

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As we approach the end of another remarkable academic year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued dedication and the meaningful work you do every day in support of our students. I hope you had a joyous Easter weekend and are excited about the many activities that accentuate the end of the spring semester.

University Research Week earlier this month offered a wonderful opportunity to witness our students' commitment to academic inquiry as well as the dedication of their faculty mentors in supporting their journey. Hundreds of students across the Omaha and Phoenix campuses shared their research through posters and oral presentations, with faculty and staff lending their time and expertise as judges and supporters. I want to extend special thanks to **Ashley Fricks-Gleason, PhD**, and the team in the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship for organizing the successful showcase.

Earth Month has provided for a variety of activities on the Omaha campus. One final opportunity remains: "Bus with Us to the Garden" on Arbor Day, Friday, April 25. Join Creighton students and AmeriCorps members Caden Collins and Leah Keator for an afternoon of vegetable planting at Nebraska's Common Ground Garden, 2624 Lizzie Robinson Ave. Meet at 2 p.m. on the steps of Creighton Hall to ride to the site; the group will return by 4 p.m. Don't forget that you can use your [Volunteer Service Time Off](#) hours for this and other service projects and be sure to register your service hours at [Creighton Engage](#).

As a reminder, undergraduate and graduate classes conclude on May 6, with final exams taking place May 8-9 and May 12-14. I hope Omaha colleagues will consider joining me for the Annual Provost Reading Day Fun Run/Walk with students on Wednesday, May 7, at 8 a.m., starting in front of Creighton Hall. This is a terrific event, and you will be energized by the students' enthusiasm for a little early morning wellness and community time together.

Commencement ceremonies for Omaha and Phoenix will be held May 15-18. I encourage you to attend and celebrate with our graduates — it is a wonderful moment of recognition for all our students have accomplished and for the role you have played in their journeys. View the full [schedule of baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies](#).

Thank you again for all you do. Wishing you a strong and fulfilling finish to the semester.

## Retreat Center Seeks Volunteers for Trail Tuesdays

On Tuesdays May 6, May 20 and June 10, the Creighton Retreat Center seeks volunteers to work the trails and do some landscaping. Shifts include half-day and full-day opportunities. Lunch is included. [Learn more and sign up](#). Don't forget to [register volunteer hours on Creighton Engage](#).

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## 2025-2027 CFE Faculty Associates and Fellows Announced

The Center for Faculty Excellence announces the 2025-2027 cohort of the Faculty Associates Program. These distinguished faculty members will share their expertise in performance-based assessment; new faculty resources; generative AI; other topics related to teaching, learning and assessment; and key University initiatives. [See the new cohort of associates and fellows](#).

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## College of Nursing Well-represented at Conference

Faculty from the College of Nursing represented Creighton at the 49th Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in Indianapolis with 10 presentations. **Theresa Jizba, DNP**, received the MNRS Palliative and End-of-Life Care Early Career Award, which recognizes her outstanding contributions to advancing palliative care education and research, particularly in strengthening primary palliative care training across healthcare disciplines. Jizba also presented at the conference. Other conference presenters included: **Amy Abbot, PhD**, professor; **Lisa Benson-Devries, EdD**, instructor; **Aimee Burch, DNP**, associate professor; **Becky Davis, DNP**, assistant professor; **Jo Anne Genua, PhD**, assistant professor; **Joely Goodman, PhD**, faculty chair, ABSN program, and assistant professor; **Chelsea Hamzhie, DNP**, faculty chair and

director for CIPER and associate professor; **Mandy Kirkpatrick, PhD**, associate dean for research and innovation and professor; **Tamara Oliver, PhD**, assistant professor; **Holly Sak, EdD**, assistant professor; **Misty Schwartz, PhD**, assistant professor; **Melissa Taylor**, instructor; **Whitney Van De Graaff**, assistant professor; **Katie Zander, DNP**, instructor; and several DNP students.

