, Chula Vista, California, Jan. 11, 2019. **Joseph H. Grier, ARTS**, Omaha, Feb. 5, 2019. **Rita McAleer McCallan, SJN**, Golden, Colorado, Nov. 2, 2017.

47 **Fannie Miller Alpert, BSChm**, Hamden, Connecticut, Oct. 25, 2018. **Grace Maher Hebenstreit, SCN**, Omaha, Jan. 2, 2019.

49 **Rosemary Brown, ARTS**, Omaha, Jan. 13, 2019. **Paul G. McDermott, BS**, Omaha, Nov. 16, 2018. **Edward J. Mohanna, BS**, Greenville, South Carolina, Nov. 6, 2018. **Wallace J. Rose, BS**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 20, 2018.

50 **John H. Herfordt, BS**, Omaha, Dec. 30, 2018. **George A. Janousek, ARTS**, O'Neill, Nebraska, Dec. 22, 2017. **Edward J. Ramm, ARTS**, Omaha, Oct. 26, 2018.

51 **Frank B. Svoboda, JD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Jan. 30, 2019. **Valerie Schott Theisen, SJN**, Omaha, Dec. 16, 2018.

52 **Donald J. Dougherty, BUSADM**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jan. 3, 2019.



Rachel Knust Millard, BSBA'08, meets with U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) before a Farm Bill vote on Dec. 12, 2018. Conaway currently is the ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

A VOICE FOR AG

More than 1,000 miles away in Washington, D.C., **Rachel Knust Millard, BSBA'08**, is advocating for constituents "back home" in the Midwest.

As communications director for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Millard spent nearly two years working on the 2018 Farm Bill, signed into law on Dec. 20, 2018, by President Donald Trump.

The \$867 billion bill addressed a variety of agricultural-related concerns, including trade, conservation, nutrition and energy — a perfect fit for the Chamberlain, South Dakota, native.

"Agriculture is the lifeblood of the rural community that I grew up in," Millard says.

The farm bill helps "provide certainty to the economies of rural communities," she says, adding that the legislation received bipartisan input and support from members of Congress.

With nearly 10 years in Washington, Millard has primarily spent her time on Capitol Hill. She began working in Washington as an intern at the White House while studying at Creighton.

"I had a feeling that, at one point, I might want to go back," Millard says.

After earning a degree in marketing from Creighton in 2008, she returned to Washington and eventually worked in South Dakota Sen. John Thune's office as press secretary and then communications director.

Her Creighton experience, she says, has not only prepared her well for her day-to-day professional responsibilities, but has taught her to ask the bigger, deeper questions, such as "What is justice? What does that look like in the world?"

"(Creighton) has served me well," Millard says. "Asking the questions, and not being afraid of what the answer might look like." — **BY EMILY RUST**

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Though charitable estate commitments can be implemented easily at little or no cost, they should be considered in relation to your financial, estate planning and comprehensive philanthropic goals. We strongly recommend you seek the guidance of a qualified advisor before considering or implementing any changes to your estate plans.



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SERVICE TO OTHERS



Thanks to **Deana Kubosh, OTD'12**, service members who aren't everything they once were are able to once again be all they can be.

Kubosh, an occupational therapist, works as a Department of Defense contractor at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. There, her clients include mostly active duty service members who have sustained a mild or moderate traumatic brain injury (TBI) or who have overuse or traumatic hand or shoulder injuries. They are patients who must be at their best to do their best, and it often shows in the rehabilitation work Kubosh pushes them through.

"I have a lot more understanding, patience and appreciation for those who can really sustain motivation to do more work, and push their physical limits, in some pretty harsh environments," Kubosh says. "You give them a few strategies, or exercises, and they will truly embark on a journey with it and push to return to their baseline.

"That's something not every population can do."

