

March 27, 2025

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We have certainly enjoyed an exciting month, filled with the BIG EAST Tournament play, the BIG EAST Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium and Sports and Entertainment Career Networking Event, the men's and women's basketball teams' appearances in the NCAA Tournament, and the success of Match Day. March also brought unpredictable weather to Omaha — with a 75-degree high temperature one day and a blizzard with 75-mph winds the next, leaving tens of thousands of homes without power. I am grateful for the efforts of Omaha Public Power District line workers who worked diligently to restore power as quickly as possible.

Each March, we also celebrate our annual Faculty and Staff Service Recognition Ceremony, acknowledging years of service to Creighton. Faculty President **Mary Ann Danielson, PhD**, did a fantastic job again this year as emcee, sharing tidbits of Creighton, U.S. and world history infused with her own humorous take on relating the events to the awardees. She truly makes the event fun for everyone. Congratulations to the many faculty and staff we honored for their service milestones and also our emeriti faculty and the Distinguished Staff Service Award recipient, **Nancy Nygren**.

As we step toward the close of the spring semester, "Celebration Season" will be in full bloom beginning next month on both our Omaha and Phoenix campuses. I encourage you to stop by for the annual [University Research Week](#) celebrations to see the excellent work being shared by our student and faculty researchers. This year's events will feature nearly 500 presentations across our two campuses. Thank you to the many individuals who have volunteered to serve as judges. The times and locations are:

- Omaha campus – Harper Center, Ahmanson Ballroom; Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1 and 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Phoenix campus – Doris S. Norton Ballroom, Tuesday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

I also encourage you to attend, either in person or via livestream, the annual [SCSJ Soup and Stories for Service and Justice Luncheon](#) scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, to hear inspiring and thought-provoking stories from students who have participated in Schlegel Center for Service and Justice programming. [The SCSJ Soup and Stories registration deadline is tomorrow, Friday, March 28](#). Also on April 8, at 4 p.m., is the annual Waite Chair Lecture featuring the Rev. **Stefanus Hendrianto, SJ, PhD**, the Anna and Donald Waite Chair, who will present "What is Roman Catholic Constitution Theory?" [More details about the Waite lecture and a registration](#)

Creighton's annual Giving Day is set for Wednesday, April 9. All faculty and staff are invited to enjoy [free treats in the morning on both campuses](#). You may also sign up to be a Giving Day Ambassador. Your participation in our University's biggest fundraising day of the year is appreciated and certainly is a time to celebrate. April is also Earth Month. Watch *Creighton Today* for a list of coming events.

I am always so grateful for the month of April as the Earth reawakens from its winter respite and trees and flowers that have lain dormant begin to bloom again. It genuinely reminds me of our rebirth in Christ that Easter brings. May you find the spirit of renewal among the many blessings of Easter.



BIG EAST Poster Symposium

On Saturday, March 15, five Creighton students participated in the [BIG EAST Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium](#) at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Pictured, from left, are: **Cleo Zagurski**, health administration and policy and public health major; **Liana Chinen**, biology major; **Alessandra Kakish**, biochemistry major; **Mardell Wilson, EdD, RDN**, provost; **Nathan Jobalia**, history major; and **Zach Onyschuk**, biology major.

Summer Faculty Development Workshop Set for June 16

As AI rapidly transforms higher education, Creighton University is committed to equipping its faculty with the knowledge and resources to navigate its opportunities and challenges. Faculty are being asked to adapt and to do so quickly because of the impact of AI on our students. Together, the Office of the Provost, Center for Faculty Excellence, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing, Heider College of Business, Magis Core Curriculum and University Libraries will host a faculty development workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 16 in the Harper Center titled “Educating the Whole Person in an AI-Driven World.” The workshop welcomes all levels of AI users, from newcomers to experts. [Learn about planned workshop tracks and topics, an opportunity to apply for a stipend relating to AI and the Magis Core Curriculum and more. Register for the workshop.](#) Six workshop leaders are needed and will earn a \$5,000 stipend. [Apply to be a workshop leader.](#)

Innovative Educator Exchange: Open Mic

What creative and innovative teaching strategies are you using in your classroom? Join facilitator **Kimberly Beran-Shepler, DPT**, assistant professor of physical therapy, Center for Faculty Excellence Faculty Associate, and co-director of CIPER’s Interprofessional Education Passport, for a chance to showcase your ideas, exchange insights and gain inspiration from fellow educators across campus. Don't miss this virtual program! [Sign up to share](#) during the open mic. [Register to attend.](#)

