

CREIGHTON

SPRING 2025 • Volume 41 Issue 1



A DECADE OF DETERMINATION

Leading with an unwavering focus on mission, community and academic excellence, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, celebrates 10 years as Creighton's president.



Making a Difference

I want to begin by thanking each of you for your support of our University mission.

Your generous philanthropic gifts, attending Creighton events in Omaha, Phoenix, and across the country, mentoring our students, volunteering for student recruitment efforts, regularly reading *Creighton* magazine, and a multitude of other ways, continue to show your commitment to a nearly 150-year-old mission. You are a vital part of our ability to form tomorrow's leaders by the example you set in living the University's Jesuit, Catholic mission and shaping a better world for all.



In fact, as of this spring, we have established more than 470 new scholarships for students through the Forward Blue fundraising campaign. This includes the creation of programs such as the Scott Scholars, Harper Nursing Scholars, Next Generation Leaders, Arrupe Global Scholars, Halle Scholars, Dignity Health Scholarships, and the recently announced Soto Nursing Scholars.

In addition to these life-changing opportunities for our students, Creighton has been able to make extensive investments in undergraduate research, preprofessional programs, the Division of Student Success, internships, and so much more. In return, we have seen a 94% retention rate of freshmen returning for their sophomore year (which significantly exceeds the national average of 79% for private four-year institutions). When paired with Creighton's 98% outcomes rate, we see the tangible results of our University mission.

This year marks my 10th anniversary as Creighton's president. In that time, I have seen a transformational change in the physical footprint of our University. New facilities such as our School of Dentistry building and the CL and Rachel Werner Center for Health Sciences Education, as well as the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Health Sciences Building in Phoenix, have supported our academic needs, while Graves Hall, the Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence, and the yet-to-be-named sophomore residence hall, which will open in fall 2026, make Creighton a place where our entire community can find fullness of mind, body, and spirit.




Too, our public-private partnerships continue to grow through our ties to Omaha's Urban Core and Phoenix Medical Quarter. We are not only forming the future leaders in these regions, but actively contributing to the economic, social, and personal well-being of thousands of individuals each year. Just as the Creighton family gave back to their community, our University will remain focused on being for and with others.

Please know that these achievements would not be possible without you. As a part of our story, I hope you will engage with the latest issue of *Creighton* magazine and be inspired by the many ways the University and those individuals such as yourselves continue to make a difference in the world.

Thank you, God bless, and remember that you are a Bluejay, always.

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President

Follow me:

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© School of Medicine faculty, staff and students joined family and friends to celebrate Match Day in Omaha and Phoenix on March 21. This year, there were 121 medical students in Omaha and 97 in Phoenix, with 100% of the class matching into a residency or fellowship program and 94% matching into their specialty of choice. Students matched into residencies in 34 states and the District of Columbia. The top three states were Arizona (37), California (31) and Nebraska (16).

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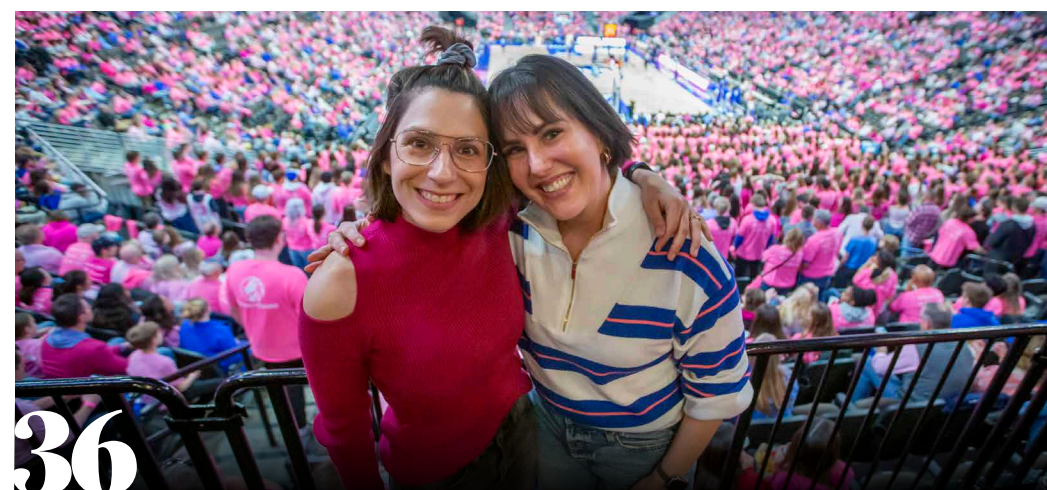
In the spring of 1965, James Maly, MD'46, and Jan McDermet Maly, SJN'48, survived a crash-landing of their single-engine plane in the Amazon — the crash, they would later say, was a gift from God.



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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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How to Use AI to Improve Your Life

BY MOLLY CARPENTER GARRIOTT, BA'89

AI is here to stay. That's good news because it can free you from repetitive, time-consuming tasks so you can channel your energies on more meaningful ones.

You're making Caesar salad dressing and ask Google for a good substitute for anchovies. You're looking for the quickest route to your destination, and your maps app provides it – with live traffic and construction updates (along with a list of speed traps!). You're enjoying a streaming service, and it suggests new musical artists based on your listening history. That's all AI in action.

AI, like love, is all around.

While definitions of "intelligence" vary, in January, the Vatican released a document (*Antiqua et Nova*) defining it as an "essential aspect of how humans are created 'in the image of God.'" AI, on the other hand, functions

"as an advanced computational tool that excels in pattern recognition and data processing," says Steven Fernandes, PhD, assistant professor of computer science. It augments human effort and enhances our capabilities; it doesn't replace human intellect. It cannot emulate human consciousness or emotional depth, Fernandes says.

But it can "boost productivity by automating routine tasks and enabling quicker, data-driven decisions," he says, such as generating a meeting summary.

AI finds patterns the human mind cannot. It is also unencumbered by life experiences and human biases, though they are trained on data that includes such human experiences and

biases, which can be problematic, says Creighton's university librarian Michael Paulus, DMin, author of two books on AI, most recently, *AI and the Apocalyptic Imagination: Artificial Agency and Human Hope*. Because it can make predictions rooted in historical data, it is a powerful planning tool, allowing us to better anticipate and shape the future, he says. "Humans can imagine alternative futures; AI can present probable futures."

Lindsay Iverson, BSN'05, MS'09, DNP'11, adult acute care nurse practitioner and director of the Clinical and Simulated Learning Environment at Creighton, says AI has freed healthcare professionals from time-consuming administrative tasks, allowing them to connect more deeply with patients. For

“Humans can imagine alternative futures; AI can present probable futures.”

MICHAEL PAULUS, DMIN
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

educational tools, such as interactive storybooks, are a suitable start. Children as young as 7 can differentiate between human intelligence and machine capabilities, so discussions on how AI influences daily living (such as smart home devices) and responsible use of AI are fitting.

No matter when and how parents introduce AI to their children, Hearn advises they remain active participants in this interaction and moderate exposure with other means of exploration. "Parents should approach AI with a balanced mindset — embracing its potential while being mindful of its limitations and ensuring their children develop a critical and ethical understanding of technology."

Yes, AI has limitations. It can "hallucinate," meaning provide mistaken, misleading or made-up answers to prompts. And for platforms such as ChatGPT that pull content from across the internet, the information it yields is only as good as the source content.

But, Paulus believes, the AI revolution is a hopeful one that we needn't fear: "We can engage with this technology reflectively and responsibly."

Fr. Kelly Named Heider Chair

Creighton President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, has announced that the Rev. Patrick Kelly, SJ, PhD, from the University of Detroit Mercy will be joining Creighton in the 2025-2026 academic year as the newest holder of the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair.

The largest donor in Creighton's history, the Heider family has been closely tied to the University ever since Charles (Charlie) Heider, BS'49, HON'10, earned his Creighton degree. Charlie and his wife, Mary, HON'10, established the Heider Jesuit Faculty Chair in 1994, the first donor-funded faculty chair in Creighton's history.

The Rev. Don Doll, SJ, professor emeritus of journalism, served as the



GOOGLE INVESTS IN AI AT CREIGHTON

Google's philanthropic arm has provided Creighton with a \$250,000 grant to support the University's efforts to prepare students for the rapidly expanding uses of artificial intelligence in all walks of work and life. The funding in Creighton Libraries' emerging technologies initiative will empower students, faculty and staff to engage with AI on a number of levels, employing it as a tool for learning and research while also exploring the ways it is reshaping the workforce across every field and industry.

chairholder for the first 26 years, until 2020. The Rev. Roy Pereira, SJ, PhD, served as the Heider Chair until 2021, but it has remained unfilled since.

Fr. Kelly will officially become the third chairholder on July 1 while also joining Creighton as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Theology. He will regularly teach courses in his areas of expertise, including the history of Ignatian spirituality; discernment; Jesuits in a global context; faith and cultures; sport and spiritual traditions; and religion and sport in a global context.

Fr. Kelly has spoken internationally on the social and spiritual benefits of sport. He says that play helps individuals develop interpersonal skills and understand how their gifts can serve a larger whole. He spoke on that topic on campus in June 2024 for the Vatican's Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference.

"Fr. Kelly's insights will help our university take the learnings from the panelists and guests [from the Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference] so we may actualize them in our curriculum as well as out in the community," Fr. Hendrickson says.

As the Heider Chair, Fr. Kelly will focus on scholarly research, writing and other initiatives, in addition to his teaching duties. He also will continue to serve as a guest lecturer at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome for one semester every other year.

"I have always experienced research and writing as central to my Jesuit vocation," Fr. Kelly says. "I look forward to having more time to devote to this as the Heider Chair than I have at other times in my Jesuit life."

Fr. Kelly is the author of two books, *Catholic Perspectives on Sports: From Medieval to Modern Times* (2012) and *Play, Sport, and Spirit* (2023). He also edited *Youth Sport and Spirituality: Catholic Perspectives* (2015) and collaborated with the Vatican in 2018 to revise its first booklength document on sports, "Giving the Best of Yourself."



REV. PATRICK KELLY, SJ, PHD

The Rev. Patrick Kelly, SJ, PhD, will become the third holder of the Charles and Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair in July.

PT Faculty, Students Research Pickleball's Effect on Parkinson's

Jamie Nesbit, DPT, continues to flex her clinical skills as a practicing physical therapist, a role that led her to a particularly inspiring patient: Kathryn.

Kathryn experienced debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease, including stiffness, slow movement and poor balance. Kathryn could barely get out of bed due to her symptoms. As a former physical education teacher, Kathryn valued daily movement and exercise.

The inability to participate in physical activities was devastating; however, physical therapy with Nesbit, assistant professor of physical therapy in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions on the Phoenix campus,

monumentally improved Kathryn's quality of life. When a friend invited Kathryn to a pickleball session, she enthusiastically accepted the offer. Kathryn quickly developed a passion for the sport, and the movements involved in pickleball felt strangely familiar.

"The pickleball movements were similar to the exercises I was doing in physical therapy," Kathryn says.

Kathryn wondered if pickleball could help those with Parkinson's disease in the way physical therapy improved her symptoms. In addition to the movements and aerobic exercise, the sport promoted social connection. Parkinson's tends to be an isolating experience, but pickleball could enable engagement with others.

Kathryn proposed a research study on how pickleball affects those with Parkinson's disease. Nesbit gathered

fellow faculty member Tara McIsaac, PhD, professor of physical therapy, and Suzanne O'Neal, DPT, and Patrice Ayala, DPT, from Midwestern University to plan the study. In the meantime, Kathryn became a certified pickleball instructor.

The study took place in early 2024, when Kathryn led pickleball sessions for individuals with Parkinson's disease. Her goal was to teach them basic skills through dynamic warmups, pickleball drills and scrimmages, enabling them to learn and, hopefully, continue playing the sport despite their symptoms. Creighton physical therapy students conducted pre-testing under the guidance of Nesbit and McIsaac and then collected qualitative and quantitative data after the sessions.

"Being part of the research study deepened my understanding of

© Jamie Nesbit, DPT, left, and Kathryn at a pickleball tournament that Kathryn organized. Proceeds from the tournament benefitted the Parkinson's Foundation.

Parkinson's disease and allowed me to get to know people who suffered from the condition," says physical therapy student Elizabeth Chico.

In February, they presented their data at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in Houston. Preliminary data indicates that a pickleball program for people with Parkinson's disease is overall feasible, and a six-week pickleball intervention may improve upper limb function. Qualitatively, the preliminary data has revealed themes such as pickleball for Parkinson's disease creates positive social-emotional connections, is sustainable for people with Parkinson's disease, positively addresses symptoms of Parkinson's disease and allows people with Parkinson's disease to feel as if they transcend the disease while playing.

Aside from early research findings, the pickleball sessions made a positive impact on the players.

"Pickleball is perfect for people with Parkinson's disease," Kathryn says. "In just one game, participants partake in multidirectional stepping, weight shifting and multitasking, all activities that have been proven to slow down the progression of the disease."

Nursing Partners with Children's Nebraska to Train Pediatric Nurses

The College of Nursing and Children's Nebraska are partnering to expand the pathway of skilled pediatric nurses through Creighton's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) program.

This initiative, made possible by the Ryan Foundation, will provide full-tuition scholarships to 40 ABSN students over five cohorts beginning in fall 2025. In exchange, all recipients will commit to two years of work at Children's Nebraska, helping to meet the region's growing demand for highly trained pediatric nurses.

"This partnership will provide a



Hands-on Research

At Creighton, groundbreaking research is more than just an idea – it's a collaborative journey. Our undergraduate students actively contribute, gaining hands-on experience that shapes their future. Here's a closer look at one student's impactful research project.

TITLE OF RESEARCH:

Structural Analysis and Binding Specificity of the Mouse OAZ-PK RNA

STUDENT RESEARCHER:

Anjali Jayan, psychological science and Spanish and Hispanic studies major with a minor in biology

FACULTY MENTOR:

Julie Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm'93, vice provost for research and scholarship and professor of chemistry and biochemistry

WHAT IT MEANS:

Anjali Jayan's research under the mentorship of Julie Strauss-Soukup, PhD, BSChm'93, focuses on studying a special type of RNA in mice called the OAZ-PK RNA to see if it works like a "riboswitch." Riboswitches are segments of RNA that manipulate gene expression by changing their structure when they bind with specific biological molecules. So far, these have been identified in bacteria, but Jayan is exploring if they also exist in mammals. She utilizes special techniques to analyze structural changes of the mouse OAZ-PK RNA when interacting with polyamines, molecules that play a vital role in cell growth. If this RNA works as a riboswitch, her research could help create new treatments, such as cancer therapies, in the future.



Dreams, Emotions and Knowledge

Three Creighton professors – of English, psychological science and history – are combining forces to investigate questions of human nature and motivation that reach beyond the limits of ordinary rationality.

The role of dreams, emotion and cultural approaches cemented through centuries of practice are guiding their efforts to understand how personal and community character is formed. The goal is to distill their three areas of expertise into a published academic paper to be titled “Beyond the Rational.”

Funded by a grant from Creighton’s Kingfisher Institute, the research team includes Britta McEwen, PhD, associate professor of history, Surbhi Malik, PhD, associate professor of English, and Jill Brown, PhD, professor of psychological science.

“Each of us is bringing to the table aspects of our disciplines that have been somewhat marginalized,” McEwen says. “We are asking whether there are concepts that can’t be seen or appreciated when we privilege the rational.

“Have we lost something in ourselves and in our cultures by relying so heavily on the rational? I’m so happy to live in a world bequeathed to me by the Enlightenment, a world of advanced science and of contractual government. I’m not complaining; I’m only wondering if, together with my friends who are trained in other disciplines, we might think of ways to express what has been lost.”

The history of emotions will shape McEwen’s contribution, while Malik will investigate the roles of the senses and other less empirical aspects of human life. Brown will bring expertise in dreams and the phenomenon of synchronicity in which events appear to be related despite having no discernible connection.

The project came about serendipitously, Malik says, as the professors were independently working in similar directions and decided to form a team when their common purpose became apparent.

McEwen’s focus on emotions, Malik’s focus on identity and meaning, along with Brown’s interest in culture and human development offered an ideal trifecta, Malik says.

At the root, she says, the three professors are investigating how knowledge might be broadened in ways that recognize the breadth of human cultures.

“That is the base of what we are investigating,” Malik says. “What kind of human beings are we? What kinds of knowledge do we produce when we pursue forms of knowledge that are very narrow?”

“If we consider intangibles, we are able to produce very different kinds of knowledge, a more capacious knowledge. What did it mean to be human at a particular time in history? What does it mean today?”

If the project succeeds, Malik says, the research team will have identified ways to imagine humanity in different ways.

“Do dreams play a role in the ways stories are told, and if we analyze these stories, what do they tell us differently?” she says. “Does thinking about senses help us imagine different forms of knowing, different ways of understanding people on the margins who tend to be dehumanized in our public discourse.”

Brown says she is intrigued at the possibilities of rummaging around “the edges of rational academic inquiry” to see what might be unearthed.