Creighton was essential to preparing her for such work, Kubosh says. An Anchorage native, she earned her degree through the Alaska Pathway Program, the first occupational therapy program in the state. She cites several faculty members, including lab instructor Valerie Maeker, OTD'14, and Al Bracciano, EdD, as critical to her success. She also cites fellow alumna Brittany Stryker, OTD'06, BSHS'06, under whom she was trained on custom orthotics in Las Vegas.

"I firmly believe that all of our classes were helpful in my career," Kubosh says. "I graduated feeling very confident in my abilities."

She spent time with a contract company as a traveling therapist, mostly in Alaska, before landing her current job at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in 2015. In 2017, Kubosh was one of 26 clinicians nationwide selected for an expert workgroup with the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Her group contributed cognitive rehabilitation treatment recommendations for active duty service members.

It's a special group, she says.

"It's rewarding to watch motivated individuals return to work and be so appreciative of your time and services. It's impacted me greatly." — **BY ANTHONY FLOTT**

53 Joseph R. Becky, MD, Denver, Oct. 30, 2018. **Phyllis Dreier Langenfeld, SJN**, Omaha, Dec. 22, 2018. **Rosanne Kenny O'Harra, ARTS**, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 31, 2018.

54 Joseph A. Barkett, MD, La Jolla, California, Nov. 15, 2018. **John W. Goebel, JD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, July 16, 2018. **Kathleen Keating Strubert, BS**, St. Louis, July 5, 2018.

55 Lawrence D. McGuire, BS, Pittsburgh, April 23, 2017. **Mary Wilson Sedlacek, SJN**, Buffalo, Wyoming, Feb. 9, 2019.

56 James E. Bender, ARTS, Carter Lake, Iowa, Jan. 20, 2019. **Patrick C. Krell, BS**, Omaha, Jan. 10, 2019. **Dr. Ronald J. Oard, MA**, Palm Desert, California, Nov. 13, 2018.

57 Richard E. Croker, JD, Omaha, Jan. 2, 2019. **Loren Fraser, MLN**, Omaha, Feb. 4, 2019. **Leonard T. Higgins, BS'53, DDS**, Omaha, Jan. 23, 2019. **J. Tom Lalley, ARTS**, Omaha, Oct. 17, 2018.

58 Peggy Rosse Eledge, BS, Papillion, Nebraska, Jan. 17, 2019. **Robert E. Mulcahy, BSBA**, Omaha, Feb. 17, 2019. **Dr. Betty Patterson Tarsitano, SJN'52, BSN**, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, Nov. 9, 2018.

59 Lynn I. DeMarco, BS'55, MD, Leawood, Kansas, Feb. 15, 2019. **Helen A. Harvey, BS**, Omaha, Jan. 17, 2019. **Gene A. Peters, BS**, Sun City, Arizona, Dec. 20, 2018. **Harold L. Rock, BS'54, JD**, Omaha, Nov. 4, 2018.

60 Patricia Mangan Guenther, BSMT, Chandler, Arizona, Jan. 26, 2019. **Martha Casey Koeppen, ARTS**, Omaha, Jan. 27, 2019.

61 Richard S. Campisi, DDS, San Jose, California, Jan. 28, 2019. **Dr. Richard E. Kelly, ARTS**, La Jolla, California, Feb. 4, 2019. **Robert E. Langenfeld, DDS**, Carroll, Iowa, Jan. 31, 2019.

62 Thomas M. Lickteig, BA, Minneapolis, Feb. 2, 2019. **E. Robert McCabe, BA**, Ballwin, Missouri, Feb. 10, 2019.

63 Richard A. Cirone, MD, San Jose, California, Oct. 19, 2018.

64 Francis J. Munch, BA'61, MA, St. Columbans, Nebraska, Feb. 27, 2018. **Paul V. Smith, BSChm'59, MS**, West Hills, California, Dec. 4, 2018.