Faculty Development Grant Presentations April 2-3

Join the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) for two Faculty Development Grant presentations April 2 and 3 featuring the work of the [2024-2025 Faculty Development Grants](#) teams. Nine teams, including 25 faculty and two staff from the Omaha and Phoenix campuses, received the grants. [See more information including the schedule of presentations and register to attend.](#)

Spring-Summer 3-Day Silent, Directed Ignatian Retreats

The Creighton Retreat Center will offer three [3-day silent, directed Ignatian retreats](#) this spring and summer. Cost is \$375 for room, all meals and private sessions. [See the schedule and make a reservation.](#)



Arrupe Global Scholars, Partnerships

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The Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program and its four international partners from Rwanda, Nepal, Dominican Republic and Ecuador presented at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health — the largest academic global health conference — held in Atlanta, on its trailblazing and novel efforts forming equitable academic partnerships between universities in the Global North and Global South.

Pictured at left: Sandra Isano, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda, and Jason Beste, MD, MPH, executive director, Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program.

Summer Sessions: A Time for Students to Thrive

Camp Creighton—our take on this year's Summer Sessions—is an opportunity for undergraduate students to free up time during the school year for internships, research, adding a second major or just balancing the demand of the fall and spring semesters. Help your students stay on the trail and encourage them to find a class that fits their goals. [Registration opens April 3.](#)

Manning Chosen for Leadership Development Program

Lucas Manning, DNP, assistant professor of nursing and simulation lab coordinator, has been selected for the National League for Nursing's year-long leadership development program for simulation educators. The simulation leadership development initiative is designed for mid-career simulation nurse educators who aspire to a leadership role in simulation.

Bloomquist Co-Authors Chapter in *Intercultural Competence*

Candace Bloomquist, PhD, assistant director and associate professor, EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership, along with eight EdD students and alumni, co-authored a chapter in the book *Intercultural Competence Through Virtual Exchange*, published this month. The title of the chapter is "[Faith that Does Justice: Overcoming Accessibility, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Issues in South Sudan Using Collaborative Online International Learning.](#)"

Hasslen Appointed to Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry

Jennifer Hasslen, DDS, associate professor and interim chair of general dentistry, has been appointed as the new holder of the Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative

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of General Dentistry who has attained senior academic rank, has significant clinical experience and teaching success, and has exhibited a background of successful research and publication in operative dentistry.

Brown Named Associate Editor for *The Bible Today*

Sherri Brown, PhD, professor of theology, has been asked to serve as an associate editor for *The Bible Today*, a leading journal published by Liturgical Press. [The first issue that she edited has just been released, titled "The Johannine Literature."](#)



Mangrum Moderates Creighton Public Forum on Open Inquiry

R. Collin Mangrum, JD, SJD, the AA 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 Inquiry to Pursue Truth and Justice."

Hoffman Receives \$10,000 Grant for Feasibility Study

Rashelle Hoffman, DPT, PhD, assistant professor of physical therapy, received a \$10,000 grant from the Nebraska Foundation for Physical Therapy to support a research project in collaboration with CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center - Bergan Mercy and Creighton Therapy and Wellness. The study will explore the feasibility of integrating a lifestyle medicine questionnaire into outpatient physical therapy settings to enhance patient care. The research team includes **Blake Murphy**, research laboratory technician II, **Benton McCann, DPT**, physical therapy resident, and **Amy Cosimano, EdD**, assistant dean of student affairs and assistant professor of family and community medicine.

O'Reilly, Sheehan Published in Contemporary Economic Policy

Colin O'Reilly, PhD, associate professor of economics and director of the Menard Family Center for Economic Inquiry, and **Kate Sheehan, PhD**, associate professor of economics, examine the

[Property Rights Equality and Entrepreneurial Activity](#),” in the journal *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

Second Cohort of Healthcare Leadership Academy Launches

Creighton University and the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Foundation have extended their collaboration to launch the second cohort of the Healthcare Leadership Academy. Designed for healthcare administrators and clinical leaders from Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) member hospitals, the program provides essential skills for advancing in organizational leadership. With faculty from Creighton University’s School of Medicine and Heider College of Business, the academy prepares participants to navigate the ever-evolving healthcare industry. The nine-month program launched on March 13. [Learn more.](#)



