

CREIGHTON

FLY TOGETHER

A historic gift sets the stage for transformational campus development that will impact generations of students, while opening exciting new possibilities for urban renewal in Creighton's longstanding relationship with Omaha.





FALL
2025

1,248

Record-setting first-year
undergraduate enrollment

8,914

Creighton's highest-ever
enrollment

Creighton Flies Together

The midway point of the academic year is quickly approaching, and these past few months have marked a time of historic change for Creighton with much to be excited for in the years to come.

This fall we welcomed the Class of 2029, enrolling a record-setting 1,248 first-year undergraduates, nearly 50% of whom have GPAs of 4.0 or higher, and more than half of whom plan to continue their education through graduate and professional programs. These exceptional students join our accomplished returning students in marking Creighton's highest-ever enrollment at 8,914.

We are committed to the success of these young men and women as well, evidenced in the transformation of our Omaha campus and surrounding urban core since 2015 with an estimated \$1 billion expected to be invested by the early 2030s, including public-private partnerships with the University, and the more than \$80 million invested in and around our Phoenix campus since 2021.

It is a manifestation of our Jesuit, Catholic mission of caring for the whole student – creating environments in which they can investigate the world, pursue their passions, and form bonds that will serve as lifelong support systems in their lives and careers.

Notably, the Class of 2029 will be the first students with the opportunity to live in our new sophomore residence hall when it opens in August 2026. They will enjoy events hosted at the 5.7-acre Creighton Quad, which began construction this summer, and share in the excitement of competitions and recreational programs held at our new softball and baseball fields.

Meanwhile, work continues with modernizing our labs and classrooms to prepare students to engage with an increasingly complex world. With our faculty and staff, they are learning to ethically operationalize artificial intelligence and seek out emerging specializations in their careers. However, these advancements would not be possible without the alumni, donors, and friends who have helped Creighton grow scholarship offerings by more than 130% during our Forward Blue campaign, with nearly \$250 million raised for new scholarships.

Looking ahead, the best is still on the horizon. We recently announced the largest gift in the University's history – a \$100 million commitment from the Heider Family Foundation, along with an additional \$150 million already raised, to help build an approximately \$300 million, donor-funded recreational and athletics corridor. This ambitious effort will create an important connection point with the Omaha community, the burgeoning Builder's District, and beyond, while serving the needs of our students from those involved in intramural and club sports to our NCAA Division I student-athletes and more.

Please know these milestones, the most significant for the University in more than half a century, are only possible because of the foundations you help build. Our true strength has always been found in the relationships formed at Creighton and how we can achieve so much more collectively than we can alone.

I hope you will visit Creighton again soon to witness these transformations firsthand. And, as you do, remember the life-changing power you share as members of this remarkable community.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

President



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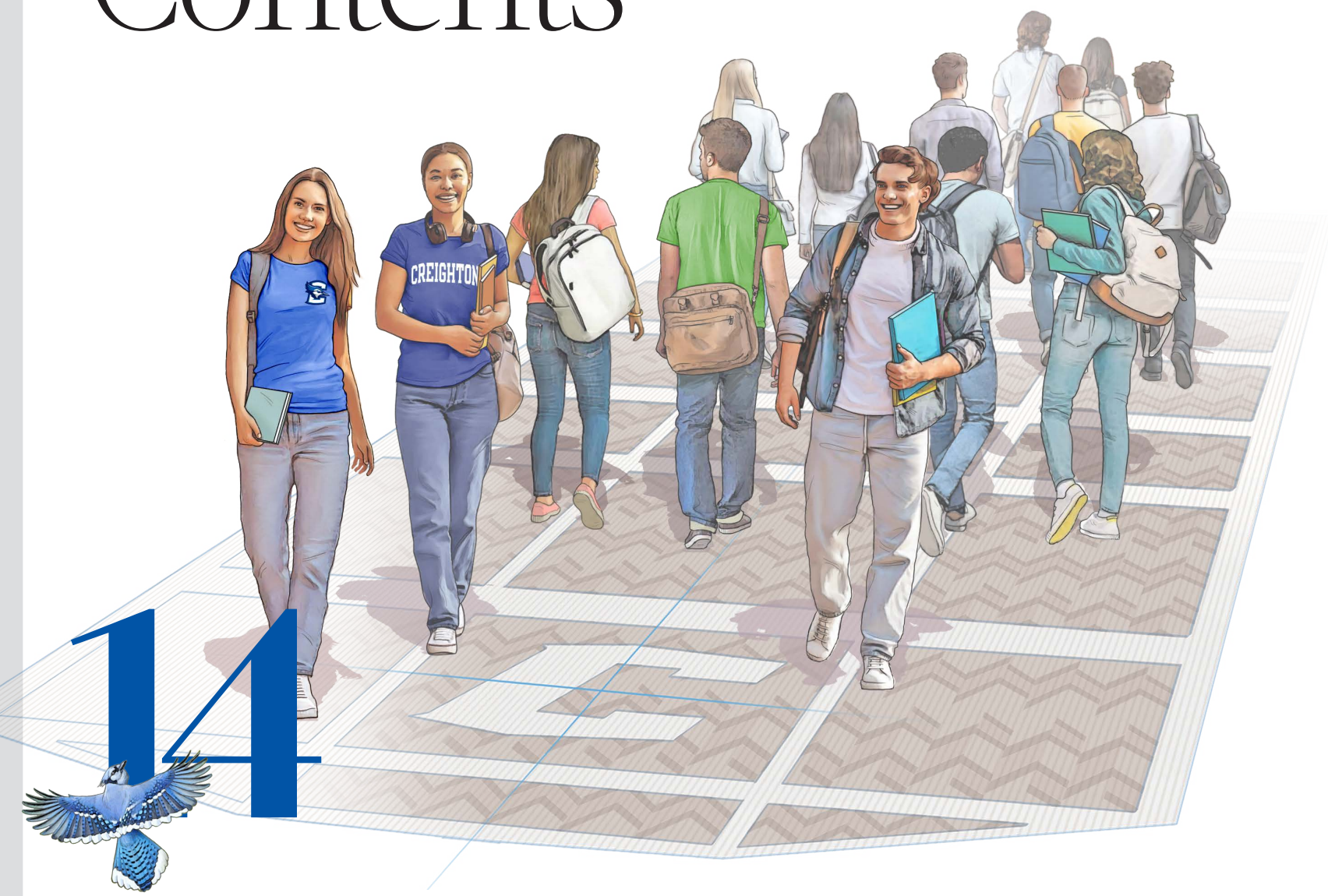
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© Creighton students, faculty and staff gather outside St. John's Church for the annual Pathway and Convocation, welcoming new undergraduate students to campus at the start of the fall semester.

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A \$100 million gift — the largest in Creighton’s history — is propelling the University into a bold new era. The Heider Family Foundation’s transformational commitment leads Fly Together, a sweeping \$300 million initiative to reimagine fitness, recreation, athletics and community connection for the next generation of students.

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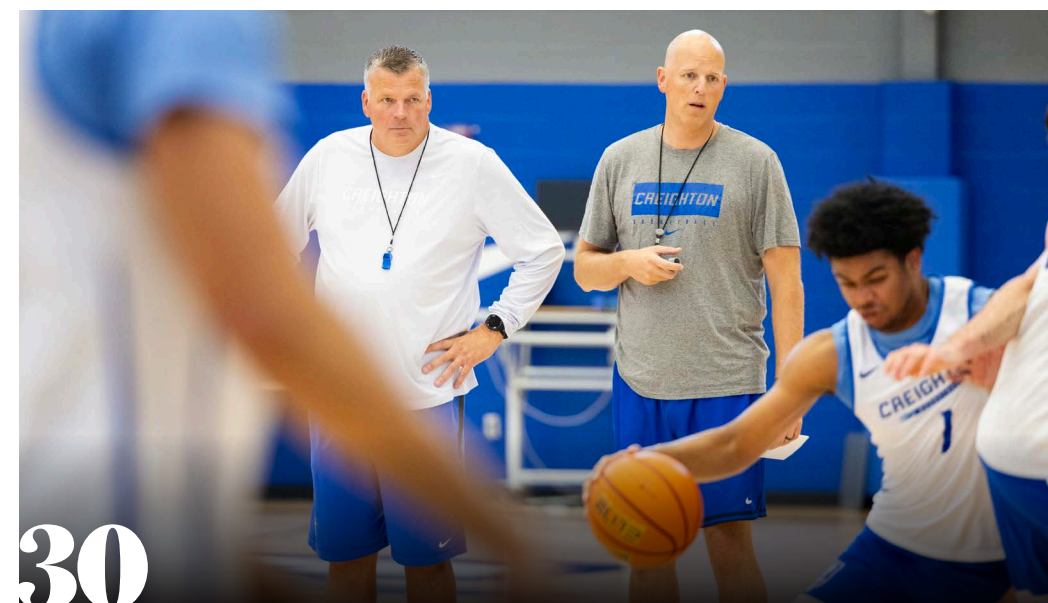
A NEW ERA IN PHOENIX

In May, Creighton celebrated its first group of students who completed all four years of medical school in Phoenix. Meet four of those graduates who are helping fill the state’s urgent need for compassionate healthcare providers.



THEY’RE NEW JAYS, TOO

Each fall, Creighton welcomes a new class of students but also welcomes new faculty members. Meet seven faculty members who started new roles at Creighton this fall.



‘BUSINESS AS USUAL’

With a shared commitment to Creighton’s winning culture, Alan Huss and Greg McDermott are taking on new coaching roles — united in their vision to keep the men’s basketball program’s success and momentum soaring.

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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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Two Minutes with Pope Leo XIV

BY CATHY TIBBELS, BA'88

Creighton theology faculty urge Pope Leo XIV to lead with Vatican II's spirit – prioritizing humility, dialogue, unity, justice and collaboration.

If you had just two minutes alone with the new pope, what would you say? Would you offer advice? Raise concerns? Ask him to act?

These questions were posed to several Creighton theology faculty members. Their responses echoed a shared conviction: Pope Leo XIV must carry forward the spirit of Vatican II – with boldness, humility and a commitment to dialogue. From Christian unity to migration, justice to technology, they called for a papacy rooted not in power, but in listening, collaboration and lived experience.

H. Ashley Hall, PhD, associate professor and department chair, emphasized the need to continue ecumenical dialogue begun by Pope John XXIII and Vatican II to heal the rift among Christian churches.

"I would say people are used to Christians fighting and not manifesting the unity that we're called to share in Jesus Christ," Hall says. "The critical issue here is the theological perspective that our baptism makes us one, as the letter to the Ephesians says: 'one faith,

one Lord, one baptism.' So we have a moral or theological imperative as faithful disciples where we try to make that unity apparent.

"What is at stake is the credibility of the Christian witness in a secularized world. People aren't asking, 'Should I be Anglican or Roman Catholic or Baptist?' They are asking, 'Why be Christian at all?'"

Hall pointed to Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* ("That They May All Be One") as a key moment in that ecumenical journey. That work, later supported by Popes Benedict XVI and Francis, should be carried forward, he says, with Pope Leo using the papal office to keep denominations in honest, sustained conversation.

Aimee Hein, PhD, assistant professor of theology, says she would ask Pope Leo to address migration and the global inequality behind it. She quoted Pope Paul VI, who cited the classic Roman Catholic principle of the Universal Destination of Goods, expressed definitively by Vatican II: "God intended the earth and everything in it for the use

of all human beings and peoples. Thus, under the leadership of justice and in the company of charity, created goods should flow fairly to all."

"Pope Paul VI said explicitly that all other rights are subordinate to this principle," Hein says. "Catholic social teaching on immigration also tends to start from an assertion that people have a right to live a life of dignity where they are, and the right to migrate when they are unable to do that.

"This calls our attention to global inequalities and violence that push

“

I would love to see Leo emphasize the common good and remind us that it's our responsibility to take care of each other and take care of creation.

”

AIMEE HEIN, PHD
 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
 OF THEOLOGY

people to migrate, prompting a reconsideration of our world," she continues. "I would like to see Pope Leo emphasize our responsibility to people who are migrating now, but also to create a world where people don't have to migrate if they don't want to. I would love to see Leo emphasize the common good and remind us that it's our responsibility to take care of each other and take care of creation – what we are called to do and have a responsibility to do, for and with one another."

Sherri Brown, PhD, professor of theology, says she would ask Pope Leo to elevate the voices that are often unheard.

"The leadership in our world is too encumbered by the voices of the wealthy, the powerful and the greedy,"

she says. "He must listen to the voices of, and thereby give voice to, the vibrant, struggling, active, faithful everyday Christian people around the world. He must then reflect upon all that he hears through the lens of Scripture ... the Christian Scriptures teach that each and every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. Each and every human being, therefore, must be able to live in their own right, to live a life of their own choosing. The Church, with the pope as its faith and moral leader, must take a stand to allow for a shared future that is safe, liberative and fruitful for all God's people, meaning all humankind."

Jay Carney, PhD, professor of theology and Graff Chair in Catholic Theological Studies, says, as a practicing Catholic, he would ask Pope Leo for a blessing and then to pray with him. Then, Carney says he would ask the first Augustinian pope to reflect on a line from *Confessions*.

"I would ask Pope Leo ... to reflect on the meaning of St. Augustine's famous quote from *Confessions* here in the 21st century, 'Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee,'" Carney says. "How can we help people channel their restlessness and desire toward God, the good and love of others? I would also encourage him to write an encyclical on technology, artificial intelligence, Catholic social teaching and what it means to be fully human amidst all these rapid developments."

Creighton Welcomes New Board Members

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, announced six new Board of Trustees members.

New trustees are: Alex Calfo, JD'90, a senior partner at the California-based law firm King & Spalding; Karen Dolan Rauenhorst, BSN'75, a retired nurse and philanthropist serving on the board of Catholic Relief Services; Doug Wells, BSBA'76, former owner and director of



U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

Creighton earned top 50 rankings among all national universities in the 2026 *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges." The University is ranked No. 33 for First-Year Experiences, No. 39 for Undergraduate Teaching and No. 44 for Undergraduate Research/Creative Projects. Additionally, the College of Nursing ranked No. 40, placing it among the top 6% of the Best Undergraduate Nursing Programs. In the Heider College of Business, individual undergraduate programs earned top national rankings: Analytics (No. 14), Accounting (No. 17) and Finance (No. 18).



2025 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Creighton Athletics welcomed five new members to the Athletics Hall of Fame in October: longtime athletic director and women's basketball coach Bruce Rasmussen, Ethan Finlay, BSBA'11 (men's soccer), Marcy Gans Parker, BS'09 (women's soccer), Ryan Gripp (baseball) and Jaali Winters, BSBA'18 (volleyball).

Wells Enterprises Inc., a family-owned national dairy company based in Iowa; the Rev. Dominic Chai, SJ, PhD, associate professor of management and associate dean for strategy and mission at Loyola Marymount University's College of Business Administration; John Levy, president of the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation; and Rachel Werner, chief executive officer of Cornerstone Legacy, LLC.

At the June Board meeting, Fr. Hendrickson also recognized two outgoing members for their service with trustee emeritus status: Richard Kizer, BSBA'71, JD'73, former chairman of Central States Health & Life Co. of Omaha, and Mark Rauenhorst, BA'75, president of Marren Properties, LLC. Kizer served as the Board's vice chair from 2011 to 2015.

Seeger Receives Prestigious Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics

Janet Seeger, PhD, professor of physics, has been named a 2025 recipient of the prestigious Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for her research in a large ion collider experiment at CERN's Large Hadron Collider. Known as the "Oscars of Science," the prize honors transformative advances in the life sciences, mathematics and fundamental physics.

Seeger joined Creighton's faculty in 1991 and has dedicated her career to high-energy nuclear physics, with a research focus on relativistic heavy ion and ultraperipheral collisions. Her work at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, the largest particle physics laboratory in the world, based in Geneva, Switzerland, has helped unlock insights into the quark-gluon plasma – a state of matter thought to have existed in the first microsecond after the Big Bang.