65 R. Dennis Mailliard, BA, Omaha, Dec. 14, 2018.

66 Margaret Stastny Laughlin, BSBA, Imogene, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2019. **Janet D. Teresko, BA**, Harvard, Massachusetts, Aug. 26, 2018.

67 John V. Hrupek, BA, Omaha, Nov. 13, 2018. **Melissa Starr Scarpitti, BA**, Dallas, Dec. 28, 2018. **Patricia C. Wilkins, BS**, Orlando, Florida, Dec. 21, 2018.

68 Dr. Paula Kienberger Jaudes, BS, Chicago, June 16, 2018. **John D. Postlewait, BS**, Shawnee, Kansas, November 2018.

69 Regina Wolpert Ratino, BA, Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 20, 2018. **Dennis M. Shaughnessy, BS'63, MS'65, MD**, Midland, Texas, Oct. 10, 2018. **Terrence M. Tracy, BSBA**, Marietta, Georgia, Nov. 9, 2018.

70 Vincent Moragues Jr., BS'67, MSEdu, Papillion, Nebraska, Feb. 5, 2019.

71 Robert S. Fox, BS'66, MD, Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 4, 2019. **William A. Sellgren, MBA**, Omaha, Oct. 19, 2018. **Richard W. Todd, JD**, Vienna, Virginia, Dec. 7, 2017. **James A. Vorel, BA**, Valley, Nebraska, Nov. 27, 2018.

72 Roger R. Holthaus, JD, Omaha, Dec. 18, 2018. **Thomas C. Marfisi, BA'69, JD**, Omaha, Dec. 31, 2018.

73 James F. Dolezal, BSPha'59, MD, Carson City, Nevada, Dec. 19, 2018. **Thomas W. Leach, MD**, San Francisco, Oct. 20, 2018. **Ronald G. Pomante, MD**, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, Dec. 3, 2018.

74 Kathleen Huber Higley, BA, Overland Park, Kansas, Dec. 6, 2018.

75 Carmen Alba Bracken, BS, Bellevue, Nebraska, Nov. 22, 2018. **Michael J. Javoronok, JD**, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Oct. 14, 2018.

76 Luke I. McCormick, BS, Waterloo, Nebraska, Nov. 26, 2018.

ALUMNI PROFILE

'There's an app for that'

Creighton alumnus develops app to assist physicians in ordering radiological images

No matter what, "There's an app for that," right? Not for everything, as Creighton alumnus **MUNIB SANA, BS'07, MD'11**, discovered. And so, Sana – no techie, himself – made his own "app for that."



not part of medical curricula. Rather, medical professionals learn imaging piecemeal – through trial and error, colleague advice, calls to radiologists or even Google searches.

"You would think there would be some sort of education in how to order and what to order," Sana says. "When we get out, there's nothing to show us how to use this practice."

"That" is Rads Consult, a web-based radiology clinical decision tool for health care professionals and students. It's built to reduce unnecessary imaging, medical waste and patient risk – and to reduce calls for help to Sana and his fellow professionals.

An independent musculoskeletal radiologist, Sana performs and reads ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs and other imaging for Chicago-area orthopedic groups. He also is on the phone a lot with physicians wanting to know what tests to order in the first place. He's been taking such calls for nearly a decade.

"And, really, it's the same or similar questions day in and day out," he says.

Surprisingly, formal radiology training is

Physicians waste hundreds of millions of dollars annually, Sana says, by ordering wrong or duplicate studies. And, in some cases, patients can be harmed due to overexposure to radiation or allergic reactions to intravenous dyes sometimes used.

"They're not benign exams," Sana says. "It's a pretty glaring problem."

About two years ago, one physician calling about what tests to order asked Sana, "Is there an app for this?"

There wasn't.

"I guess that was kind of the eureka moment."

Related software did exist but at prices

cost-prohibitive to many independent providers and small hospitals. Furthermore, Sana says, such software focused more on compliance with government regulations or integrating imaging into patient electronic records.