Scholars Transforming Through Research

A Creighton team including CURAS Director **Ashley Fricks-Gleason, PhD**, (far right) and three undergraduates from the College of Arts and Sciences – (from left) **Cleo Zagurski**, **Alessandra Kakish** and **Alexandra Woog** (pictured with a member of Rep. Don Bacon’s staff) – have completed the Council on Undergraduate Research’s 2024-2025 Scholars Transforming Through Research Program. Alongside 62 other teams from across the country, the Creighton group completed six months of training culminating in a trip to Washington, D.C., in early March. While in D.C., the group met with staff from the Nebraska congressional offices to advocate for the importance of undergraduate research and continued federal funding to support these critical research endeavors.

Kirkpatrick Named to Endowed Chair in Nursing

Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, professor of nursing and associate dean for research and innovation in the College of Nursing, has been named the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing. The chair was established in 2007 by the Dr. C.C. & Mabel Criss Memorial Foundation. The Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing exists to advance the scholarly and academic agenda and professional development of the chairholder.

Woodley Published in *Journal of Fixed Income*

Melissa Woodley, PhD, associate professor of finance, published "[Managing Duration and Tax Risk in Municipal Bond Portfolios](#)" in *The Journal of Fixed Income*. Her research explores how mutual funds manage the tax risks associated with municipal bonds, particularly their preference for bonds with greater protection from unfavorable tax treatment.

Gallagher Editorial Published in *The Lancet*

Christopher Gallagher, MD, adjunct professor of medicine and division chief of endocrinology, published an editorial in [The Lancet](#) discussing a new large-scale study that found vitamin D does not significantly prevent acute respiratory infections (ARIs), challenging a common belief about its immune benefits. However, Gallagher calls for a large, well-designed trial to determine whether low-dose vitamin D supplementation could still benefit those with low vitamin D levels, particularly in winter months

Kelly Quoted in *New York Times*

Mike Kelly, JD, 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](#)."



Guthrie Wins Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award

Tim Guthrie, MFA, the Joella Cohen Endowed Chair in Journalism and professor of graphic design and media, recently won two [Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards](#), one for Best New Media Artist and another for his exhibitions with two younger artists he has mentored. The show involved using "drawing machines" to assist in the creation of their artworks.

New Podcast: Better Late Than Ever

Take a moment to listen to a new podcast about how you can be better than ever during your late-career years at Creighton and beyond. During each episode, a new late-career or recently retired

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science, design and journalism and Center for Faculty Excellence Faculty Associate, and **Julie Olson**, learning and development manager in Human Resources, to share stories, experiences and information about doing late-career and retirement right. [Listen to the podcast in Bridge.](#)

Seaman Named Chair-Elect

Jessica Seaman, EdD, assistant dean for faculty development and assistant professor of medical humanities in the School of Medicine, has been named chair-elect of the Council on Professional and Faculty Development (CPFD) for the Association for Hospital Medical Education (AHME). Seaman will serve a two-year term before moving to the council chair position.

Shin and Colleagues Receive Intervention Research Grant

Julia Shin, EdD, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and colleagues have received the American Occupational Therapy Foundation (AOTF) Intervention Research Grant at \$100,000. This grant will help with their research study “Feasibility of the REAL-Fam to Support Diabetes Self-Management, Family Participation, and Child Health.”

Coté, Real and Weber Present to Dental Students

In February, **Kristy Coté, JD**, associate professor of law, **Daniel Real, JD**, associate professor of law, and **David Weber, JD**, professor of law, at the request of the School of Dentistry, presented to dental students about employment contract pitfalls and considerations. More than 100 dental students participated.

Two McAllister and Quinn Grant-Writing Webinars Offered

Creighton is offering two McAllister and Quinn grant-writing webinars. Tomorrow, Friday, March 28, from 1-2 p.m., early career faculty are invited to attend the National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER): Overview and Proposal Best Practices webinar. [Registration remains available](#). The CAREER award is considered one of the most prestigious funding awards for early career faculty. The focus of the program is to develop faculty as both researchers and educators. Developing a competitive CAREER proposal is different from writing a standard NSF grant proposal. This virtual session will be informative for any faculty considering an application to the NSF CAREER program in this or future years. The Grantsmanship 101: Overview and Strategies for Success webinar is scheduled on Friday, April 4, from 1-2 p.m. [Registration remains open](#). This webinar is designed for those who have a research, scholarly, creative or pedagogical idea, but are unsure of how to fund the work, or who have never

basics of grant funding for a wide variety of projects. The session will focus on grant fundamentals, from identifying appropriate funding opportunities to best practices and advice for preparing a strong application. This webinar is open to all and will be especially beneficial to early career faculty and those who have not yet submitted their first grant proposal.