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## CPCE Offers 15% Discount Through Lifelong Learning

Creighton University faculty and staff, along with their spouses and eligible dependents, qualify for a 15% discount on noncredit individual offerings through Creighton's Lifelong Learning platform. Visit [lifelong.creighton.edu](https://lifelong.creighton.edu) to explore current programs and noncredit courses. Use code **CULifelongFS** when registering and save. *One discount per offering. Other restrictions may apply.* For questions regarding Lifelong Learning and the discount for faculty and staff, please contact the College of Professional and Continuing Education.

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## Malesker Presents at Pulmonary and Critical Care Update 2025

**Mark Malesker, PharmD**, professor of pharmacy practice, presented "Pharmacology in the ICU: Updates on Trends (Consideration for Delirium and ECMO)" at Creighton's Pulmonary and Critical Care Update 2025 held April 5 at the Mike and Josie Harper Center.

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## Wong, McLaughlin Publish New Quantum Algorithm in Journal *Physical Review A*

**Molly McLaughlin**, a senior physics and mathematics double major, and **Tom Wong, PhD**, associate professor of physics, have published a new quantum algorithm that searches certain databases or networks faster than existing quantum algorithms. The research, which was [published in the journal \*Physical Review A\*](#) in March 2025, explores how a quantum computer might search a network with two groups of nodes, where each node in one group is connected to every node in the other group.



## Hoffman Awarded VA Rural Health Career Development Award

**Rashelle Hoffman, DPT, PhD**, assistant professor of physical therapy, has been awarded the prestigious VA Rural Health Career Development Award for her project titled "Remotely Improving

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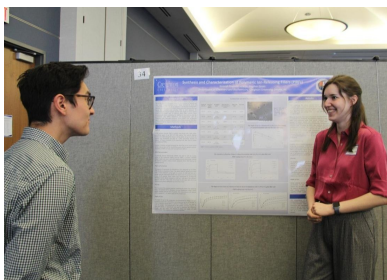
year, \$303,909 grant, starting Oct. 1, 2025, will support community-engaged research and qualitative analyses to co-produce a physical activity program for rural veterans with mild cognitive impairment and their care partners, testing its feasibility and proof-of-concept.

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## Marshall Study Explores How Indigenous Employees Experience, Manage Workplace Conflict

In a recent study published in the [Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science](#), **Jason Marshall, PhD**, assistant professor of management, and his research team explore how Indigenous employees experience and manage workplace conflict. By integrating both Western and Indigenous scientific methods, they analyzed quantitative and qualitative data from surveys and interviews. Their findings suggest that Indigenous relationality — encompassing connections among human and nonhuman beings, cultural and community obligations, and long-term temporal considerations—can broaden the scope of Western conflict management theories and practices.

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## University Research Week

Creighton celebrated University Research Week April 1 and 2, which featured nearly 500 presentations across the Omaha and Phoenix campuses. CURAS congratulates and thanks all who presented their research. [See the winners of this year's University Research Week Presentation Awards.](#)

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## Rocha-Sanchez Receives 2025 Heaney Graduate Mentor Award

**Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, PhD**, associate dean for research and professor of oral biology, has received the 2025 Dr. Robert Heaney Graduate Mentor Award in recognition of her exceptional mentorship and unwavering commitment to graduate education. Rocha-Sanchez has played a pivotal role in advancing research initiatives and fostering the professional growth of graduate students within the field of oral biology.

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## Spring-Summer Three-Day Silent, Directed Ignatian Retreats

The Creighton Retreat Center will offer [two more three-day silent, directed Ignatian retreats](#) this spring and summer. Cost is \$375 for room, meals and daily private spiritual direction sessions.