“In a very empiricist paradigm, space has been removed for meaning and knowledge that is not testable through ‘scientific’ inquiry,” she says.

“Personal intuitions, dreams, feelings are often regarded as anecdotal but not generalizable. As generalizable knowledge has become so important, more subtle ways of knowing are often lost.

“Our project is a collaboration across disciplines to explore these other ways of knowing found in the work of scholars, and to then explore independently and together among the three of us how these alternative ways of knowing appear in our lives and work.” — **BY EUGENE CURTIN**

steady pipeline of highly skilled pediatric nurses for our state, ensuring children and families receive both better physical care and the specialized support they need,” says Jessica Clark, DNP, dean of the College of Nursing.

With a national shortage of pediatric nurses – particularly in specialties such as behavioral health and acute care – the collaboration between Creighton and Children’s Nebraska is timely and essential. The scholarship program will support students as they develop pediatric competencies and prepare to serve in one of 89 pediatric subspecialties across multiple Children’s Nebraska facilities.

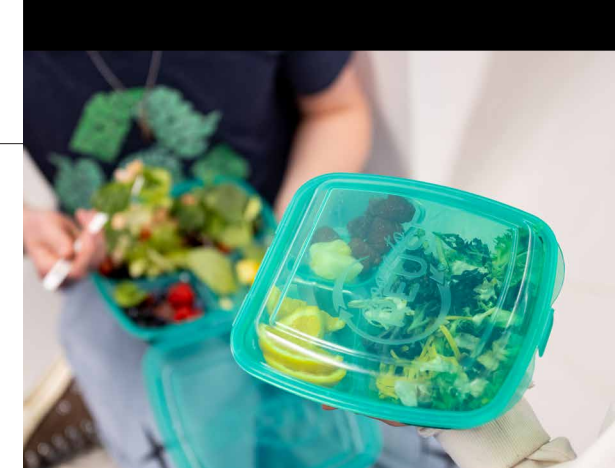
“By providing aspiring nurses with the education, experience and financial support they need, we are building a workforce that is prepared to meet the evolving needs of children and families across our region,” says Pam Johnson-Carlson, DNP, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Children’s Nebraska.

The launch of this partnership aligns with Children’s Nebraska’s Behavioral Health & Wellness Center at its main Omaha campus, which is scheduled to open in 2026 and aims to address the state’s urgent need for pediatric mental healthcare. By equipping more nurses with pediatric expertise, the collaboration directly supports this effort and strengthens the overall healthcare landscape for children in Nebraska.

Scholarship to Support Pharmacists, Nurses, Physicians in Phoenix

A major gift will support scholarships at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix.

Mary Pat Statz McCarthy, BSBA’77, and Kevin McCarthy, BSBA’75 (of Scottsdale, Arizona) have established the McCarthy Endowed Scholarship, which will be awarded to Phoenix students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions’ pharmacy program,



CREIGHTON

Creighton continues to make bold progress on the Sustainable Creighton Initiative, the University’s 2028-targeted comprehensive strategy and commitment to addressing environmental issues across academics, operations, engagement and reporting. Here are eight major impacts from the past two years.

- 1 Collected 55,000 pounds of food waste and compostable serveware and processed it into soil.
- 2 Diverted 80,000 disposable to-go containers from the landfill by switching to reusable green boxes (pictured above).
- 3 Invested \$18,000-plus in student-led sustainability projects through the Creighton Student Sustainability Action Fund.
- 4 Recognized 28 Creighton offices with the Sustainable Creighton Office Certificate for completing 16-plus sustainable actions, including engagement, printing, waste, efficiency, purchasing and transportation.
- 5 Received TreeCampus Higher Education designation for the 16th year this spring, boasting 1,300 trees and over 60 unique species.
- 6 1 in 7 courses discussed sustainability, as defined by the United Nations, and undergraduate freshmen discuss challenges in the contemporary world, including the ecological crisis, within The Christian Tradition courses.
- 7 Added 100kW of solar electric, 70kW of solar hot water heating, and 186 geothermal wells as part of Creighton’s 39% reduction in carbon emissions since 2010.
- 8 Hosted 60-plus low-waste events, including two presidential picnics with thousands of participants, with less than 10% of all waste going to the landfill.

the College of Nursing and the School of Medicine.

“We’ve been blessed in our life and want to support others in need,” says Mary Pat, former vice chair and partner at KPMG and current board member at Micron Technology and Palo Alto Networks.

“We were so impressed when Creighton built the health sciences campus in Phoenix, and we saw this as a meaningful opportunity to support both students and a rapidly expanding area that needs more healthcare providers,” Kevin says.

The McCarthys say it seemed fortuitous when they moved to Arizona and that God was calling them to support this community and these professions. They say they were energized by the work that’s being done by Creighton, in both Phoenix and Omaha.

The McCarthys’ roots to Creighton, the Creighton health sciences and their belief in a Jesuit education run deep. All four of Mary Pat’s siblings also went to Creighton, as did Kevin’s three siblings. All three of Mary Pat and Kevin’s children went to Jesuit schools as well.

“The Jesuits do a remarkable job, not only educating the student in their chosen field,” Mary Pat says, “but also on being a person of integrity, believing in God and looking for ways to give back.”

Digitizing Native History

The decade-long work of Creighton history faculty members Simon Appleford, PhD, and Adam Sundberg, PhD, along with their colleagues Annika Johnson, PhD, from the Joslyn Art Museum, and Wynema Morris from the Nebraska Indian Community College (NICC), was recognized in a grand opening as part of an exhibit at the Joslyn Art Museum in January.

The project, “The Natural Face of North America,” is a partnership between Creighton, the Joslyn, NICC, and tribal and cultural leaders from the Umo’ho’ Nation and the Three





JACK BUGLEWICZ

Affiliated Tribes, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Humanities Nebraska, this initiative enhances access to Joslyn's renowned Maximilian-Bodmer collection through digitization.

The collection includes the journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied and hundreds of watercolors by Karl Bodmer, chronicling their travels and observations of Indigenous peoples — particularly the Mandan tribe — during the Maximilian-Bodmer Expedition of 1832-1834.

While the collection is a permanent feature of the museum, the paintings, due to their sensitivity to UV damage, have limited display durations. Maximilian's journals, though displayed, reveal only one page at a time.

Beyond improving accessibility for

the public and scholarly researchers, the project embraces broader goals, such as preserving Indigenous voices and fostering collaboration with Native communities. Listening sessions were held with Native elders to ensure that their histories and cultural traditions were represented accurately and respectfully.

As the host nation for the collection, the Umo^ohoⁿ (Omaha) Nation has played a key role in the project.

"Our collaborations with Native communities fundamentally recontextualized the project for us," says Sundberg, associate professor of history and co-primary investigator of the project. "What began as a digital project focused on visualization and improved access to historical documentation evolved into a work of living scholarship that encourages viewers to interpret the

© Simon Appleford, PhD, uses a digital display at the Joslyn Art Museum to view information about the exhibit, "The Natural Face of North America."



Scan to explore the online exhibit.

expedition and its ongoing significance from Indigenous perspectives."

Under Appleford's and Sundberg's direction, Creighton students have also made contributions to this project, assisting in the digitization, geocoding and markup of 389 of Bodmer's watercolor drawings and 790 of Maximilian's journal entries. NICC students have significantly contributed to the encoding efforts as well. These resources are now unified in an online portal and are also accessible via a digital display within the museum gallery, aligning with the project's goal of preserving and amplifying Indigenous voices on a national and global scale.

Appleford, associate professor of history, notes that while the portal is live, the ongoing effort to share Native communities' stories is just beginning.

The preservation of Native languages is another key element of this project. Maximilian's journals include English translations of Native words, and in collaboration with the tribal partners, updated translations and language recordings from Native speakers are being added to the portal. Looking forward, says Appleford, the project will continue to explore and develop language preservation.

The project also extends into education. Under the direction of Ann Mausbach, PhD, associate professor of education, the project has led to the development of a K-12 curriculum. Through the listening sessions, Mausbach says, key themes were identified and used in lesson development, in collaboration with Native American teachers.

"Ultimately, we want students to gain a deeper understanding of 19th century Native American life and its lasting impact on all cultures today," Mausbach says.

Appleford adds that the curriculum will serve as a resource for students and Native communities, helping younger generations connect with their ancestral history.

Test Your Knowledge

12 Questions

With the end of the academic year upon us, *Creighton* magazine asked faculty members to help test our general knowledge across different disciplines. See how you score in history, political science and international relations, chemistry and biochemistry, psychological science, accounting, marketing, nursing and theology.

Ready to put your Creighton education to the test?

1. Which of the following revolutions came first?

- A. French Revolution
- B. American Revolution
- C. Glorious Revolution
- D. Haitian Revolution

2. How many states are required to change or add an amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

- A. The 3 most populous
- B. 38
- C. 45
- D. 15

3. Which element is the most abundant in the universe?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Carbon
- C. Helium
- D. Hydrogen

4. Who is considered the "father" of the periodic table?

- A. Dmitri Mendeleev
- B. Alfred Nobel
- C. Antoine Lavoisier
- D. Phil Dunphy

5. According to psychological scientists, if you experience an emergency and need help from someone else, when are you least likely to receive help?

- A. When there is just one other person there
- B. When there are 3 other people there
- C. Before noon
- D. When there are 5 other people there

6. If you were to give a child a reward for simply doing something they already enjoy, research shows that, more often than not, they will subsequently like that activity _____.

- A. More
- B. The Same
- C. Less

7. In an environment of declining prices, which inventory costing method would result in the highest net income?

- A. First-in, first-out (FIFO)
- B. Last-in, first-out (LIFO)
- C. Average-cost
- D. IYKYK

8. Working capital is a measure best equipped to evaluate which of the following about a business?

- A. Liquidity
- B. Profitability
- C. Solvency
- D. Stagnation

9. Which of the following represents B2B marketing?

- A. An influencer selling friendship bracelets on TikTok
- B. A cell phone company opening a retail store
- C. A restaurant owner selling food to its customers
- D. A steel company selling its product to auto manufacturers

10. The activities a firm undertakes to create a certain perception of its product in the eyes of the target market are referred to as _____.

- A. Zoning
- B. Positioning
- C. Leveraging
- D. Targeting

11. What are the "5 Ps" of vascular assessments?

- A. Pain, pallor, pulselessness, paresthesia and paralysis
- B. Pallor, pulselessness, phalanges, paralysis and pain
- C. Pain, pallor, pathology, paresthesia and paralysis
- D. Pallor, posture, pain, pulselessness and paresthesia

12. What did Ignatius read during his recovery from the cannonball injury that led him to his new vocation?

- A. The Bible and the Catechism
- B. The Spiritual Exercises
- C. The Life of Christ and The Lives of the Saints
- D. Cannonball Weekly

How did you do?
Check your answers on Page 46.



John "Jack" Diesing Jr., left, and John "Jack" Diesing Sr., at Rosenblatt Stadium, where the College World Series was played before its move to Charles Schwab Field Omaha in 2011.

Diesings Helped Transform College World Series

BY JON NYATAWA

As the College World Series celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, Creighton recognizes the forward-thinking of the Creighton graduate who brought the series to Omaha, and the son who continues the vision of his late father.

John "Jack" Diesing Sr., BA'40, JD'41, wasn't really a baseball fan. That's what his son remembers. This was back in 1963, when city leaders were asking Jack to lead a new organization that could rally local support and interest for the College World Series. Then, in 1967, Jack incorporated a 501c(3) organization, College World Series of Omaha, Inc., to serve as the Local Organizing Committee and, as the saying goes, "The rest is history."

Jack's son, John "Jack" Diesing Jr., always did like baseball — although he did not grow up planning that he would one day follow in his dad's footsteps and lead the nonprofit Jack Sr. founded.

Yet the Diesings, both father and son, ended up passionately serving the community year after year as they made lasting contributions to the growth and success of the College World Series. They helped secure business partnerships, sell tickets, recruit local volunteers, strategically plan capital projects, enhance the fan experience and so much more.

It was a second job, a full-time volunteer job. A labor of love.

The CWS — Omaha's annual moment in the college sports spotlight — celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. And the Diesing family's legacy is stitched into the fabric of this storied event.

"It's been a fun experience to see how it's all evolved," said Jack Jr., who's the chairman and president of the board of the College World Series of Omaha, Inc. "Because it started with an idea and now it's become a reality."

What the College World Series has become: A bucket-list sporting event with a national TV deal and \$115 million worth of local economic impact, according to CWS of Omaha, Inc., estimates.

Bolstered by a tremendously successful partnership between the city of Omaha, the Metropolitan Convention and Entertainment Authority, local businesses, CWS of Omaha, Inc., Creighton and the NCAA, the CWS has long been a model for other intercollegiate championships. In 2011, the NCAA agreed to an unprecedented 25-year deal to keep the series in Omaha.

There was a time, back when Jack Sr. started CWS of Omaha, Inc., that the event wasn't profitable. No one really seemed to want to host it, Jack Jr. said.

Things have changed.

That's why, Jack Jr. said, there's no time to rest. Even in a milestone year.

Jack Jr. said he, along with organizers at CWS of Omaha, Inc., and NCAA representatives, are constantly considering new ideas to keep improving college baseball's annual eight-team championship event.

One of Creighton's latest capital projects is the result of that forward-thinking approach. It also brings into focus the series' longtime relationship with Creighton University as the event's host institution since 1950.

Creighton — supported by contributions from CWS of Omaha, Inc., the state of Nebraska's Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act, donors and other partners — is opening a state-of-the-art practice field in 2026 that will be located just a few blocks away from Charles Schwab Field, the home of the CWS and the Bluejays' home ballpark.

The new field will be used by the Creighton baseball program — and during the series, it will enhance the experience for CWS teams and student-athletes by providing space to practice and train between games.

"More college baseball programs are making investments in their facilities across the country and the sport's championship event needs to reflect that changing landscape," Jack Jr. said. "We recognized the importance of building a world-class practice field. Creighton did, too. I'm grateful we could work together and continue to improve the experience for student-athletes."

That's one of the reasons why Jack Jr. has



© Jack Diesing Jr. and CWS of Omaha, Inc., are excited to host the 75th anniversary of the College World Series this year.

enjoyed this gig, and why he's stayed with it so long. Same for his dad, Jack Sr., who passed away in 2010.

You get to connect with people and businesses who want to collaborate and make a difference.

"I just did whatever it took because I love giving back to the community and felt that this was good for Omaha," Jack Jr. said. "There's been no such thing as 40-hour weeks for the last 35 years for me. I'm so grateful for my wife, Terri, who's been incredibly supportive and integral in helping me develop relationships. I'm a believer that there's no 'I' in team and there are a lot of people who have worked together to make this happen."

At the end of the day, Jack Jr. emphasizes: "Omaha has become known as The Home of the NCAA Men's College World Series/The Road to Omaha/The Greatest Show on Dirt. We want that to continue for the next 75 years."

Explore the physics behind the volleyball kill as Gintaras Duda, PhD, breaks down the role of biomechanics, timing and force in achieving the perfect hit.

The Physics of the Kill

BY AMANDA BIGGS

It happens in an instant – a perfectly timed leap, an arm swinging with precision and the unmistakable sound of a volleyball smacking the court. The “kill” – volleyball’s ultimate offensive weapon – is a moment of raw athleticism that can change the trajectory of a game. But what if the secret to this signature play isn’t just skill, but science?



Gintaras Duda, PhD, professor and chair of physics and lifelong volleyball enthusiast, has a unique perspective on the science behind the sport. Growing up in Southern California, where volleyball culture

thrives, he played backyard matches with his family and honed his appreciation for the game’s complexity. Today, he translates that passion into a physics lesson, revealing the hidden mechanics of what makes a kill successful.

“Physics is all around us,” Duda says. “Everything we do is dictated by the laws of physics. Understanding those principles — how the body moves, how forces work — can help players fine-tune their performance. A kill, for example, is a perfect combination of biomechanics, timing and power.”

Jumping is foundational to the kill. A hitter must rise above the net, which stands 7 feet, 4 inches tall for women and 8 feet for men, and outmaneuver blockers who may

reach heights well over 9 feet during a jump. For a hitter, every inch matters.

“The higher you can jump, the more options you have to attack different areas of the court,” Duda explains. “Players bend their knees and swing their arms to generate force. The longer they stay in contact with the ground before takeoff, the more force they can exert — and the higher they can jump.”

Once airborne, the hitter’s arm becomes the star of the show. Swing mechanics and arm speed dictate the velocity of the ball, with NCAA women’s players averaging 40 to 60 mph on a kill. According to Duda, the key lies in momentum transfer.

“When the hand hits the ball, it’s a collision,” he says. “The faster your arm moves, the more momentum you transfer to the ball. That’s why swinging mechanics are so important — you want to maximize speed at the point of impact.”

He likens the arm’s movement to a merry-go-round. “The farther out you go from the rotation point, the faster the linear velocity. That’s why a strong shoulder rotation and a full arm swing are critical.”