"It's an exciting privilege to be able to learn new things about the smallest building blocks of the universe," she says.

The 2025 Breakthrough Prize



© Janet Seger, PhD, professor of physics, joined Creighton's faculty in 1991 and has dedicated her career to high-energy nuclear physics.

celebrates the collective efforts of four experimental collaborations at CERN, including a large ion collider experiment (or ALICE), and researchers from over 70 countries. Creighton has been a member of ALICE since 2002, exploring conditions of extreme temperature and density, recreating early universe matter in laboratory conditions.

Seger joined the ALICE Collaboration in 2012, and her team specializes in ultra-peripheral collisions — rare near-miss events where ions pass close enough to interact electromagnetically yet not close enough to physically collide. These interactions provide a unique laboratory for probing the internal structure of nuclei in extreme conditions.

“Ultrapерipheral collisions allow us to study nuclei, which are composed of protons and neutrons — often thought of as distinct ‘marbles’ — without breaking them apart.”

CERN maintains agreements with institutions in the U.S., enabling American scientists and universities to

participate in global research efforts. Thanks to remote capabilities and strategic partnerships, Creighton researchers can contribute extensively without the need for continuous travel.

Both undergraduate and master's level students at Creighton have played significant roles in this research. Under Seger's guidance, they have written code for remote detector monitoring, staffed data-taking shifts at CERN and Brookhaven National Laboratory and contributed to data analysis. One student is currently exploring machine learning applications to enhance searches for new physics in heavy ion collisions.

“Creighton's continued support for this work has meant that students, post-docs and faculty have had the opportunity to work at the forefront of high-energy physics. Our students work alongside scientists from all over the world, doing the same work that would often be done by a PhD student or even a post-doc at other institutions,” Seger says.

New Nursing Scholarship to Help Meet Mental Healthcare Needs

A new scholarship will support Creighton nursing students with a passion for providing mental healthcare to their community.

The Don C. Scott Family Foundation Accelerated Nursing Student Scholarship will provide full scholarship support for up to 11 students in the College of Nursing's accelerated program.

“Since these students will be able to earn their degree in one year, that means they will be trained, treating patients and addressing the growing shortage of mental health professionals as soon as possible,” says Jessica Clark, DNP, dean of the College of Nursing. “There is a vast gap between the mental health support that exists today and what is needed to truly care for our communities.”

According to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, more than 150 million Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, nurse practitioners/nurses, social workers and counselors.

Rural Nebraskans face additional hurdles to mental healthcare, such as a limited number of providers and long travel distances to access services. According to data from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, 88 of Nebraska's 93 counties have a shortage of behavioral health professionals, and 29 counties have no behavioral health professionals.

“There is clearly a demand for more highly skilled and empathetic healthcare professionals serving the mental health needs of Nebraskans,” says the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president. “The College of Nursing will immerse these future leaders in the foundational aspects of the Jesuit tradition, which calls on us to care for the whole person.”

“I am deeply grateful to Don Scott and his family, whose generosity has



FLETCHER NAMED ACS FELLOW

James Fletcher, PhD, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has been named a 2025 Fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS), one of the highest honors in the field of chemistry. He was recognized for his research in organic chemistry, mentorship of students, regional leadership in the ACS and commitment to advancing the profession.

Phoenix Nursing Students Bring Care to Togo

A GROUP OF ACCELERATED NURSING STUDENTS from Creighton's Phoenix campus and Global Scholars from the Omaha campus traveled to West Africa in May for a two-week clinical experience in Togo. The trip was led by Bobbi Greiner, OTD'05, BSHS'05, associate professor of occupational therapy and vice chair for curriculum and external relations in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and Melissa Taylor, BSN'18, instructor in the College of Nursing. During the trip, students assisted in setting up a new surgical clinic and taught mental health and hygiene tips to young people in the community. The Creighton delegation also provided wellness checks and education on handwashing, teeth brushing and vaccinations at a local orphanage.



and continues to transform Creighton, Omaha and Nebraska.”

Don Scott has seen firsthand the pivotal role nurses play, amid both his own health struggles and those of his family.

“Good nurses are highly skilled in what they do,” says Scott, a retired optometry specialist. “But the best nurses give something more to patients and their families. They have kindness and compassion. They get deep satisfaction from taking care of others. They have the dedication to work those long, intense shifts day after day.

“Not everyone can do that, and the challenges of the profession can make it hard to attract people. We hope this scholarship will provide an incentive for more great nurses to enter the field with a Creighton education.”

Scott attended Creighton for three years, but he has only more recently come to appreciate the University’s significance to his home city and state. Through his parents, longtime donors Ruth Scott and the late Bill Scott, he saw

the larger impact he could make through Creighton. He wants to follow in their philanthropic footsteps.

“When I give to Creighton, I know I’m giving to more than Creighton. I’m giving to the larger community and to everyone Creighton cares for.”

Fassbinder-Orth Using AI to Help Determine Bee Health

When most people think of artificial intelligence, they might picture self-driving cars or chatbots. For Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, professor of biology, AI is helping monitor bee health by analyzing the sounds bees make.

In a recently published study, Fassbinder-Orth and collaborators, including Creighton graduate Chandler Fong, BS’23, and researchers from Brazil, show how machine learning can detect pesticide exposure in stingless bees through sound alone.

“Bees, and really all animals, generate

© Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, professor of biology, at her home in Iowa where she raises honeybees. Her new research involves using artificial intelligence to monitor bee health.

sounds and vibrations with their movements, respiration and communication,” Fassbinder-Orth says. “Those vibroacoustics can serve as a diagnostic biometric, like a voice or fingerprint, offering a window into health without disturbing the colony.”

The inspiration for this groundbreaking work began close to home, on Fassbinder-Orth’s Iowa farm. During the pandemic shutdowns, she and her daughter, Amara, then in high school, set up microphones in their hives. Together, they tested an early version of the model as a science fair project.

Since then, Fassbinder-Orth has expanded her research to hives in the U.S., New Zealand, Tahiti and Chile. At a global honeybee conference in Chile in 2024, she met Brazilian scientist Alex Otesbelgue, who was studying stingless bees. Their collaboration became an opportunity to test the model on species that are not only critical pollinators but also highly sensitive to pesticides.

“Brazil harbors an extraordinary diversity of stingless bees, which pollinate up to 90% of native flora and hold deep cultural significance,” Otesbelgue says. “But they are exceptionally vulnerable to pesticides, far more so than honeybees. That makes this research especially urgent.”

The team used Hidden Markov Models (HMMs), a mathematical framework within machine learning, to analyze hive recordings. By converting sound waves into mathematical patterns, the model accurately identified individual colonies and detected when bees had been exposed to chlorpyrifos, even at sublethal levels.

“It was exciting to see that sound could reveal both colony identity and pesticide exposure,” Fassbinder-Orth says. “Bees sound different depending on their queen and relatedness, and they also sound different when exposed to pesticides, even when outward symptoms are temporary.”

Fassbinder-Orth also is partnering with Steven Fernandes, PhD, assistant

professor of computer science, to build even more advanced neural network models. Their goal? Use sound and other biometrics to predict colony health and disease outcomes, ultimately improving honeybee health worldwide.

“Every step we take in understanding bees helps us protect these vital pollinators,” Fassbinder-Orth says.

Studying COVID-19’s Effect on Business Performance and Employee Perceptions

“**Storyteller**” is a descriptor not often prescribed to business professors. But that is exactly what Sijing Wei, PhD, associate professor of accounting, and Yaxiang Song, PhD, assistant professor of economics, are.

Rather than stringing together words or painting a picture, they enlist data — numbers and figures — to tell a story about COVID-19.

“COVID-19’s disruption is still shaping U.S. firms and workplaces today, and we saw a strong need to understand not only financial outcomes but also employee experiences during this period of crisis,” Wei says.

“Very few studies have looked at employee perceptions alongside firm performance,” she continues. “Our project seeks to fill this gap by bringing together robust financial data and employee reviews to provide a more complete picture of how businesses were affected and how employees’ workplace experiences evolved through the pandemic.”

Their approach is ambitious. The two Heider College of Business colleagues are recipients of the Dr. George F. Haddix Presidential Faculty Research Fund, which has supported more than 166 faculty research projects totaling more than \$1.8 million since its inception in 2012, covering a wide variety of fields from history to English, theology and more.

Wei and Song are conducting a deep dive into COVID-19’s effect on business. It includes examining such

WAIT...WHAT?

At Creighton, undergraduate students play a hands-on role in research that moves big ideas forward. Here’s a snapshot of one student’s research project.



TITLE OF RESEARCH

“Using Sensory Archaeology to Analyze Fire’s Social Role in Iron Age Cypriot Sanctuaries”

STUDENT RESEARCHER

Sydney Hall, senior double major in art history and cultural anthropology; member of the Honors Program; Scheerer Fellow in the Arts; president of the Kappa Pi International Art Honor Society; Buffalo, Wyoming

FACULTY MENTOR

Erin Averett, PhD, professor of art history and archaeology, Department of Fine and Performing Arts

WHAT IT MEANS Hall is analyzing Iron Age sanctuaries on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus through sensory archaeology, which examines how sights, sounds, smells and other sensations shaped interactions with spaces, animals, objects and people. During the Iron Age, an era of city-kingdoms, rituals reinforced boundaries and unity. Hall combines sensory archaeology with social theory to argue that sensory experiences deepened worship and fostered cohesion within kingdom territories. Focusing on the heart of Mediterranean sanctuaries — the altar — she notes that fire rituals, especially animal sacrifices, were powerful tools to strengthen bonds and assert claims over boundary zones. Large sanctuaries hosting such fire spectacles, she argues, were royal strategies to fortify political and communal ties.

key performance indicators as return on assets (ROA), return on equity (ROE), Tobin’s Q and buy-and-hold stock returns. It looks at different firm types, including the healthcare, construction and service industries, and considers firms with high environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance scores and report credibility. It also takes into account managerial proficiency.

No matter the variable, people — and their stories — are solidly at the center of their study.

“How firms take action (in response to the health crisis) affects both stockholders and stakeholders,” Song says. “COVID was not just a financial crisis for firms, but also an employee experience crisis. Companies that manage both dimensions well are more likely to thrive in the long run.”

Currently, the two researchers are still collecting and analyzing national data that they will compile into a peer-reviewed paper for publishing and then present at conferences. But this is just the beginning of their story.

Wei and Song will continue their collaboration, applying their findings on a more micro-level to determine how state and local safety measures affect firm performance and employee perceptions.

“Our findings offer practical lessons on how to manage crises and the importance of supporting employees as a key driver of long-term success,” Song says.

Nursing Tool Goes Global with Laerdal Partnership

Innovation often begins quietly. When College of Nursing faculty members Martha Todd, PhD, MS’07, and Julie Manz, PhD, BSN’98, MS’05, created the Creighton Simulation Evaluation Instrument (CSEI) in 2008, they couldn’t have imagined it would become a global standard through a partnership with Laerdal Medical.

In the early 2000s, Todd saw a gap in nursing education: simulation [▶](#)



Advancing Hearing Loss Research

At Creighton's Dr. Richard J. Bellucci Translational Hearing Center, three biomedical science faculty members in the School of Medicine have secured funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), totaling nearly **\$5 million**. Together, their work underscores Creighton's growing role as a national leader in hearing loss research.



Marisa Zalocchi, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
\$2.9 Million NIH Grant

Zalocchi was awarded a \$2.9 million NIH grant to develop treatments that could prevent hearing loss caused by commonly used antibiotics. Zalocchi and her team are pursuing research to minimize hearing loss associated with aminoglycosides, a widely used and effective class of antibiotics.

While these drugs are essential — particularly for treating infections such as sepsis, tuberculosis and *E. coli*, or when used as prophylactic therapy in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit — they can cause permanent hearing loss in 40% to 60% of patients. Currently, no treatment exists to prevent this side effect.

Her research explores piperlongumine, a natural compound from the long pepper plant with anti-inflammatory properties. By modifying its chemical structure, Zalocchi's team aims to block pathways that allow aminoglycosides to damage hearing cells.

Early tests in zebrafish and later in mice will identify safe, effective compounds for potential clinical trials — advancing treatment and quality of life.



Allison Coffin, PhD
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences
\$1.3 Million NIH Grant

When Coffin joined the Creighton faculty in 2025, a \$1.3 million NIH grant followed her to the Bellucci Center, where she now leads a lab examining the effects of medications on hearing loss.

Each year, dozens of new medications enter clinical trials to treat infectious diseases such as influenza and the inflammatory conditions that often accompany these infections. However, new drugs aren't routinely tested for their potential to cause hearing loss as an unwanted side effect. Coffin and her team are leveraging this large preclinical data set to study possible links between certain treatment plans and mild hearing loss.

In her lab, zebrafish in their larval stage are used to test drugs. The fish have external hearing cells that glow under a microscope, allowing Coffin's team to see when medications cause cell damage. If a drug kills 20% of cells, it advances to testing in mammals and, eventually, clinical review.

Coffin's growing team can test about 20 drugs a week. They have screened 300 and are now validating their results. Coffin says the work not only advances science but also ensures safer medications and greater patient confidence in treatment plans.



Kelsey Anbuhl, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences
\$726,177 NIH Grant

Anbuhl received a \$726,177 NIH grant to advance her preclinical research into hearing loss among adolescents, a population often overlooked in auditory studies.

The funding will support the next phase of her research into the brain mechanisms that underlie "listening effort" — the cognitive and neural exertion required to understand speech and sound, particularly in individuals with hearing loss.

In the first phase, she identified a previously unknown neural pathway linked to listening effort using Mongolian gerbils, whose hearing range closely mirrors humans. This pathway may help explain how the brain allocates resources to process sound when hearing is impaired, providing a biological framework for the everyday challenges people with hearing loss face.

Adolescents are at a key stage of development where cognitive fatigue from hearing loss can affect social relationships, academics and later success. The new phase of Anbuhl's work aims to connect these biological mechanisms with lived experiences, guiding improved interventions, technologies and support for young people with hearing deficits.

was advancing, but there was no way to measure competence in these scenarios. Partnering with Manz and College of Nursing colleagues Kim Hawkins, PhD, MS'07; Mary Tracy, PhD, BSN'76; and Maribeth Hercinger, PhD, BSN'76, they developed the CSEI to evaluate competencies like critical thinking, communication and technical skills.

The tool quickly gained traction nationwide, prompting further studies and training to ensure consistency. In 2012, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing selected it for a landmark study, validating its effectiveness and paving the way for the Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument (CCEI).

By 2019, nursing education had shifted toward competency-based learning. Concerns about practice-readiness led national nursing organizations to define 220 essential behaviors for entry-level nurses. Todd, Manz and their expanded research team — now including Lindsay Iverson, BSN'05, MSN'09, DNP'11; Sarah Ball, PhD; and Lucas Manning, DNP — responded with CCEI 2.0, updated to reflect these competencies and adaptable for advanced practice nurses.

Today, the CCEI is used in all 50 states, more than 30 countries and nine languages.

Creighton's new collaboration with Laerdal Medical, a leader in simulation technology, globally expands the reach of CCEI 2.0.

"At Laerdal, we believe empowering educators with valid and reliable assessment tools is vital for developing competent professionals," says Michael Sautter, Laerdal chief learning officer. "Together with Creighton, we can bring the CCEI to faculty worldwide."

The updated tool emphasizes clinical judgment, works across care settings and is now being tested with advanced practice nursing students. Faculty can use it to track performance, identify curriculum gaps and provide real-time feedback on critical skills.



"This is what the AACN (American Association of Colleges of Nursing) is calling for — the ability to track people in specific instances and for points of remediation," Todd says. "In our partnership with Laerdal, this is what we will be able to supply to schools."

For Todd and Manz, the goal remains unchanged: to prepare confident, capable nurses.