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**Paul McGreal, JD, LLM**, professor of law, published an op-ed in *The Hill* titled "[Judicial Power Should Not Be a License to Harass.](#)"

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## Successful Match Day for Creighton's Omaha, Phoenix Medical Students

On March 21, [Creighton University School of Medicine's fourth-year medical students found out where they matched into residency.](#) This year, 94% of Creighton students matched into their number one specialty of choice with 100% of our students being placed into a residency or fellowship program.



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## Fershée Quoted in *Wall Street Journal*

**Josh Fershée, JD**, dean of the School of Law and professor of law, was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* in the article "[The Competition to Get Into Law School Is Brutal This Year.](#)"

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## CFE eLearning In-Person and Virtual Open Houses

Join the Center for Faculty Excellence for an eLearning Open House focused on setting accommodations for BlueLine quizzes and using LockDown Browser ahead of finals. Each session will begin with a brief 10- to 15-minute overview from **Erica Lamm-Denny, PhD**, instructional technologist, followed by 45 minutes of one-on-one support. No RSVP needed — just drop in with your questions.

- Omaha in-person: April 28; 9-10 a.m. CT; CFE Training Room with coffee, tea and light morning fare
  - Virtual: April 30; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CT/9:30-10:30 a.m. MT, via [Zoom](#)
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## Distance Learning Classes Can Work for AcSL

[Read the next in a series of articles](#) highlighting the recently created Office of Global and Community-Engaged Learning and the support it offers faculty in implementing and assessing academic service-learning. This article showcases **Amy Cosimano, EdD**, assistant dean of student affairs and assistant professor in the School of Medicine, and her course Personal Development for the Health and Wellness Professional. Faculty interested in learning [more about academic service-learning and the assistance available](#) may visit the webpage or contact Lizzy Curran at [OGCEL@creighton.edu](mailto:OGCEL@creighton.edu).

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### Talbott Receives \$5,000 ACLS Grant

**Tyler Talbott, PhD**, assistant professor of English, was recently selected for an American Council of Learned Societies Project Development Grant for his project Ethnonationalism: Race and Novel Theories of the Nation Since the Victorians. The \$5,000 grant is awarded to select ACLS Fellowship finalists who hold teaching-intensive roles and who are pursuing promising research agendas. [Learn more about the ACLS grants](#).

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### Knezevich and Team Receive \$100,000 Grant to Support Families of Children with Type 1 Diabetes

**Emily Knezevich, PharmD**, professor of pharmacy practice and member of a research team headed by Vanessa Jewell, PhD, from the University of North Carolina, received a \$100,000 grant from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation to fund a feasibility trial for the REAL-Fam OT coaching model that provides families of children and adolescents with Type 1 diabetes with support and coaching to help improve family quality of life. The grant begins on July 1 and Knezevich will provide education and training to families enrolled in continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) as well as provide input to the OT interventionists on trends seen in the CGM reports throughout the trial.

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### Mangrum Moderates Creighton Forum on Public Inquiry

**Collin Mangrum, JD, SJD**, the A.A. and Ethel Yossem Endowed Chair in Legal Ethics and professor of law, served as moderator for the Creighton Public Forum, "The Future of Open Inquiry Online and on Campus." The panel discussed how to create and maintain a "Culture of Open

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health policy at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, who also served as President Trump's advisor on the Coronavirus, John Tomasi, president of Heterodox Academy and professor emeritus at Brown University, and Renee DiResta, author, associate research professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown and former technical research manager at Stanford Internet Observatory.

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## ANA Innovations Award Honorable Mention

The College of Nursing, along with CommonSpirit Health, were recognized by the American Nurses Association for innovation. This award highlights [a nurse-led innovation that improves patient safety outcomes](#). **Steven Fernandes, PhD**, assistant professor of computer science and informatics in the College of Arts and Sciences, and **Mandy Kirkpatrick, PhD**, associate dean for research and innovation in the College of Nursing, are among the investigators.