Creighton volleyball player Ava Martin crushes the ball over the net as two University of South Dakota players attempt to block the ball during the 2024 NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament.

Behind every great kill is an equally great set. The setter’s job is to place the ball in the perfect position, allowing the hitter to execute their attack. Precision is paramount — too close to the net, and blockers gain the advantage; too far, and the hitter’s options shrink. Duda emphasizes that this interplay between setter and hitter requires “meticulous practice and incredible team chemistry.”

Indeed, those two elements lie at the heart

of Creighton’s volleyball success. This past season, Creighton won its 11th straight BIG EAST regular-season title (finishing a perfect 18-0 in conference play), and 10th BIG EAST Tournament title in 11 years, en route to earning its 13th straight NCAA Tournament bid and reaching the Elite Eight for the second time in program history.

“It’s not just about power — it’s about being in the right place at the right time to create

opportunities. Creighton’s team chemistry is a huge factor in their success,” Duda explains.

This cohesion turns physics into an art, allowing the Bluejays to execute the kill with unparalleled finesse. Whether it’s a perfectly timed jump or a split-second reaction on defense, Creighton’s players embody the scientific and strategic mastery that defines top-tier volleyball.

“Everything we do is dictated by the laws of physics. Understanding those principles — how the body moves, how forces work — can help players fine-tune their performance.”



Scan to watch a video of Gintaras Duda explaining the physics of the kill.

A DECADE OF DETERMINATION

BY EUGENE CURTIN

The president of Creighton University offices in the oldest building on campus, the venerable Creighton Hall, its hallways, woodwork and winding staircases reflecting the architectural mores of the University's 147-year-old history. St. John's Church, the second oldest building on campus, is visible from his desk.

There was, then, much to remind the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, of Creighton's remarkable past when, in 2015, he took the presidential reins at the age of 44. Ten years later, nonetheless, his tenure has birthed perhaps the greatest explosion of newness since the campus building boom of the 1960s.

Cuming Street, itself one of the oldest streets in Omaha, tells part of the story. The \$75 million CL and Rachel Werner Center for Health Sciences Education — which brings together medical, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant and other students — opened there in 2023, joining the new \$84 million School of Dentistry building opened in 2018. The \$24 million Jérôme Nadal, SJ, Jesuit Residence, located along 24th Street just northeast of Creighton Hall, opened in 2024 and was built entirely from private donations.

A quick glance one block east, at 23rd and Burt streets, reveals Graves Hall and its Simpson Family Courtyard, the \$37 million student residence complex made possible in 2023 by donors Lee Graves, BSBA'80, JD'83, his wife, Judy, and Kathy and Jim Simpson, BA'80.

Omaha motorists traveling 24th Street from Dodge Street will encounter Creighton's elegant \$767 million reconstruction of the campus intersection at Cass Street, jointly conducted with the city of Omaha and providing since 2022 a new and attractive doorway to North Omaha.

In addition to all this hometown development, Creighton reached nearly 1,300 miles to the southwest, in 2021 opening a \$100 million health sciences campus in Phoenix, dramatically establishing a national footprint. Nearly 1,000 medical, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy and physician assistant students already study there.

"When I first arrived, I used the image that Creighton was a racehorse, ready to burst out of the starting gate," Fr. Hendrickson says. "Right now, I feel as though we are in full sprint. We gained momentum, and we are now moving at high speed and maybe ready to go even faster."

Creighton's 25th president certainly knows the course. A native of Fremont, Nebraska, less than an hour from Omaha, he grew up surrounded by what he describes as "the smells, the patterns, the people and the seasons" while developing an appreciation of the gritty characteristic of Nebraskans and of the importance of Creighton University as an institution of higher learning. As president, he says, the familial relationship with Omaha has become ever more apparent.

"Creighton makes Omaha and Nebraska better, and Nebraska and Omaha make us better," he says. "We are a distinctive institution in Omaha's downtown urban core, where we

"We are a distinctive institution in Omaha's downtown urban core, where we have now invested almost half a billion dollars, and that's significant."

REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD



COLIN CONCES

The Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, was announced as Creighton's 25th president in December of 2014, and officially began his role on July 1, 2015 — beginning a decade that has included tremendous growth, notable academic achievements, exciting new programs, and an unwavering focus on mission and community, even in the face of an unparalleled pandemic.

have now invested almost half a billion dollars, and that's significant."

That contribution has not gone unnoticed by the city.

Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert recalls commenting during Fr. Hendrickson's inauguration ceremony in 2015 that the neighborhoods around Creighton's campus were growing into places of innovation, entrepreneurship and urban living. Fr. Hendrickson, she says, saw the same potential.

"Progress requires initiative, experience and commitment," she says. "With a focus on faith, academics, student-centered campus development and building civic partnerships, Fr. Hendrickson excels as a university and community leader.

"I hope he remains in this important leadership role for many years to come, and that Creighton University graduates remain engaged in our community and make Omaha their home."

The litany of good news for Creighton over the past 10 years has been long and loud. Since 2015 the University has seen:

- a nearly 10% increase in full-time undergraduate students
- a 47% increase in extramural research funds to \$31.4 million
- a 38% increase of faculty endowed chairs, totaling \$33.6 million
- a 74% increase in Creighton's endowment to \$782.5 million

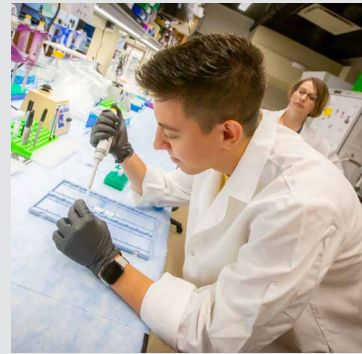
In addition, the University has raised nearly \$231 million in scholarship support — and invested \$78.5 million in academic, student life and mission programming; approximately \$305 million in academic facilities; and \$177 million in campus infrastructure — with the help of the ongoing Forward Blue campaign that launched in 2021.

And this discernible momentum continues. The University is poised to announce plans for a recreation and athletic corridor expansion later this year, to coincide with significant enhancements to Creighton's campus green space. (More information on these exciting developments will be shared in the fall issue of *Creighton* magazine.)

Beyond money and infrastructure, the University's sense of mission has been enhanced by the creation of the Creighton Global Initiative, the Institute for Population

THE STORY IN NUMBERS

Creighton University's embrace of the 21st century accelerated dramatically during the past 10 years. In the fields of academics, global education, campus growth and expansion, student success and retention, philanthropy, public-private partnerships and capital investment, the University experienced a boom not seen since the 1960s.



ACADEMICS

47% increase of extramural research funds to \$31.4 million

38% increase of faculty endowed chairs, totaling \$33.6 million

Awarded coveted **Carnegie Foundation** classifications:

- > 2015 Master's Colleges and Universities
- > 2018 Doctoral/Professional Universities
- > 2021 Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity
- > 2024 Leadership for Public Purpose Elective Classification (one of just 25 higher education institutions in the inaugural cohort)

NEW INSTITUTES

Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions (2019)

Institute for Population Health (2023)

GLOBAL REACH

Launch of **Creighton Global Initiative** (2015)

- > Awarded 117 grants, totaling over \$4.5 million, for globally related initiatives, from campus-based workshops to lectures, course development, and immersion and research activities

28% increase in undergraduates studying abroad (50% now spend meaningful time abroad before graduating)

Integration and expansion of programs and facilities at the **Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC)**, Dominican Republic

Creation of new global programs for students:

- > **Global Scholars** program, a unique four-year educational and professional development program for selected undergraduates
- > **Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships** program, for medical students to work alongside community partners and healthcare providers worldwide
- > **Soto Nursing Scholars** program, for nursing students to work for and with communities at several partner sites around the world



STUDENT SUCCESS

9.6% increase of full-time undergraduate students, from 3,909 to 4,284

5.6% increase of ACT scores (to 28.28 average)

5.5% increase in undergraduate graduation rate

5% increase in first-to-second-year undergraduate retention rate to more than 94%

19 Goldwater Scholars

13 Fulbright Awards



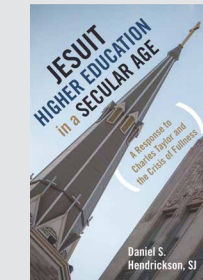
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

\$11.9 million (Arizona) — Accelerated Nursing Education and Workforce (*Fiscal Year 2022*)

\$30 million (Nebraska) — Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act (*Fiscal Year 2023*)

\$7 million (Nebraska) — Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations; Highways Infrastructure Program (*Fiscal Year 2024*)

\$10 million (Nebraska) — Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations; Highways Infrastructure Program (*Fiscal Year 2025, pending*)



Fr. Hendrickson is the author of the 2022 book *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age: A Response to Charles Taylor and the Crisis of Fullness* (Georgetown University Press) and has served on the following national committees:

Lilly Foundation Consultation and Indiana Wesleyan Lumen Research Institute, Future of the Church-Related University, Funding the Future (August 2023 through June 2024) and Higher Learning Commission Differential Accreditation Advisory Committee (January through May 2022).

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

9 completed facilities and projects supporting academics, student housing, athletics, campus beautification and transportation, totaling over \$365 million

7 facilities and projects in progress, totaling over \$230 million



ENDOWMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Endowment grew by 74% to \$782.5 million (*Fiscal Year 2024*)

Launch of **Forward Blue** campaign in 2021 with goal of \$650 million

- > **470** new scholarship programs
- > Over **24,845** new donors
- > **897** first-time donors with gifts more than \$50,000



ATHLETICS

Fr. Hendrickson has served as chair of the **BIG EAST Conference Board of Directors** since 2022.



PHOENIX CAMPUS

Opening of Creighton University Health Sciences Campus - Phoenix (2021)

- > **\$100 million** campus in new Phoenix Medical Quarter in midtown Phoenix
- > Accommodates nearly **1,000** students
- > Offers **6** programs: medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy and physician assistant
- > More than **70%** of graduates remain in Arizona, meeting the needs of a booming population and the growing needs of aging and diverse demographics

Health and the Kingfisher Institute. The Creighton Global Initiative reflects the well-traveled Fr. Hendrickson's desire that students develop a global consciousness by studying and serving in various parts of the world. The Institute for Population Health, launched in 2023, seeks to address disparities in health services and health outcomes in minority and rural areas, while the Kingfisher Institute, inaugurated in 2019, seeks to create meaningful intersections between the professions and the humanities.

"These all lean into who we are as Catholic and Jesuit and reflect some of our most important commitments of mission and identity," Fr. Hendrickson says. "In their own way, they have been entrepreneurial and innovative and responded in new ways to the current context around us."

Creighton's Jesuit and Catholic identity, of course, is essential to its mission, having been governed by members of the Society of Jesus, a religious order started in 1540 by St. Ignatius of Loyola, since the University's founding in 1878. Fr. Hendrickson says it has been his hope and his aim during his first decade at the helm that Creighton students should gain a sense of purpose rooted in the love of God.

"Creighton feels different," he says. "There is an extra sense of meaningfulness here. We are so steeped in worthy ideals. It's hard to evade that here. It's everywhere. It's in people, it's in

architecture, it's in programs, it's in curricula, that sense of being thoughtful and discerning and putting one's gifts and talents in the service of trying to make the world a better place.

"The hope is that our students — through our Jesuits on campus, our faculty and staff who are so invested in our mission, and our sense of community — leave here more thoughtful, more discerning, more grounded and more confident of who they are. We want them to recognize that so much of that is rooted in the love of God for them and that the response they can offer is to make the world a better place."

Despite all the trauma it created, the COVID-19 crisis provided Creighton an opportunity to put those ideals into practice.

Not since the close of World War I, with the outbreak of the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918, had a Creighton president been faced with a public health crisis so serious, causing more than 7 million deaths worldwide, 1.2 million of which occurred in the United States. Guided significantly by Creighton's medical experts, the University closed the campus, transitioned to online learning, instituted testing procedures and coordinated food delivery services to students in campus housing. It was a comprehensive approach, but it was not insular. In a demonstration of the University's historic relationship with Omaha, the doors to Creighton's Rasmussen Center were thrown open for an extensive program of public vaccination.



© Fr. Hendrickson celebrates the Mass of the Holy Spirit in August 2024.

In an address to students, Fr. Hendrickson said of the COVID-19 pandemic, "What is happening these days will be chronicled as historic. The storytelling will go on for generations."

That story will be a proud one. "Thousands of people poured through the Rasmussen Center in a very hopeful, very efficient process, even through snowstorms," Fr. Hendrickson recalls. "Hundreds of Creighton faculty, staff and students worked at the clinic. It was a point of pride that we made the vaccine available to people who otherwise might not have received it."

Fr. Hendrickson remembers calling some 200 students during the crisis, just to see how they were doing.

"Even though the circumstances of COVID were difficult, I enjoyed reaching out to students

during that time of uncertainty," he says. "I would sit here in this office, in the evenings, after a day of intense meetings about COVID, with a binder four inches thick calling undergraduate students."

Through all the trials and triumphs of his first decade at Creighton's helm, Fr. Hendrickson found time to chair the BIG EAST Conference, where Creighton Athletics has enjoyed great success; write a book titled *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age: A Response to Charles Taylor and the Crisis of Fullness*; create a donor fund for refugee camps in Kenya and Malawi; and, when not specifically making the world a better place, bicycling, snow skiing and reading.

Creighton's success in the BIG EAST Conference, in men's and women's basketball, volleyball and soccer, has brought national name recognition and major television contracts. Fr. Hendrickson's role in building up the BIG EAST is noted by BIG EAST Commissioner Val Ackerman.

"Over the past 10 years, the BIG EAST Conference has been the grateful beneficiary of Fr. Hendrickson's sage counsel, steady leadership and acute understanding of the power of athletics to develop young people into leaders

and to inspire community engagement and pride," she says.

"Bluejays Athletics programs have thrived under his stewardship, and he has deftly parlayed the University's many successes into national visibility and prestige for Creighton and the city of Omaha."

The future, Fr. Hendrickson says, promises to be no less active. New facilities for baseball and softball are planned; a new sophomore residence hall is taking shape east of the dental school; and there will be new investments in campus club and intramural sports, more faculty-endowed chairs and continued expansion of the Phoenix campus.

"We are in a moment of which there have been just a few in the history of the institution whereby a lot of change and momentum occurs at once," Fr. Hendrickson says. "There was, of course, the actual founding of the University and the philanthropy of the Creighton family. There were real turning points, beginning in the mid-1960s with Fr. Carl Reinert and continuing with subsequent presidents, where we have experienced tremendous growth and excitement.

"I think these years are a similar time, a historical moment."

"The hope is that our students — through our Jesuits on campus, our faculty and staff who are so invested in our mission, and our sense of community — leave here more thoughtful, more discerning, more grounded and more confident of who they are."

REV. DANIEL S. HENDRICKSON, SJ, PHD



© From left, Robert "Bo" Dunlay, MD'81, dean of the School of Medicine, Oliver Harper, MD'70, Fr. Hendrickson and Sharon Culhane Harper, BA'69, at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus — Phoenix in 2019.



REBECCA GRATZ

Dreaming with God

Entering a bone marrow transplant, she was told she had six months to live — at best. Now, three years later, she’s the author of a book on Ignatian-inspired goal setting.

BY RICK DAVIS, BA’88

LISA KELLY HAS ALWAYS been a planner. But her plans took a drastic turn in June of 2021 when she was on an eight-day Ignatian retreat at the Creighton Retreat Center in rural Griswold, Iowa, as a student in Creighton’s Master in Christian Spirituality Program (CSP). She felt awful but thought it might be a bad sinus infection.

She had a fellow retreatant take her to a hospital emergency room. Kelly left her car in the Retreat Center parking lot, believing she would be back soon. The doctors tested her for COVID. Negative. They then performed a chest X-ray.

“My chest lit up like a Christmas tree,” she says. She was admitted to

the hospital. Over the next 18 days, she would undergo a battery of tests. The result: She was diagnosed with AITL (angioimmunoblastic T-cell-30 lymphoma) a rare, aggressive form of blood cancer.

It was Stage IV.

“I was told I had a 50-50 chance of being alive in a year,” Kelly says.

On top of all that, she and her husband, Tom, a professor of theology at Creighton, were planning to move to Spain the next month, where Tom would teach and Lisa would offer Ignatian pilgrimages. They had secured visas, lined up an apartment in Madrid and even sold their house in Omaha.

“My plan was ripped up. My goals were gone.”

Well, not completely gone.

“There were things I wanted to do with my daughter and my other kids,” she says. (Lisa and Tom are the parents of four grown children: Lem, Andrew, Michael and Cate, who, at the time of her diagnosis, were 27, 26, 24 and 19, respectively.) “There were other goals I still wanted to do, and that was a huge saving grace for me. In some ways, the process [of goal planning] became even more important, because when you only have a year to live, that last year, you better live it well.”

And, there was her unfinished book. Begun years earlier, it was a labor of love, inspired by her twin passions of goal planning and Ignatian spirituality (she has been involved in the Ignatian Associates lay community in Omaha

for more than two decades, and participated in an Ignatian pilgrimage through Creighton to Spain and Italy in 2018).

