

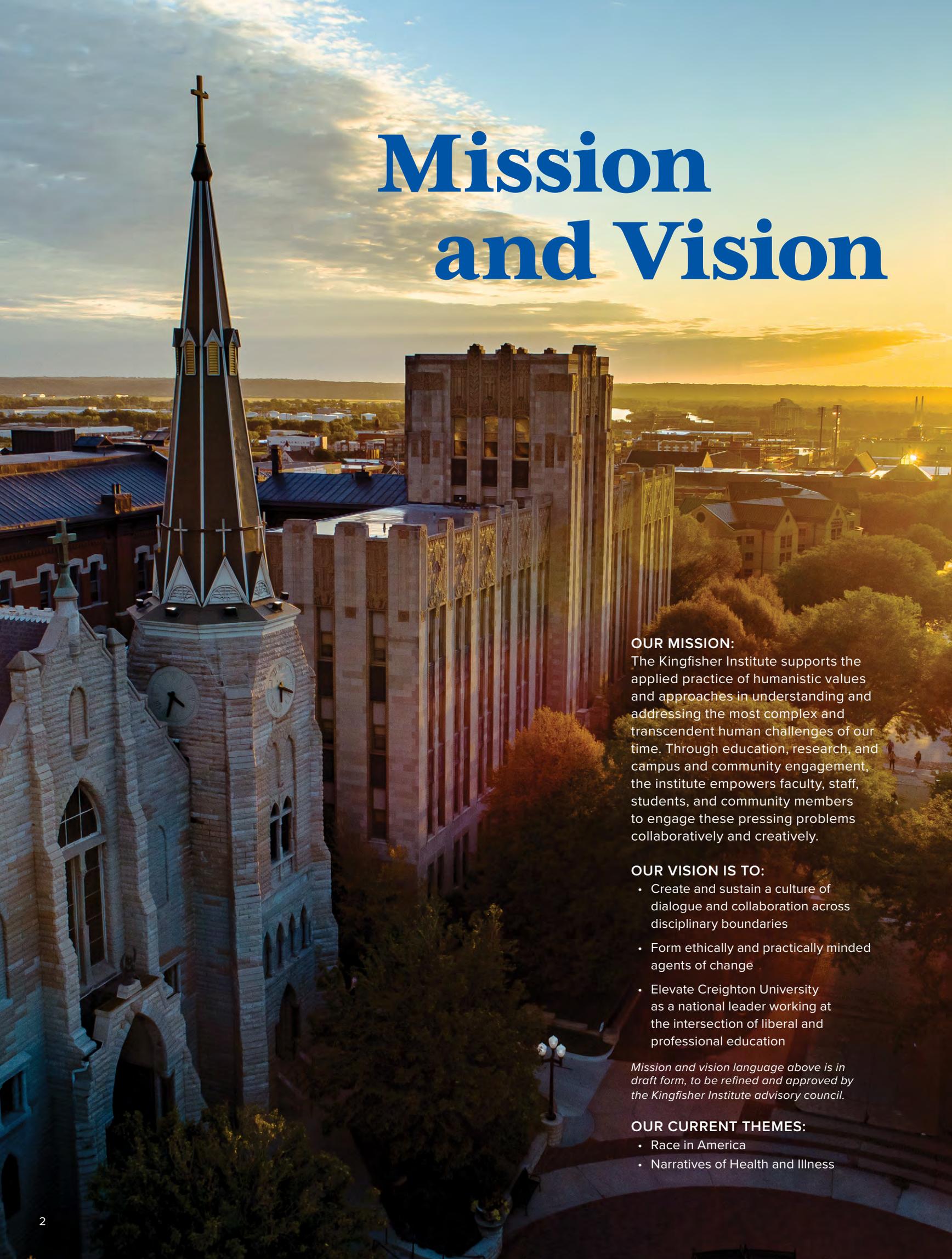


KINGFISHER INSTITUTE

for the Liberal Arts and Professions

ANNUAL REPORT 2019–2020

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY



Mission and Vision

OUR MISSION:

The Kingfisher Institute supports the applied practice of humanistic values and approaches in understanding and addressing the most complex and transcendent human challenges of our time. Through education, research, and campus and community engagement, the institute empowers faculty, staff, students, and community members to engage these pressing problems collaboratively and creatively.