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## Krall Deployed to Djibouti as Chaplain

The **Rev. Christopher Krall, SJ, PhD**, assistant professor of theology and neuroscience, is also a Reserve Navy chaplain. He was recently deployed to Djibouti, Africa, for nine months to serve and minister to the needs of 4,000 military personnel at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti. [Jesuits Magazine covered his deployment in its spring 2025 edition](#).



## Now Enrolling: Capstone Course for CFP Exam

The College of Professional and Continuing Education, in collaboration with the Heider College of Business, just launched a flexible, online and self-paced Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Capstone course. The noncredit course provides busy professionals who hold a master's degree with the essential knowledge and training needed to qualify for the CFP exam. Creighton faculty, staff and their families can enjoy an exclusive 15% discount on this course. [Use code CULifelongFS when registering](#) and save. *One discount per offering; restrictions may apply.* (Cost \$900; \$765 with discount.)

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## Carmichael Presents on University Libraries' AI Initiatives

**Christine Carmichael, MSLIS**, senior research and instruction librarian in the University Libraries, presented at the Computers in Libraries conference in March. Her session, "AI in Higher

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the University Libraries is engaged to explore how AI may enhance instruction and research at Creighton.

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## Abbott, Davis Named as Distinguished Fellows

**Amy Abbott, PhD**, professor of nursing, and **Becky Davis, DNP**, assistant professor of nursing, were honored in Washington D.C., in March with Distinguished Fellowship in the Nursing Academy of the National Academies of Practice (NAP). Distinguished fellows are elected by their peers from multiple different health professions to join the only interprofessional group of healthcare practitioners and scholars dedicated to supporting affordable, accessible, coordinated and quality healthcare for all.

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## DiLeo, Baruth Support Decarbonization Course at Catholic University of America

**Daniel DiLeo, PhD**, (pictured right) associate professor and director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program, and **Andrew Baruth, PhD**, (pictured left) professor of physics and director of the Office of Sustainability Programs, supported the work featured in the *National Catholic Reporter* story "[Laudato Si' 101: Catholic University students boost energy efficiency at Newark Archdiocese.](#)"

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## Kelly Quoted in *New York Times*

**Mike Kelly, JD, LLM**, the Senator Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law and professor of law, was quoted in the *New York Times*, "[What Will Become of U.S.A.I.D.'s Funding? A Billionaire's Son Has Some Ideas.](#)"

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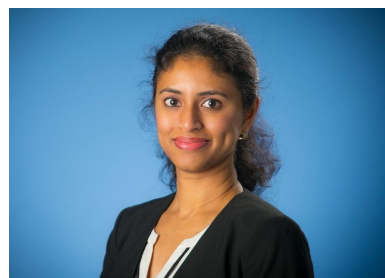
## Christensen Presents at Primary Care Conference in Hawaii

**Keith Christensen, PharmD**, vice chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, and associate professor of pharmacy practice, delivered an insightful presentation on the "New Drugs of 2024" at Creighton's Primary Care Conference of Hawaii in Honolulu in February, highlighting the latest advancements in pharmaceuticals and their impact on primary care.

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## Sabbaticals from Great Plains IDeA

**Steven Fernandes, PhD**, assistant professor of computer science and informatics, and School of Dentistry colleague **Niranzana Panneer Selvam, DDS, BDS**, director, oral and maxillofacial radiology and assistant professor of oral health promotion, were awarded \$5,000 in mini sabbatical funding through Great Plains IDeA, Clinical and Translational Research (CTR). Their work will focus on developing and refining a deep learning model for detecting carotid, vertebral and basilar artery calcifications in Cone Beam CT (CBCT) scans by collaborating with the Department of Oral Medicine and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Sciences in Cleveland.



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## Paulus Presents on AI Competencies for Academic Library Staff

University Librarian **Michael Paulus, MLIS, DMin**, who is serving on an Association of College and Research Libraries task force for AI competencies, joined fellow task force members for a panel presentation at the association's national conference on April 13. In their presentation, "AI Competencies for Library Workers: Shaping the Future of Academic Libraries," task force representatives presented on proposed competencies. Paulus is chairing the task force team focusing on ethical considerations and presented on competencies related to AI ethics.