"Our mission has always been to ensure students are ready for practice," Manz says. "With Laerdal, we're scaling that mission worldwide — improving education and, ultimately, patient care."

Gustafson Awarded Grant to Further Economy of Communion in Business

Andrew Gustafson, PhD, professor of business ethics in the Heider College of Business and executive director of the Society for Business Ethics, describes the Economy of Communion (EoC) as "a healthier form of economic thinking," one that stands apart from both unfettered capitalism and anti-capitalist socialism.

Founded more than 20 years ago, EoC brings together students, scholars, professionals, clergy and the marginalized

© Martha Todd, PhD, MS'07, professor of nursing, along with other nursing faculty members, created the Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument, now used worldwide to assess nursing student competency in simulated clinical experiences.

to promote economic activity that fosters dignity — especially for the poor. For EoC practitioners, business is more than a bottom line; it provides livelihoods, builds community and affirms human worth.

With a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation, Gustafson will expand the reach of EoC through Creighton's Business, Faith and the Common Good Institute. The initiative aims to transform theory into practice and make EoC principles accessible to educators, entrepreneurs and students.

The grant will fund the development of a website and online resources; publication of three books advancing EoC values for both academic and general audiences; commissioned articles for lay readers and scholars; student internships and travel scholarships; curriculum development for new and existing courses; and dedicated staff, including an associate and assistant director.

Gustafson, an EoC practitioner since 2015 through his company, Communion Properties, sees the movement as a bridge between business and faith. "Business can be a spiritual activity," he says. "For me, that's essential — and what Economy of Communion can do for people."



ANDREW GUSTAFSON, PHD
Through a \$1.2 million grant, Gustafson will expand the reach of the Economy of Communion through Creighton's Business, Faith and the Common Good Institute.

Creighton joins Jesuit groups in serving the poor and marginalized

Making Inroads in Africa

BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88

CUT JAGGEDLY BY SEASONAL rains and hard fired in the oppressive African heat, the minefield of deep ruts and stiff bumps along the dirt road leading into the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwest Kenya tells a story of difficult journeys. There are no street signs. You are here and nowhere.

The 300,000 refugees — chased by the demons of war, famine and injustice — are unmoored from any traditional country boundaries but are trapped, largely, within the confines of the camp's 250,000 rugged, arid acres.

Some of the refugees were born here; others have been here for years. They have navigated painful paths — leaving families, escaping war-decimated homes and villages; traveling for miles and days on foot, or perilously crossing borders. In the camp, they live day to day — waiting in line for food and water rations, abiding by nightly curfews and facing the vagaries of police patrols.

Opened in 1992 to serve as a refuge for the “Lost Boys” of Sudan, the camp's population has continued to swell, with new arrivals coming from South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere in the region.

They are individuals and families without a permanent home. But they are not alone. The Jesuits and Creighton University are walking alongside them, providing opportunities for education, skills training and entrepreneurship.

Accompaniment begins with building relationships. Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), founded in 1980 and operating in more than 50 countries, oversees seven secondary schools (benefiting 14,000 learners) and various skill-development and other programs at Kakuma, as well as nine Catholic churches across Kakuma and Kalobeyi (another refugee camp in Kenya). Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), founded in 2010, provides online education for refugees in more than 30 countries, including at Kakuma.

JRS and JWL also operate at Dzaleka, a prison turned refugee camp opened in 1994 near Malawi's capital city of Lilongwe, housing 52,000 refugees.

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, who serves on the Global Advisory Board for JWL, has led delegations of Creighton alumni and benefactors to Africa to see this work firsthand, and this past spring guided a delegation of several Creighton students.

“Through our association with our Jesuit partners, we have been fostering these relationships in Africa,” Fr. Hendrickson says. “This year, we took a small group of students to see how we can expand and deepen those connections. Our students and those they met — in the refugee camps, in the Kibera slums,

at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School, co-founded by a Jesuit to educate AIDS orphans, at Jesuit-run Hekima College — shared their personal stories and asked questions. It fostered learning and understanding on many levels. It was so clearly a meaningful experience for all involved, perhaps even life-changing for some.”

“This journey has deeply enriched my Creighton education by showing me the living, breathing embodiment of Jesuit values, being women and men for and with others,” writes Mark Menezes, a junior premed major from Fort Collins, Colorado, in a post-trip reflection. “I saw this in the way the Jesuits live on the margins until the margins no longer exist, and in their belief that faith doesn't follow achievement, it precedes it.

“I was reminded that learning is not only

academic, but experiential and relational. It's not just about understanding systems of injustice, but about standing alongside those impacted by them and working together for something better.”

Creighton serves as the school of record for JWL's pre-STEM certificate program, which combines liberal studies courses with an emphasis on math and science and a pathway to complete an online bachelor's degree in general studies from Saint Louis University, another Jesuit university. Creighton also offers a Global English Language (GEL) Teacher Training Certificate course and manages an Innovation Grants program funded by Creighton donors supporting startup businesses at Kakuma and Dzaleka.

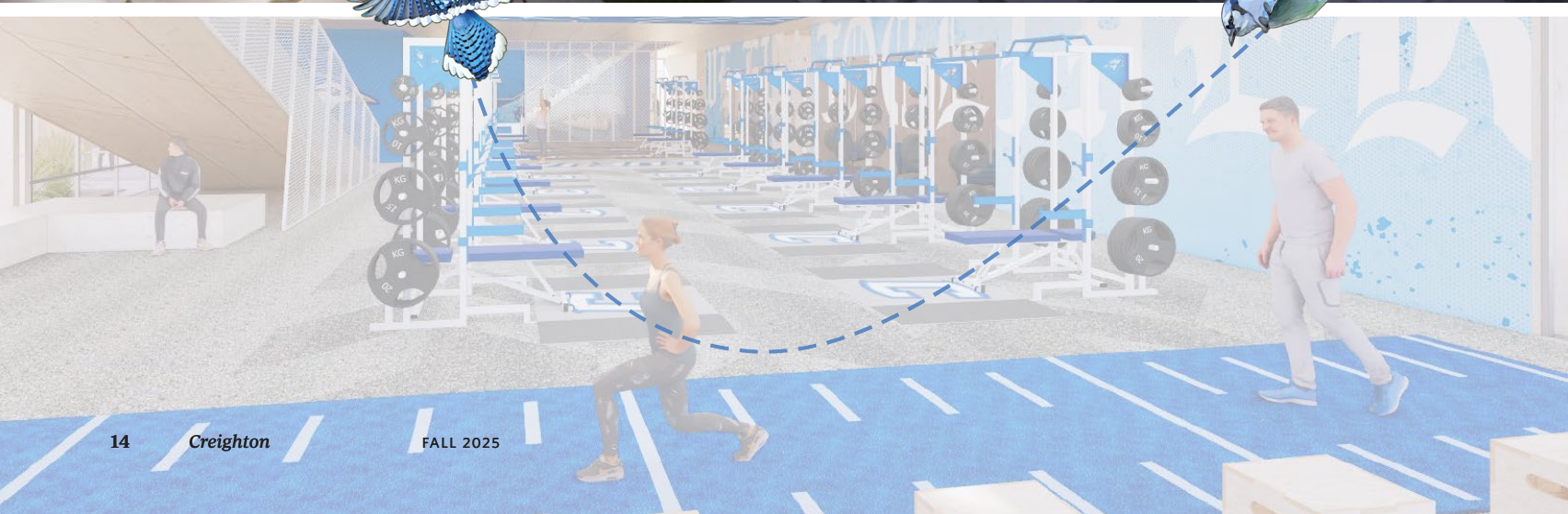
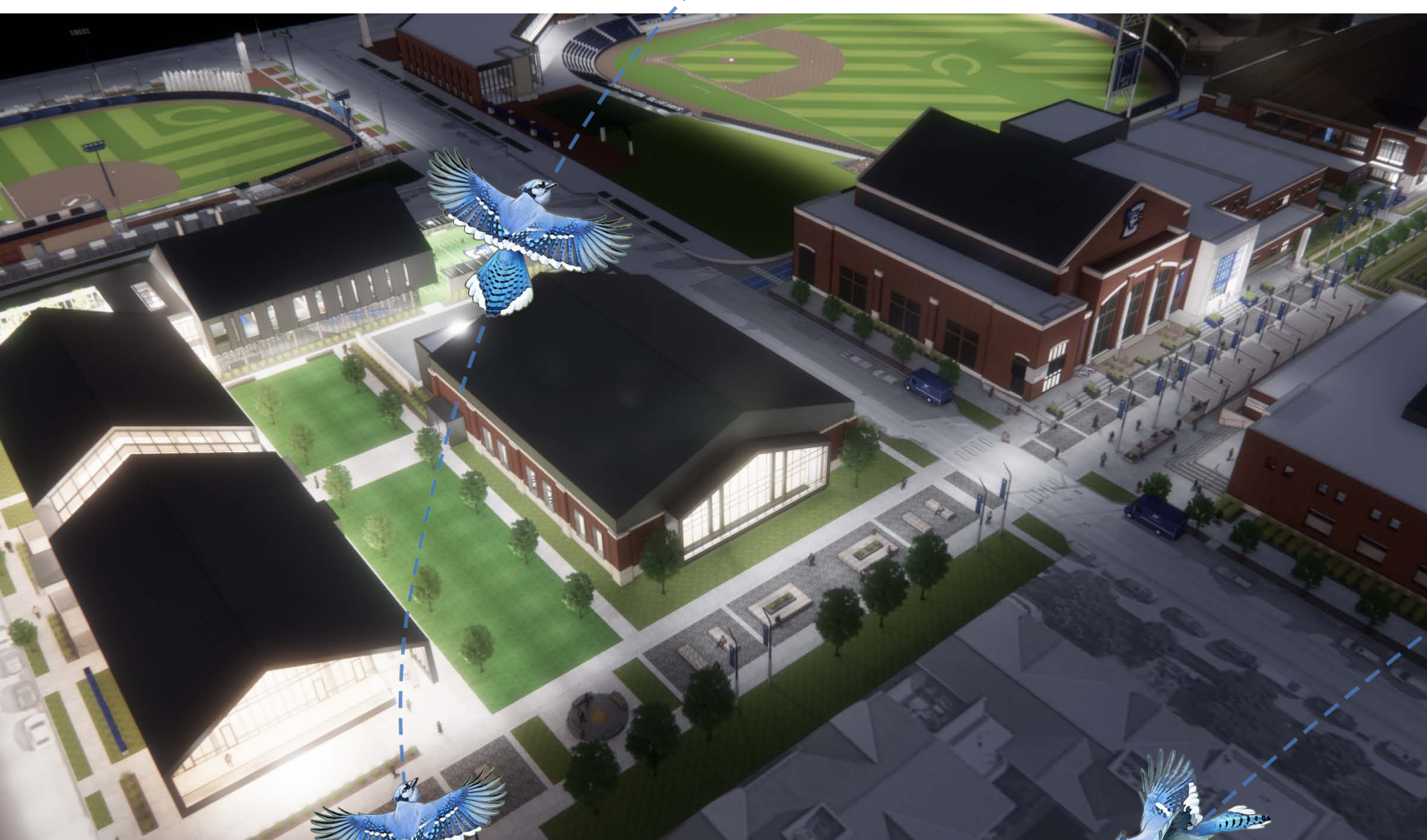
Odi Abraham, a 29-year-old living at Kakuma, who fled Sudan 13 years ago when civil war

“This journey has deeply enriched my Creighton education by showing me the living, breathing embodiment of Jesuit values, being women and men for and with others.”

MARK MENEZES



Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, second from left, joins Creighton student Mark Menezes, second from right, and Dominic Amanyia Suleiman and his colleagues in planting a tree at Kakuma Social Agri-Ventures (KSAV) at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. Suleiman is the founder and CEO of KSAV, a community-based social enterprise building sustainable livelihoods through agriculture. He received an Innovation Grant funded by Creighton donors.



FLY TOGETHER

Creighton and Omaha poised to reach new heights as historic campus transformation takes flight

BY MICAH MERTES

This fall, Creighton University announced the largest gift in its history — a \$100 million commitment from the Heider Family Foundation. The gift leads Fly Together, the University’s approximately \$300 million initiative to reimagine fitness, recreation, athletics and community access for the next generation of students. Fly Together will encompass 11 new or renovated facilities and outdoor spaces comprising roughly 700,000 square feet on the east side of campus. Fly Together will be entirely donor funded.

Changes will include a new Sports Performance Center for Creighton’s 300 student-athletes, a new fitness center available to all students and the Jaywalk, a beautified pathway to campus that connects to the Builder’s District, the rising 10-block, \$650 million urban village east of 17th Street.

“Fly Together enhances student life, intramurals, premier club sports and intercollegiate athletics,” says the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president. “It also strengthens Creighton’s connection to downtown and the broader Omaha community.”

With Fly Together, Fr. Hendrickson says Creighton continues the momentum of the past decade.

“There has been great traction in the evolution of the University. We are staying true to who we are as Catholic and Jesuit, and as an institution dedicated to academic excellence,” Fr. Hendrickson says.

Lead donors Cindy and Scott Heider, trustees of the Heider Family Foundation, say the breadth and depth of Fly Together make it a unique effort in higher education.

“Fly Together will serve students and student-athletes alike, but importantly, it will serve the Omaha community itself,” says Scott Heider, who is also a member of the University’s Board of Trustees.

He says Fly Together will connect the newly imagined east side of campus with the Builder’s District, creating a high-density blend of both spaces and giving the University and the city something that neither has had before: a front porch connecting to Creighton.

“This city has been very good for Creighton, and Creighton has been very good for the city,” Heider says. “Fly Together will deepen that bond and create countless new opportunities for the community to engage with campus and the Builder’s District.”

See everything Fly Together will bring to Creighton in the following pages.

A new Jaywalk pedestrian pathway (top), a new athletic village (middle) and a new Sports Performance Center (bottom) are planned as part of Fly Together.

Fly Together Projects

\$300 million

An approximately \$300 million donor-funded investment.

>700,000

More than 700,000 square feet of campus.

11

11 new or renovated facilities and outdoor spaces, serving all students and all student-athletes while strengthening Creighton's connection to Omaha.

Timeline

One project (the softball competition field) was completed this fall. Construction for two other projects is underway — the baseball practice field is expected to be completed by summer 2026, and the Sports Performance Center in 2027. Another — the baseball and softball team facility — will begin construction in 2026 and is expected to be completed in 2027.

The order of the remaining Fly Together projects will be determined by donor interest and campus need.

A NEW FRONT PORCH

Fly Together will create a dynamic east-campus corridor for all students that seamlessly connects with the nearby Builder's District — a 10-block, \$650 million urban village that will include a park and community space, offices, retail, restaurants, entertainment, a world-class hotel and 600 apartments, prime living spaces for Creighton's approximately 8,900 students.

The Jaywalk

Approximately 128,000 square feet renovated

Flowing through every new and improved facility is Fly Together's main artery: the Jaywalk. This beautified entryway connects Creighton to the Builder's District, inviting fans to catch a game at the reimagined D.J. Sokol Arena and welcoming the entire Omaha community to enjoy and experience campus.

"Fly Together gives us the opportunity to take significant strides while also embracing the strengths, values and mission of Creighton University."

THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD
Creighton President



FITNESS AND RECREATION HUB

New Student Fitness Center

Approximately 86,000 square feet

Creighton's new recreational hub for all students, the fitness center — connected to the Rasmussen Center via a skybridge — will feature multipurpose courts, a student lounge and cafe, and spaces for strength conditioning, golf, yoga and more. The building's west-facing side will include an exterior balcony that curves around the baseball practice field. The current fitness center sees approximately 200,000 visits each year.

Rasmussen Center Renovations

Approximately 50,000 square feet

The new hub for intramurals and club sports, renovations to the Rasmussen Center will include three new multipurpose interior courts, a new indoor track and new exterior pickleball courts. Beneath the skybridge connecting the two facilities, a new bike trail will run through campus.