OUR VISION IS TO:

- Create and sustain a culture of dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries
- Form ethically and practically minded agents of change
- Elevate Creighton University as a national leader working at the intersection of liberal and professional education

Mission and vision language above is in draft form, to be refined and approved by the Kingfisher Institute advisory council.

OUR CURRENT THEMES:

- Race in America
- Narratives of Health and Illness



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I encountered this brief passage in Anne Boyer's book *The Undying*, which recently won the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. In the book, Boyer recounts her harrowing experience with an aggressive form of breast cancer. She also delivers an incisive critique of a system that routinely objectifies cancer patients and, in this case, women in particular. As she says elsewhere in this beautifully written though deeply troubling book, "Disease is never neutral. Treatment never not ideological. Mortality never without its politics" (p. 123). The sentence lingered, not leaving my mind for days. I shared it with friends and urged people to read the book, in part because I felt a need to talk about it. Finally, I realized that the line resonated for me with such intensity and clarity at this moment because I am personally and professionally challenged to do something that will make our community and our world more inclusive and equitable in the face of systemic injustice. So, to paraphrase, I would rather do nothing at all than propagandize for, or even accept, the world as is.

"I would rather write nothing at all than propagandize for the world as is."

(Anne Boyer in *The Undying*, p. 116)

Leadership of the Kingfisher Institute presents opportunities to think widely about systems of injustice. I have the pleasure of working with every school and college at Creighton on curricular innovation that will begin to erase unnecessary barriers between the liberal arts and sciences and the professions. The institute also supports transdisciplinary research and campus and community engagement in an effort to pair critical reflection with effective action in the world.

With our formation in January 2019, we selected two themes to organize our efforts going forward for at least the first few years. One is "Narratives of Health and Illness," a theme that stresses the human dimensions of health, illness and health care. The other is "Race in America." Not one of us involved in this project could have anticipated how these two themes would intersect like they have this spring. "Disease is never neutral," Boyer writes. We know that COVID-19 disproportionately affects communities of color and people with lower incomes. Likewise with the sharp economic recession and associated job losses.

Therefore, I am committed to ensure that the Kingfisher Institute becomes a visible and influential resource for Creighton and for our community as we struggle to deal with the consequences of historical and current injustices in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. We will host a virtual symposium in October on HUMAN/E Health and Healthcare. In *Leading Health Indicators 2030: Advancing Health, Equity and Well-Being*, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine place an increased focus on "poverty, racism, and discrimination as the root causes of health inequities" (National Academies 2020, pp. 4-8). Recent widespread health crises, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, have brought these factors and the accompanying disparities into sharp focus. We are inspired by the recent actions in Douglas County to address racism as a public health crisis. The Kingfisher Institute is well positioned to become a more effective force for equity and justice in our community. As Boyer suggests, inaction is not an option in a world that demands change. We invite you to join us in this important work.

TRACY NEAL LEVELLE
DIRECTOR, KINGFISHER INSTITUTE

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK PILLARS



CURRICULUM INNOVATION



CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

TIMELINE

Fall 2018: Soft Launch

- Inaugural event: Alumni Reunion Week lecture by Tom Kirsch, MD, MPH, BA'80, National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Faculty/staff reading groups initiated
- Director hiring process conducted
- Event planning began for 1919 “Red Summer,” lynching of Will Brown commemoration

Spring 2019: Formal Launch

- Director appointed
- Established dedicated office space in School of Dentistry building
- First cohort of Magis core curriculum innovation fellows named
- Co-hosted lecture by Richard Rothstein, author of *The Color of Law*

Summer/Fall 2019

- Programming to mark 1919 “Red Summer” and lynching of Will Brown, including Sept. 28 remembrance ceremony
- Humanities “selectives” for first-year medical students debuted fall 2019
- Inaugural Kingfisher Award recipient announced
- Kingfisher Research and Scholarship Seminar began
- Visit from National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to discuss implications of the report, *Branches from the Same Tree: The Integration of the Humanities and Arts with Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Higher Education* (2019)

Spring 2020/Summer 2020

- National Day of Racial Healing (Jan. 21) with Institutional Diversity and Inclusion office and Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
- First advisory board council convening (February)
- Kingfisher Research and Scholarship fellows finish workshopping projects
- Health Humanities Interprofessional Education (HH IPE) category established with Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER); first cohort of HH IPE Curriculum Innovation Fellows named
- “Graphic Medicine” online course pilot offered to health sciences students, who read and discussed *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*, by MK Czerwiec, on Zoom

**“All religions, arts and sciences
are branches from the same tree.”**

–ALBERT EINSTEIN

We concur with Einstein’s view, which asserts that all areas of human knowledge and inquiry are fundamentally connected. Authors of the report also affirmed what has become a guiding tenet for the Kingfisher Institute: “a broad and interwoven education is essential to the preparation of citizens for life, work, and civic participation.” (National Academies, 2019, summary p. 1).