She also was halfway through the Christian spirituality degree program — which she describes as transformational, not only in terms of her writing, but in her own journey.

“Beyond the faculty and the students of the CSP community that held me and Tom through my illness, the depth of growth in my faith and inspiration for living this life only strengthened my desire to take the classes, write the papers and engage in the material,” she says. “No longer was getting a degree a box to be checked, but rather an experience of discovering the Holy Spirit thriving during what would otherwise have been the darkest months of my life.”

Fast forward to today, Lisa is cancer-free; her book, *The Spiritual Path*, came out in January of this year, published by Loyola Press; and she will graduate from Creighton’s Christian Spirituality Program in August.

BEATING CANCER

AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED with cancer, Lisa underwent four different chemotherapy treatments, none of which worked. By January of 2022, she had celebrated her “last” Christmas, planned her funeral at St. John’s Church, her bones were decalcifying, she had a cancerous lump on the back of her head, and her doctors had given her bleak news.

“My doctors had come to me and said, ‘The chemo’s not working. We can do a bone marrow transplant to buy you about six months or you can call hospice and we’re done with treatments,’” she says. “And, you have 24 hours to decide.”

Lisa called her spiritual director, and they agreed there was no “best” moral course and that God would be with her no matter her decision. She flipped back and forth all night, but finally gained clarity in reflecting on her daughter’s upcoming study abroad trip to Colombia, South America. (Cate, who now lives in



Lisa and Cate Kelly

Bhutan, was studying anthropology at Seattle University at the time.)

“I used Ignatian imagination, and I didn’t want her to come home from her study abroad to my funeral, so I said, ‘Fine, I’ll do the transfusion.’ If I get myself six months, it’s worth it.”

While a 100% bone marrow match, of course, would be the most ideal, the doctors needed to move quickly. They decided Cate was the best match, at 50%. And she became the donor. It was a two-day process, and on the second day, Cate was to leave for Colombia.

“On the second day, she was there from 7 a.m. until noon, we grab lunch, I take her to the airport, and I say goodbye, not knowing if I will still be alive when she comes back.”

Lisa spent the next six weeks in the hospital undergoing treatment. First radiation, twice a day for five days. Then injections of her daughter’s stem cells. Patients who reach 100 days, she says, are considered to have survived the procedure. Lisa made 100 days, welcomed her daughter home, and celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with Tom. But

“No longer was getting a degree a box to be checked, but rather an experience of discovering the Holy Spirit thriving during what would otherwise have been the darkest months of my life.”

LISA KELLY

still, the Stage IV cancer remained. She underwent some experimental treatments, but the medical prognosis was not good. She received hope and comfort in the multitude of prayers from others.

“Dec. 6, 2023, I had another bone marrow biopsy, I’m going through chemo, and the doctor looked at me and said, ‘I don’t know how to treat you,’ she says, “because there’s nothing there to treat.” The cancer was gone.

“It was truly miraculous,” she says. “I fully believe God works miracles through doctors and nurses and researchers so to say it was miraculous is not to say magical but grace-filled and gift-filled.”

THE BOOK

IN 2007, LISA WAS serving as executive director of Leadership for Life, an Omaha nonprofit she co-founded, that helped people integrate faith-based leadership skills into their personal and professional life. Participants met once a month for six months, and Lisa, who was trained as a Gallup-certified strengths coach, facilitated the sessions.

One of the Leadership for Life board members introduced Lisa to the book *Your Best Year Yet!* by Omaha native Jinny Ditzler. Lisa was drawn to the

goal-oriented principles of the best-selling book and even completed the Best Year Yet leadership and coaching system. But she also yearned for something that would be more reflective of her Catholic faith.

On a two-hour plane ride, she had an epiphany: Why not infuse Ignatian language and principles into the program and make it more faith-based? She put together an outline and started sharing the process as a two-and-a-half-day retreat.

“What’s unique about it, which I haven’t seen in any other strategic planning or personal planning, is I frame it around relationships,” Lisa says, “because God is in your relationships.”

The book asks readers to identify the crucial relationships in their lives and to set goals around those relationships. “Think, imagine, dream with God: What’s possible in this relationship?” she says. “It’s that Ignatian imagination that really sets your goals.”

Lisa says the book is meant to be very practical, allowing readers to discern their own, unique spiritual path. Each chapter starts with a question, and the book ends with a one-page Spiritual Path Plan to map the journey. While it is written from an Ignatian perspective,

its principles can guide individuals, couples or teams of all faiths, she says.

Acknowledging one’s value and self-worth is an essential part of the process. “You really have to reflect on your identity,” Lisa says. “We all hear these messages about our worthlessness or our inabilities or our lack of agency. The idea is to name that and face it head on with the understanding that that is not who God creates you to be, and that is not who you are in the eyes of God.”

The book also discusses establishing a sacred mantra, through which one can establish healthy goals. “My sacred mantra, or my identity, is, ‘I have insights to share,’ because my spirit not-of-God voice is, ‘Who are you? You don’t have a PhD.’”

Lisa says she’s feeling good, although she still has lingering health issues; she’s grateful for Creighton’s Christian Spirituality Program and the deeper understanding it has given her of Ignatian spirituality; and she’s hopeful about the future and sharing her book with others.

“This time that we’re given really is a huge gift,” Lisa says. “What we do in the next six months of our lives is really important. This life is precious; everything is precious.”

Christian Spirituality Program: Fostering Relationships, Educating Leaders



When it was introduced in 1974, Creighton University’s Christian Spirituality Program (CSP) was one of the first of its kind in the country — a master’s program rooted in the Ignatian tradition that trained spiritual directors.

Today, 50 years later, the CSP’s more than 1,500 graduates serve a wide range of ministries and denominations across the country and around the world, making a difference in their cities and churches.

The program is grounded in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit religious order, and combines graduate-level study, community learning and a commitment to apostolic ministry.

Classes were originally only offered in person over the summer. Now, the program provides a hybrid model in which students can take classes online in the fall and spring, along with an in-person summer term. Students, who can complete the coursework for the degree in three years, are encouraged to make a directed eight-day retreat at the Creighton University Retreat Center.

“The community of CSP is a real strength,” says Jay Carney, PhD, professor of theology and CSP director (pictured). “The relationships that form during the summers continue to shape alumni years after they graduate. There’s this vulnerability that students show, and even as alumni, they carry a hunger to learn academically and grow spiritually.”

More information about the program at creighton.edu/csp.



How a Creighton couple's crash-landing in the Amazon jungle led to the adventure of a lifetime

The Serendipitous Crash-Landing

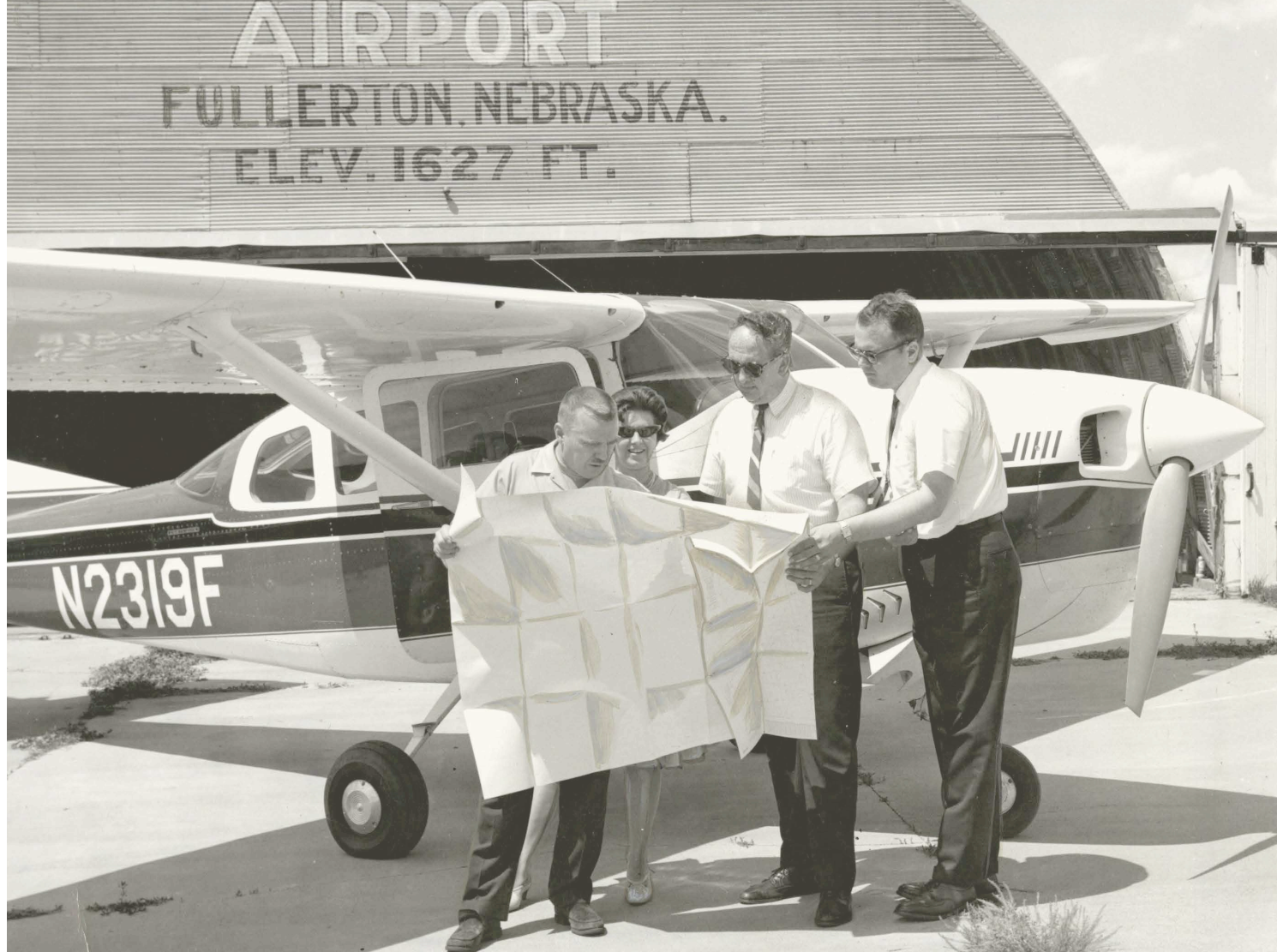
BY MICAH MERTES

Sixty years ago, in the spring of 1965, Creighton couple **James Maly, MD'46**, and **Jan McDermet Maly, SJN'48**, were flying across South America when a run of bad luck forced them to crash-land their single-engine plane in the Amazon.

Stranded deep in the Brazilian jungle, hundreds of miles from civilization, a “green hell” in every direction, the Malys and six others faced starvation, insect bites and life-threatening injuries.

The crash was, the Malys later said, a gift from God.

PHOTOS ©OMAHA WORLD-HERALD



© James Maly, MD '46, far left, and Jan McDermet Maly, SJN '48, at the airport in Fullerton, Nebraska.

JAMES AND JAN MALY were known in Nebraska as “the flying doctor and nurse.”

The year before the couple crashed in the Amazon, the *Omaha World-Herald* wrote a front-page feature on them. The Malys lived in Fullerton, Nebraska, 125 miles west of Omaha, where James was the surrounding Nance County’s only physician.

But the people of Fullerton weren’t limited to the town’s 18-bed hospital. The Malys had their own air ambulance, a Cessna 210 that could deliver patients to Omaha emergency rooms.

James had learned to fly after serving as a surgeon for an Air Force rescue unit in Alaska. He had taught Jan how to fly, as well, so she could take the controls while he needed to aid patients en route to the ER.

After a 35-minute flight to Eppley Airfield in Omaha, the Malys would transfer patients to a waiting ambulance, where they would be taken to emergency or specialist care at St. Joseph’s Hospital or elsewhere.

James said the rural county’s fast access to Omaha specialists and facilities had saved many lives that year alone, including a 12-year-old gunshot victim and a 19-year-old woman who nearly froze to death after walking four miles in 30-below-zero temps after her car broke down.

“The airplane is a godsend to a country doctor and his patients,” James Maly told the *World-Herald* in 1964. “It brings us as close to the major medical facilities as a big-city patient who has to buck crosstown traffic to get to the same place.

“And I’m convinced it’s 10 times safer than driving on the Omaha highways!”

THE MALYS WEREN’T CONTENT TO FLY the skies of Nebraska alone. They sought more unfamiliar horizons.

In the spring of 1965, they embarked on a several-week vacation across the length and breadth of South America. Their friends — the Stalzers of Chicago — joined them in the Malys’ Cessna, while another flying physician, Willaford McCall, flew three of his friends in his own single-engine aircraft.

After meeting up in Mexico, the two planes flew through Panama and down the South American west coast. From Chile, they crossed the Andes mountains, then on to Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. On March 28, they set off from Brasilia to the city of Manaus, a 1,250-mile flight over the jungles of Brazil.

Everything went wrong. (Or, as the Malys later said, everything went *right*.)

The eight Americans on both planes were met with bad weather, equipment malfunction, human error, miscommunication between the pilots and airport officials, an erroneous flight plan and an inoperative radio beacon.

With all communication links broken, hundreds of miles deep in the Amazon, both planes started to run out of fuel. Maly and McCall turned toward the river, hoping to reach a known emergency field. But after more than eight hours of flying through a wall of low-hanging storms, even the planes’ emergency tanks had run dry.

They planned to ditch the planes in the river, Maly later said, “but then the hand of destiny” took hold.

They came upon a clearing along the river, the start of a planned airstrip. The trees and logs hadn’t yet been removed, but it was still a better option than they could have hoped for.

When he brought his plane down, Maly hit a half-hidden log that buckled the aircraft’s undercarriage and drove the pedals into his legs, crushing them at the ankles. McCall’s plane crash-landed nearby.

Somehow, no one died. Maly’s legs were shattered, one passenger’s arm was broken, and another fractured his back, but everyone else suffered only minor cuts and bruises.

But the party knew their chances of survival didn’t get much better from there. They were lost in the jungle and, due to a reporting error, no one knew to come looking for them. They had to contend with not only their injuries but starvation, deadly wildlife and the possibility of headhunting tribes they knew lived near the crash site.

Yet, once again, somehow, no one died.

THEY TENDED THEIR WOUNDS the best they could and used jungle debris to make splints for those with broken bones. They were figuring out what to do next when a group of people came through the clearing and greeted them. They were members of the Mundurucu tribe, and they would serve as the marooned party’s salvation.

As it turned out, the Americans had crashed 35 miles northwest of a tiny Franciscan mission called Cururu, where the Rev. Marquard Paterek, OFM, of Cleveland, two Bavarian priests and seven nuns served and ministered to the Mundurucu and other tribes in the region.

The mission was more than 500 miles from the nearest doctor and cut off from the outside world for all but two weeks per year, when planes or boats delivered the mission’s supplies.

To reach the sanctuary of the mission, the Mundurucu took the Americans through the jungle to a tributary launch site and down the river in dugout canoes. “How they got us to the mission, I’ll never know,” Maly later said. The journey just didn’t seem possible.

Other members of the tribe, meanwhile, traveled four days downriver to a Brazilian Air Force landing strip to



“How they got us to the mission, I’ll never know.”

JAMES MALY, MD '46

Photo top: The wreckage of one of the planes that crashed in the Amazon.

Photo bottom: The Rev. Marquard Paterek, OFM, supervises the loading of the injured onto a rescue plane.

get word of the downed plane to the outside world. Over the next several days in Cururu, Fr. Paterek and his team cared for Maly and the others while they awaited rescue.

Two weeks later, the Malys were back in Omaha, where James was taken to Bergan Mercy Hospital to undergo surgery on his broken legs. The operation was a success, and two weeks later, he was back at work as Fullerton's only country doctor, performing surgeries from his wheelchair. He "kicked the old wheelchair" a few months later and was back to flying shortly after that.

The daring crash-landing and rescue made the front pages of newspapers all over the country. Despite everything, Maly told the press, he had every intention of not only flying again but flying across the Amazon jungle again.

"I have a debt to repay and a destiny to meet," Maly said. "Yes, sir, I am convinced that crash was destiny."

"The good Lord knew that the mission needed medical help. The misunderstandings at the Brasilia airport, the weather and everything else that day were part of it. Then, as we flew over the jungle, the Lord looked down at us and said, 'Hmmm, three doctors. Just what we need. Just a minute, boys.' Then our gas ran out."

BEFORE THE CRASH, FR. PATEREK, leader of the Cururu mission for decades, prayed for help. In addition to ministering to the 2,000-member Mundurucu and other tribes, the mission could help meet most of the native peoples' needs. Medical care was the major exception.

Fr. Paterek and the sisters knew enough to help the Mundurucu to some degree, but they lacked the skill and resources to address such diseases as tuberculosis, leprosy and intestinal parasites. They needed a proper clinic.