Did You Know?

Creighton students use the current fitness facility more than 200,000 times per year.

More than 4,500 intramural participants compete each year on more than 800 teams.

More than 450 students (44% of whom are freshmen) compete in club sports in 22 different programs.

Top right: The Jaywalk facing west starting at 17th Street between Morrison Stadium and the Rasmussen Center.

Bottom right: Located just west of 17th Street from the Builder's District, a rendering of the new student fitness center, connected by a skybridge to the Rasmussen Center.



Fly Together Objectives

1

Attract more students, driving admissions and Nebraska brain gain. Approximately 80% of Creighton's undergraduates come from out of state. Half of all undergraduates stay in Nebraska after graduating.

2

Elevate Creighton facilities and experiences for student-athletes, coaches and fans in an evolving era of intercollegiate athletics.

3

Create a new environment for students participating in wellness and recreation, intramural and club sports.

4

Connect Creighton to the Builder's District with a new front porch on the east side of campus.

5

Further invest in Omaha. Fly Together and other developments, including public-private partnerships with the University, comprise the approximately \$1 billion that Creighton will have invested in Omaha's urban core from 2015 to 2030.



Scan for more details and information about Fly Together or visit FlyTogetherCreighton.com.

ATHLETIC VILLAGE

Collectively, the reimagined Ruth and the new Sports Performance Center (and the courtyard between them) will be known as Creighton's Athletic Village, a campus within a campus.

New Sports Performance Center

Approximately 50,000 square feet

The state-of-the-art facility will serve all Creighton student-athletes, with approximately 10,000 square feet of strength and conditioning space, as well as areas for nutrition, sports medicine, academic advising and sports psychology services. Construction began this summer.

The Ruth Scott Training Center Renovations

Approximately 4,800 square feet

Upgrades to the practice facility for women's athletics will include a new glass, interior-view facade facing the Jaywalk, along with other exterior revisions and relocated entries.



“Investing in this project will make us better. Investing in this project will help enhance the student experience. Investing in this project will, I believe, help us win and help us compete with some of the best programs in the country.”

MARCUS BLOSSOM
McCormick Endowed Athletic Director

ATHLETIC FACILITY RENOVATIONS

D.J. Sokol Arena Ryan Athletic Center

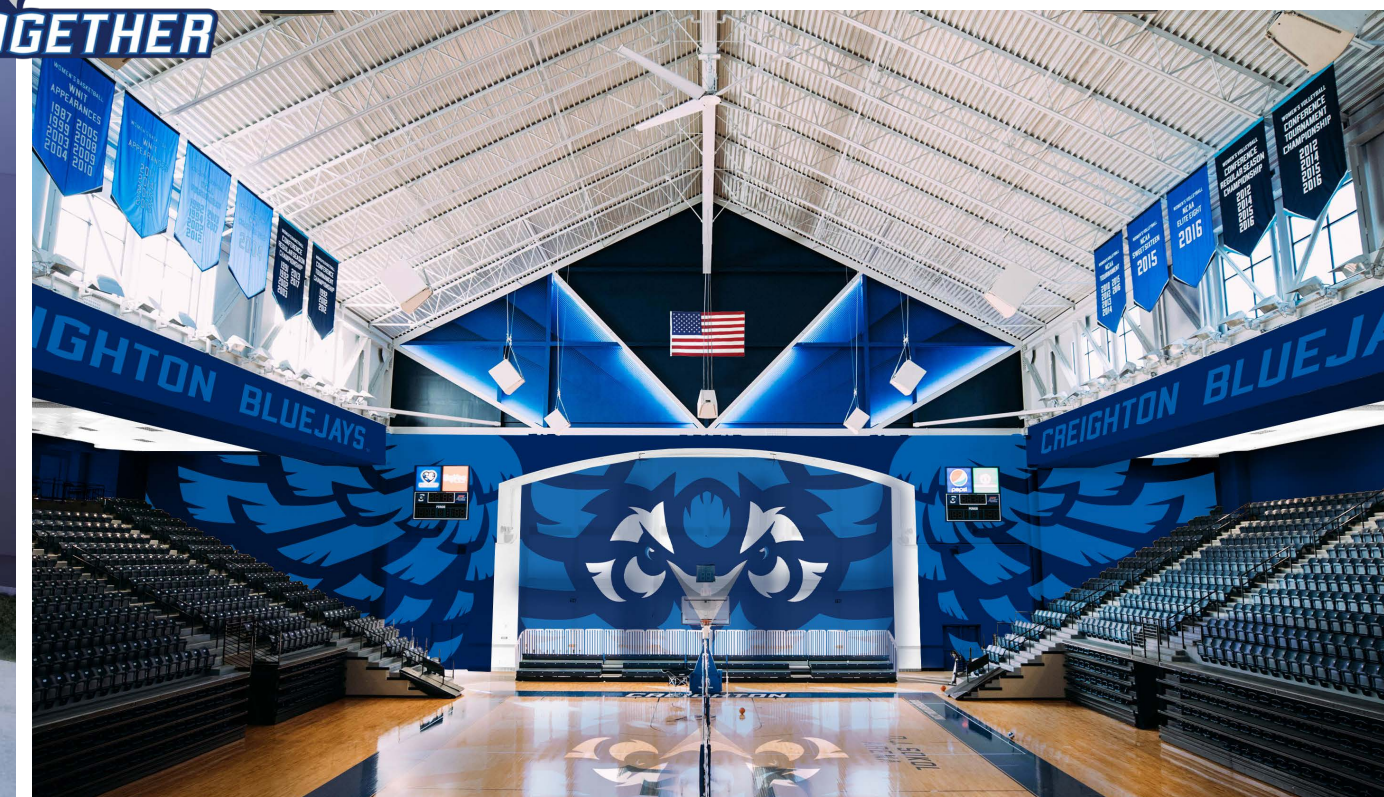
Approximately 50,000 square feet renovated

Enhancing the home court of Creighton volleyball and women's basketball, upgrades will include a renovated concourse, gymnasium, locker rooms, players' lounge, media room, athletic training spaces and offices.

McDermott Center

Approximately 30,000 square feet renovated

The men's basketball practice facility will receive upgrades to the weight room, lounge, locker rooms, hydro-training space and courts.



Top: The new Sports Performance Center for all Creighton student-athletes.

Bottom: The Ruth Scott Training Center, left, located along the Jaywalk, will undergo enhancements, and the D.J. Sokol Arena, right, will likewise be upgraded.



The new softball field is depicted at right, near 20th and Cuming Streets, with the new baseball practice field and team facility located just to the east.

“Like Forward Blue, Fly Together is a significant leap forward for Creighton University and its continued partnership with the city and state we call home.”

FR. HENDRICKSON

NEW SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL COMPLEXES

The demolition of the Creighton Sports Complex has made way for a new 5.7-acre Creighton Quad, west of the Harper Center. (Read more about the Creighton Quad on Page 22.)

New Softball Competition Field

Approximately 79,000 square feet

The new home of Creighton softball — which opened this fall — provides a first-class experience for Creighton softball student-athletes, enhances the gameday atmosphere for the Bluejay program and its fans, and offers expanded recreational opportunities for students and the community. The softball field additionally updates its former basic scoreboard to a state-of-the-art video board, along with expanded seating and enhanced dugouts.

New Baseball Practice Field

Approximately 193,000 square feet

The practice site for Creighton baseball, to be completed in 2026, will also be the principal location for teams preparing to compete in the College World Series. The all-turf field’s design mimics that of Charles Schwab Field Omaha, a few blocks east, to better orient visiting teams preparing to compete in the Greatest Show on Dirt. Both fields will also be available for intramurals, club sports and community events. The two ballfields are being funded by a combination of public and private support.

New Team Facility

Approximately 38,000 square feet

The two-story facility serving Creighton’s baseball and softball teams will include batting cages, training rooms, team lounges, staff offices and more. It will also be available to visiting CWS teams, Creighton intramurals and various community partners.



Heider Family and Lead Donor Generosity Transforming Creighton

This fall at a news conference, Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, was joined by McCormick Endowed Athletic Director Marcus Blossom; Trent Demulling, senior vice president and chief financial officer at Kiewit Corporation; and Scott and Cindy Heider, trustees of the Heider Family Foundation, which provided a \$100 million lead gift, the largest in Creighton’s history.

Event guests included Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr.; Creighton Board of Trustees Chair Diane Duren, BSBA’81; various community and University leaders; Creighton Athletics coaches and staff; and multiple early lead donors of the Fly Together initiative. Additional lead donors of Fly Together include Don Scott, CL and Rachel Werner, and Larry, MBA’81, and Linda Pearson.

The Heider Family Foundation’s \$100 million gift marks a transformational decade at Creighton made possible by the family’s support.

The Heider name is tied to Creighton in perpetuity. In 2013, Charles Heider, BSC’49, HON’10, and his wife, Mary Heider, HON’10, invested in the success of the newly named Heider College of Business, Creighton’s first named school or college.

The Heider family has also supported academics in every school and college, faculty chair endowments, programming for dozens of areas, capital projects, student experience, mission and Bluejay Athletics.

“The Heider family’s generosity to Creighton has benefited our University in countless ways and — in the mold of our founders, the Creighton family — strengthened our Jesuit, Catholic foundation,” Fr. Hendrickson says.

“Becoming a part of the Creighton community has been so rewarding for our family, as it was for Scott’s mother and father before us. I believe that’s one of the biggest reasons we are supporting Fly Together: Creighton is an amazing community, and we want to invite more people to be a part of it.”

CINDY HEIDER
Heider Family Foundation President

FORWARD BLUE

Fly Together’s launch supports Forward Blue, the largest fundraising campaign in the University’s history.

Announced publicly in 2021, Forward Blue has raised hundreds of millions of dollars from tens of thousands of donors, supporting scholarships, mission, academics, programs and capital projects at Creighton.

The University’s priorities include supporting the humanities and global outreach through initiatives such as the Kingfisher Institute, the Institute for Population Health and the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships program.

During Forward Blue, Creighton has raised nearly \$250 million in scholarship support, creating nearly 500 new scholarships for students.

In the past decade, the University has seen a 47% increase in extramural research funds (to \$31 million) and a 38% increase in endowed faculty chairs, totaling \$33.6 million.

Philanthropic support generated through the Forward Blue campaign has constructed or renovated 13 campus buildings, including the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus - Phoenix, the CL and Rachel Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, Graves Hall and Simpson Family Courtyard, the School of Dentistry building and clinic, the Ruth Scott Training Center, the Mike and Josie Harper Center, the Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence, the 24th Street corridor, and St. John’s fountain and plaza, among others.

These and other developments comprise the approximately \$1 billion, including public and private partnerships, that Creighton will have invested in Omaha’s urban core from 2015 to 2030.



The Creighton Quad

Work continues on the Creighton Quad, the 251,500 square feet of vibrant, active green space coming to campus in fall 2026 near 22nd and Burt streets.

The beautified 5.7 acres of natural grass will include an amphitheater, pavilion, stage, a fountain plaza and an ellipse with an art installation. Designed by OJB Landscape Architecture and constructed by Kiewit Corporation, it will mark the largest physical reshaping of Creighton's Omaha campus in its 147-year history.

At an estimated cost of \$22 million to \$25 million, the Creighton Quad will be entirely donor funded, with a lead gift from the Robert B. Daugherty Foundation.

"The Creighton Quad will be Creighton's own Central Park, a reimagining of campus green space that will live at the intersection of academic and residential life," says the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president. "This transformation will forever change how our students, faculty, staff, alumni and guests experience campus."



Large photo: Facing northwest, the Creighton Quad will be located in the heart of campus, where previously the softball field and baseball practice field were located. Bordering the Creighton Quad is, from bottom left: (1) School of Law, (2) McGloin Hall, (3) Graves Hall, (4) School of Dentistry, (5) new sophomore residence hall, (6) Davis Square and (7) Harper Center.

Right: Facing southeast, a rendering of the Creighton Quad as it is expected to look at its completion in fall 2026.



A New Era in Phoenix

BY Glenn Antonucci

What began 20 years ago as one-month rotations in Phoenix for Creighton medical students has blossomed into a health sciences campus, a centralized medical quarter and a robust four-year medical program, which celebrated its first graduates in May.

In recognition of this milestone, we profile the experiences of four of these graduates. While each is unique, all of them excelled in the classroom, stood out for their service to the community – and resolved to remain in Arizona for their residencies, helping to offset a critical shortage of healthcare providers in the state.



Erik Steinberger, BS'13, MD'25

ORIGINALLY FROM WICHITA, KANSAS, Steinberger landed at Creighton's Omaha campus for his undergraduate studies because of its moderate size and relative proximity to home.

He found an environment that was consistently supportive of students, with values and an open-mindedness that appealed to him.

After a sidestep into social work and business studies, he decided it was time to pursue medical school. With Creighton's new campus in Phoenix – where he'd lived previously and enjoyed what the area had to offer – the Southwest city felt like the right next move, particularly given the opportunity of being part of the first four-year class.

"There's something special about the faculty who work at Creighton – supportive, genuine people who are nonjudgmental," Steinberger says. "They give you the tools you need."

That support proved crucial amid the significant academic challenges of medical school, including the three-part United States Medical Licensing Examination, more commonly known as step exams.

"Standardized testing has always been a challenge for me. It triggers anxiety, trying to stay focused and test well," he says. "Especially those step exams. There's so much weighing on them. They can define the rest of your life."

Between those nerve-rattling tests, it was serving the community that stood out for Steinberger. He already had a long history of service, participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2011. (To this day, he maintains contact and mentorship with the teenager – now in his 20s – he was first paired with.)

At the free Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, he regularly treated patients in the underserved community.

"It's where we learned our early clinical practice," he says. "We'd see real patients, see how medical practice integrates with dentistry, social work and other disciplines. It was such a cool way to get to know my community."

Today, Steinberger is focusing on psychiatry through a four-year residency program through Creighton's partnership with Valleywise Health. He's "getting a taste of everything," figuring out what exactly he wants to do. He's leaning toward child and adolescent psychiatry.

One thing he knows for sure: He's sticking around Phoenix. In addition to professional opportunities there, his partner is a Veterans Affairs therapist treating vets with PTSD in the Phoenix area.

© Erik Steinberger, BS'13, MD'25, outside the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Sciences Building in Phoenix. Steinberger is a psychiatry resident at Valleywise Health.



LAURA SEGALL

© Shana Ofori, MD'25, is a family medicine resident at Creighton University School of Medicine - Phoenix.

PARTNERS IN PHOENIX

Creighton's growing footprint in Phoenix over more than a decade would not have been possible without its clinical and community partners. These essential partnerships have allowed the health sciences campus to focus on the humanity of healthcare while serving vulnerable populations in Arizona through rotations, residencies, fellowships and volunteer opportunities. Key partners include:

- **Valleywise Health**, the community safety net healthcare system and Arizona's only public teaching hospital, with a mission and commitment to serving the underserved.
- **DMG (District Medical Group) Inc.**, a nonprofit entity consisting of more than 650 credentialed providers representing all major medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties.
- **St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center**, part of Dignity Health, which merged with Catholic Health Initiatives to form the largest Catholic healthcare system in the nation.
- The **Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul**, where a team of healthcare professionals, Creighton faculty, staff and students serve thousands of patients through nearly 10,000 visits each year. With 33 specialties available for free or at a significantly reduced cost, the clinic is providing an essential service to Maricopa County.

Through these partnerships, Creighton students, residents and fellows are training to become Arizona's next generation of excellent and empathetic healthcare professionals while also serving underserved communities.

Shana Ofori, MD'25

COMPLETING HER UNDERGRADUATE years at Arizona State University's highly regarded Barrett Honors College, Ofori already had a leg up when it came time to considering medical schools. She felt Creighton's pull early in that process.

"I really felt that Creighton was going to be a very supportive environment," she says. "During my interview, I could tell it had strong values that I aligned with — service, humanities, *cura personalis*."