Highlights By the Numbers



\$276,777

in gifts received



\$5,000

Humanities Nebraska
CARES Grant



8
reading groups

with nearly 75 unique
faculty/staff participants



350
students

learned about the 1919 lynching
of Will Brown in Omaha by
reading *Kings of Broken Things*



2 out of 3
first-year medical students

chose to take a medical humanities
selective (short course) developed
with the Kingfisher Institute
(114 students)



3.73 out of 4
students

in medical humanities selectives
agree with the statement:
“This selective expanded my understanding
of the role of physicians in health care.”



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

In the February 2019 online issue of *Connections*, the magazine of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, the Kingfisher Institute was included in an article highlighting interdisciplinary collaboration at Creighton University.

A 2019 issue of *American Way*, the American Airlines in-flight magazine, mentions the Kingfisher Institute. “This new institute is a program to showcase the value and efficacy that come through engagement in the liberal arts,” said Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, in a section about innovation in Nebraska higher education.

The Kingfisher Institute’s work was also featured in the March 2020 *Presidential Stakeholders Newsletter*, *The Creightonian* (the University’s student publication), *Creighton* magazine, and the 2018–2019 *Year in Review* print publication and video.



COMMUNITY

As men and women for and with others, the Kingfisher Institute is committed to meaningful, sustained community engagement, in collaboration with University and community partners. The challenges that we address from the intersection of the humanities and the professions are global and local, requiring efforts both within our campus and with our neighbors.

Out of Omaha Omaha premiere and encore screening, March 6 and 9, 2019

The Kingfisher Institute partnered with Peggy Rupprecht, PhD, Department of Computer Science, Design and Journalism, and Christopher M. Whitt, PhD, vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at Creighton, to support the Omaha premiere of this bold, acclaimed documentary film. *Out of Omaha* chronicles the challenges of systemic racism for twin brothers Darcell and Darrell Trotter, two African-American young men coming of age in Omaha.

With Dr. Whitt's office, the institute provided 250 tickets to free showings for Creighton and North Omaha community members at Aksarben Cinema. Dr. Rupprecht arranged for filmmakers Clay Tweel, Ryan Johnston and Steven Klein to visit with Tim Guthrie's filmmaking class. Johnston and Tweel also took part in a panel discussion with cast members Wayne Brown, JD'80, and Darcell Trotter after the film showings. The Kingfisher Institute hosted a lunch discussion with the filmmakers and cast members about the film and the local issues it raises. Students, faculty, staff and community members attended.

Photo at right: Out of Omaha Director Clay Tweel and producers Ryan Johnston and Steven Klein visit Tim Guthrie's filmmaking class



“Storytelling is an essential skill, whether it’s for journalism, public relations, advertising, design, digital media or coding. [This] conversation provide[s] an opportunity for students to discern how they might apply storytelling to their own career paths.”

—PEGGY M. RUPPRECHT, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, DESIGN AND JOURNALISM

Lydia Thompson Art Workshop

With Jess Benjamin, director of the Creighton University Lied Art Gallery, the institute supported a portion of the cost to bring sculptor Lydia Thompson to Omaha to work with 12 youth of Girls, Inc., on an art project with the Union for Contemporary Art (summer 2019).

The girls' artwork went on display at the Lied Art Gallery with other works by Thompson in the installation, "RESET: Cycles of Omaha: Remembering Equality Supports our Efforts for Transformations" (fall 2019). Thompson returned to Omaha to give a gallery talk at a reception with over 100 attendees.

Photo at right: Displayed at the Lied Art Gallery in 2019, the house and tiles that artist Lydia Thompson and about 12 local girls aged 9–10 created together during a workshop represent what the girls stated that they value and need in their community.



Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation (OCCRJR)

The Kingfisher Institute is a proud member of the OCCRJR, a network of local organizations and leaders who came together to help raise awareness of the legacy of racial violence in Omaha and to seek racial reconciliation. OCCRJR works closely with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a national organization based in Montgomery, Alabama, in EJI's efforts to encourage communities to recognize racial violence at the local level. OCCRJR's primary effort has been to begin a Community Remembrance Project to acknowledge the history of lynching in Douglas County, Nebraska.

- As part of OCCRJR, the Kingfisher Institute helped coordinate the official remembrance ceremony and soil collection for the lynching of Will Brown (Sept. 28, 2019).
- The public ceremony at Douglas County Courthouse included remarks by many local and regional leaders, including Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, who offered an invocation. Others included Rep. Don Bacon; Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert; Omaha City Council President Ben Gray; Omaha Branch NAACP President Vickie Young; former State Legislator Brenda Council; professor Cynthia Robinson, director of Black Studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha; Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer; and more.
- Elliot Spillers and Sade Stevens of the Equal Justice Initiative traveled to Omaha for the ceremony, and Spillers gave moving remarks.
- Community leaders lined up for the solemn task of filling glass jars with soil from the courthouse grounds. One jar is now at the EJI Legacy Museum in Montgomery with similar jars from communities across the U.S.
- OCCRJR continues to work with EJI to complete additional aspects of the community remembrance project, including installation of a historical marker near the courthouse to acknowledge Will Brown and the mob violence of 1919.
- The Kingfisher Institute coordinated about 10 OCCRJR community meetings (August 2018–June 2020) to provide venues for open conversation on racial justice and reconciliation.
- One meeting marked the first observance of the National Day of Racial Healing held at Creighton University (January 2020), hosted in partnership with Creighton's Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.



Christopher Whitt, PhD, vice provost for institutional diversity and inclusion, engages in a table talk at an OCCRJR meeting with community leaders, including Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD; Schlegel Center for Service and Justice Director Ken Reed-Bouley; and Omaha NAACP Branch President Vickie Young.

CURRICULUM

Faculty innovation, experience and enthusiasm make a Creighton education life-changing. We provide resources for faculty members to engage students with today's most complex issues, while teaching valuable skills that comprise the value of a liberal arts education at Creighton. Efforts to invigorate the curriculum have infused our themes into the undergraduate core curriculum, launched innovative ways of teaching the humanities to medical students and made an interprofessional approach to the humanities available to even more Creighton students studying for the health professions.

Theming the Magis Core Curriculum for undergraduate students

The Kingfisher Institute drove several initiatives to advance the themes "Race in America" and "Narratives of Health and Illness." For example, the institute shared a list of courses in the College of Arts and Sciences that focus on race.

Additionally, grants of \$500 each were offered to faculty who revised all or part of a Magis core curriculum course to address one of the two themes. In 2019, four grants were awarded. A total of 110 students registered for the courses. The faculty involved in 2019 were:

- Brooke Kowalke, PhD, ENG 171: Literature in Life (Critical Issues in Human Inquiry) – 23 students
- Adam Sundberg, PhD, HIS 317: Mapping History (Designated Technology) – 18 students
- Matt Averett, PhD, ARH 384: American Architecture (Fine Arts) – 27 students
- Matt Reznicek, PhD, ENG 175: Income Inequality and the Novel (Critical Issues in Human Inquiry) – 42 students (3 sections)

All four 2019 grantees presented at a roundtable discussion, called the Magis Curriculum Development Forum, for faculty members interested in teaching to the themes or applying for a grant (Sept. 16, 2019).

In 2020, three grants were awarded to:

- Jeff Maciejewski, PhD, Computer Science, Design and Journalism: JRM 438 Information Ethics course
- Guy McHendry, PhD, and Erika Kirby, PhD, Communication Studies: Race in America Teaching Resources
Visit the site to learn more about teaching anti-racism: coda.io/guymchendry/teaching-anti-racism
- Jay Carney, PhD, Theology: "Reconciliation: Racial Reconciliation and Christianity in America" module (Ultimate Questions)

Elsewhere, 12 RSP (Ratio Studiorum Program, introductory course for freshmen) sections representing 159 students read *Kings of Broken Things*. This novel by Theodore Wheeler, MA'08, MFA'15, captures the violent "Red Summer" of 1919 in Omaha, including the lynching of Will Brown.

As part of the initiative, Wheeler, student decursions (discussion leaders) and RSP instructors engaged in discussion over lunch hosted by the institute.