Sana says the tools were user-unfriendly. So, he went to work developing a free tool built "the opposite way it's being done – with the end user in mind."

Utilizing his own knowledge and other radiology experts, Sana created a tool that guides physicians through a decision-tree imaging request process. He worked on it for more than a year then teamed with a developer to put his ideas into the website at radsconsult.com. Though web-based, it's mobile-friendly and can be downloaded to perform like a native app.

The site was launched in late 2018. Reaction, Sana says, has been "overwhelmingly positive."

"Everyone who has used it has said, 'Wow, this is amazing.' They're starting to share it."

The tool has had about 1,000 users and the site averages about 100 visits a day. That's with minimal marketing mostly consisting of emails and posts to industry-related Facebook groups.

Creighton has been a help, allowing a pilot program at the University. And former classmates of Sana helped test the tool.

It is, he says, "a passion project."

He's not done, either. He plans on improving existing features and adding others. He might monetize it one day, but adds, "In keeping with the core mission of why I'm doing this, there will always be a free version."

Thanks to Sana, there is an app for that. — **BY ANTHONY FLOTT**

FROM NURSE TO CEO

Josie Politico Abboud, BSN'95, became the first woman and first nurse to lead Omaha's Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital when she was named president and CEO this past fall.

Abboud started her career in banking, but felt called to nursing. She enrolled in and completed Creighton's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

"I knew that Creighton would give me what I was looking for," Abboud says, "which was a way to enter health care in an accelerated fashion while at the same time grounding me with the foundation of Jesuit beliefs, values and education."

Abboud began her nursing career at Methodist Hospital, working as a staff nurse in the intensive care unit. Prior to her current position, she served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital.



78 Rev. Verle E. Holsteen, MS, Somerset, Wisconsin, Jan. 6, 2019. Rev. Emmett F. Meyer, MChrsP, Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 3, 2018.

79 James W. Becker, BA'74, DDS, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Nov. 7, 2018. James F. McGruder, ARTS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nov. 2, 2018.

81 Lawrence J. Schulenberg, MS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 18, 2018.

82 Patrick W. Maguire, BA, St. Louis, June 26, 2018.

83 Robert J. Wolff, BSBA, Omaha, Jan. 9, 2019.

84 Neal R. Gorrin, MD, Emerald Hills, California, Sept. 24, 2017.

90 Raymond P. Herweg, MBA, Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 29, 2018.

91 Rev. Victor-Luke Odhiambo, SJ, MA'90, MS, Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 15, 2018.

92 Mia Haberstick Kohlmeier, BA, Gretna, Nebraska, Feb. 12, 2019.

95 Leigh Ann Kennedy, JD, Iowa City, Iowa, Dec. 14, 2018. Graham C. Noble, PharmD, Shawnee, Kansas, Nov. 2, 2018.

98 Gary L. Mincher, DPT, Versailles, Indiana, July 7, 2017. Jessica Anderson Nielsen, BSN, Bennington, Nebraska, Jan. 6, 2019.

02 Jock R. Stevick, DDS, Minot, North Dakota, Feb. 7, 2018.

13 Karen F. Cook, EdD, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, Feb. 1, 2019.

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Jerry Hoffman, PhD, former associate professor of history, College of Arts and Sciences; Oct. 31, 2018

Salvatore "Sam" Greco, PhD, dean emeritus, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions; Dec. 30, 2018

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

Graduate School: Profiles of Achievement

Out in Front

BY Anthony Flott

WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, EDD'17, may have earned a doctorate from Creighton in interdisciplinary leadership, but everything you need to know about his leadership style came one Saturday in spring 2008 on a dust-choked road near Sadr City just east of Baghdad.

Grimsley was an Army brigadier general then whose troops were in the thick of fighting against the Shi'a militia. Every day for two weeks, his troops were attacked whenever on patrol.