Plus, Creighton's 195,000-square-foot campus in midtown Phoenix was close to her roots.

"That was important to me," Ofori says. "This is my home."

Her Creighton experience proved to be a rich one.

First-year highlights included rotations at Phoenix Children's Child Protection Team, as well as that hospital's developmental pediatrics department, part of the Barrow Neurological Institute — "opportunities you typically wouldn't get at another school."

She cultivated a deep-set interest in

diversity issues in medicine, through campus speakers and a network of department chairs from St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center and providers from across the state.

"It was so great to meet and have that solidarity with these physicians, well-known people in the field, and make those connections," Ofori says. "Creighton facilitated all of it."

Medical school, of course, does not come without challenges. Getting accustomed to the academic rigor of Creighton's program topped the list. But that rigor and pressure, she says, were offset by the University's Academic Success team and fellow classmates.

At Creighton, academics go together with community service. Ofori's favorite service experience was a summer camp, hosted by Phoenix's SEEDs for Autism. She worked with young, neurodivergent adults on both motor skills and social skills. "You become like best friends at the end of it," she says.

"It makes you feel like there are ways you can make a difference, in a world that feels so out of control at times," Ofori says of her service experiences. "You see how you can touch the lives of people individually. That makes a difference."

"You think about the people who helped you," she adds. "Now you're passing that forward."

These days, Ofori remains at Creighton and in Phoenix. She has begun a three-year family medicine residency, caring for uninsured and underinsured patients at the program's clinic home — shared with Valleywise Health — in the city's south-central district.

Lucas Fornefeld, MD'25

BORN AND RAISED IN PHOENIX, Fornefeld taught high school biology in an underserved community after graduating from Arizona State University, first with a bachelor's in biological sciences, then a master's in education.

The teaching gig started as a two-year commitment through Teach For America, but he "loved everything about it" and extended two additional years.

In his mid-20s, he decided to pursue medical school. Five years into a relationship with his now-fiancé, who was staying in Phoenix to finish a doctoral program at



PHOENIX CAMPUS BY THE NUMBERS

6 PROGRAMS: Medicine, physician assistant, accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy

900+ students enrolled

4 PROGRAMS GRADUATED IN MAY 2025: Medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy and pharmacy

172 graduates in May 2025

FIRST: Phoenix graduated its first four-year MD class, first PT class and first pharmacy class in 2025, while graduating its second OT class

4 CLINICAL PARTNERSHIPS: Valleywise Health, Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Dignity Health East Valley and District Medical Group (DMG)

1 ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP: Arizona State University, 3+3 dual-degree pharmacy, PT and OT programs

8 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul, First Place, Advance Community, ARCH, Phoenix Dream Center, Huger Mercy Living Center, International Rescue Committee and Patina Men's Center

HISTORICAL MILESTONES: September 2021 grand opening of the Phoenix campus; October 2024 grand opening of the Norton Foundation Success Center on the sixth floor

"What started as a grand vision — to bring the spirit and credentials of Creighton to the desert Southwest, an area with a vital need for healthcare professionals — now has begun to bear real fruit. I am immensely proud of the students, faculty and staff at our Phoenix campus. They have made this vision become reality."

THE REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD
Creighton President



NADER ABUSHHAB

Arizona State University, location played an outsized factor.

“But Creighton was also a place I really wanted to go,” he says. “When you know, you know. When I interviewed, it felt so natural, the people were so engaging and so different from other places.

“I also knew that being a part of that first class would set a tone, set traditions, set structure. We’d be the guinea pigs. But ‘safe’ guinea pigs, because I knew Creighton would do everything right.”

Once in the program, he says it was the people who made the experience special for him — classmates became friends for life and faculty became compassionate mentors.

That especially included times when he faced significant misfortune in his personal life, including the death of a friend. It happened while on a surgical rotation during his third year.

“It was extremely difficult to navigate that,” he says. “Creighton worked with me. There were days I just couldn’t make it to my rotation. I never got any flak about it. They worked with my schedule. They would proactively give me a day off.”

Fornefeld, like other classmates, was drawn to service. He did a rotation in the health unit within a juvenile detention center. He also spent time with fellow students on the streets near downtown Phoenix where homelessness was rife.

“We’d go out, take our wagons filled with healthcare and hygiene products, ask them if they needed anything or had any medical issues going on,” he recalls. “It gave them a sense that someone cared about them. It was a great way to spend a few hours on a weekday morning.”

As a Phoenix native, he takes service to his community extra seriously.

“I’ve lived in Phoenix my whole life. It’s given me so much, I feel like I need to give back to it,” he says.

Nowadays, Fornefeld is interning in pediatrics at Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

“I knew I wanted to be a doctor since I was very young,” he says. “I used to drive by that hospital and say, ‘I want to work there someday.’ I do now. I love it. It truly is a dream come true.”

© Lucas Fornefeld, MD’25, is an intern in pediatrics at Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

“My mom says, ‘Creighton was the best thing that happened to you, and you didn’t even see it coming.’ God works in mysterious ways.”

NADIA KHAN, MD’25



NADER ABUSHHAB

Nadia Khan, MD’25

WHEN KHAN WAS COMPLETING her undergraduate years at the University of Arizona — and before collecting dual degrees in biology and political science — it was her sister who first tipped her off that Creighton University School of Medicine was coming to Phoenix.

Considering not only location but Creighton’s reputation, it quickly became an obvious choice for the Phoenix-area native, especially after meeting with “the nicest” interviewers from the admissions team.

Another deciding factor was Creighton’s connection with St. Vincent de Paul. She’d volunteered there since age 13; it’s where her passion for service to others began.

“It was important for me to be (in Phoenix) and also be able to have that community service impact,” she says.

Diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at 12, she had an interaction with a medical student back then that left a lasting impression: The student

pricked her finger to check her blood sugar and did so with extra kindness. In one of Khan’s most memorable experiences as a student herself, she had a chance to return the favor for a clinic patient.

“I said, ‘It’s going to be OK. We’ll figure this out together.’ It felt so good to pass that on.”

Khan also organized an event in which both classmates and physicians could share their grief experiences as healthcare providers. The point, she says, was to “make grief a communal experience.”

She picked up a tip along the way: “Learn something nonmedical related about every one of your patients. It’s some of the best advice I ever got from a physician while in school.”

Khan also had the opportunity, as hoped, to expand her service commitment at St. Vincent de Paul. Early in her Creighton days, she created an activities program in which she and fellow students organized activities for the children served there — building all kinds of inventive

© Nadia Khan, MD’25, is an internal medicine resident at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix.

crafts, from pumpkin volcanos to marshmallow catapults.

“Service is important. These people you serve become family,” she says.

Post-graduation, she’s embarked on an internal medicine residency at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix. She looks back at her Creighton experience a bit wistfully and still stays in touch with the physicians and fellow students.

“The people at Creighton are so kind. I miss my years there,” she says. “Those people became like family to me. *Cura personalis* — it’s more than talk. It’s backed up every day.

“My mom says, ‘Creighton was the best thing that happened to you, and you didn’t even see it coming.’ God works in mysterious ways.”

‘Business as Usual’

Alan Huss and Greg McDermott begin a new coaching arrangement with sights firmly set on the program’s continued success. **BY JON NYATAWA**

Creighton associate men’s basketball coach Alan Huss, BSBA’02, knows what you’re thinking. And yes, he can admit that he’s allowed himself to momentarily ponder the incredible thrill of what lies ahead for him, as improbable as it still feels.

He will be the next head coach of Creighton’s men’s basketball program.

That is happening. Someday. Perhaps sooner than later.

There’s no official countdown clock on display to indicate the status of Greg McDermott’s eventual retirement. The Bluejays’ all-time winningest men’s basketball coach (and the architect of the program’s recent rise to national prominence) will decide when it’s time, when he’s ready to hand the reigns over to his protégé. Maybe next season. Maybe two or three years.

Until then, McDermott’s fully in charge. Just like the last time Huss was on staff (from 2017-2023). And Huss, who gave up a successful head-coaching gig to return to an associate head coach role at his alma mater, said he’s perfectly comfortable with this dynamic.

“Mostly, it’s been business as usual, and it’s been a lot of fun,” Huss says.

The culture and atmosphere that McDermott’s established for coaches working within his program is a major reason why. There’s no need for Huss to daydream about what he might do in the future — he can scheme up new tactics and strategies to implement now. McDermott has always encouraged his assistant coaches to think like head coaches, even if they can’t have the final say every day.

Huss runs practices. He takes the lead on

recruiting evaluations. He dives into the film and the numbers to help players get better. He brainstorms new ideas to utilize in game plans.

“It really is a collaborative setting with a sound methodology, where we as a staff go through our meetings or our game-planning process and we work through it all together,” Huss says. “Coach Mac is never going to say ‘no’ just for the sake of telling you ‘no.’ It’s your job to present your approach and your plan, rooted in facts and data.

“By the end of it, everybody walks out of that room all in lockstep — if we’ve changed course or if we haven’t, we understand why. And Coach Mac, he’s a maestro in that space.”

Huss says he’s just grateful he gets to soak up a few more lessons from a legend.

After all, when Huss took the head coaching job at High Point University in 2023, he says he essentially tried to recreate the best traits of the Creighton program at his new institution. It was more challenging than he realized, Huss says.

But his efforts produced unprecedented results. Huss led the Panthers to back-to-back regular season Big South Conference championships, twice won the league’s coach of the year award and helped High Point earn its first NCAA Tournament berth in 2025.

Several Division I programs looking for new head coaches reached out to Huss during his

tenure. He quickly became a rising star in the profession.

It’s why McDermott wanted Huss back at Creighton, for the long haul.

In April, Huss was named an associate head coach and the coach in waiting. It was announced then that when McDermott retires, Huss will take over. The succession plan isn’t a new concept in college sports — but it is rare. Often, its effectiveness is determined by the cohesiveness and the vision of the coaches involved.

Huss and McDermott have been aligned for a long time. There’s mutual respect. They have symmetrical mentalities. They both love the game, and the chance to help young men grow on and off the court.

What McDermott says he most appreciates about Huss, though, is his ability to think outside the box.

During his first stint as an assistant, Huss helped the Bluejays win a share of their first BIG EAST Conference regular season title in 2020 and reach the NCAA Tournament’s Elite Eight in 2023.

Huss was integral in ensuring Creighton was ready for a new college sports landscape in 2021, when student-athletes began benefiting financially from their name, image and likeness. The Bluejay players actually ended up partnering with a marketing agency that year and hosted their own fan fest event at CHI Health Center Omaha.

Huss built the key relationships to ensure Creighton won major recruiting battles. He led the charge as the program moved to incorporate

© Greg McDermott, left, and Alan Huss, BSBA’02, in the McDermott Center.



REBECCA GRATZ

“A good coach is always bringing ideas to the table and Al’s one of the best at that.”

GREG MCDERMOTT

analytics and advanced statistics as a guiding tool within its player development models and game-planning strategies.

On the court, Huss has always had a knack for offensive ingenuity. He and McDermott masterfully created a perimeter-based attack to highlight the strengths of the 2019-2020 championship Bluejay team, overcoming its severe lack of height and size. McDermott was named the BIG EAST Coach of the Year that season.

A couple of years later, McDermott shared a classic mid-timeout conversation he had with Huss that showcased the all-too-common nature of their everyday exchanges.

Huss, in the heat of the moment, prefaced his suggestion with a tongue-in-cheek caveat — “you’re going to think I’m crazy.” Then he proposed that Creighton put the ball in the hands of a freshman reserve to clinch a double-overtime win at Marquette. McDermott went with Huss’ plan and the rookie delivered, guiding in a layup with 17 seconds left.

“A good coach is always bringing ideas to the table and Al’s one of the best at that,” McDermott says. “He spends a lot of time studying the game, studying people that he respects and studying systems that are successful — and then he’s always thinking about how we can take what they do and make it fit with how we play, without reinventing the wheel.”

It’s no wonder the transition back to Creighton has worked out so well for Huss in preparing for this season.

There’s a lot of places to focus your attention as a coach dedicated to helping this program succeed. The Bluejays are replacing one of the best players in program history, Ryan Kalkbrenner, BSBA’23, MS’25, and they’re doing it with a reshaped roster full of newcomers.

If you let him, Huss could go on and on about his priority list ...

Do we have the personnel to blitz pick-and-roll screens and double team ball handlers on the perimeter? Can we be a team that plays

Rosen and Kingston Take the Helm at Creighton

Replacing coaching legends is no small task. But for Creighton’s new volleyball and baseball coaches, the challenge isn’t reinventing the game — it’s honoring what works and writing the next chapter in a story already rich with success.

IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR EITHER of Creighton’s two newest head coaches to recognize how well the campus culture and athletic department vision aligned with their own approach to building successful programs.

A phone call three years ago did the trick for volleyball coach Brian Rosen. A text message exchange last year got the ball rolling for baseball coach Mark Kingston.

Rosen and Kingston are both in charge now, tasked with replacing two Creighton coaching legends and building off the winning blueprint previously established in their respective programs. Rosen made his debut with the nationally ranked Bluejay volleyball team in August. Kingston will open his first season as head baseball coach in February.

But neither has felt a need to change too much. They had already endorsed each of their program’s paths to prominence.

“I knew this was my kind of place,” Kingston said during his introductory press conference this past summer. “I’ve just been thrilled with how it’s felt ever since. It’s been the right fit, a breath of fresh air.”

Says Rosen: “There’s just no place on earth that I would rather be than right here, with this team and this program.”

But now the challenge begins.

Rosen replaces Kirsten Bernthal Booth, who, in 22 seasons, built Creighton’s volleyball program from the ground up, regularly went toe-to-toe with bigger-budget powerhouses and capped off her tenure with a historic 2024 campaign that ended in the NCAA Tournament’s Elite Eight.

Kingston, who most recently had a successful tenure at the University of South Carolina, will be trying to solve the puzzle that every Midwestern school faces: how to maintain consistency in a sport with built-in climate disadvantages. Plus, he’s replacing Ed Servais, the program’s all-time winningest coach who retired after taking Creighton back to an NCAA Regional last year for the first time since 2019.

But he’s been sold on Creighton’s potential since his first few texts with McCormick Endowed Athletic Director Marcus Blossom. Then he joined the staff as an associate coach and head coach in waiting.

The elite education. The chance to help young men grow, on the field and off. The fan base. The program’s partnership with the College World Series and connection with a baseball community that’s transformed



JOEL DEWMAN



CREIGHTON ATHLETICS

Top: Brian Rosen during the Creighton vs. Louisville volleyball match at DJ. Sokol Arena in September.

Bottom: After leading Creighton baseball back to the NCAA Tournament as the associate coach/coach in waiting during the 2025 season, Mark Kingston is now the 11th head coach for the Bluejay program.

Omaha into the sport’s mecca. There’s a legacy of leadership here, too. “(Servais) wanted to win and he wanted to do it with class and dignity,” Kingston says. “That’s what you’ll continue to see with our program.”

Rosen’s carrying his predecessors’ team-building hallmarks into his first Bluejay season as well.

He’s a Florida native who spent his previous volleyball coaching stops at institutions in the South — no one in his family even owned a winter coat until they’d booked their flight for their first trip to Omaha. Yet an hour-long phone call with Booth was all that Rosen needed to realize Creighton was perfect for him.

Rosen joined the Bluejays as an assistant in 2022. He watched as the team embodied Booth’s persona — the joy, the honesty, the humility, the work ethic, the passion. He just wants to carry that forward.

“I promised the student-athletes that Coach Booth’s core values are what will continue to define this program,” Rosen says. “Culture is who we are at Creighton. That’s our identity. That isn’t going to change.”



REBECCA GRATZ

multiple defenses in a game? Should we? How fast can we play? Do our guys understand our non-negotiables on offense? What drills might help them in practice?

When his mind wanders, this is usually where it goes. Not multiple years forward. But right now — how do we get better today?