Humanities selectives in School of Medicine curriculum

Six curriculum innovation fellows (College of Arts and Sciences faculty) taught 0.5 credit selectives to first-year medical students. (All selectives filled with at least 12 students per section – 114 total out of 169 M1 students took one.) Each faculty member received a secondary appointment in the new Department of Medical Humanities in the School of Medicine.

- The Art of Examination
Rachel Mindrup, MFA, Fine and Performing Arts Department, with Jim F. Smith, MD
- Childbirth and Social Justice
Oge Williams, PhD, History Department
- Communicating in Spanish I & II
José McClanahan, PhD, Modern Languages Department
- Death, Health, and Dickens
Matthew Reznicek, PhD, English Department, with Jim F. Smith, MD
- History of Disability
Andrew Hogan, PhD, History Department
- Narratives in Neurodiversity
Brooke Kowalke, PhD, English Department, with Kate McKillip, MD

"I'm so glad to be part of this program. I loved teaching the SIS and can't wait to do it again. Thank you!"

—STUDENT INTEREST SELECTIVES (SIS) INSTRUCTOR





Inaugural Health Humanities Interprofessional Education (IPE) Fellows

Finding scalable ways to extend the humanities to all health professions students is a priority for the institute. A curriculum audit across the schools was completed, and institute personnel met regularly with leadership in the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER), which has successfully functioned as a hub and catalyst for rigorous activities that engage health professions students. CIPER ensures that all health professions students complete three such activities as part of their Creighton education.

These conversations led to establishment of a “Health Humanities” designation for IPE activities. The Kingfisher Institute offered grants to faculty who proposed and developed or revised an activity that incorporated both the competencies associated with IPE and elements of the humanistic tradition such as reflection, critical thinking, communication, history or others. The first activity from this effort is offered starting in summer 2020. Fellows for 2020 were:

- Margo Minnich, DNP, RN, College of Nursing: Health Humanities IPE Book Club Discussion
- Candace D. Bloomquist, PhD, and LaShaune P. Johnson, PhD, Graduate School, Interdisciplinary Studies Department: Dialogues for Innovative Action & Neighborhood Everywhere (DIANE)
- Marion Russell, OTD, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Occupational Therapy Department, with Ryan Nelson and Pooja Varman, School of Medicine: LGBTQ Health Care Seminar



Campus Engagement

A vibrant intellectual climate is a sign of a healthy university. Though this can take countless forms, our efforts have focused on bringing together faculty, staff and students across the University for conversations that are otherwise difficult to find.

Lectures

Richard Rothstein (pictured) gave a public lecture (500+ attendees) on campus and met with the reading group (March 2019).

- Co-sponsored with the John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities
- Partnered with Office of Continuing Education to offer continuing legal education (CLE) for law alumni and other legal professionals

Nicole Piemonte, PhD, author of *Afflicted: How Vulnerability Can Heal Medical Education and Practice*, gave a public lecture (School of Medicine Distinguished Lecture Series) on vulnerability in medical practice and met with reading group (October 2018).

- Partnered with Office of Continuing Education to offer continuing medical education (CME) credit for attendance

Tom Cavanaugh, PhD, a professor of philosophy at the University of San Francisco, visited campus to give a lecture about the Hippocratic oath and medicine as a profession (February 2020).

- Co-sponsored with the Philosophy Department and Medical Humanities Department.
- About 200 medical students in attendance plus several undergraduate classes
- Also held informal discussion with faculty at a luncheon

Biographer David Blight, PhD, author of the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*, gave a lecture on campus in partnership with the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program (September 2019).

Faculty/staff reading groups

There were 73 unique participants; about 25 participants joined two or more reading groups.

- Scene On Radio's podcast series *Seeing White* (facilitated by Kathy Gonzales, PhD, and Palma Strand, JD, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program, Graduate School)
- *Afflicted: How Vulnerability Can Heal Medical Education and Practice* by Nicole Piemonte, PhD, (facilitated by Andrew Hogan, PhD, History Department)
- *Kings of Broken Things* by Theodore Wheeler (facilitated by Kathy Gonzales, PhD, and Palma Strand, JD, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program, Graduate School)
- *Attending: Medicine, Mindfulness, and Humanity* by Ronald Epstein, MD (facilitated by Andrew Hogan, PhD, History Department)
- *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein (facilitated by Patrick Murray, PhD, Philosophy Department)
- A Conversation about the University (three volumes, yearlong), facilitated by Fr. Greg Carlson, SJ, College of Arts and Sciences; Jim Kelly, DDS, School of Dentistry; Thomas Svolos, MD, School of Medicine
- *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in U.S. Health Care* by Dayna Bowen Matthew (facilitated by Kelly Dineen, RN, JD, PhD, School of Law, and Andrew Hogan, PhD, History Department)
- *Fables and Futures: Biotechnology, Disability, and the Stories We Tell Ourselves* by George Estreich (facilitated by Andrew Hogan, PhD, History Department)