Janousek Publishes Nebraska Case Study in Book on City Management

Christian Janousek, JD, PhD, assistant professor of political science and international relations, published a co-authored chapter in the newly released book [*Managing Local Government: Cases in Effectiveness \(2024\)*](#) from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Press. The chapter focuses on a case study from Central City, Nebraska, in which a large municipal project required a collaborative management plan by the city administrator that involved multiple levels of government, private sector organizations and elected officials.



CURAS 2025-2026 Magis! *Investigatio* Research Award Winners

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship proudly announces the AY 2025-2026 Magis! *Investigatio* Research Award recipients:

- **Ann Cavanaugh, PhD**, assistant professor of biology, “Evolution of the Yeast Microtubule Organizing Center”
- **Alana Haynes Stein, PhD**, assistant professor of cultural and social studies, “Completing a Food Bank Census to Examine Access to Food Bank Resources by Poverty, Race, and Rurality”
- **Amanda Holman, PhD**, associate professor of communication studies, “Developing Evidence-Based Communication Tools for Parents and Caregivers”
- **Faith Kurtyka, PhD**, associate director of the Magis Core Curriculum and associate professor of English, and **Steven Fernandes, PhD**, assistant professor of computer science, “Enhancing AI Feedback for Medical School Personal Statements”
- **Jacob Rump, PhD**, associate professor of philosophy, “Making Sense: Meaning, Understanding, and Experience in the Age of Generative AI”
- **Kimberley Scott, DPT, PhD**, assistant professor of physical therapy, “Achieving More with the ACHIEVE Therapy Fidelity Checklist: A study to validate a generalizable measure of fidelity for motor learning-based interventions”

Russell and Colleagues Publish Study on Tube Weaning

Marion Russell, OTD, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and colleagues have published a [study exploring the outcomes of the Graz Model of tube weaning in children with Down syndrome who are dependent on feeding tubes](#). The research focused on the effectiveness of the program, growth parameters and factors influencing the success of weaning in this population.

Batenhorst Appointed to State, National Committees

Ryan Batenhorst, EdD, assistant professor of paramedicine in the College of Nursing, was appointed to chair the Education and Research Subcommittee of Nebraska's Board of Emergency Medical Services and to serve as a member of the board of directors for the National Association of EMS Educators.

Rocheville Published in Organizational Dynamics

Kim Rocheville, PhD, assistant professor of management, published "[Distinguishing Between Destructive and Constructive Resistance in Strategy implementation Processes](#)" in the journal *Organizational Dynamics*. This research examines whether the resistance that often comes with organizational change is necessarily a hindrance and instead distinguishes between destructive and constructive resistance.



UPDATES

Shipman Delivers Grand Rounds Lecture at University of Iowa

Scott Shipman, MD, MPH, executive director for the Institute for Population Health and CynchHealth Endowed Professor in Population Health, presented Grand Rounds lectures for the University of Iowa Carver School of Medicine's Frontiers in Pediatric Research Lecture Series on March 10. Shipman was the inaugural invited professor for a speaker series aiming to build interest and infrastructure for health services research at the university. His remarks, titled "A

the role of health services and implementation science methods in his years of work establishing and spreading the innovative model of clinical care delivery known as e-consults. He worked with over 50 large academic health systems around the country to successfully implement the model of care, resulting in better access to care and a markedly positive satisfaction from patients, providers and health system leaders.

Creighton at Highlander Hosts Community Activities

In March, Creighton at Highlander hosted two events for the community. One was a "Know Your Rights Train the Trainer" event presented by the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement. Twelve representatives of community-based organizations participated. The presentation covered essential topics regarding individual rights and how to create a safety plan. The other event invited broader community members for a free adult oral health education program addressing basic healthy habits and oral care, molar extractions and other dental concerns. The program was provided by Creighton School of Dentistry students, faculty and its Healthy Smiles program. The students also recorded educational videos to share on social media.

Sincerely,



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

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

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

2500 California Plaza | Omaha, NE 68178 US
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