“When Al was here before, especially the last few years that he was with us, he had a voice in a lot of what we did, just like other assistant coaches have had,” McDermott says. “And now that he’s back and he’s been a head coach, I think he’s got probably a more complete understanding of the chair that I sit in. From that standpoint, it’s made him even better.”

And Huss still sees so many ways that he can keep growing. That’s his humility surfacing, and it often ends up being a driving force for him to avoid complacency.

He’s not joking when he says he can’t believe how his professional arc has played out. He played four years at Creighton from 1997 to 2001. He graduated with a business degree and took a “real” job back home in Illinois — but a local varsity basketball coach sat him down at a summer festival and persuaded him to coach the high school freshman team.

From there, Huss began building prep school programs, including the now-powerhouse La Lumiere in Indiana. He was an assistant at New Mexico before joining McDermott’s Creighton staff.

“The fact that I get to do this at all, I just count my blessings,” Huss says. “I’m thankful because I know that there are so many coaches, so many people that I have worked with and competed against, who don’t get the big breaks.”

And now Huss is home again, working for a man he admires, within a program that means so much to him. He’s the head coach in waiting, for however long it takes. He couldn’t be happier about it.

“Had it not been my alma mater, had it not been Coach Mac, I would’ve hung the phone up on anybody else who asked me to do this,” Huss says. “But I’m so incredibly grateful to be back. I’m still kind of laughing at all of it, actually, because I don’t know how the heck I’ve been so lucky.”



“The fact that I get to do this at all, I just count my blessings.”

ALAN HUSS, BSBA’02

REBECCA GRATZ

The Next Play: Creighton Athletics Balances Tradition, Growth and Change

From record-breaking seasons to a \$300 million facilities investment, Creighton Athletics has momentum on its side. Now, as college sports enter uncharted territory, the Bluejays are ready to rise to the challenge.

IF THERE WERE EVER A TIME for Creighton’s Athletics Department to begin boldly navigating its way through a new, unpredictable era of college sports, now is that time.

That’s not to say there won’t be hurdles. McCormick Endowed Athletic Director Marcus Blossom knows full well that there are challenges ahead.

But he’s also extremely fired up.

Why? Because Creighton is in a great place. Consider what Blossom, now entering his fifth year with the Bluejays, has witnessed in the last few months alone.

The men’s basketball team won an NCAA Tournament game for the fifth consecutive year, established a strategic succession plan for legendary coach Greg McDermott and recorded a 95% renewal rate for season tickets.

The volleyball team reached the Elite Eight last year and set a program record for wins (32). The women’s basketball team reached a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. The baseball team won the BIG EAST Conference title and made it to an NCAA Regional for the first time since 2019.

There’s positive momentum for so many other programs. Plus, in October, Creighton announced Fly Together, a nearly \$300 million donor investment in 11 new or upgraded athletics and recreation facilities on the east side of campus. Creighton also debuted a new softball stadium this fall and will open a new baseball practice field in the summer.

“It is an exciting time to be a Bluejay,” Blossom says. “Our student-athletes, coaches and staff are dedicated to maintaining a legacy built on excellence. We are so grateful for the support of our alumni, our donors and our fans, who continue to inspire us to raise our standard and compete with the nation’s elite teams.”

Here’s where it gets complicated, though: The entire landscape of college sports has shifted significantly, and it’s still evolving.

College programs can now share revenue with



© Entering his fifth year at Creighton, Marcus Blossom, McCormick Endowed Athletic Director, is leading the Athletics Department in a new era of collegiate sports.

student-athletes. That means a portion of what Creighton brings in from TV deals, ticket sales, private donations and more will go to the players.

Third-party name, image and likeness (NIL) deals are still being arranged, too, with a bit more NCAA-designed oversight. Additionally, the NCAA is distributing \$2.78 billion in back payments to student-athletes who competed after 2015 but did not have access to NIL opportunities. As a result, the NCAA will reduce its annual monetary distribution to schools.

In response, Creighton is growing its Corporate Partnership Program to identify local and national businesses that align with its vision. It’s expanding and refining its sport-specific funds for general operations, to help donors better direct their gifts to specific areas of the programs they would like to support. There’s been a department-wide initiative to increase revenue through royalties and licensing, facility rentals and special events.

“It is a new era for college sports,” Blossom says. “However, we are well positioned to build on our success, and we’re mindful that we can’t reach our goals without the support of alumni and fans.”

BY BLAKE URSCH

THEY'RE NEW JAYS, TOO

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

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

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



HEATHER MCCAIN

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KRISTINA MEDERO, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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



HEATHER MCCAIN

HEIDER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DERRICK GANYE, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Accounting and Business Intelligence & Analytics

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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



HEATHER MCCAIN

COLLEGE OF NURSING

EUGENE FURNACE, DBH, APRN, BSN'22

Assistant Professor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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



HEATHER MCCAIN



HEATHER MCCAIN



REBECCA GRATZ



LAURA SEGALL

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

KYUCHUL OH, DDS, PHD

Assistant Professor, Department of Periodontology

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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

SCHOOL OF LAW

MARYL SATTLER, JD

Assistant Professor | Assistant Dean of Academic Success and Bar Preparation

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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

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

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DILASHA NEUPANE, MD, BA'14

Associate Professor | Headache Medicine Specialist, CHI Health

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

Not for Dilasha Neupane.

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

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

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

She chose Creighton.

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MALLORY KARGELA, DPT

Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy

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

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

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

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

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

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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

Gupta Installed as Inaugural McGuire Endowed Chair

Ranjan Gupta, MD, an internationally renowned orthopaedic surgeon, is the inaugural holder of the Anne L. and Michael H. McGuire Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery at Creighton University.

Established by Michael McGuire, BS'71, MD'75, and Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, the chair will drive innovation in patient care, advance surgical training and strengthen Creighton's leadership in orthopaedic education.

Creighton honored Gupta and the McGuires during an installation ceremony in September.

"An endowed chair is among the most meaningful gifts a university can receive,"

says the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Creighton president. "Through the McGuires' generosity, Creighton has been able to recruit another outstanding researcher and educator to our community. We are so grateful to Anne



Ranjan Gupta, MD

and Michael for their vision and commitment to the School of Medicine."

Gupta joined Creighton in fall 2024 as professor and chair of the newly established Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and also serves as medical director of orthopedics at CHI Health. He is leading the launch of Creighton's new orthopaedic surgery residency program, which begins in summer 2026 at the newly established CHI Health Orthopedic



Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, and Michael McGuire, BS'71, MD'75

Surgery Center at CHI Health Lakeside in Omaha.

The center, which will accommodate up to 20 orthopaedic surgeons at a time, will provide patients with convenient access to imaging, surgical suites and hospital services. Developed in response to the growing needs of an aging population, the residency and center will expand orthopaedic care across Nebraska and western Iowa.

"I would like to thank the McGuires for their visionary leadership and commitment to Creighton University, as their dedication and foresight will help move the institution forward," Gupta says. "This endowed chair is an integral part of the legacy they will leave for future generations as we elevate orthopaedic innovation and education at Creighton School of Medicine."

Internationally recognized for his work in peripheral nerve and brachial plexus injuries, Gupta has advanced the use of surgical simulation in medical education, shaping the future of orthopaedic training. He is equally known for his dedication to mentorship, guiding students and fellows at every stage of their academic and professional careers.

"Faculty in the Creighton School of Medicine shape students into skilled clinicians and

compassionate leaders," says Robert Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the School of Medicine. "It is in this spirit of excellence that we welcome Dr. Gupta to our community."

Gupta earned his undergraduate degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his medical doctorate from Albany Medical College through the Accelerated Six-Year Biomedical Program. He completed a general surgery internship, an orthopaedic surgery residency and an NIH (National Institutes of Health) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by fellowship training in hand surgery and microsurgery at UCLA and an AO Fellowship in Switzerland.

He brings to Creighton more than 20 years of leadership in orthopaedics, specializing in shoulder, elbow and hand surgery, with expertise in shoulder replacement and minimally invasive procedures.

Previously, he served as chair of orthopaedics at the University of California, Irvine, leading the department to a top-40 national ranking. He has produced 115-plus peer-reviewed publications with continuous NIH funding since 2000.

Since 2015, Creighton has established 14 endowed chairs, each serving as a catalyst for innovation, discovery and advancing the University's mission. — NICHOLE JELINEK, MA'15

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.

69 Nancy M. Fowler, BA, Capitola, California, has a poem included in the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center Poetry in the Park program, with a yearlong display in the Webster's Woods Art Park in Port Angeles, Washington. Another poem can be found in the recently released *Women in a Golden State*, an anthology of poetry by women over 60. Her work has previously been published in *Tidepools*, *Gemini*, *Songs of the San Joaquin*, *Naugatauk River Review*, *Cirque*, *Porter Gulch Review* and other literary journals.

71 Dr. James E. Wilson, BSPha, Omaha, was installed as a fellow of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) in April 2025. The AAPP consists of members who are advanced practice clinical pharmacists who specialize in mental healthcare and have extensive knowledge of medication management.

72 John M. Ohman, BSBA'71, JD, Idaho Falls, Idaho, published *Best Cellar: Fun and Frivolity in Law*, a book recounting humorous courtroom experiences during his 50 years as an attorney in Idaho. **Allan R. Vorda, BA,** Sugar Land, Texas, published the book *The Babel Hiking & Book Club (or, A Sexual Odyssey)*.

73 Francis G. "Frank" Belardi, MD, Sayre, Pennsylvania, was honored by the University of Toronto press and the *Guthrie Clinic Journal of Medicine*. He served on the editorial board of the journal for many years and was recently appointed emeritus

editor status for his contributions. He served in many clinical and administrative roles at Guthrie Clinic during his tenure. He was program director of the Family Medicine Residency, executive vice president for the Guthrie Healthcare System, chairman of family medicine at Guthrie-Robert Packer Hospital and retired as president/CEO of the Guthrie Medical Group. Guthrie Clinic, located in New York and Pennsylvania, and founded in 1910 and modeled after the Mayo Clinic, is one of the oldest multispecialty groups in the U.S. **Jeannie Blakey Brayman, MA,** Albuquerque, New Mexico, published her first novel *Murder at Wolf Creek* under her maiden name, J.S. Blakey.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, received the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Lifetime Achievement Award at the organization's annual meeting in March 2025.

80 Mark S. Wisniewski, BA, Tully, New York, is the editor and publisher (under the name Mark Wish) of an annual short story anthology. *Cooler American Stories 2025* has won both the 2025 International Book Award for Anthologies and the 2025 National Indie Excellence Award for Anthologies.

84 Vito J. LaBella, BA, Brooklyn, New York, is the chief of staff and legislative director for New York state Sen. Stephen Chan, representing Brooklyn's 17th Senate District. Since retiring

from the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in 2017 after a distinguished 32-year career, LaBella has remained deeply engaged in public service, becoming a consistent and passionate voice in Brooklyn's civic affairs. He cofounded PLACE NYC, an organization focused on education policy and served as a parent leader in local school community boards. Today, in his role with Sen. Chan, LaBella applies his decades of leadership and public safety experience to address critical issues such as crime prevention, educational reform and the preservation of Brooklyn's neighborhoods. He remains active on social media, where he continues to fight for New York.

85 Kathleen Liddell Arnold, BSPha, Snohomish, Washington, is semiretired, after working almost 50 years in the field of pharmacy, and is helping staff the critical access hospitals pharmacies in Washington state. She was a clinical instructor for the University of Washington School of Pharmacy for five years. Arnold worked full time at Snohomish County Hospital District #1 for 14 years, three of which were spent in leadership.

87 Catherine Moore Hanaway, BA, St. Louis, was selected by Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe to succeed Andrew Bailey as the state's attorney general. Hanaway, a former U.S. Attorney and Missouri House Speaker, is the first woman to hold the office of attorney general in Missouri.

88 Joan Miller Bauer, BA, Milwaukee, published her debut novel, *The Bicycle Messenger*, in August 2025.

89 Dr. Michelle M. "Mimi" Wong, BS, Englewood, Colorado, was appointed medical director, anesthesiology, at University of Colorado Health, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Since 1997, Wong has been a partner and board member for Physician Anesthesia Services, a private anesthesiology practice, which serves hospitals and surgery centers in the metro Denver area.

91 William A. "Trey" DeLoach III, JD, Coppell, Texas, a partner at Bell Nunnally in Dallas, was recognized in the banking and finance category in the 2025 Chambers USA guide.

92 Amy Begley Masker, BSBA'88, MBA, Council Bluffs, Iowa, retired from First National Bank of Omaha in May 2025 after 40 years in banking.

96 Mary Vradenburg Wauson, BS, San Diego, is a founder of the nonprofit Shaping Bright Futures, which provides scholarships to students displaced by conflict in South Sudan — opening access to quality education and brighter futures. As part of the nonprofit's mission to raise awareness of global educational disparities, it recently published the children's picture book *At Least I Wasn't Eaten by a Lion*, based on the true story of Mathew Riek, also a founder of the nonprofit and a Lost Boy of Sudan. The book illustrates how



MANN CREATES BUZZ AT N.Y. FASHION WEEK

DONOVAN MANN, BS'19, HAD THE CROWD BUZZING at his New York Fashion Week debut this fall. Not only did he showcase his MannMade Athleisure clothing line, but after the show — on the runway — he surprised his girlfriend and Creighton alumna Monica Bradley, BS'22, by proposing. (She said yes.)

A Dallas native, Mann earned his degree in sustainability and currently works full time at TD2, an engineering and surveying company in Omaha. He also is CEO and head trainer of MannMade Skills Training, a basketball skills-development company that trains athletes of all levels, from youth to professional. He works with about a dozen youth basketball teams and some 100 individual players across the greater Omaha area.

He loves being a mentor and building up their confidence — both on and off the court.

"Moreso than them saying, 'You made me better,' they say, 'You've inspired me,'" Mann says. "That's what I feel my calling from God, my purpose from God, is: to inspire others."

Mann also looks to inspire with his clothing line, MannMade Athleisure, which he started in 2023 by selling socks with his logo. His line has expanded to shorts, T-shirts, hoodies, golf vests, hats and even coasters. He applied to Fashion Week, but for months heard nothing. Then he received a call out of the blue: Would he like to appear as an emerging artist? He jumped at the chance.

Now, he's not only a New York Fashion Week designer, but a soon-to-be newlywed. — BY RICK DAVIS, BA'88

education can transform lives and demonstrates how readers everywhere can be part of the solution.

99 Dr. Jannie S. Eggleston, BA, Austin, Texas, was awarded the Lifetime Learner Alumni Award from Concordia University, Nebraska, in September 2024, recognizing her service in her church, in the classroom and in the community. Eggleston earned her master's degree from Concordia University in 2011, and her doctorate degree from St. Edward's University in 2023. Eggleston is the coordinator of advanced academics for the Del Valle Independent School District in Del Valle, Texas.

00 Dr. Kathryn Greene Jacob, BSW, Waxahachie, Texas, earned her doctorate degree in social work from the University of Buffalo. Jacob is president and CEO of SafeHaven of Tarrant County in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, metroplex. **David J. Wenthold, BSBA,** Shakopee, Minnesota, is a fiduciary and financial planner at Prudential Advisors' North Lights Financial Group. Wenthold was awarded the 2024 Leader in Fee-Based Financial Planning.

02 Mark J. Bergeron, MD, Lincoln, Nebraska, relocated from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Lincoln in August 2024, where he is the medical director of neonatology for CHI Health's Nebraska/Iowa market and associate clinical professor in the Creighton University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. He and his wife, **Christine Kapler Bergeron, BSN'97, MS'01,** serve on the Creighton Parent and Family Leadership Council. **Kenneth M. Wentz, JD,** Omaha, office managing principal of the Omaha and Sioux Falls offices of national employment law firm Jackson Lewis PC, has been individually recognized in the 2025 Chambers USA guide for his labor and employment practice.