“Loved the different schools represented. Loved seeing different people all together in an academic setting. [This experience] will adjust how I navigate the University and make contacts across disciplines.”

**—“A CONVERSATION ON THE UNIVERSITY”
READING GROUP MEMBER**



Kings of Broken Things

The institute promoted *Kings of Broken Things* by Theodore Wheeler, MA'08, MFA'15, as a University-wide summer read. (In collaboration with University Libraries, Magis Core Curriculum, Office of Alumni Relations, Student Leadership and Involvement Center, Heider College of Business, and College of Arts and Sciences.)

- Wheeler offered background and read from his novel before joining a panel on the history of racial violence (September 2019)
- Panel moderated by Lydia Cooper, PhD, of the English Department at Creighton University and featuring panelists:
 - Eric Ewing, Executive Director, Great Plains Black History Museum
 - Heather Fryer, PhD, Fr. Henry W. Casper, SJ, Professor of History; Associate Professor of History and Director, American Studies Program, Creighton University
 - Palma Strand, JD, Professor of Law, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program, Creighton University Graduate School
- In addition to RSP students (159), decurions, and instructors reading the book, students in Matt Averett's American Architecture class (27), the Dean's Fellows of the College of Arts and Sciences (100 attended a book discussion), Dean's Fellows of the Heider College of Business (40), and peer leaders in the Freshmen Leadership program (20) also read the book and held discussions

Health Humanities Faculty Lyceum Sept. 6, 2019

- Professional development, networking opportunity for College of Arts and Sciences faculty teaching in the new medical school curriculum
- Opened up to all faculty, with about 20 in attendance from the School of Medicine and College of Arts and Sciences
- Will recur and expand in the 2020–2021 academic year

Alumni opportunities

- September 2018 (Alumni Reunion Weekend): Lecture by Tom Kirsch, MD, MPH, BA'80, National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Co-presented with Creighton College of Arts and Sciences
- June 2019 (Alumni Week): Lecture by Retired Air Force Col. Daniel Blaise Bruzzini, MD, MBA, CPE, on the history of U.S. health care
 - Partnered with Office of Continuing Education to offer continuing medical education credit to attendees
- Alumni Book Club: first selection was *Kings of Broken Things*; about 400 alumni were signed up at that time
- Continue to partner to provide opportunities for alumni related to book selections—for example, recent book club selection, *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, chosen to coincide with lecture on campus (postponed due to COVID-19)

Kingfisher Collection and Kingfisher Room

- The “Kingfisher Collection” features books that align with the institute’s mission and themes. About 30 volumes are in the collection so far, most purchased with funds from donors on Giving Day in 2019. They are in a dedicated case on the upper level of the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library near the Kingfisher Room; online access is also available for several of the titles.
- Kingfisher Room was the brainchild of library leadership. The glass-walled area on the upper level of Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library is designed for quiet study and small gatherings, complete with the latest technology for virtual meetings. An open house event in January 2020 welcomed the campus community into the space and gave the Kingfisher Institute a presence in the heart of the Omaha campus.

Photo credit: Rachel Holmes





TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Creighton University has a size and scope that makes it an ideal institution for research across and between the disciplines. The Kingfisher Institute's efforts in this area celebrate interdisciplinary research while encouraging even deeper connections, resulting in new knowledge and new integrative frameworks. This is transdisciplinary research, which involves “not only the *integration* of discipline-specific approaches, but also the extension of these approaches to generate *fundamentally new* conceptual frameworks, hypotheses, theories, models, and methodological applications that *transcend their disciplinary origins*, with the aim of accelerating innovation and advances in scientific [human] knowledge” (Hall et al., 2012, p. 416; emphases added).