The priest's prayers were answered, he later said, when God brought down two planes of doctors and nurses within 35 miles of the mission.

"My wife and I have been obsessed since our safe return to help establish a clinic for those wonderful people," Maly said in late 1965.

The couple and the other members of their rescued party formed the nonprofit Cururu Medical Mission Society to establish a clinic at the mission. Thanks in part to the wide-ranging media coverage the story received, clinics, supply houses and drug companies lined up to donate services, medicine, equipment and funds to the cause.

Maly's Nance County patients grew nervous that the area's only doctor would be leaving again. "I've had calls from expectant mothers telling me I couldn't go until their babies came and another call from a sweet old lady who said I couldn't go until I've given her her flu shot," Maly said in 1965. (Two Omaha doctors watched over Maly's practice while he was abroad.)

In July 1966, the Malys launched Operation Helping Hand, leading a team of physicians, nurses and lab techs

to the Cururu mission to establish a clinic. More than 40 healthcare professionals volunteered to go, though there weren't enough seats to take everyone. A follow-up expedition was planned for later that fall. The Malys once again flew their own single-engine plane several thousand miles from Fullerton to the jungle.

The team arranged the delivery of more than a ton of medical supplies, equipment and medicine donated by various American institutions, including Creighton University. The crew spent eight weeks at the mission performing surgeries, treating the sick, establishing the clinic and delivering a crash course in medical care to the priests and sisters.

The operation focused on a number of ailments: the prevention of parasites, treatment of tuberculosis, vaccinations for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, smallpox and whooping cough. The Malys also traveled by river to reach outlying members of the tribes.

James Maly extended his Nance County air ambulance service to the Mundurucu. During his eight-week stay, he flew the 1,000-mile roundtrip to Santarem, Brazil, several times to deliver various patients to the town's clinic. He

also flew lepers to a clinic in Belem, Brazil, a 2,000-mile roundtrip from Cururu.

Life-saving medical transportation wasn't the only role Maly's plane served. It was also often loaded to capacity with medicine, mail, supplies and, on a few occasions, several cases of beer.

By the time the Malys left Cururu, they had delivered an estimated 2,800 vaccines, treated everything from ulcers to worms to malaria, assisted with research on area diseases and trained the mission's seven sisters in basic first aid and use of the medical supplies they would leave behind.

"I know more than ever that the crash and our return was destiny," Maly told the *World-Herald* upon his return to Fullerton. "Maybe we have repaid some of the kindness and care. But there is so much more to be done. We've just scratched the surface. Yes, we'll be back to do what we can."

JAMES AND JAN MALY RETURNED to Cururu for four to six weeks every year from 1967 to 1971. They stopped flying to the mission only when the operation's cost and complications with the Brazilian government became prohibitive.



"I know more than ever that the crash and our return was destiny. Maybe we have repaid some of the kindness and care."

JAMES MALY, MD '46

© James and Jan Maly on a return trip to the Amazon.

BRINGING CREIGHTON'S MISSION TO UKRAINE AND BACK AGAIN

BY MICHAEL KELLY, JD, LL.M.
Professor of Law
Senator Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law



Michael Kelly outside the Ivan Franko National University School of Law in Lviv, Ukraine.

Sometimes “living the mission” means advocating in print, in person or in the classroom for what’s right. Sometimes this is in the comfort of Omaha, sometimes it’s in the discomfort of a war zone. I’ve done both.

Our Jesuit social justice mission calls on us to defend human rights wherever they are in jeopardy and to insist upon accountability wherever atrocities are committed. As Creighton’s international law professor, fulfilling these twin pillars of our shared purpose sends me around the world in unexpected ways.

Over the span of two and half decades — through twists and turns in global political leadership, ideologies and multilateral and bilateral relations — I’ve found myself:

- conducting field research on the northern Iraqi border with Iran, investigating the 1988 Kurdish genocide and then traveling back to Iraq’s regional capital, sitting next to a Jesuit, helping draft their constitution;
- representing the U.S. in sequential congresses of *l’Association Internationale de Droit Pénal*, the oldest association of criminal law specialists in the world;
- meeting with Pope Francis at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican about corporate responsibility for human rights abuses;
- testifying before Congress on retention of America’s embargo against Cuba after the fall of Castro;
- addressing the United Nations in New York and Tokyo;
- working on internet human rights in Bali, Dublin, Hyderabad, London, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco;
- and, most recently, standing with Ukraine against Russian aggression.

THE ROAD TO UKRAINE

THE ROAD I’VE TRAVELED IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE for Ukraine began when I published a white paper with colleagues from Oxford, Stanford, Harvard and Cleveland State, laying out the legal framework to prosecute Russian corporations for war crimes in Ukraine and to then use those judgments to seize their frozen assets in Western capitals.

The call quickly came for me to join a delegation from the American

Society of International Law that was going to Ukraine on Dec. 10, 2023, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in Paris on that date in 1948.

Doffing a new insulated cap with ear guards, given to me by my wife for the freezing cold, I set off for Warsaw to rally with the rest of my group, be briefed by a British security team, which was accompanying us, and join a convoy of three buses heading southeast across the barren steppes to Ukraine.

After waiting at the border behind phalanxes of Red Cross trucks bearing medical supplies, we were received by Ukrainian national police who whisked us under escort to Lviv, about 250 miles west of Kyiv. Over the next three days, we engaged in a bilateral summit with the Ukrainian Association of International Law, discussing how to handle Russian prisoners of war, measuring physical damage assessments the war had inflicted, reviewing the preservation of cultural and religious heritage, and developing legal strategies for prosecuting the war before international tribunals and securing frozen Russian assets to begin rebuilding the country.

The mayor embraced us, taking us to the city hospital, refurbished with American financial assistance and renamed “Unbroken,” that was transformed into a prosthetic limb production, fitting and rehabilitation center for wounded soldiers and citizens. A special wing was added for the many children who, surviving Russian bomb blasts, were missing limbs and oftentimes parents. Heartbreaking to see, we learned much. For example, psychiatric specialists from Doctors Without Borders were seeing children during refitting. An 8-year-old girl who loses a leg must receive a new prosthetic leg each year until she stops growing at 18. Each new fitting can retraumatize her. So now therapists are on the frontlines to deal with this dynamic alongside the doctors and nurses.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IN A STORIED HALL

ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, WE GATHERED in the vast wood-paneled lecture hall of the law school at Ivan Franko National University under a crenelated glass rotunda that was wrapped in quilted tarps to shield it from flying debris Russian bombs and drones ejected from nearby explosions. Centuries old statues and stained glass were similarly draped in churches and museums across the city.

That hall and that school held tremendous symbolic value. Over 100 years earlier, when the city was known as Lemberg (part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire), Hersch Lauterpacht went to law school there.

Several years later, so did Raphael Lemkin. Lauterpacht created the concept of Crimes Against Humanity, which was later charged against Nazi leaders at Nuremberg. Lemkin crafted the concept of genocide (from the Ancient Greek *genos*, meaning “group of people,” and the Latin *cide*, meaning “act of killing”) to describe what was happening to Jews in Poland. These young East European Jews never met but took the same professor for criminal law and gifted the world frameworks of international justice that we still use today in The Hague.

The remarkable legacy of that lecture hall was tarnished in 1942 when Hans Frank, Hitler’s governor-general of Poland, rose on the venerable dais to deliver a “Final Solution” speech calling for the liquidation of the Jews. As he spoke, the Janowska concentration camp on the outskirts of the city was already collecting and exterminating its quarry. Frank received justice at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, but a pall remained over that room during Soviet times, until Ukrainians, under siege from Russians, joined hands with Americans on that cold December day to celebrate the human rights milestone.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who underwrote our trip through the Clinton Foundation, joined us via satellite to emphasize the importance of why we were there. Our group was presented with a battle flag signed by the soldiers of a Ukrainian artillery battalion on the Eastern front and sent all the way back to us in appreciation and solidarity.

INTERRUPTED BY AIR RAID SIRENS

AS THE FORMER DEAN of Yale Law School was finishing his closing speech, air raid sirens began to wail in response to the launch of a Russian Mig-23. Instantly our phones leapt into service, having been outfitted with apps tied to the national air defense system; maps popped up directing us to the nearest shelter.

Had the Russians known of our gathering, they no doubt would have targeted 150 Ukrainian and American attorneys hosted by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s international justice ambassador, Anton Korynevych — who had just scored a major victory against Russia at the International Court of Justice and helped guide the arrest warrant issued against Vladimir Putin from the International Criminal Court.



© Members of the summer 2024 Nuremberg to The Hague Program, along with law professors Michael Kelly and John Barrett (St. John’s University), at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. This building is home to the International Court of Justice.

Undeterred, the dean finished his speech after the sirens subsided. In fact, “undeterred” was the theme we left Ukraine with that wintry day. The snow was up to our knees and the cold was biting — emblematic of the Russian winters that had famously stopped the advances of both Napoleon’s and Hitler’s armies. But we left hopeful that human rights had been fortified and that justice might be secured.

BLAZING A TRAIL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

TEN MONTHS LATER, I was called back into service to join a team of five American law professors tasked with training 25 Ukrainian prosecutors and several Supreme Court judges on how to build environmental crimes cases against Russian commanders and soldiers and bring those cases forth as war crimes or ecocide under Ukrainian law.

Since the Russian invasion of 2022, Ukrainian civilians had been slaughtered en masse, thousands of children had been stolen and abducted into Russia, torture centers were created and cities bombed. These are classic war crimes that attorneys and judges are used to handling. But Russia’s armies, navies and mercenaries also had wrought havoc on

GIFT ESTABLISHES NEW CENTER AT LAW SCHOOL

A \$2 MILLION GIFT TO THE School of Law will endow a groundbreaking program and create a new center. Both will expose generations of law students to the realities of the Holocaust and the international criminal courts seeking justice for the victims of atrocities today.

The gift, made by Donna Gilbert and her children, Dave and Stacey Gilbert, endows the Howard A. Kaiman “Nuremberg to The Hague” Summer Abroad Program and establishes the Samuel and Ida Kaiman Center for International Criminal Justice and Holocaust Studies. Samuel and Ida, both born in Omaha, were Donna’s parents. Howard, a lifelong Omahan and attorney, was Donna’s brother.



Howard Kaiman, JD’67

Before he died in 2023 at the age of 93, Howard Kaiman asked his family to distribute his estate to worthy causes. They have also given \$8 million to the Omaha Jewish Foundation for a donor-advised fund to support the Jewish community, in addition to the gift to Creighton.

Every summer for more than a decade, the School of Law’s Nuremberg to The Hague (N2H) program has taken between 25 and 30 students to Germany, the Netherlands and Poland to learn firsthand about the Holocaust. The program immerses them in a series of historical and legal experiences, combining classroom instruction with trips to actual crime scenes, places of conspiracy and trials for crimes against humanity being litigated today.

With their creation of the new Kaiman Center and endowment of its marquee N2H program, Howard Kaiman and the Gilberts have “forever changed how we teach the Holocaust, genocide and international criminal justice at Creighton,” says Michael Kelly, JD, LLM, director of the N2H program.

While the endowment of the N2H program will ensure its perpetuity, the new center will build upon and broaden its impact and influence.

“The center provides us the invaluable opportunity to explore more deeply the international atrocities taking place today and the courts tasked with litigating them,” Kelly says.

The Samuel and Ida Kaiman Center for International Criminal Justice and Holocaust Studies will host world-renowned attorneys to discuss an array of issues including genocide litigation before international tribunals such as the Rohingya of Burma, accountability mechanisms such as prosecuting Russian commanders for environmental crimes in Ukraine, and continuing Holocaust era issues such as the return of stolen artwork. In August, the center will host Eli Rosenbaum, the last Nazi hunter in the U.S. Department of Justice.

The center also has the potential to create new classes and programs, establish new travel opportunities, further research and publication, and even identify cases where Creighton law students can assist with litigation. It will present more opportunities to more students, at Creighton and elsewhere, as well as alumni and community members. This year, 25 to 30 individuals from the Jewish Community Center of Omaha are expected to join Creighton students on the N2H trip.

Ukraine’s natural resources and environment, and President Zelenskyy wanted them to account for that destruction in particular, but the legal system had little precedence.

Sponsored by the International Bar Association based in London, we gathered this time in Rzeszów, on the Polish side of the Ukrainian border, and waited for our “class” to arrive and spend a week with us learning about this newly developing area of law.

In the course of our time together, we worked to define elements of these crimes in many of the Russian military actions from blowing up the Kakhovka Dam — flooding the surrounding countryside, wiping out villages and forests, and draining the reservoir behind it — to purposely setting fire to protected woodlands; poisoning rivers and streams; bombing the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant; leaving tons of unexploded ordinance across thousands of acres of sunflower and wheat fields; and killing Black Sea dolphins in Ukrainian waters with Russian submarine sonar blasts. The judges and deputy prosecutor general who accompanied the group were especially thankful for our training and pledged to do their best with the legal tools we had provided.

EMBRACING THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

BACK IN OMAHA, CREIGHTON LAW STUDENTS dig into my field work and use it to enrich their discussions in class. As part of our summer abroad program in Nuremberg, studying the Nazi war crimes trials and the Holocaust, I bring them to Krakow for several days to explore the World War II crime scene of Auschwitz.

We set aside an afternoon for them to visit with Ukrainian refugees and attorneys, who come to talk about the war that’s still being fought less than 500 miles from where they’re sitting. The past meets the present for them in this way, just as it did for me in that Lviv lecture hall. Capturing it, turning it to the light and inspiring this next generation of attorneys to go into the future emboldened by mission and fueled with purpose to help deliver justice wherever they can is good work. Very good work.

It’s the work that the late Creighton law alumnus Ron Delaney, JD’30, undertook when he moved his family to Tokyo in 1947 to prosecute the fallen Japanese prime minister Hideki Tojo before the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. It’s the work that the Hon. Charles Smith, JD’70, is doing today in The Hague as presiding judge of the Kosovo tribunal trying the case of their fallen prime minister for crimes committed at the end of the Balkan civil wars.

Creighton’s School of Law has been part of the fabric of international criminal law from the beginning, and we remain part of it today. Among countless Bluejays working toward international justice in countless ways, our students have assisted on the Guantanamo Bay terrorist trials, fought human trafficking for the Justice Department, taken on stolen property cases in Cuba for the Treasury Department, and had a hand in returning abducted children for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Inspiring beyond measure, our students are “setting the world on fire” for human rights and justice, and I’m committed to keeping that flame going as long as I can.

Editor’s Note: Michael Kelly, JD, LLM, continues to follow the events as they unfold in Ukraine.



‘I owe my life to my friends from Creighton’

A Facebook post from an Iowa meteorologist led alumna Emily Belden Bond to discover she had Stage II breast cancer

BY MICAH MERTES

Even though Emily Belden Bond, BA’08, lives in Chicago, she’s long made a point of following the Quad Cities weather forecasts of Kevin Phelps, BSATS’08, a longtime meteorologist for his area’s NBC affiliate, KWQC.

They had lost touch over the years, but Kevin would always be Emily’s first Creighton friend. Twenty years ago, Kevin and Emily were both incoming freshmen driving west to start their first semester at Creighton. On the way, they stopped at the same Iowa gas station half an hour east of Omaha. Waiting in line, Emily asked Kevin, “Are you going to Creighton, too?” He was, he said. He planned to study meteorology (a College of Arts and Sciences program since discontinued) and one day become a weatherman.

Later, they both lived in Kiewit Hall. As did Kevin’s girlfriend and future wife, Christen Schulte Phelps, BSBA’08, and over the next four years, they all ran in the same circles.

Flash forward to Feb. 3, 2023. Emily — now a marketing director and published author — saw a new Facebook post from Kevin that showed him wearing a pink suit while doing his daily forecast. The post read:

“On my wife’s treatment/milestone days, we wear pink. Over the holidays, my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. Since then, we have been building an army of doctors, nurses, friends, family and so many others to prepare for battle. So, when you see me wearing pink, it’s my subtle way of showing my support and letting you know it’s a big day for our family as we navigate this journey.

“Also, my wife wants me to remind you all that it may not be a lump, so make sure you mention any changes (even if you don’t think they are anything) at your annual physical. Luckily, her doctor was proactive and ordered her a mammogram just to check (despite her being 36). Without that, we may not have caught this until much later.”

Emily was startled by the news. She learned through a mutual friend that Christen first discovered she had cancer because of a nipple change. Emily had never heard of that being a sign of breast cancer.

Four months later, Emily was about to turn 37. Christen’s diagnosis was still at the forefront of her mind: *If it can happen to her, it can happen to me.* Emily scheduled her first mammogram. She got the results the next morning. She was clear; nothing to worry about, her doctor told her.

© Emily Belden Bond, BA’08, left, and Christen Schulte Phelps, BSBA’08, at the Jan. 25, 2025, Pink Out men’s basketball game against Seton Hall.

“It meant everything to have a friend the same age as me, who had young children like me, who understood what it was like to go through this experience.”