That included a patrol Grimsley was making to a combat outpost. The visit, though, ground to a halt in a traffic jam. Grimsley and a few others walked to the front to investigate the impasse, passing a handful of cars filled with families.

An improvised explosive device (IED) had been discovered against a concrete barrier, hidden amid a trash pile and covered with burlap. The troops began securing the area and evacuating civilians. The lead gunner on Grimsley's truck, meanwhile, identified the IED's triggerman and drew him into his sights. But before the gunner could fire his weapon, the triggerman detonated the IED.

Grimsley was standing five feet away from it. Steel shrapnel, concrete, dirt and trash blasted violently outward.

Somehow, Grimsley survived — but he was not unscathed. Concrete shattered his safety glasses, embedding into his face, tearing his ear and bursting an eardrum. Blood poured down his face and onto his body armor. Grimsley couldn't hear a thing, and for a while he didn't even know he was injured.

"It was a story of wrong place, wrong time," Grimsley says.

His interpreter was similarly injured, but no one else was hurt. Both were field treated by a medic

while the area was secured. The troops returned to Camp Liberty but were back on patrol the next day — with Grimsley.

"I tended to be much more out front than a senior officer might be or needed to be," says Grimsley, who was deputy commanding general of the Multi-National Division in Baghdad. "If I learned nothing else from my experience, it's that leadership has to be where you are visible and make an impact."

Grimsley retired as a major general after a 33-year career that took him around the world, including multiple combat tours in Iraq. He held command and leadership positions at every level from platoon through corps. He served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

He's 61 now and nearly six years removed from his final assignment as chief of staff of U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. It was during that stint when he attended Creighton. He said there was a lot to like: the faculty, staff and leaders of the program; the soldier roots of St. Ignatius of Loyola; and, though he's not Catholic, the "Jesuit way of doing things."

"I felt really at home there [Creighton]. From Day One, the program was exactly what I was looking for."

WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, EDD'17

"I felt really at home there," Grimsley says. "From Day One, the program was exactly what I was looking for."

He's now taken his career lessons — "reinforced by my Creighton experience" — and built two new careers. The first was as a consultant in the private sector focused on — what else? — leader development, human performance training, strategic planning and more.

In 2015, he pivoted to his current post as president and CEO of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) Foundation, which supports the fraternity he belonged to during his undergraduate days at Davidson College in North Carolina.

In a sense, it's like his work in the Army molding young soldiers. He's putting the

foundation through fundamental change in supporting the SAE member development education program.

"The organization is seizing on this idea of aspirational goals and leadership," he says. "That's something I can get behind because people, regardless of their age, but especially college undergraduates, need as much support and help as they can get to become better versions of themselves, better citizens."

He's behind it — but leading in front.

For more information about the Interdisciplinary Leadership (Doctorate of Education) program at Creighton, visit gradschool.creighton.edu/edd.

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Graduate School

Alumni Merit Award

Creighton University recognized nine outstanding alumni at the Evening of Honors event held in February on campus.

The Creighton University Alumni Merit Award recognizes outstanding alumni from each school and college. It honors men and women who live life with high moral standards, guided by the Jesuit ideal of “women and men for and with others.” These passionate leaders touch and enrich lives, encouraging and inspiring others while they serve selflessly and leave the world a better place.



Top row:
Kathleen Hermann Balousek, BA'68; Diane Cavanaugh Millea, BSN'77, DNP'11; and Eric Ernest, BSEMS'06, MD'10

Middle row:
Philip Grybas, MA'71; Jeffrey McCroy, BSBA'84; and Kurt Stormberg, DDS'91

Bottom row:
Steven Seline, JD'79; Joseph Herbert, MD'66; and Nicholas Kietzman-Greer, BA'04, DPT'07

KATHLEEN HERMANN BALOUSEK, BS'68
College of Arts and Sciences

Kathleen Hermann Balousek has devoted her life to community service. In 2013, she was named Catholic Charities' San Francisco Bay Area Catholic Woman of the Year. She has counseled troubled and suicidal teens and served on the board at a crisis hotline agency; founded a local chapter of Shoes That Fit, which supplies shoes and clothing to immigrant children; and launched a foundation to provide tuition support, religious activities and more to disadvantaged children and their families.