Kingfisher Award

The Office of the President, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, inaugurated the annual Kingfisher Award in partnership with the Kingfisher Institute in 2019. Congratulations to inaugural recipient John O’Keefe, PhD, a true exemplar of those whom the award seeks to recognize: Creighton faculty and staff who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the values, principles and practices of the humanities. O’Keefe’s background is in patristic theology, and he regularly uses technology, including documentary film, to bring the humanities to the public. Recent projects focus on the area of eco-theology, with strong collaborations with Creighton colleagues in journalism, communication studies and sustainability studies. The award includes \$5,000 for research and scholarship, along with a striking statuette created by sculptor Dan Ostermiller.

Medical Education Research Project

Tracy Leavelle, PhD, and Charise Alexander Adams, MA, are part of an interdisciplinary team conducting research to gauge the impact of the School of Medicine new curriculum, including humanities selectives, on empathy, professional identity, and intellectual humility.

- Project received \$11,350 Haddix Grant (intramural funding)
- Primary investigators: Cassie Eno, PhD, and Nicole Piemonte, PhD, Creighton University School of Medicine Medical Education Department
- Other team members: Lee Budesheim, PhD, Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences; Tom Barnard, MPH, Mary Sinclair, MSc, James Smith, MD, School of Medicine Medical Education Department

Kingfisher Research and Scholarship Seminar

The Kingfisher Seminar is the institute's major effort to enable transdisciplinary research at the University. We received a strong response, with many more excellent proposals than we could fund. We selected 13 faculty, staff and student fellows, with 10 projects, from four schools and colleges and two administrative areas to come together as the inaugural cohort starting in fall 2019. Though most of them represent very different fields, the projects were united under the theme of "Race, Violence and Reconciliation in America." Throughout the academic year, they met to discuss the background and substance of each of their projects, with the goal of mutually enriching one another's scholarly efforts.

Fellows have committed to disseminating their work in the form of scholarly presentations or articles and several have already begun to do so.

2020–2021 theme: "The Politics of Health and Health Care."

2019–2020 Inaugural Fellows:

- Mary Lee Brock, MEd (Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program, Graduate School) and Carol Zuegner, PhD (Department of Computer Science, Design and Journalism)
- Timothy Dickel, PhD, Department of Education
- Errik Ejike, MPH, Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs
- Julia Fleming, PhD, Department of Theology
- Pierce Greenberg, PhD, Department of Cultural and Social Studies
- Jacob Idra (Heider College of Business undergraduate student), Samuel Lado Jr. (College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate student) and Lucy Hancock, MA (Global Engagement Office)
- Palma Joy Strand, JD, NCR Program, Graduate School
- Erika Kirby, PhD, Department of Communication Studies
- Jacob Rump, PhD, Department of Philosophy
- Pooja Varman, MA, MD student (M2)

Sincere thanks go out to each member of the cohort. Thank you also to our partners in the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, who generously gave their time to review proposals and help create a strong cohort.

"I found this experience really stimulating and rewarding—and only wish there were more opportunities like this at Creighton!"

—2019–2020 FELLOW



CO-SPONSORED AND SUPPORTED EVENTS

- Institute for Economic Inquiry “Economics and Literature” colloquia – co-sponsored and participated (2019)
- “You are Here” place-based scholarship conference co-sponsors (2019)
- Renard Lecture co-sponsors (2020) with Philosophy Department
- Co-sponsored MLK Celebration Week speakers (2019 and 2020)
- Co-hosted campus discussion of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism” with John C. Kenefick Chair in the Humanities and other campus co-sponsors (2019)
- Co-sponsored lecture “No Empires, No Dust Bowls: Rejecting the White Man’s Burden and Building Real Ecological Solidarity,” by Hannah Holleman, with the Kenefick Chair, Environmental Science Program and Cultural and Social Studies Department (2019)
- Supported Black Votes Matter brunch to spotlight high school students participating in civil rights tour (2019)
- Co-sponsored breakfast with Danielle Vella, director of reconciliation and social cohesion for the Jesuit Refugee Service, and Creighton faculty and staff, in partnership with John C. Kenefick Chair in the Humanities (2020)



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard L. Deming, MD’80

Physician, Medical Director of Mercy Cancer Center (Des Moines, IA)