EMILY BELDEN BOND, BA'08

A few days later, Emily noticed a difference in one of her nipples. She didn't feel any lumps and wasn't especially worried, but she couldn't shake Christen's story. It prompted her to make a follow-up appointment with her OB/GYN.

“The whole time, I was so apologetic,” Emily says now. “I'm taking up this poor person's time to do a breast exam. This is so silly. This is just normal aging. I have clear mammograms. What else is there to say?”

Her doctor felt some firmness and, though he believed the cause to be benign, ordered an ultrasound. Soon after, Emily learned that she had Stage II breast cancer.

A CANCER DIAGNOSIS

In Emily's mammogram, taken just days prior, the tumor looked identical to dense tissue, which is why it had taken a different form of imaging to detect it.

Emily's doctor ordered a biopsy, which confirmed the mass was cancer and that it had spread to her lymph nodes. Emily met with the oncologist later that day.

Her next year would include a double mastectomy (and later reconstructive surgery) and six months of chemotherapy. Today, she is cancer-free, though she will need to take an anticancer medication for the next few years and a hormone-blocker for the next 10 to 15 years.

“It is very plausible that in another universe, I wouldn't have done anything until I had other symptoms,” Emily says. “My stomach might have been hurting, which would mean it had metastasized to another organ. There would have been signs of Stage III or Stage IV cancer.”

Emily's doctors later said they suspected she had cancer for about nine months before she found it.

“I believe I owe my life to my friends from Creighton. Had Christen not shared her journey and Kevin not had his platform, who knows where I would be today?”

When Christen announced that she had breast cancer, Emily reconnected with her on Instagram to express her sympathies. Six

months later, Emily messaged her again to tell her that she, too, had breast cancer.

“More than anything,” Emily says, “I wanted her to know that I was getting the help I needed because of her story.”

Over the next year, Emily and Christen went from estranged college friends to “literal sisters,” talking on the phone nearly every day, Emily says. “She's so important to me. We're bonded forever.”

Christen and Emily's breast cancer journeys were similar, with a delay of months between them. Emily was diagnosed around the time Christen had her double mastectomy. Emily started chemo as Christen was finishing it.

“It meant everything to have a friend the same age as me, who had young children like me, who understood what it was like to go through this experience,” Emily says. “The connection feels cosmic. There's something greater than us that made this happen.”

A PILLAR OF SUPPORT

Christen remembers the day Emily told her she also had breast cancer.

“It just broke my heart because I knew too well what she had to go through,” Christen says.

Christen became a pillar of Emily's support system and helped coach her through her worst moments. But the road went both ways, Christen says.

“She helped me as much as, I hope, I helped her. I might have been further along in the process, but we had many of the same things running through our heads. We could talk to each other about the same side effects, the same everyday mental struggles, the same fears about how this was impacting our relationships with the people we love. I think we kept each other from falling down a dark hole.”

Kevin and Christen say they received incredible support after that first Facebook post, including from their Creighton friends. Those in the health sciences fields, in particular, tried to keep their spirits up throughout. Many others shared similar experiences. Their support and their stories gave Christen hope.

That, she says, is the gift she wants to pay forward as a survivor: to live as proof to others that they, too, can make it through this.

PINK OUT GAME BRINGS HOPE

In February 2024, Emily received a double mastectomy. The same day, Christen and Kevin's family were in Omaha, attending the Creighton Pink Out men's basketball game at the CHI Health Center Omaha. At the annual event, players and fans wear pink and help raise money to honor loved ones who are battling (or who have battled) breast cancer. The game brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for breast cancer patients and their caregivers.

At the Pink Out game, fans are encouraged to fill out cards to say who they're wearing pink for. Christen wrote down “Emily B.”

Shortly before Emily's surgery, Christen texted Emily a picture of her at the game holding the card with her name on it.

“I'll never be able to express how much hope that gave me,” Emily says. “Here was this beautiful woman feeling well enough to go to this game, looking wonderful, her hair growing back, and she's there cheering me on.”

“I knew at that moment that, OK, God willing, I'm going to be well enough to go to next year's Pink Out game. I'm going to make it back to Creighton, and I'm going to see my friends again, and I'm going to cheer on everyone who has to fight this battle and let them know they're not alone.”

Fast-forward one year later to the Jan. 25, 2025, Pink Out game against Seton Hall. Emily — now cancer-free, with her hair grown back — waited in the concourse of the CHI Health Center Omaha, trying to spot her friend among the crowd. Right as the game started, Emily felt a tap on the shoulder.

“Before I had even fully turned around, Christen had thrown her arms around me,” Emily says. “It was one of the best surprises of my life. I was able to be at the Creighton game that day because of Christen. I'm not letting go of her.”

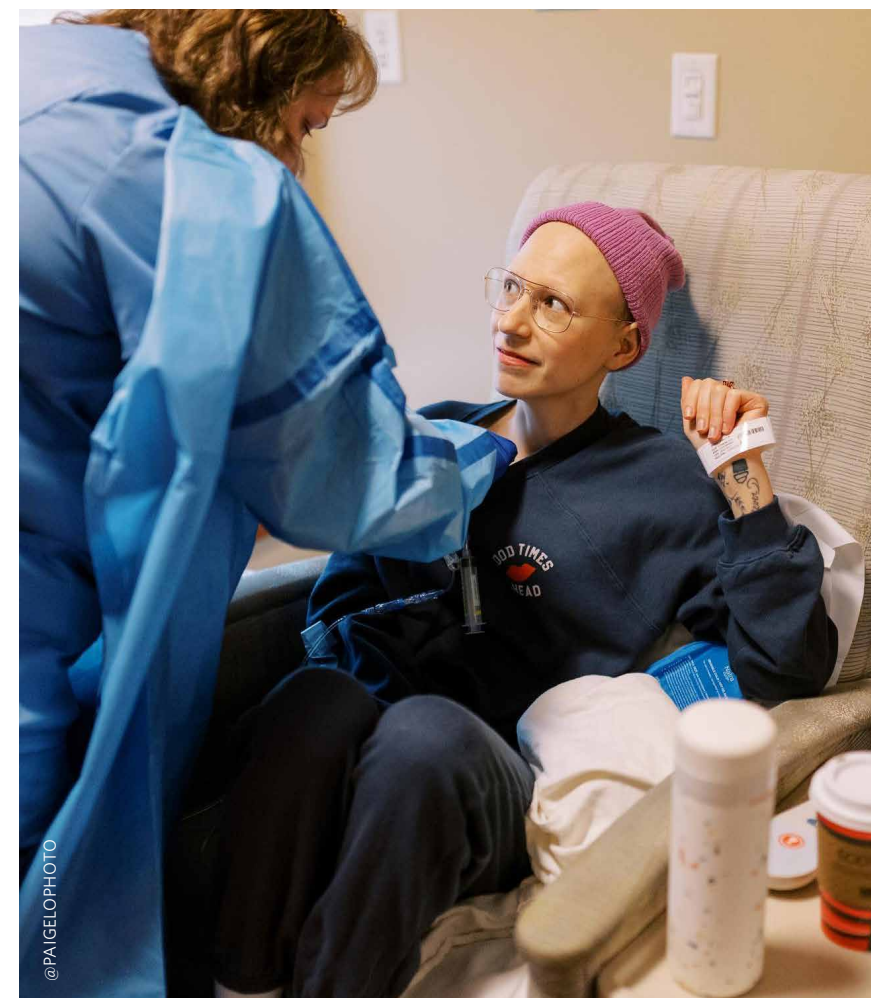


Photo top: Christen Schulte Phelps, BSBA'08, shows her support for Emily Belden Bond, BA'08, at the 2024 Creighton Pink Out men's basketball game in Omaha.

Photo left: Emily receiving a chemotherapy treatment.

Photo above right: Christen and Kevin Phelps, BSATS'08, after her last chemotherapy treatment.

Life-Changing Gift for Nursing Students

A transformative gift will take Creighton nursing students to work for and with communities at several partner sites around the world.

The gift — made by Kathy Keough Soto, BSN’75, her family, and the Donald and Marilyn Keough Foundation — will create the Soto Nursing Scholars program within Creighton’s College of Nursing and the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships program.

“Creighton teaches nurses how to be empathetic and get to know their patients so they can provide the best care for them,” says Kathy Keough Soto. “This scholarship will do that for more Creighton students, and our family is very proud to help make it possible.”

Over seven years, multiple cohorts of five licensed Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates (25 total) will receive a full scholarship to earn a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and certificate in global health at Creighton. During the three-year program, Soto Scholars will develop their skills in healthcare-deprived communities internationally.

Inspired by Ignatian values, the program will empower nursing students to work toward greater health equity, build lasting relationships with community partners and practice the values of *cura personalis* on a global scale.

“This gift, for which we are so grateful, makes it possible for students to explore and invest in health equity and global access to care,” says Jessica Clark, DNP, dean of the College of Nursing. “This program speaks to the heart of our mission. By working directly with patients and populations all over the world, Soto Scholars will gain experiences, skills and values they will carry with them for the rest of their careers.”

The Soto Nursing Scholars program is modeled after and will join Creighton’s Arrupe



Kylie Rdechor, BSN’24, right, works with standardized patient Michael Jung during her studies at the Phoenix campus.

“This program speaks to the heart of our mission. By working directly with patients and populations all over the world, Soto Scholars will gain experiences, skills and values they will carry with them for the rest of their careers.”

JESSICA CLARK, DNP | DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Global Scholars and Partnerships program. Established in 2021 with a \$25 million gift from an anonymous foundation, the Arrupe Scholars program immerses Creighton School of Medicine students in global communities to work alongside local healthcare providers and organizations at partner sites in the Dominican Republic, Rwanda, Ecuador and Nepal.

In the Arrupe program — named for social justice champion the Rev. Pedro Arrupe, SJ — medical students engage in a five-year program that includes multiple immersions at their chosen partner sites and an innovative curriculum rooted in health equity and decolonizing global health. Between their M2 and M3 years, Arrupe Scholars complete a year of coursework to earn their Master of Public Health degree.

“The Soto Nursing Scholars program will build on and expand the Arrupe program while also tailoring curriculum and immersion

experiences to nursing students — graduate nursing students in particular,” says Jason Beste, BS’03, MD’08, executive director of the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships program.

Soto Scholars will join Arrupe Scholars at established partner sites and form new partnerships specific to the nursing program.

“This can only be a partnership,” says Shelly Luger, DNP, Soto Nursing Scholars director. “That’s fundamental to the whole program. We want to walk and work alongside our partners before we even begin to understand how we might help them.”

And what a life-changing opportunity for a student to have, Luger says.

“The reach these students are going to have will be tremendous,” Beste says. “To the donors who are funding Arrupe and Soto, you are doing more than creating a program at Creighton. You are starting a movement.” — **BY MICAH MERTES**

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.

61 Donald L. Cleveland, BA, Boynton Beach, Florida, is the author of *Revitalizing America: A Declaration Against Our Government*. The second edition of the book was recently published.

72 Randy P. Lukaszewicz, BSBA, Omaha, had his photo collection “Once Upon a Time: The Sherman-Howard County Baseball League” displayed at the Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference, held last summer at Creighton. The multimedia exhibit is the story of early small-town baseball capturing the competition and community that is evident in sports today. **Allan R. Vorda, BA,** Sugar Land, Texas, is the author of *Kamchatka Khronicle*. The historical novel, scheduled to be published in June 2025, is the story of two natural scientists who were involved with the Vitus Bering Expedition of 1741-1742.

74 John H. Jameson, DDS, and his wife, Dr. Catherine E. Jameson, Davis, Oklahoma, were recently inducted into the Oklahoma State University Hall of Fame. Both attended Oklahoma State as undergraduates. Induction into the Oklahoma State Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the university and recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements in society and professional life. Jameson also received the Alumni Merit Award from the Creighton School of Dentistry in 1992.

75 Robert C. Burdett, MBA, Omaha, recently published his ninth book, a historical play, *The Polesworth Circle: The Education of William Shakespeare*.

76 Daniel E. Monnat, JD, Wichita, Kansas, of Monnat & Spurrier, Chartered, was named to the international list of Who’s Who Legal: Business Crime Defense 2024. Monnat also was recognized on the Top 100 List of Missouri and Kansas Super Lawyers for 2024. This is Monnat’s 19th year to be named to the list of the region’s top attorneys.

78 Stephen W. Kay, JD, North Platte, Nebraska, worked with the Historical Marker Equity Program at the Nebraska State Historical Society to have a Nebraska historical marker installed in North Platte for the Rev. Hiram Hisanori Kano. Fr. Kano, a Japanese immigrant, served as counselor, minister, teacher, translator and agriculture advisor to Japanese immigrants and their families in western Nebraska in the early decades of the 1900s. The historical marker has been placed at Episcopal Church of Our Savior in North Platte.

80 Clem C. Pellett, DDS, Bozeman, Montana, is the author of *Murder on Montana’s Hi-Line*. In the book, Pellett recounts the enthralling twists and turns of his hunt for his grandfather’s

absconded aggressor — the longest in the state’s history. A movie about the saga also has been made.

81 Denise Wemhoff Christensen, BSN, Omaha, retired from nursing in June 2024 after 43 years of practice.

85 Dr. Merilee Krueger Wilsdorf, BA, Rolla, Missouri, was named a Curators’ Distinguished Teaching Professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. Wilsdorf joined the faculty at Missouri S&T in 1990 and is a teaching professor of psychological science. **James M. Wooten, PharmD,** Lenexa, Kansas, has been a faculty member for nearly 30 years at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, where he teaches pharmacology to medical students and physician assistant students. A professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Wooten has received several teaching awards and has published more than 60 articles in various healthcare journals. He also is a clinical pharmacy specialist at various hospitals in the Kansas City area.

86 Michael W. Meister, BA’83, JD, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was sworn in as the Scottsbluff County Public Defender in October 2024.

88 Dr. Michael P. Kelly, BS, Olympia, Washington, retired as a commissioned officer from the United States Public

Health Service in July 2023 after 20 years of service. He currently is a pharmacist-investigator with the Washington State Department of Health Division of Health Systems Quality Assurance Office of Health Professions.

89 Jeffrey C. Clapper, BSBA, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was appointed by former South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem to be a circuit court judge for the Second Judicial Circuit. Clapper served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of South Dakota for the past 22 years.

93 Mark C. Holyoak, BSN, Pasco, Washington, was recently named CEO of Castleview Hospital in Price, Utah. Holyoak previously led Castleview as CEO from 2011 to 2018. He most recently served as CEO of Lourdes Health in Pasco. **William E. O’Farrell, BSBA’89, JD,** Ambler, Pennsylvania, CEO and co-founder of Premia Holdings Ltd., a global reinsurance group, was recently interviewed by the “Voice of Insurance” podcast on the topic of the U.S. casualty reinsurance market and the legacy reinsurance landscape. **Sabrina Prince Schalley, BA,** Omaha, is the director of behavioral health integration at Children’s Nebraska. She is assisting with building and opening the Behavioral Health & Wellness Center, a one-of-a-kind facility to support children’s mental and physical health in Omaha.

97 Merrill R. Landers, DPT, Las Vegas, was appointed interim dean of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas School of Integrated Health Sciences, in January 2025. Landers is a professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and has chaired the department since 2011. He is the Cyrus Chung Ying Tang Foundation Research Professor and a fellow of the Physical Therapy Education Leadership Institute.

01 Brian C. Bowman, JD, Omaha, retired with the rank of colonel after more than 23 years of service in the U.S. Air Force and Iowa Air National Guard.

06 Alice A. Lugo, BA'03, JD, Washington, D.C., senior counsel in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's government relations department, has joined the board of directors of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI). CHLI was founded by members of Congress to advance the Hispanic community's economic

progress with a focus on social responsibility and global competitiveness.

07 Brian P. O'Laughlin, JD, Kohler, Wisconsin, senior legal director at Kohler Co., is the president of the 2025 board of directors for the Above & Beyond Children's Museum in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. O'Laughlin has been on the board since 2021.

16 Daniel E. Cummings, JD, Hays, Kansas, has been promoted to partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in the law firm's Kansas City, Missouri, office.

20 Julia Hartnett Adams, JD, Sioux City, Iowa, is a partner at the Klass Law Firm LLP in Sioux City. **Emily M. McKenna, BA,** Omaha, is the alumnae director at Marian High School in Omaha. McKenna is a graduate of Marian.

21 AJ Lauer, EdD, Superior, Colorado, is the author of *My Monster Mungo: A Story About Imposter Syndrome*. The illustrated book (for adults) presents a

different way of thinking about imposter syndrome. The book was illustrated by **Chelsey L. Hill, BFA'14.**

22 Alena N. Theis, BSN, Chicago, an emergency room nurse at Advocate Christ Medical Center, a Level 1 trauma hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois, obtained the certification to be a trauma nurse in 2023 and became licensed as an emergency communications registered nurse in 2024.