PHILIP GRYBAS, MA'71
Graduate School

Financial professional Philip Grybas has a reputation in the communications industry for streamlining and improving business practices. He has broad expertise in international finance, financial planning and analysis, and currently is board chairman of Great Plains Communications Inc.; audit committee chairman and executive committee board member of the Private Directors Association; and Governance Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He serves on the Graduate School Alumni Advisory Board.

STEVEN SELINE, JD'79
School of Law

Steven Seline is president of Walnut Private Equity Partners, a firm focused on transactions and consulting for high-net-worth families, and Walnut Radio, which owns several Omaha-area radio stations. His career successes are numerous but describe only a portion of who he is. He and his wife, Sue, a 1982 graduate, have generously supported the journalism department, law school, dental school and athletics programs. He has a lengthy record of service on numerous nonprofit boards and as an alumni advisor to the law school.

DIANE CAVANAUGH MILLEA, BSN'77, DNP'11
College of Nursing

Diane Cavanaugh Millea is a family nurse practitioner at Methodist Community Health Clinic, providing care for underserved and underinsured patients. She twice served on the College of Nursing's Alumni Advisory Board, was board president from 2011 to 2015 and currently serves on the board of directors of Creighton's Alpha Sigma Nu chapter. She also volunteers at the OneWorld Community Health Clinic Annual Women's Health Event, the annual Black Family Health event and Project Homeless Connect.

JEFFREY MCCROY, BSBA'84
Heider College of Business

Jeffrey McCroy is president and CEO of Christian Brothers Investment Services, a Catholic investment management firm. He is responsible for the firm's mission and strategic direction at the intersection of faith and finance, serving Catholic investors across the globe. McCroy takes great pride in that mission and credits Creighton with helping form who he is today — both personally and professionally. He is a member of Legatus, an international organization of Catholic business leaders.

JOSEPH HERBERT, MD'66
School of Medicine

Joseph Herbert has been a pediatrician in Santa Cruz, California, for more than five decades. Following medical school and a stint in the Navy Medical Corps, he embarked on a life of service that began with a 1993 service trip to the Dominican Republic. Since then, he has been on more than 30 international medical service trips, including being medical director for Creighton's Institute for Latin American Concern program. A teacher and mentor, Herbert has influenced hundreds, if not thousands, of medical professionals.

ERIC ERNEST, BSEMS'06, MD'10
College of Professional Studies

Eric Ernest is a prominent contributor to the field of emergency medicine, exemplifying the ideal of “men and women for and with others.” Along with being a staff physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Nebraska Medicine, he also leads several emergency medical services (EMS) agencies and is involved with his profession on a local and national level. He also mentors EMS personnel at numerous local fire and emergency response departments.

KURT STORMBERG, DDS'91
School of Dentistry

Kurt Stormberg is a board-certified orthodontist. He is past chair of the School of Dentistry Alumni Advisory Board and the current president of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists. Stormberg has a passion for giving back to his profession and has directed many nonprofit boards, including the San Diego County Dental Society and the San Diego Dental Health Foundation. He has been a delegate to the American Dental Association, American Association of Orthodontists and California Dental Association.

NICHOLAS KIETZMAN-GREER, BA'04, DPT'07
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Serving the people of the Dominican Republic has been a personal and professional mission of physical therapist Nicholas Kietzman-Greer. He participated in *Encuentro Dominicano*, and later returned to the D.R. as a PT student, where he met his wife, Laurie, who was completing an internship through Rockhurst University. Together they have touched thousands of lives by constructing churches, interpreting for Spanish-speaking patients at clinics, and providing food and companionship to those without.