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## USDA Completes Annual Inspection for Research

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) was on campus for its annual unannounced routine inspection for research undertaken at Creighton with USDA covered species. The Research Compliance Office is pleased to share that the inspector found no noncompliance items during the inspection. **Christina Howe, DVM**, attending veterinarian, **Kristin Drescher, PhD**, professor of medical microbiology and immunology and the Animal Resource Facility (ARF) director, and **Pat Steele**, ARF supervisor, and their staff should be congratulated for the continual hard work in ensuring that the University's research animals are cared for in the most appropriate manner.

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## Beste Article Published in *Journal of Medical Education*



**Jason Beste, MD, MPH**, executive director of the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships program and associate professor in the School of Medicine, has published [“Working Towards a Decolonized, Longitudinal, and Equitable Global Health Training and Partnerships Program”](#) with Sage Publishing and *Journal of Medical Education and Curricular Development*.

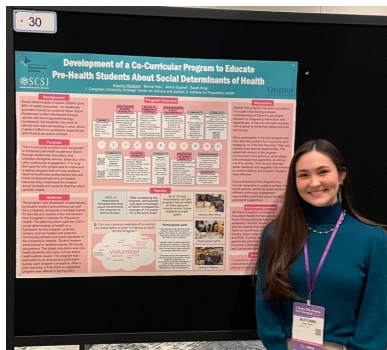
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## UPDATE

### Envisioning Population Health Student Photo Contest Winners

Creighton’s Institute for Population Health (IPH) and Kingfisher Institute invited students across its undergraduate, graduate and professional schools to consider what “population health” looked like to them and to enter the second annual Envisioning Population Health Student Photo Contest. The challenge this year offered three categories: Mental Health and Well-Being; Planetary Health; and Social Determinants of Health. Entries had to include a reflection on how the image illustrated the category. Among 88 entries, first- and second-place awards were made in each category for both the Omaha and Phoenix campuses. [See the student winners and the winning photos.](#)



### Schlegel Center CREW for Health Justice

The Schlegel Center for Service and Justice partnered with the IPH to develop and pilot a program that intentionally integrates student-led discussion about social determinants of health with direct service and community engagement to help prehealth students build empathy for their future patients and learn how to use their voice to advocate for health justice. The inaugural program drew more than 35 student participants, all who plan to become healthcare professionals. They participated in weekly 90-minute discussions to facilitate a deeper understanding of the CDC’s social determinants of health. Facilitated by trained student peers, the group connected with community partners and guest speakers in the University’s network, integrating information and experiences. CREW member Autumn Woolpert, a senior finance major with a biology minor and founding member and facilitator for CREW for Health Justice

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## Shipman Presents Grand Rounds at Iowa and Dartmouth

In April, **Scott Shipman, MD, MPH**, executive director for the Institute for Population Health and CyncHealth Endowed Professor in Population Health, presented a Grand Rounds lecture for Dartmouth University's School of Medicine in April. His remarks, "Optimizing Care at the Primary Care-Subspecialty Level," focused on healthcare referral trends in the U.S., challenges in timely specialty access and loss or leakage of referrals that healthcare systems struggle to address. He focused on the need for better communication and coordination between primary care and specialty care, and shared his lessons learned in working with health systems to address these needs. Later in April, he chaired the annual steering committee meeting for the Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center - University of Colorado, located on the Anschutz Medical Campus. He also presented Grand Rounds for the University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine's Frontiers in Pediatric Research Lecture Series in March, where he was the inaugural invited professor for a speaker series aimed at building interest and infrastructure for health services research at the University of Iowa.

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Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mardell A. Wilson".

**Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN**  
*Provost, Creighton University*

**Creighton**  
UNIVERSITY

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