24 Ana V. Hingorani, JD, Denver, joined the law firm Woods Aitken as an associate attorney in the Denver office. Hingorani joins the firm's growing litigation team, working with clients in the construction law and commercial litigation practice areas. **Molly G. Petersen, MS,** Danbury, Iowa, is the principal at Danbury Catholic School.

WEDDINGS

16 Elizabeth A. Samson, BA'13, MA, and **Steele H. Valenzuela,**

BS'13, Aug. 24, 2024, living in Omaha.

22 Abigail B. Hunter, BS, and **Davis B. Sunderland, BSBA,** June 28, 2024, living in Council Bluffs, Iowa. **Elizabeth Watts, BSBA,** and **Benjamin S. Krapfl, BSBA,** Oct. 26, 2024, living in Denver.

24 Heidi V. Strigenz, BA'21, MS, and **George T. Mickelson, BSBA'21,** Nov. 2, 2024, living in Omaha.

BIRTHS

11 Robert J. Willmes, BS, and **Elizabeth Christensen Willmes, DNP'21,** a son, Chase Jackson, Aug. 6, 2024, living in Bennington, Nebraska.

20 Christopher Adams and Julia Hartnett Adams, JD, a daughter, Genevieve Monroe, Sept. 23, 2024, living in Sioux City, Iowa.

24 Jackson P. Zuerlein, BSBA, and **Ana Michell Zuerlein,** a daughter, Olive Wonder, Dec. 23, 2024, living in Plano, Texas.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Transforming Dental Care in the DR

Nearly five decades ago, in the sweltering heat of a remote village in the Dominican Republic, **JAMES BONGERS, DDS'80,** then a second-year dental student, squinted through the summer sunlight in a makeshift clinic as he examined his patient's painful teeth during his first visit to the DR. With minimal tools, his decisions relied entirely on judgment.

Despite the patient's complaint of persistent pain, Bongers saw nothing visibly wrong and hesitated to remove what appeared to be healthy teeth. He sent her away.

Bongers recalls that 30 minutes later, his Creighton faculty mentor (now associate professor emeritus of removable prosthodontics) Ralph Herrman, DDS'54, took the patient in and made the decision to extract the teeth. When Bongers asked why, he remembers Herrman's reply, "She says they hurt. She's probably not making that up."

After the extraction, the teeth revealed large abscesses that had been causing the pain. The patient later returned to the clinic, visibly relieved, thanking and hugging Bongers and Herrman. The experience taught Bongers a powerful lesson.

"She hugged me, squeezed the stuffing out of me, thanking me for what

© James Garriott, BS'19, DDS'24, continued the tradition of providing dental services in the Dominican Republic during the summer of 2023. The gift of a portable X-ray machine will help dental students diagnose and treat patients.

I did," Bongers recalls. "We didn't have X-rays, so we couldn't know. But there's the humanity — you trust this person and you take care of them to the best of your God-given ability."

For more than 50 years, Creighton has partnered with the *Centro de Educación para la Salud Integral* (CESI or Misión ILAC) in the Dominican Republic to provide global service-learning opportunities. This program brings students across dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, law and rehabilitation sciences together for hands-on learning while serving communities in need.

The dental component has been a part of the program since its earliest days, with students and faculty providing care under challenging conditions. The ILAC dental program continues to send teams to rural *campes* each summer. The group includes two dental students, a volunteer dentist and often a faculty member.

As time and technologies have evolved, so has the program. With generators, compressors, dental chairs and other equipment, Creighton dental students now provide an array of services to Dominican children and families, including extractions, fillings, sealants and cleanings. However, a persistent challenge has been the lack of diagnostic equipment.

Now, thanks to the recent gift from Bongers, for the first time this summer, the School of Dentistry will equip its team with a portable X-ray machine to enhance accuracy and a fuller range of patient care.

"The ability to take X-rays in real-time — thanks to Dr. Bongers' gift — allows us to make definitive diagnoses and enables our students to practice at the same level they do in Omaha," says Jill Wallen, BDS, dean of the School of Dentistry. "This is incredibly important for their confidence and the quality of care they provide. I couldn't be more grateful."

Bongers' early experiences with the ILAC program during the summers of 1978 and 1979 left a lasting impression on him. Despite his previous work at the Douglas County Jail dental clinic, addressing dental needs on tribal reservations, and volunteering at Creighton's after-hours, student-run clinic — now called Cura Clinic — he wasn't prepared for the conditions he saw in the Dominican Republic.

"They had nothing," he says. "I went down there, and we didn't even have dental chairs. All we did was extractions by direct sunlight in a straight-back chair. That was the best we could do for our patients."

Bongers and his team worked alongside Creighton physicians, nurses, dentists and local providers, learning from one another in ways he never expected.

"It was a great experience in humanity," Bongers reflects. "We had such a wonderful time with the people. They treated us so well. And we used our gifts — medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy — to give back to the locals for what they gave us. It was so inspiring." — **BY NICHOLE JELINEK, MA'15**



James Bongers, DDS'80

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CREIGHTON ALUMNUS WINS GOLD AT PARA CLIMBING NATIONALS

IT WAS PAUL MARTIN'S FIRST TIME at an official USA Climbing-sanctioned event, so he approached the para climbing competition hoping simply to perform well enough to qualify for the next one. Then he won it.

First place. Gold medal.

Martin, BA'22, MED'24, who was born without his right arm at the elbow, has only been an adaptive climber for about two years. And he's a high school English teacher — he can only practice on the weekends, when he drives about an hour to train at a climbing gym in Rapid City, South Dakota.

But Martin is now an official member of Team USA's Para Climbing squad, lined up to represent the country in four international competitions this year. The first is in Salt Lake City in May.

It's all been a bit of a whirlwind for Martin.

His limb difference has never prevented him from being active, but competition in a disabled athletic community has been something new.

"I didn't want to be part of an amputee or disabled community where the thing we had in common was what we were missing," he says. "But with climbing, the thing that you have in common isn't what you're missing, it's what you're doing and the people who are doing it in similar ways to you. It's really genuinely fun and empowering."

He's all-in now.

Martin's first-place finish at the 2025 USA Para Climbing National Championships in March in Oakland, California, has launched him down a new path.

"I had a little bit of experience, but that was my first real, official event, and it obviously went pretty well," Martin says. "I'm excited for what is next." — **BY JON NYATAWA**

Pictured above:

Paul Martin, BA'22, MED'24, climbs at a competition hosted by Black Hills Basecamp in February 2025.

DEATHS

46 Mary Hiron Neagle, ARTS, Camarillo, California, Dec. 19, 2024.

47 Ruth Pratt, MLN, Los Alamos, New Mexico, Sept. 29, 2024.

48 Betty Lannan Amento, SJN, Scottsdale, Arizona, Aug. 19, 2024. **Eileen Olig Purnell, ARTS,** Denver, Jan. 4, 2025.

50 Robert C. Brown, BS, Omaha, Oct. 27, 2024. **Lucy M. Radicia, BS'46, MD,** Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nov. 15, 2024. **Cletus A. Roh, BS,** Rockville, Maryland, Dec. 13, 2024. **Donald R. Stewart, BS,** Easton, Pennsylvania, Feb. 9, 2025. **Donald F. Sutton, BUSADM,** Omaha, Jan. 27, 2025.

51 Archie J. Boscardin, ARTS, Grapevine, Texas, Sept. 13, 2024. **Jeanne Dowdell Boyt, BS,** Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 16, 2024. **John D. Gilbert, BS,** Sun City, Arizona, Dec. 12, 2023. **Dr. Alfred F. Pogge, BS,** Quincy, Illinois, Nov. 26, 2024.

52 Elmer W. Adams, BS, Omaha, Oct. 6, 2024. **Melvin B. Engler, JD,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, Sept. 24, 2024. **Donald G. Hatten, BS,** Azle, Texas, Sept. 27, 2024. **Teresa Aldera Lorentz, BS,** Dallas, Feb. 16, 2025.

53 Anita Mejstrik Becky, SCN, Denver, May 6, 2024.

54 Elizabeth M. Burger, BSPha, Olathe, Kansas, Feb. 19, 2025. **Catherine Wanek Kelter, ARTS,** Hood River, Oregon, Oct. 26, 2024. **Patrick C. Meekin, MD,** St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 13, 2025.

55 Dr. George D. Byrne, BS, Burlington, Wisconsin, Sept. 29, 2024. **Mayone Miller Byron, BSN,** Waseca, Minnesota, Oct. 5, 2024. **Mary Greco Clemens, SCN,** Omaha, Feb. 17, 2025. **Harold W. "Bill" Cronin, BSPha,** Ashland, Oregon, Nov. 6, 2023. **Francis O. McDermott, ARTS,** Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 19, 2024.

56 William J. Merrigan, BS, McLean, Virginia, Oct. 26, 2024. **William T. Sachs, BSPha,** Rockford, Illinois, Sept. 15, 2024. **Joseph M. Stech, BS'50, MD,** Andale, Kansas, Feb. 26, 2025. **Donald S. Weaver, MD,** Sacramento, California, Sept. 5, 2024.

57 Sally Green Boedeker, SJN, Henderson, Minnesota, Oct.

29, 2024. **Rosemary Cenovich Gross, BS,** Omaha, Jan. 29, 2025. **Lois Borovac McKernan, SCN,** Omaha, Nov. 14, 2024. **Rolland D. Pistulka, MD,** Shakopee, Minnesota, Feb. 4, 2023. **Dr. John C. Robbins, BS,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, Dec. 31, 2024. **Bernard J. Smid, BS,** Omaha, Jan. 8, 2025.

58 Maridee Realph Cunningham, SJN, Charlotte, North Carolina, Aug. 28, 2024. **John J. Dineen, BSBA,** Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 31, 2025. **Elden J. Jonas, BSBA,** Omaha, Jan. 5, 2025. **Dr. Bernie Mullen, ARTS,** Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 15, 2024. **James A. Mullin, BS,** Omaha, Feb. 17, 2025.

59 F. William Beeler, LAW, Phoenix, Dec. 23, 2024. **Gerald A. Eipperle Sr., BSBA,** Omaha, Nov. 18, 2024. **Donald J. Safarik, BSBA,** Orange, California, Dec. 21, 2023. **Samuel J. Turco, BSBA'57, JD,** Omaha, Jan. 24, 2025. **Laura Henkel Vander Meer, SJN'58, BSN,** Le Mars, Iowa, Oct. 4, 2024. **James E. Vlach, BUSADM,** Easton, Maryland, Dec. 6, 2024. **Mary Jane Zeppelin, BSPha,** Milwaukee, Oct. 17, 2024.

60 William J. Duffy, ARTS, Papillion, Nebraska, Dec. 14, 2023. **Robert D. Hedequist, MD,** Spokane, Washington, Feb. 14, 2024. **William G. Kagawa, DDS,** Honolulu, Aug. 25, 2022. **Madeline Scherr Mills, PHARM,** Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Aug. 8, 2024. **Connie Walker Tooher, ARTS,** Omaha, Feb. 5, 2025. **George A. Wanek, BS,** Omaha, Oct. 27, 2024. **John L. Wiley Jr., BS,** Omaha, Oct. 22, 2024.

61 James T. Brady, BS, Carson City, Nevada, Oct. 26, 2024. **Dr. Jean L. Carrica, BA,** Omaha, Sept. 5, 2024. **Louis F. DiGiacomo, DDS,** Port Orange, Florida, Oct. 13, 2024. **Denis M. Grote, BSBA,** Denver, Dec. 23, 2024. **Harry R. Meister, BSBA'56, JD,** Gering, Nebraska, March 1, 2025. **Martina Offenburger Polk, BUSADM,** Omaha, Jan. 16, 2025. **Richard A. Roche, DDS,** Butte, Montana, Nov. 9, 2024.

62 Robert C. Guinan, JD, Omaha, Oct. 26, 2024. **Mary Jo Zummach Maercklein, ARTS,** Slingerlands, New York, Jan. 3, 2025. **Barbara McGowan McRoberts, BS,** Gurley, Nebraska, Nov. 28, 2024. **Hon. Leonard Suchanek, BS'58, JD,** Falls Church, Virginia, Oct. 5, 2024.

63 William L. Dasovic, BSBA, Omaha, Feb. 13, 2025. **Florence Ferlic Finnicum, BA,** Spring Park, Minnesota, Dec. 18, 2024. **Theodore T. Jensen, BA,** Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, Nov. 5, 2024. **Donald J. Mangan, BA,** Omaha, Jan. 15, 2025. **Jeffrey B. Northam, BSBA,** Red Wing, Minnesota, Dec. 10, 2024. **Rev. Thomas J. Topf, MSEdu,** Sioux City, Iowa, Dec. 11, 2024.

64 Robert E. Chaney Jr., BS, Omaha, Nov. 12, 2024. **Richard T. Phelan, BSBA,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, Nov. 11, 2024. **Franklyn W. Pogge, BSChm,** Lenexa, Kansas, Dec. 7, 2023. **Dr. Francis B. Rang II, BA,** Burbank, California, May 22, 2024.

65 Victor R. Cuccia, DDS, Palm Desert, California, Sept. 20, 2024. **Kenneth E. Dreesen, BSChm'63, MS,** Omaha, Nov. 24, 2024. **James J. Phalen, BACLS'61, MD,** Omaha, Sept. 21, 2024. **William J. Slattey, DDS,** Boise, Idaho, Jan. 1, 2025. **Karen Holbach Steffen, BSN,** Overland Park, Kansas, June 22, 2024. **James J. Woodbury, MD,** Omaha, Sept. 2, 2024.

66 Jerry D. Black, DDS, Brady, Texas, Dec. 27, 2023. **Thomas C. Hansen, MA,** St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 22, 2025. **Thomas J. Kocarnik, BA,** Omaha, Jan. 12, 2025. **Larry G. Lewallen, MBA,** Greenville, South Carolina, Sept. 26, 2024. **Philip J. Martin, MD,** Tustin, California, Sept. 28, 2024. **John E. Potter, BSPha,** Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Oct. 20, 2024.

67 Barbara Donnelly Bundy, BSN, Castle Pines, Colorado, Dec. 23, 2022. **Bernadette Kosuth Druke, MA,** West Point, Nebraska, Sept. 4, 2024. **Clair L. Leise, BA'62, JD,** Omaha, Oct. 25, 2024. **Dr. Frances Rhodes, MS,** Lansdale, Pennsylvania, Dec. 4, 2024. **Jerry R. Smith, DDS,** Bennington, Nebraska, Dec. 7, 2024. **David J. Vickers, JD,** Sioux Falls, South Dakota, April 28, 2024. **Gary M. Vogelsberg, DDS,** Omaha, Dec. 27, 2023.

69 Chris M. Arps, JD, Papillion, Nebraska, Oct. 15, 2024. **P. Maureen Brady, BA'60, MSEdu,** Omaha, Nov. 24, 2024.

70 Mary Dell Arenz, BUSADM, Minnetonka, Minnesota, Oct. 21, 2024. **William J. Briggs, BA,** Omaha, Feb. 11, 2025. **John A. Daum, BA,** St. Paul, Minnesota,

Feb. 12, 2025. **Michael Dishman, BSBA,** Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dec. 4, 2024. **Timothy C. Evans, MSGuid,** Omaha, Jan. 25, 2025. **Linda Johnsrud Gebhardt, BA,** Bondurant, Iowa, Dec. 30, 2024. **Earl P. Kealy, BSBA'62, MBA,** Omaha, Oct. 15, 2024. **Catherine Conlan Koller, BA'68, MA,** Eugene, Oregon, Oct. 29, 2024. **Michael E. Liebenritt, DDS,** Elkhorn, Nebraska, Nov. 5, 2024. **Marjorie Johnson Logman, BS,** Aurora, Illinois, Feb. 22, 2025. **Marilyn Murphy Mailliard, BS,** Omaha, Dec. 29, 2024. **J. Joseph McQuillan, JD,** Omaha, Sept. 9, 2024. **William G. O'Hara, DDS,** Ottumwa, Iowa, Dec. 14, 2024. **H. Eugene Pace, BA,** Bennington, Nebraska, Aug. 8, 2024. **Rev. Msgr. Ralph Simington, MA,** Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 26, 2024. **George H. Stilen, BA,** Middletown, Maryland, March 31, 2024.

71 Richard J. Callahan, MBA, Denver, Oct. 19, 2024. **Hon. Larry F. Fugit, JD,** Palm Valley, Texas, Dec. 21, 2024. **Marc G. Kraft, BSMTH,** Omaha, Dec. 14, 2024. **Peggy L. Olsen, BS,** Omaha, Oct. 5, 2024. **Bernadette Maxwell Pryor, MSEdu,** St. Paul, Minnesota, Sept. 4, 2024. **John F. Smolen, BSBA,** Aurora, Colorado, Feb. 8, 2025.

72 John R. Conway, BA, Fort Myers, Florida, Feb. 6, 2025. **Richard L. Gibney, MD,** Waco, Texas, May 21, 2024. **John T. Kettlewell, DDS,** Scottsdale, Arizona, Feb. 10, 2025. **Clyde D. Knoblauch, DDS,** Omaha, Nov. 18, 2024. **Gerard W.**

Van Valkenburg, BA, Bellevue, Washington, Aug. 20, 2024.