Joy Doll, OT, OTD’03

NEHII (Nebraska Health Information Initiative) Chief Academic Program Officer

Kendra Fershee, JD

Instructor, School of Law

Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD

John A. Creighton Chair, Medical Humanities Department Chair, School of Medicine

LaShaune Johnson, PhD

Associate Professor, Master of Public Health Program

Taylor Keen, MPA, MBA

Instructor, Heider College of Business

Sol Kim, BA’20

Jesuit Volunteer Corps Member, Kingfisher Institute Intern 2019–2020

Kim McFarland, DDS, MHA

Chair, School of Dentistry Community and Preventive Dentistry

Rachel Mindrup, MFA

Assistant Professor, Fine and Performing Arts, Dr. Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities

Margo Minnich, DNP’15

Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

Patrick Murray, PhD

Professor of Philosophy, John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities

Hannah Olsen

Class of 2022, College of Arts and Sciences

Cailyn Olson

Class of 2021, College of Nursing

Nicole Piemonte, PhD

Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean, School of Medicine Medical Education Department, Phoenix Campus

Victoria Roche, PhD

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Special Assistant to the Dean, Professor of Pharmacy Sciences

Audel Salazar, BA’16, MA’17

Instructional Designer, Teaching and Learning Center

Dan Semrad, BSBA’71, MA’09, MS’18, HON’19
Business Owner (Lincoln, NE)

Julie Soukup, PhD, BSChM’93

Professor, Chemistry; Director, Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

Alternate: Meghan Freeman, PhD, BA’09

Program Planner, Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

Palma Strand, JD

Professor of Law, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program

Adam Swisher

Class of 2021, Heider College of Business

Pooja Varman, MA

Class of 2022, School of Medicine

Christopher M. Whitt, PhD

Vice Provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Alternate: Janique Hayes, MPA

Administrative Coordinator, Mission and Ministry and Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

2020–2021

Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Doctoral Scholars Symposium, Coming Fall 2020

With representatives from the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Kingfisher Institute personnel traveled to Atlanta in October 2019 to represent Creighton University at the Institute for Teaching and Mentoring, the largest gathering in the U.S. of early-career scholars from under-represented groups. Scholars from the conference were invited afterward to submit an application to present their work and network with Creighton community members at a symposium on campus. Several outstanding scholars were selected and plans for rescheduling the event, originally slated for April 2020, are underway.

Kingfisher Seminar Symposium

The inaugural cohort of Kingfisher Research and Scholarship fellows will discuss their work on “Race, Violence and Reconciliation in America,” at a virtual symposium on Sept. 22, 2020.

HUMAN/E Health and Healthcare Symposium Oct. 23 and 24, 2020

With a team of faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Dentistry, Heider College of Business, School of Medicine, College of Nursing, and Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Mission and Ministry, the Kingfisher Institute is planning a conference-style series of virtual talks, panels and workshops. Scholars and practitioners from a wide range of fields will have opportunities to explore the many ways that health, health care, and health equity are socially determined and construed.

Featured speakers will include: Uché Blackstock, MD, founder and CEO of Advancing Health Equity; and Jonathan Metz, PhD, the Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Medicine, Health, and Society at Vanderbilt University, and the author of *Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland*.

Funding provided by Humanities Nebraska (HN) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Colson Whitehead

Colson Whitehead, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction and *The New York Times*-bestselling author, was scheduled to visit Creighton University for “An Evening with Colson Whitehead” in March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, his visit will be rescheduled for 2022.

A strong collaborative effort, the event is being made possible through partnership with the History Department, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Alumni Relations, A.F. Jacobson Chair in Communications, John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities, and also the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.





As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;
Selves — goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,
Crying *Whát I dó is me: for that I came.*

I say móre: the just man justices;
Keeps grace: thát keeps all his goings graces;
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is —
Christ — for Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men's faces.

STAFF

Many thanks, best wishes and congratulations to **Sol Kim, BA'20**, our first Kingfisher Institute intern!



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Thank You

Because of the vision and generosity of donors, the Kingfisher Institute has been able to take shape sooner than anticipated. Donor support has been essential for our ability to successfully engage the Creighton community while responding creatively and nimbly to the needs of students, faculty, staff and community partners. We want to be the place where our community members—on campus, in the local community and beyond—bring their unique ideas. Thanks to donors, we are beginning to realize this vision.

We extend a special thank-you to Dan Semrad, BSBA'71, MA'09, MS'18, HON'19, for his support.

Altar cloth for Fr. Hendrickson's missional Mass painted by Maureen Beat, Creighton staff member.



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