03 Brandon K. Ebert, BSBA, Salina, Kansas, recently joined the board of directors of Youth on Course, the fastest growing youth golf organization in the world. The organization

provides subsidized rounds of golf for kids under the age of 19.

05 Robert A. McClean Jr., BA, New York, has joined NBC News as a breaking news editor on the digital politics team.

Leah Lewis Stade, OTD, Minden, Nebraska, was named the 2024-2025 emerging educator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Stade is an assistant professor and serves as the UNMC Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree program's academic fieldwork coordinator.

09 James E. Hougas III, BSCM'05, MD, Woodbury, Minnesota, was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Hougas also recently retired from the Minnesota Air National Guard and United States Air Force at the rank of lieutenant colonel. **Rebecca H. Schier-Akamelu, BFA,** Overland Park, Kansas, published her psychological horror debut book *Negative Images*.

10 Jacob T. Brown, PharmD, Duluth, Minnesota, was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. **Joseph M. Niederee, JD,** Omaha, was promoted to vice president wealth management advisor at TIAA.

15 Rachel H. Zaborowski, BSBA, Chicago, is a senior manager of global transformation-supply chain planning at PepsiCo Inc.

18 Lorelei Peters, MS, Bellevue, Nebraska, was promoted to senior healthcare data scientist at Nebraska Medicine in December 2024, focusing on health equity.

19 Ferdinand Ross S. Cacho, MD, Nashville, received a Master of Public Health from Vanderbilt University in Nashville as part of his pediatric pulmonology fellowship. His thesis research analyzed the risk factors for allergic and nonallergic asthma in early childhood. Cacho is a pediatric pulmonologist and instructor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

ALUMNI PROFILE

The Trip of a Lifetime

A Creighton dental school alumnus and his medical-student son worked side by side this summer, treating patients at the Institute for Latin American Concern's clinic.



Alec Czaplicki, left, and Don Czaplicki, BA'85, DDS'89

As a fourth-year dental student in the summer of 1988, **DON CZAPLICKI, BA'85, DDS'89,** cared for underserved patients through the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic.

He recalls every detail vividly: hiking mountain passes with his designated burro; the clinic's many tooth extractions and infections; the kindness and hospitality of everyone he met.

"ILAC is such a Creighton thing and such a Jesuit thing," says Czaplicki, who runs a family dental practice in the Milwaukee metro area with his wife, Cathleen Grow Czaplicki, BA'85, DDS'89. "ILAC is about helping others, but you get in return as much or more than you give. I've been talking about that experience all my life."

Don's son, Alec Czaplicki, has been hearing about that experience all his life.

Alec, now a fourth-year medical student at Creighton, says his father's stories inspired him to go to the DR himself. In high school, Alec took a two-week ILAC immersion trip, during which he helped build latrines. When it came time to pick a medical school, he chose Creighton, in part because of the University's ILAC partnership with Centro de Educación para la Salud Integral (CESI).

After his first year in medical school, Alec

took his second ILAC trip to the DR. This past summer, he took his third (but hopefully not last). Because of his proficiency in Spanish, he served as a coordinator and group leader.

This summer, his father joined him.

"I wanted to go back at least one more time in my life, and I knew this was my shot," Don says. "That I was able to share this experience with Alec makes it all the more special."

For Alec, the ILAC immersion served as a fourth-year medical school rotation where he could help care for patients with, most commonly, hypertension, diabetes, gastrointestinal issues and chronic pain.

For Don, it was a chance to volunteer, treat patients, mentor dental students and work with his son.

Alec and Don not only lived with the same host family during their trip, but they also had the opportunity to work in the same clinic, where they made sure to tap each other's expertise as often as they could. Alec asked for Don's help caring for patients with dental issues. Don asked for Alec's help in translating and medical pre-op health screenings.

Alec recalls one moment in the clinic when his dad walked by and said, "I'm not sure we'll ever get to do something like this again. But I really hope we do."

During his undergrad years, Alec was torn between dentistry and medicine. In the end, he chose the latter.

Alec knows he made the right choice in pursuing medicine, but continues to wonder what it would have been like to follow in his parents' footsteps and work alongside them in the family clinic.

ILAC gave Don and Alec the chance, if only for a brief time, to care for the same patients in the same clinic.

"It was a really cool thing to work together as clinicians, at least this one time," Alec says. "In the ILAC clinic and in the community, I got to see how he cares for his patients and interacts with people. There couldn't have been a better place for us to connect like this."

For both Alec and Don, the experience revealed a new facet of their father-son relationship. ILAC allowed them to see each other in a new light.

"I loved every second of this summer's trip," Don says. "Working with Alec was the best part."

It's a trip they will both be talking about for many years to come. — MICAH MERTES

20 Jessel Lyn C. Dela Cruz, MBA, PharmD, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, is a pharmacy supply chain and business operations manager at Hawaii's largest academic medical center and only Level 1 trauma center in the Pacific Basin, the Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu. She manages a pharmacy team, including a pharmacy procurement team to ensure adequate drugs and drug supply for the health system, participates in pharmacy drug review and formulary, and oversees hospital pharmacy operations with other pharmacy operating managers.

23 Summer Y. Highfill, MBA, Springfield, Oregon, has remained dedicated to advancing career and technical education in Oregon. She became one of the first high school instructors in the state to offer BA101: Intro to Business for college credit, helping bridge the gap between high school and higher education. She also launched Oregon's first virtual hospitality and tourism Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway, expanding access to industry-aligned learning for students across the state. In 2025, Highfill earned her Gallup StrengthsFinder Coaching

certification and now integrates strengths-based development into her classrooms and professional trainings. Currently, she is leading the development of an Industry Recognized Credential in Oregon Employability Skills, which is being piloted statewide as a foundational workforce readiness credential across all 16 CTE career clusters.

24 Meggan R. McCulley, BSN'95, EdD, Gretna, Nebraska, is a peer reviewer of *Advances in Neonatal Care*, the journal for the National Association of Neonatal Nurses. This journal is dedicated to advancing the art and science of newborn care through the publication of scientifically sound and clinically relevant articles that enhance interdisciplinary care. **David T. Palank Jr., EdD**, Rockville, Maryland, is the president of San Miguel School in Washington, D.C. Palank started at San Miguel School as a teacher in 2007, became principal in 2013 and president in 2024.

BIRTHS

05 Marcin Zuraw and Meghan Cook Zuraw, BA, a daughter, Helena Elizabeth, July 29, 2023, living in Sunnyvale, Texas.

12 Edward M. Saito, PharmD, and Dr. Karen Heisler, a son, Robert Mitsuo, April 12, 2025, living in Sherwood, Oregon.

17 John J. "Jack" McConnell, BSBA, and Alison McConnell, a daughter, June Francis, June 29, 2025, living in Atlanta.

23 Clyde J. Weber, DPT, and **Treva Rice Weber, DPT**, a daughter, Viola Rogue, May 21, 2025, living in Ashland, Oregon.

DEATHS

47 Gilbert Marrero, MD, Beaverton, Oregon, March 13, 2025.

49 Robert G. Beckers, BA, Kansas City, Missouri, Dec. 27, 2024. **Doris Horsch Ast, BSN**, Ingalls, Kansas, June 20, 2025. **Eleanora Koelzer Engler, SCN**, Myersville, Maryland, March 26, 2025.

50 John J. Micek Jr., BS, Omaha, July 7, 2025. **Marilyn Eddy White, BS**, Peterson, Iowa, March 31, 2025.

51 Sr. Maura A. Clark, RSM, SCN, Omaha, Aug. 20, 2025. **Jeanne Roncka Grier, ARTS**, Carlsbad, California, June 11, 2025. **Frank Guzman, BS**, South Bend,

Indiana, April 11, 2025. **James M. O'Donnell, BSPha**, Omaha, Aug. 23, 2025.

52 Sr. Mary John Harvey, OSF, BSPha, Peoria, Illinois, Aug. 22, 2025. **Shirley O'Connor Noar, MA**, Omaha, July 29, 2025. **Patricia Poler Suiter, SCN**, Omaha, July 30, 2025.

53 Margaret Ward Baker, SCN, St. Edward, Nebraska, June 30, 2025. **Dorothy Eitzmann Broghammer, ARTS**, Omaha, July 15, 2025. **JoAnn Stolinski Frost, MA**, Omaha, July 19, 2025. **James E. Merriman, BS'50, JD**, Santa Rosa, California, July 29, 2025. **Rita C. Ortman, SCN**, Omaha, March 11, 2025. **Louis J. Pistone, BS**, Boulder, Colorado, April 26, 2025.

54 Mary O'Neil Cook, SJN'52, BSN, Modesto, California, March 5, 2025. **Geraldine Greenblatt Duhacek, ARTS**, Omaha, June 10, 2025. **Marian Hensley, MLN**, Grand Island, Nebraska, Sept. 10, 2023. **Joanne Gass Kuelbs, SJN'53, BSN**, San Diego, Aug. 17, 2024. **Mary Ann Dendinger O'Rourke, SCN**, Rochester, Minnesota, March 25, 2025.

55 Charles R. Elliott, DDS, Denver, April 6, 2025. **Sonja Sevon Heng, SJN**, Omaha, June 18, 2025. **William O. Houston Jr., DDS**,

Boise, Idaho, July 5, 2025. **Eleanor Erickson Pelzer, SJN**, Atlantic, Iowa, Aug. 26, 2025.

56 Rose Stehno Brinks, BS, Laporte, Colorado, Aug. 25, 2025. **John G. Giradot, MD**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Aug. 27, 2025. **T. Lynne Kirlin O'Hara, BS**, Woodbridge, Virginia, June 5, 2025. **George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS**, Surprise, Arizona, June 3, 2025.

57 J. Francis Brown IV, BS, Sparks, Nevada, July 4, 2025. **Claramae Bates Jensen, SCN**, Omaha, Aug. 16, 2025. **Dr. Zoltan Kramar, BA'54, MA**, Seattle, March 7, 2025. **Ralph V. O'Connor, DDS**, Lakewood, Washington, July 7, 2025. **M. Ramona Sweeney, BSN**, Dubuque, Iowa, March 27, 2025.

58 Merrell L. Andersen, JD, Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 9, 2023. **Margaret Johnson Bowman, MA**, Marshalltown, Iowa, July 19, 2025. **Daniel D. Fitzpatrick, BSBA**, Huntley, Illinois, April 18, 2025. **Albert A. Groat, DDS**, Angels Camp, California, April 5, 2025. **Richard A. Mikuls, BSPha**, Omaha, May 12, 2025.

59 James F. Arens, MD, Brenham, Texas, July 27, 2025. **Catherine Werner Capazo, SJN**, Omaha, Aug. 18, 2025. **Charles R. Druse Sr., ARTS**, Cambridge, Nebraska, July 27, 2025. **Thomas M. Fangman, BS'55, DDS**, Omaha, June 5, 2025. **Lucille Knust Kalinowski, BS**, Columbus, Nebraska, May 15, 2025. **Jerome H. Klenda, BSBA**, David City, Nebraska, July 1, 2025. **James M. Mahoney, BA**, Minneapolis, Jan. 5, 2025. **Patrick J. Manion, BS**, Cannon Falls, Minnesota, May 19, 2025. **Robert J. Turgeon, BUSADM**, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 16, 2025.

60 Jerry J. Boulay, BSBA, Omaha, March 17, 2025. **Francis X. Essex, MD**, Galveston, Texas, June 17, 2025. **John D. Kelly, BSBA**, San Antonio, July 27, 2025. **Rodney D. Schrag, BA**, Ellensburg, Washington, March 10, 2025.

61 Edward J. Birmingham, ARTS, Omaha, March 13, 2025. **John R. Douglas, BS'58, JD**, Omaha, May 6, 2025. **John J. Fitzpatrick, MD**, Omaha, Aug. 7, 2025. **Frank J. St. Lucas Jr., BA**, Draper, Utah, March 15, 2025. **Hon. Bernard J. O'Malley, BACLS'59, JD**, Altoona, Iowa, July 6, 2025. **Dr. Robert J. Zill, BS**, Mesa, Arizona, Feb. 16, 2025.

62 Mary Ann McDermott Dobrovolny, BA, Hastings, Nebraska, June 12, 2025. **Edward G. Keen, MA**, Hershey, Pennsylvania, May 13, 2025. **Sr. Imelda T. Marquez, SL, MS**, Littleton, Colorado, May 16, 2025. **Anthony J. Nespole Jr., MD**, Monte Sereno, California, Jan. 1, 2025. **James C. Pettinger, BS**, Dunedin, Florida, Feb. 10, 2025. **Robert C. Stillman, DDS**, Encinitas, California, May 19, 2025. **Walter D. Weaver, JD**, North Platte, Nebraska, May 2, 2025.

63 Robert R. Recker, MD, Omaha, July 14, 2025. **Michael H. Sketch, BS'59, MD**, Omaha, March 10, 2025.

64 David P. Burkley, MD, Georgetown, Texas, March 11, 2025. **Ronald T. Funkhauser, DDS**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 11, 2025.

65 Russell M. Bleich, MSEdu, Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 10, 2025. **Pamela Morrow Hoising, BS**, Omaha, June 2, 2025. **Mary Keough Kavanagh, BA'62, MSGuid**, Aurora, Colorado, April 11, 2025. **Lila L. Wallace, BSN**, Omaha, March 3, 2025.

66 John G. Branz, DDS, Wallace, Idaho, May 23, 2025. **Albin L. Dvorak, ARTS**, Omaha, May 22, 2025. **John F. Leuck, BSBA'62, JD**, Pekin, Illinois, March 8, 2025. **Robert D. Pascotto, MD**, Miramar Lakes, Florida, Aug. 27, 2025. **Linda DePasquale Serres, BA**, Portland, Oregon, March 26, 2024.

67 Joseph P. Caterinichio, DDS, Eagle River, Alaska, April 25, 2025. **Alice Yaggie Jensen, BA**, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, April 18, 2025. **Roy T. Keegan, BSPha**, Chico, California, March 24, 2025. **James A. Nepple, BA**, Muscatine, Iowa, July 25, 2025. **John P. Prusmack, MD**, Omaha, Feb. 16, 2025. **Eugene S. Wawrzyniak, BSRT**, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, May 3, 2025.

68 Carol Smith Bauer, BA, Omaha, May 23, 2025. **Allan G. Blaker, MBA**, Waco, Texas, May 24, 2025. **Timothy J. Eagan, BA**, San Jose, California, April 26, 2025. **Gerald F. Fisher, BSBA'62, JD**, Lincoln, Nebraska, March 2, 2025. **John M. Kiely, MD**, Watsonville, California, July 26, 2025. **Bruce P. Schwering, BSBA**, Ames, Iowa, June 6, 2025. **Rev. Robert H. Spiegel, MSEdu**, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Sept. 2, 2025. **Mary Jane Wood Zabinski, BSBA**, Okatie, South Carolina, May 8, 2025.



HONORING ALUMNI

The Creighton University Alumni Achievement Citation is the highest all-University award presented to Creighton alumni. This year's recipients, pictured above, are **Ellen Ahlers Wells, BS'76**, and **Douglas Wells, BSBA'76**.

2025 ALUMNI MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alumni Merit Award recognizes outstanding alumni from the schools and colleges. The following were honored at this year's Evening of Honors event held in August:

Cliftron "Cliff" Brunt II, BA'96
College of Arts and Sciences

Stephen Nikodem, DDS'91
School of Dentistry

Paul Markwardt, BSBA'83, JD'86
Heider College of Business

Ronald Volkmer, BA'66, JD'68
School of Law

Kathleen Keough Soto, BSN'75
College of Nursing

Lori Schweickert, BA'85, BS'85, MD'91
School of Medicine

Anthony Houston, EdD'21
College of Professional and Continuing Education

Eric Hamik, BSPha'91
Kimberly Semin Hamik, BSPha'91
School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

2025 RECENT ALUMNI AWARD

The Recent Alumni Award recognizes significant professional achievement, personal responsibility and service to Creighton and community by an alumna or alumnus during their first 10 years following graduation. **Roselle Visenio, JD, BSW'15**, graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences, was this year's recipient.