73 William L. McQuillan, BSBA, Lakewood, Colorado, Dec. 4, 2024. **Theron M. Williams, MBA,** Milton, Delaware, Sept. 12, 2024. **Christine Monnig Woodruff, BS,** Omaha, Jan. 30, 2025.

74 Richard E. Corritore Jr., BSPha, Hillside, New Jersey, Sept. 22, 2024. **James A. Durst, BS'70, DDS,** Piedmont, Oklahoma, Jan. 17, 2025. **Donald W. Hood III, BSBA,** Omaha, Dec. 6, 2024. **Annette Scott Sayers, BSN,** Omaha, Nov. 13, 2024. **H. Glenn Uiffers, BS'69, DDS,** Chicago, Oct. 28, 2023.

75 Dr. John F. Schabron, MS, Laramie, Wyoming, Oct. 21, 2024.

76 Michael D. Havlik, BA'70, JD, Omaha, Dec. 15, 2023. **Dr. Richard A. Lombardo, BA'70, MA,** Lincoln, Nebraska, Feb. 6, 2025. **Betty Bebb Plankinton, BSN,** Columbus, Nebraska, Feb. 1, 2025.

77 Linda A. Hart, BA'70, MSGuid, Bellevue, Nebraska, Jan. 5, 2025. **Robert R. Hulse, MChrsP,** Poughkeepsie, New York, Nov. 2, 2024. **Nancy A. Jackson, ARTS,** Omaha, Dec. 18, 2023.

78 Larry W. Bybee, DDS, Pocatello, Idaho, Nov. 14, 2023. **Dr. Louise N. Laframboise, BSN,** Papillion, Nebraska, Jan. 21, 2025. **Lynette M. Lanphere, MSEdu,** Huntsville, Alabama, Sept. 11, 2024. **Dr. Timothy J. McConnell, BA,**

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Hal Gilbert Lankford, PhD, professor of pathology, School of Medicine; Nov. 17, 2024

Brian W. Loggie, MD, professor of surgery, School of Medicine; Dec. 3, 2024

Br. James F. Heidrick, SJ, Facilities Management; Jan. 8, 2025

Rev. Albert R. "Bert" Thelen, SJ, director of campus ministry, pastor St. John's Parish; Jan. 17, 2025

Dennis N. Mihelich, PhD, professor of history, College of Arts and Sciences; Feb. 3, 2025

Edward J. Birmingham, JD, professor of law, School of Law; March 13, 2025

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

Sandy, Utah, Dec. 1, 2024. **Margaret "Lucy" McCarthy Spielman, SJN'50, BSN, MSEdu**, Omaha, Oct. 27, 2024.

79 Donald D. Barth, BSPha, Omaha, Feb. 25, 2025.

Ann Condon Blaine, BS, Spokane, Washington, Dec. 31, 2024. **Edwin H. Garrison Jr., JD**, Omaha, Dec. 10, 2024. **Patrick W. Hall, BSBA**, Glidden, Iowa, Sept. 23, 2023. **Karen Riggs Kelly, BSN**, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Sept. 8, 2024. **David A. Wesely, ARTS**, Omaha, Dec. 10, 2024.

80 Marc B. Delman, JD, Rockville Centre, New York, Feb. 8, 2025. **Patricia Costello Fenton, BSN**, Plano, Texas, Jan. 25, 2025. **Grant J. Flenker III, BS'76, DDS**, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 26, 2023. **Charles C. Witcher, MA**, Newnan, Georgia, Dec. 16, 2024.

81 Mary Ann Ehrhardt Haeuser, BSN, Napa, California, Feb. 16, 2024. **Sr. Noel Toomey, OP, MChrSp**, New Orleans, Jan. 27, 2025. **Dr. John B. Wolfe Jr., BA**, St. Paul, Minnesota, Jan. 23, 2025. **Dr. Robert H. Woody, JD**, Omaha, Nov. 11, 2024.

82 Sr. Sylvia Winterscheidt, CSJ, MMin, Concordia, Kansas, Feb. 9, 2025.

83 Stephen D. Long, MBA, Elkhorn, Nebraska, Jan. 31, 2025. **Kenneth A. Lundgren, MBA**, Omaha, Jan. 26, 2025. **William F. McCroy Jr., BSBA'80, JD**, Shawnee, Kansas, Nov. 4, 2024. **Gregory L. Sis, BSMT**, Elsie, Nebraska, Nov. 20, 2024.

84 Dr. Eileen C. Burke-Sullivan, MChrSp, Omaha, Nov. 30, 2024. **Sanford M. Cates, DDS**, Randleman, North Carolina, Aug. 15, 2023. **Patricia A. Hanna, BSN**, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Jan. 20, 2025.

85 Joseph R. Decaminada, JD, Goldens Bridge, New York, Dec. 25, 2024. **Mary Boesen Kubicek, BSBA**, Excelsior, Minnesota, Oct. 8, 2024.

86 Dale L. Deitchler, BA, Mendota Heights, Minnesota, Jan. 26, 2025. **Gerri L. Siford, BS**, Omaha, Sept. 19, 2024.

89 Patricia A. Hann, MMin, Omaha, Aug. 28, 2024.

90 Cynthia M. Ramos, BA, Brenham, Texas, Oct. 8, 2024.

91 Bonita K. Baker, MD, Camano Island, Washington, Nov. 17, 2024. **Mary Alice Kilnoski Daly, BA'67, MS**, Omaha, Jan. 31, 2025.

C. Gregg Larson, JD, St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 11, 2024. **Scott A. Lautenbaugh, BA'87, JD**, Omaha, Dec. 16, 2023. **Dennis P. Steele, MMin**, Madrid, Iowa, Feb. 10, 2025.

92 Jay R. Andrews, JD, Boulder, Colorado, Nov. 26, 2024.

94 Kris W. Brain, DDS, Thorp, Washington, Dec. 25, 2024. **Melissa Erlemeier Goodman, JD**, Irving, Texas, Oct. 27, 2023.

96 Daniel P. Blair, BSOT, Omaha, Nov. 7, 2024.

98 Samuel J. Vigneri, MD, Casper, Wyoming, Sept. 8, 2024.

02 Rev. Sharline A. Fulton, MA, Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, Jan. 19, 2025.

03 Nathan S. Busch, JD, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 7, 2024.

11 Christine K. Nicoletti, MA, Cleveland, Dec. 4, 2024.

12 Alexander W. Wilkes, MD, Appleton, Wisconsin, Jan. 27, 2025.

13 Rev. Timothy J. Guthridge, MA, Liberty, Missouri, Jan. 13, 2025.

14 Tara T. Colby, EdD, Merrillville, Indiana, Sept. 5, 2024. **Nathan K. Tenney, JD**, Draper, Utah, Aug. 30, 2024.

21 Beau R. Morgan, JD, Omaha, Feb. 15, 2025.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Stitching Her Way to a Fashion Career

When luxury retailer Net-a-Porter contacted **RACHELLE HRUSKA MACPHERSON, BA'05**, to help her launch her brand at New York Fashion Week in 2016, Hruska MacPherson was ecstatic. The only catch? Net-a-Porter needed 2,000 sweaters done in less than two months.

She had no fabric, no website, no team. Just her memory of the stitch she'd learned from her grandma Rita, and the help of the amazing, eventual-company-president that she met on Craigslist.

"I hung up the phone, and I was almost delirious, because that was a huge deal to have Net-a-Porter, the best high-end brand, want to launch you," she says. "But it was also that moment where you realize, 'Oh, I have to get to work.'"

She's maintained that mindset ever since.

Her brand — *Lingua Franca* — did indeed launch in 2016. Hruska MacPherson found a workspace and hired a team. They sold out of those 2,000 sweaters, and the orders never seemed to stop.

And then, the word really got out. All of a sudden, Oprah Winfrey, Martha Stewart and Meryl Streep were wearing her trendy, customized designs.

Last year, Hruska MacPherson brought a collection to Paris for the first time. In February, she had her first ready-to-wear runway show for *Lingua Franca* at a Manhattan hotel in conjunction with New York Fashion Week.

"It's sort of like a train that is going so fast and you're hanging on for dear life every day," Hruska MacPherson says. "There is a little bit of luck, a little bit of kismet, and just being swept up. But I have been willing to work hard. There's definitely a part of me that could have said, 'That's impossible. I can't make that happen.' But I've never been like that."

She hasn't always been a professional fashion designer.

Hruska MacPherson was on a premed track at Creighton, majoring in psychology with the goal of

one day helping children. She graduated with that plan.

But a detour for self-exploration in New York City ended up inspiring her to tap into her creative side. Her first venture was a success. It started out as a blog, *Guest of the Guest*, where she reported on the events and social happenings within New York's high society. It eventually transformed into a website and digital media company.

Hruska MacPherson was featured by the *New York Times*, included on the *New York Post's* 13 Under 30 Women to Watch list and named one of Fast Company's Most Influential Women in Technology.

"I've always been interested in people, learning about culture and helping people tell their stories," she says. "How people work and how they interact with each other, that is what drew me to psychology in the first place."

And it's inspired her fashion.

Lingua Franca began by selling hand-knitted garments with personalized messages and themes. Each piece was customized for the customer. A story in a sweater.

Her late mother-in-law, Janet MacPherson, was a trailblazing surfer and a role model for female empowerment. "My muse," Hruska MacPherson says.

Janet often wore cashmere while riding the waves, and she did it well into her 70s. Hruska MacPherson made her a turquoise sweater, with "outlaw" stitched in blue.



"I feel so lucky. I'm so psyched to be doing what I'm doing. It's very hard, but it doesn't feel like work. I don't know who I would be without it."

RACHELLE HRUSKA MACPHERSON, BA'05

The brand's first collection was unveiled in 2022. That project — *Nebraskaland* — captured the authenticity and beauty of her childhood with two photoshoots in Nebraska — on her family's farm outside of Ulysses and at her grandmother's house in Ceresco.

"That whole season was really about my upbringing, and it was fun to share that through fashion," Hruska MacPherson says.

So much of Hruska MacPherson's successes seem to be a product of her roots.

Her dad was one of 13 kids. Grandma Rita handmade all their clothes and taught her granddaughter the stem stitch technique — "a funky way to stitch a straight line, almost like a stem of a flower," she says.

Hruska MacPherson grew up with a heart to help and serve. Creighton's Jesuit values reinforced the importance of giving back. *Lingua Franca* has helped raise over \$1 million for more than 200 charities.

Hruska MacPherson started experimenting with embroidery because a therapist advised that an activity for her hands might help her ease the anxiety caused by postpartum depression. She picked up one of her mother-in-law's old sweaters, etched the word "booyah" on the front and posted it to Instagram.

Even now, she doesn't mind stepping away from family for a moment to answer a phone call or solve a company dilemma.

International family vacations will usually end up including trips to local marketplaces or cultural hotspots (she's always on the hunt for fabrics, and new ideas).

"It's such a trope, but if you can find your passion, that's kind of the point of life — one of them, at least," she says. "I feel so lucky. I'm so psyched to be doing what I'm doing. It's very hard, but it doesn't feel like work. I don't know who I would be without it." — **BY JON NYATAWA**



Test Your Knowledge Answers from Page 11:

1. C, 2. B, 3. D, 4. A, 5. D, 6. C, 7. B, 8. A, 9. D, 10. B, 11. A, 12. C



Enhancing the Student Experience



Creighton has developed an elevated level as part of its club sports program for students interested in high-level athletic competition. Premier Club Sports will provide incoming and current students with the opportunity to participate in men's and women's hockey, lacrosse and golf at a level higher than traditional, student-led club sports yet not at a Division I level. *Creighton* magazine spoke to the new director of Premier Club Sports, **Clay Caswell**.

Why Premier Club Sports?

We're seeing more students play a sport from the time they're 4 or 5 years old, all the way through high school, and they're not ready to quit. In fact, 70% to 80% of students enrolling at Creighton have been a varsity athlete. They want to keep doing something they love and are passionate about in college. The Premier Club Sports initiative is designed to give more students the opportunity to continue competing at a high level in athletics and attract prospective students who might not otherwise have considered Creighton.

How is it different than club sports?

Premier Club Sports falls between the traditional, student-led club sports and the NCAA athletic experiences. The premier experience includes having a part-time coach, paid by the University; uniforms and apparel that mirror

the quality and branding of Creighton Athletics; equipment; and team travel, including lodging and food. Premier teams also will compete against large universities such as Iowa, Kansas and Minnesota. The biggest difference is the coaching piece, having a professional to help lead teams and guide athletic development. Traditional, student-led club sports will continue. Premier Club Sports is an additional opportunity for students to participate at an elevated level.

What sports will be offered?

Hockey, lacrosse and golf. We found these to be popular and growing sports with many incoming and prospective students in our target markets, cities and states that represent the highest enrollment numbers. Hockey and lacrosse are popular in Minnesota, Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa. Golf is popular nationwide.

How will Premier Club Sports enhance the student experience?

It allows students who have enjoyed competitive sports in high school — and throughout their lives — to continue to be part of a team atmosphere, represent their school and compete at a high level, while also giving them the time and support to excel academically and participate in other cocurricular activities. It's really about meeting the needs of our students and giving them opportunities to have a personalized, meaningful college experience that reflects their interests and aspirations — inside and outside of the classroom.

When will each season begin?

All three premier programs (hockey, lacrosse and golf) will start in the fall of 2025. The focus right now is recruiting athletes and building competitive teams. Coaches are reaching out to interested incoming and current students. Each sport is open to any interested student, and some teams may require tryouts based on roster limits.

How can I support athletes in Premier Club Sports?

To stay informed about teams and events, follow Creighton Premier Club Sports on Instagram and Facebook. Team rosters, schedules and news stories will be posted later this year at gocreighton.com/feature/club-sports.

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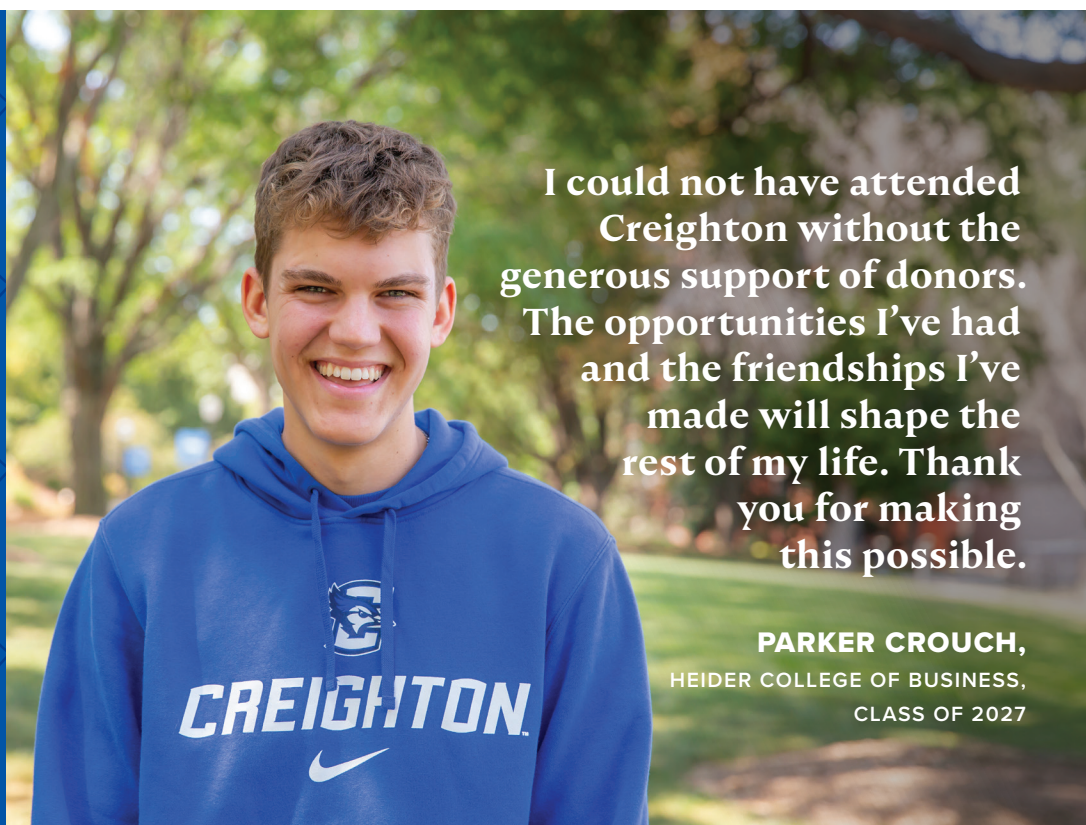




Scholarships are foundational to our mission, crucial to our success and life-changing for our excellent students. The **Forward Blue** campaign is your opportunity to help a new generation of Bluejays join you as Jesuit-educated leaders serving our communities.

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I could not have attended Creighton without the generous support of donors. The opportunities I've had and the friendships I've made will shape the rest of my life. Thank you for making this possible.

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