Meet the Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ

Back in his hometown of Pune, India, the Rev. Nicholas Santos, SJ, PhD, frequently logged in to a website being managed thousands of miles away: Creighton Online Ministries. There, he would read daily reflections from people such as the Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ. It quickly became his go-to website.

“I would never imagine that 20 years later, I would be called to be the rector of Creighton,” Fr. Santos says.

This summer, Fr. Santos, a member of the Creighton Board of Trustees, will assume leadership of the University’s Jesuit community. He will also join the faculty of the Heider College of Business as an associate professor of marketing. He currently teaches marketing at Marquette University in Milwaukee, and is the president of the Colleagues in Jesuit Business Education (CJBE).

Prior to becoming a Jesuit, Fr. Santos worked in accounting at a chemical transportation company in India. After a transformative five-day discernment retreat, he says he answered God’s call to the priesthood, something he’d

considered since he was in high school.

In his more than 10 years at Marquette, Fr. Santos has worked with numerous Jesuits, including Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ. There, the two presided over Tuesday night Mass, a traditional upbeat service for students.

You can often find Fr. Santos at Marquette’s campus recreation center, where he plays soccer with faculty and staff – something he hopes to bring to Creighton. He also plays in a soccer league in Milwaukee, and a tennis group with fellow business school faculty.

Creighton magazine spoke with Fr. Santos in anticipation of his move to Omaha.

You’ve served on Creighton’s Board of Trustees since June 2015. What have you learned about the University in that time?

I’ve heard so much in terms of high praise for Creighton. Being on the Board affirmed for me Creighton’s Jesuit, Catholic identity. So, it’s an honor to be asked to be the rector of the Jesuit community.

What is the role of a rector?

The rector is expected to support each member of the Jesuit community individually in his personal, spiritual and apostolic life. He is responsible for the life of the community and helps the community become a true apostolic one. He collaborates with the directors of the different works that the community is engaged with. These include the University and the University Retreat Center, Jesuit Academy and St. John’s Parish.

Your research focuses on business ethics and social responsibility. How does that relate to Jesuit values?

In my doctoral program, I worked to develop a normative ethical framework for doing business with impoverished populations. This framework was called the integrative justice model (IJM) and it proposes five interrelated components for fair and just engagement with low-income populations. I think this work aligns well with the Jesuit preferential option for the poor and the call to make the world a better place.

What is your latest research?

My latest research is connected with the search for better paradigms of economics and business than we have currently. I have become interested in the economic thinking of the late German Jesuit economist Heinrich Pesch, who proposed a system called “Solidarism Economics.” Pesch’s starting point is of human beings not as individuals but beings in society and who thus have a sense of solidarity with other beings. I think there are nuggets in his thinking that can complement our present capitalistic system.

Are you planning on bringing Marquette’s Tuesday night student Mass tradition to Creighton?

I would love to. I know Fr. Hendrickson is hoping that we can work on something similar. Marquette’s Tuesday 10 p.m. Mass was special, and I enjoyed being involved with it for about 10 years. It was a community experience, with good music, and it was very uplifting and spiritually nourishing. So, yes, stay tuned.



NATIONAL IN STATUTURE

New Carnegie Classification Elevates Creighton

Creighton University has been elevated in the recent Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education from the category “Master’s Colleges and Universities” to the newly created “Doctoral/Professional Universities” category.

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

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

“We all realize that Creighton University has a national rather than ‘regional’ stature. I am accordingly proud of the new categorization recognizing our strong professional school contributions, and view this as a positive opportunity that more accurately reflects our academic complexity.”

Tom Murray, PhD
Creighton Provost



MAY 30–JUNE 2, 2019
Reunion
WEEKEND

We welcome Creighton graduates of all years for a family-friendly weekend.

Special reunion parties will be held for the classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2009.

creighton**alumni**

Register today!
creighton.edu/reunionweekend