2025 FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY AWARD

John "Jack" Diesing Jr. and Terri Diesing were this year's recipients of the Friends of the University Award. The award recognizes distinguished leadership and/or service to Creighton by a non-alumnus/non-alumna. Honorees demonstrate faithful and significant support of the University or their own community with a way of life that exemplifies the University Credo.

Read more: Visit alumni.creighton.edu/ama-2025 to read more about each recipient.



Scholarships are foundational to our mission, crucial to our success and life-changing for our excellent students. The **Forward Blue** campaign is your opportunity to help a new generation of Bluejays join you as Jesuit-educated leaders serving our communities.

Learn more or make a gift at creighton.edu/forwardblue

FORWARDBLUE
A Bold Future for Creighton University



“Creighton has changed my life. I could never express the gratitude I have for this University.”

VALERY-ELVIS SHAFACK, BSBA'25

From Success to Service

MICHAEL REA, PHARMD'07, and **BRANDY KOPECKY REA, JD'07,** have made it their mission to serve the special needs community in as many ways as possible.

"When you learn about all these different programs supporting those with special needs, you're just like, 'Wow, there are so many kind, compassionate people out there who want to do good,'" says Michael Rea. "There is nothing we want to do more than provide them with the resources they need to continue their mission and expand their reach."

Nearly three years ago, the Reas sold the business they founded, Rx Savings Solutions, for \$875 million, leaving the company the following year. Michael started RxSS as a one-man operation in 2008. Brandy, then a corporate healthcare attorney, helped Michael get the company up and running before joining him as full-time "in-house" counsel. (The only way to afford a lawyer during that time, Michael joked, was to marry one.)

Today, the Reas live in Kansas City, Kansas, with their three children: Brody, Carson and Stella. Brody, their eldest, has profound autism. "Brody is tremendously inspirational to us," Michael says. "He has character traits that everyone wishes they had. He keeps us all grounded on the things that truly matter."

Inspired by their son, the Reas used funds from the Rx Savings Solutions sale to establish the Michael and Brandy Rea Family Foundation, which supports nonprofits serving the special needs community.

Programs and causes they have supported so far include: Camp Tekakwitha, a Kansas City summer camp that includes one week each year for special needs children and their families; a genetics research program at Children's Mercy in Kansas City and the University of Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training (where Brody was first diagnosed with autism); and causes as wide-ranging as a local food pantry, a housing development and a program that makes family



Michael and Brandy Rea with their children Brody, Carson and Stella.

activities like skiing and horseback riding more accessible.

"What we have found with Brody's peers, their parents and our friends is that there's this gap," Michael says. "There's a gap in job training, and a gap in living and congregation spaces. We're trying to focus our dollars on helping fill those gaps."

The Reas recently made a \$1 million gift to Haven for Special People, a nonprofit that is building an inclusive and accessible apartment complex in downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin — 35 miles north of Michael Rea's hometown of Lansing, Iowa. At the Haven for Special People apartments, individuals with disabilities will live alongside nondisabled residents.

The reality, the Reas say, is that "children and adults with special physical or intellectual needs are often hidden from society. The causes and programs that appeal to us not only serve these individuals but also make them more visible."

Such visibility helps those with special needs, but it helps everyone else even more so, Brandy says.

"The community of individuals with special needs is inspiring and beautiful. We are better people when we get to be around them and when they share their world with us."

"The community of individuals with special needs is inspiring and beautiful."

BRANDY KOPECKY REA, JD'07

This school year, Michael and Brandy's roles as parents and philanthropists will come full circle when Brody joins one of the first major causes the foundation funded: the Blue Valley Food Pantry.

The pantry — supported through the Rea children's school district — serves multiple goods. It provides food for those who need it most. It provides special needs individuals (particularly those on the autism spectrum, like Brody) with training, skills and opportunities for socialization. It gives an often neglected and invisible community the chance to not only be part of the world but also make it a little kinder, better.

"Everyone deserves a purposeful life," Brandy says. — MICAH MERTES

69 Joseph B. Conahan Jr., MD, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, June 3, 2025. **Dennis R. Connor, BA,** Omaha, May 3, 2025. **William T. Delaney, MD,** Cropseyville, New York, May 2, 2025. **Joseph C. Franco, BSBA,** Omaha, Aug. 23, 2025. **Phyllis Mueller Heimann, SJN,** Dodge, Nebraska, April 21, 2025. **William B. Pinaire, BSPha,** Vancouver, Washington, Aug. 24, 2025. **Gary H. Westerman, DDS,** Omaha, Aug. 21, 2025.

70 Meyer H. Coren, JD, Omaha, July 29, 2025. **Manuel A. Cuadrado, BSBA,** Omaha, July 30, 2025. **George E. Rouse, MA,** Springfield, Virginia, Sept. 24, 2024.

71 Robert J. Carmichael II, BA, Springfield, Nebraska, March 15, 2025. **David C. Kuehl, BA,** Omaha, June 12, 2025. **Arthur S. Moore II, BSBA,** Chicago, March 11, 2025. **Joy Neneman, MSGuid,** Omaha, July 14, 2025.

72 Jane Green Alseth, JD, Omaha, July 15, 2025. **William R. Barnes, BSBA,** De Witt, Iowa, June 19, 2025. **William H. Campbell, JD,** Kansas City, Missouri, April 1, 2025. **Rose Mary Sippel Fitzpatrick, SJN,** Omaha, June 30, 2025. **Salomon G. Garcia, BS'68, MD,** Centennial, Colorado, July 17, 2025. **John S. Katelman, JD,** Fort Myers, Florida, March 4, 2025. **Thomas J. Kildee, DDS,** Dallas, April 26, 2025. **Edward J. Mohr, MD,** East Islip, New York, March 27, 2025.

73 Suzanne M. Grandinetti, BA, Omaha, July 12, 2025. **Thomas E. Henry, JD,** Omaha, June 12, 2025. **Richard T. Omahan, BA,** Bettendorf, Iowa, May 23, 2025.

74 Dr. John K. Chedester, MA, Omaha, May 8, 2025. **Emma Lee Godfrey, MSEdu,** Omaha, June 7, 2025. **Willis J. Hamilton, BA'71, JD,** Storm Lake, Iowa, March 20, 2025. **Louis R. Kastner, BS'69, BSPha,** Walnut Creek, California, May 5, 2025. **Joan M. Mailander, BSN,** St. Paul, Minnesota, April 8, 2025. **James H. Murphy, BA'70, JD,** Des Moines, Iowa, Nov. 15, 2024. **Patricia Hamilton Schlueter, BSPha,** Omaha, April 9, 2025. **Thomas L. Upton, MBA,** Omaha, July 14, 2025. **Jerry M. Zober, MD,** Cleveland, May 20, 2024.

75 Charles T. Kelley, ARTS, Elkhorn, Nebraska, March 7, 2025.

76 Lynn A. Madison, BSN, La Vista, Nebraska, March 9, 2025. **Michael T. Pracht, JD,** Davenport, Iowa, April 24, 2025.

77 S. Nicholas Boggy, BA'74, JD, Fremont, Nebraska, May 22, 2025. **Scott C. DiLorenzo, DDS,** Omaha, June 11, 2025.

78 J. Vincent Jones, BA'74, DDS, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 10, 2025. **John P. Pogge, JD,** Greenwood Village, Colorado, Aug. 30, 2025. **Carolyn A. Rothery, JD,** Del Rio, Texas, March 13, 2025. **Albert L. Schmeiser, JD,** Gilbert, Arizona, Feb. 12, 2025.

79 Michelle J. DeMers, BA, Conroe, Texas, June 24, 2025. **Catherine Hogan Mullen, BSBA,** Omaha, March 20, 2025. **John D. Titus, BA'75, MD,** Omaha, June 4, 2025.

80 Catherine T. Dixon, BS'77, JD, Great Falls, Virginia, March 6, 2025. **Arnold J. Johnson, JD,** Houston, Feb. 19, 2025.

81 Rev. Donald M. Cleary, GRAD, Omaha, March 24, 2025. **Anita L. Fleming, MLN,** David City, Nebraska, March 6, 2025. **Mary Jo O'Hara, BA,** Eden Prairie, Minnesota, June 9, 2025. **Regina Sheridan Otte, BSBA,** Omaha, Aug. 18, 2025. **Dr. Patricia C. Schupfer, BS'79, BSPha,** Coralville, Iowa, March 25, 2025.

82 Rev. Michael B. Berner, BA, Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 11, 2025. **Julie Tsukamoto Cunningham, BA,** Omaha, March 4, 2025.

84 John E. Brodie, BSAS, Evans, Georgia, March 21, 2025. **Marjean Maynard Gillaspie, JD,** Omaha, July 2, 2025. **Gerryly Hogan Mikuls, JD,** Omaha, Aug. 18, 2025. **Michael D. Warm, BS'80, DDS,** Gilbert, Arizona, May 21, 2025.

85 Dr. John L. Lindsey III, BS, Omaha, July 7, 2025. **Rev. Bonnie J. Roddy, MChrSp,** Murray, Utah, March 27, 2025. **Michelle Niehaus Spenner, BS,** Omaha, June 22, 2025.

86 Rev. John W. Acrea, MSEdu'67, MChrSp, West Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 4, 2025. **J. Allen Soderlund, MS,** Bellevue, Nebraska, April 27, 2025.

87 Russell E. Finken, MS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 15, 2025. **Mark R. McKeone, JD,** Cozad, Nebraska, April 5, 2025. **Ronald G. Stinson, MD,** Scottsdale, Arizona, July 30, 2025.

88 Bonnie Platt Harty, JD, Oklahoma City, June 3, 2025. **Nicholas E. John, BSPHy,** Weldon Spring, Missouri, April 28, 2025.

89 Paul J. Halbur, BSBA'86, JD, Omaha, March 25, 2025. **Gregory A. Ring, JD,** Bullhead City, Arizona, March 7, 2025. **Mary Hughes Walsh, BA,** Naperville, Illinois, Aug. 1, 2025.

90 Scott E. Billings, BSBA'88, MBA, Omaha, June 28, 2025. **Michael R. Erftmier, BSBA,** Omaha, July 13, 2025. **Rev. John M. Fischer, MChrSp,** Erie, Pennsylvania, March 4, 2025. **Michael J. Plambeck, JD,** Bellevue, Nebraska, July 19, 2025.

91 Christina Kleppin Buresh, PharmD, Omaha, June 14, 2025. **Renee L. O'Brien, MMin,** Omaha, Aug. 10, 2025.

92 Sr. Jean Befort, CSJ, MA, Concordia, Kansas, July 23, 2025. **Anthony A. Bohn, BSChm,** Corpus Christi, Texas, Dec. 23, 2024. **Ryan D. Martindale, ARTS,** St. Paul, Minnesota, April 30, 2025. **James F. Schumacher, PharmD,** Shelton, Connecticut, May 22, 2025.

93 Alan R. Pearce, DDS, Nampa, Idaho, March 2, 2025. **John T. Rogers, JD,** Omaha, Aug. 21, 2025.

Nicole Ordich Slavin, BSN, Hastings, Nebraska, June 28, 2025.

94 2nd Lt. Craig E. Downey, BSATS, Omaha, Aug. 16, 2025. **Joseph B. Duffy, BSMth,** Crescent, Iowa, March 13, 2025. **Paul J. Heffron, BA,** Sacramento, California, May 13, 2025. **Douglas R. Moss, DDS,** Willows, California, April 15, 2025.

95 Rey V. Marbello, BS'91, PharmD, Pinetop, Arizona, June 18, 2025. **Patricia Bryant Wallington, MS,** Omaha, June 15, 2025.

97 Christine Meis McAuliffe, BS, Tempe, Arizona, June 11, 2025.

99 Ivan L. Anderson II, BSBA, Omaha, July 5, 2025. **Sr. Teresa Okonski, RSM, MA,** Erie, Pennsylvania, Aug. 12, 2025.

00 Margaret Fletcher Hock, MS, Omaha, June 20, 2025.

03 Benjamin E. Maxell, JD, Omaha, Dec. 24, 2024.

13 Dylan H. Fills Pipe, BS, Thornton, Colorado, May 19, 2025.

16 John P. Kelly, MA, Dallas, June 4, 2024.

18 Iris K. Fung, PharmD, Ames, Iowa, June 1, 2025.

22 Nickolas R. Sachau, JD, Blair, Nebraska, June 28, 2025.

23 Anthony R. Miller, DNP, Omaha, Sept. 1, 2025.

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Sharon DeLaubenfels, instructor of English, College of Arts and Sciences, March 6, 2025.

Davender Malik, PhD, professor of mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, May 13, 2025.

Wendy Wright, PhD, professor of theology, College of Arts and Sciences, May 19, 2025.

Leonard Greenspoon, PhD, professor of theology, College of Arts and Sciences, May 21, 2025.

Philip Meeks, PhD, associate professor of political science and international relations, College of Arts and Sciences, June 14, 2025.

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



HEATHER MCCAIN

AI and the Magis Core Curriculum

The artificial intelligence genie is out of the bottle. According to a recent study by the Digital Education Council, 86% of undergraduate students nationwide use AI in their studies. Of this percentage, 54% use it weekly and 24% daily.

Students are using AI as a high-tech study aid to help take notes, generate potential test questions, summarize large amounts of text (remember CliffsNotes?), create study guides, write essays, even code. And they see it as necessary for current academic and future career success.

Creighton is on the leading edge among Jesuit universities in integrating AI learning outcomes across its undergraduate curriculum, says **Guy McHendry, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies and director of the Magis Core Curriculum. McHendry talked with *Creighton* magazine about how the University is preparing students, ethically and professionally, for a future with AI.

What is the Magis Core Curriculum?

The Magis Core reflects what a Jesuit education should be as a universal experience for all undergraduate students. It includes courses that develop communication, problem solving, critical thinking and ethical decision-making skills to produce well-rounded individuals who are poised to serve their communities and advance in their careers. Adopted by faculty in 2013, the Magis Core requires students over their four years at Creighton to take 35 credit hours of

liberal arts education — literature, history, philosophy, theology, natural sciences, social sciences, math, etc.

The undergraduate schools and colleges have approved inclusion of generative AI learning outcomes within the Magis Core Curriculum.

What is the purpose of the outcomes?

The outcomes will address the emerging challenges posed by generative AI in higher education while also aligning with new industry expectations that our graduates

can — and will be expected to — use these tools. The outcomes allow the content to be tailored to the students' area of study and future profession and will require students to demonstrate the effective use of generative AI as well as analyze the ethical dimensions of its use.

Why now?

We recognize that AI is here, disrupting education, and we can't ignore it. It is irresponsible to teach the 'how' without addressing two other questions: can we and should we? That's discernment, and we need to help our students with this, too. Creighton is the first Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) school to include AI in its core curriculum in such an intentional way.

These generative AI outcomes are not completely new to the Magis Core, are they?

Students are already exposed to AI and information literacy in a first-year course, COM 101, which helps them develop oral communication skills. "Information literacy" is the ability to think about a source — is it valid, is it consistent with other sources and research findings, what sources is AI pulling from, does it make sense?

Faculty will be charged with guiding students in exploring the tension between ethical AI use and the controversies surrounding this new technology. How will they accomplish this?

Faculty have been amazing in recognizing the need for this kind of student education. The outcomes will be embedded in the Designated Technology course adapted to each major. Our approach has not been overly prescriptive. We've empowered faculty to develop the content but have also provided faculty development workshops (which have been well attended) and guidance in conjunction with the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library.

How does this new initiative connect to Creighton's mission?

Technology has been part of Magis Core since 2013. We were a leader then, and today's AI outcomes are an extension of our obligation to help students think critically and prepare them to be ethical leaders in their fields.

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