

KINGFISHER INSTITUTE FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONS

Annual Report

2023-2024





Letter from the Director

Teaching is always a privilege. There are many reasons to acknowledge the joys of education, but I want to highlight one in particular. Teaching is an encounter—often an intense one—with students, with the world, and with yourself. The Reverend Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, captured this reality well in his famous speech on Ignatian education, “[The Service of Faith and the Promotion of Justice in Jesuit Higher Education](#)” (2000). In our humanities sessions with first- and second-year medical students, we often begin with a reminder from that address. Kolvenbach said, “Students, in the course of their formation, must let the gritty reality of this world into their lives, so they can learn to feel it, think about it critically, respond to its suffering, and engage it constructively.” As a touchstone, this line works on so many levels, recalling the importance of student formation, the need for both critical thinking and emotion, and our human desire for engagement and justice.

The Kingfisher Institute strives to create opportunities to put this lesson into practice, and we have had some great ones in the past year. We had several occasions to engage with a remarkable new book by physician Ricardo Nuila, [The People’s Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine](#). On the surface, the book is an unflinching account of Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, a large and busy urban safety-net hospital. At the center of the narrative are the powerful and deeply personal stories of five of Nuila’s patients. The patients are all uninsured or underinsured and struggle to access the care that they need, and so the book also becomes a story of the many ways our healthcare system fails our communities. There is a third element that stands out as well. Nuila shares his own formation as a professional, a message that really resonates with students. I do not think it is a coincidence that Nuila is well educated in the Jesuit tradition. Somehow, overall, despite the intense suffering of his patients, Nuila leaves the reader with a sense of optimism that we can build something better.

Creighton had the honor of hosting the annual meeting of the [Health Humanities Consortium](#) in April at our campus in Phoenix. Nuila was one of our featured speakers at the event. Some of the medical students in attendance wanted to read the book together, so we held a summer book group for around twenty people. Several faculty members in Omaha also read the book with

Leavelle introduces plenary speaker Ricardo Nuila at the 2024 Health Humanities Consortium Conference



undergraduate students as part of our NEH Grant, “The Humanities and Health Justice Pathways Project.” Those students read the book in a semester-long seminar and had a chance to meet with Nuila virtually. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Fellows Program also chose the book for their summer read.

As I read the book with different groups of students, I could not help but be impressed by the ways that they “let the gritty reality of the world into their lives.” They felt it, they critiqued it, and they even allowed the flames of righteous anger to flare in their hearts. It occurred to me that the intensity of these responses came as much from their own personal experiences as it did from the stories in the book itself. Everyone, it seems, has their own story of unnecessary suffering in our healthcare system.

That is not where we ended the conversations, however, and that is one of the reasons teaching can ultimately be so rewarding. In wrestling with the book and the many problems it identifies, the students worked hard to move from peril to hope, from merely feeling and responding to suffering to, as Fr. Kolvenbach said, “engag[ing] it constructively.” It is in working with students like these that I recover and refresh my own sense of hopefulness in a world that contains so much despair. For that, I will always be grateful to my students, who also serve as some of my most important and influential teachers.

Tracy Neal Leavelle
September 2024



Hosting the Health Humanities Consortium Conference

This annual international gathering of health humanities scholars, practitioners, and students was held in the U.S. Southwest for the first time, at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus in Phoenix.

Director Co-Chaired Planning Committee

Tracy Leavelle, PhD, and Cora Fox, PhD, associate professor of English at Arizona State University, co-chaired the planning committee. The committee included:

- Andrew Hogan, PhD, Creighton University
- Angela Gonzales, PhD, Arizona State University
- Barret Michalec, PhD, Arizona State University
- Broc Evitch, Creighton University (student)
- Brooke Kowalke, PhD, Creighton University
- Caitlyn Voth, Creighton University (medical student)
- Charise Alexander Adams, Creighton University
- Clarice Douille, Creighton University (medical student)
- Cora Fox, PhD, Arizona State University
- Emer Lucey, PhD, Arizona State University
- Erin Lamb, PhD, Case Western Reserve University*
- Jenny Brian, PhD, Arizona State University
- Kym Weed, PhD, UNC Chapel Hill*
- Megan Voeller, Thomas Jefferson University
- Michael Zirulnik, PhD, Creighton University
- Olga Davis, PhD, Arizona State University
- Rachel Mindrup, MFA, Creighton University
- Sydney Dang, Creighton University (medical student)

**HHC Steering committee member*

Theme: Social, Emotional and Community Health—Humanities Interventions

The theme was selected as a response to the U.S. Surgeon General’s 2023 health advisory on the epidemic of loneliness and social isolation.



Nearly 300 attendees

Close to 150 institutions were represented from the U.S. and countries including: Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and India.

55 concurrent sessions

Most sessions were offered in a hybrid format to engage both in-person and remote presenters and participants.



20+ Creighton students

Our thanks to **Dr. Deborah Dang, BS’78, MD’82 & Mr. David Campbell** for their support in establishing the **William W.L. Dang, MD’52 & Katherine Kamakaehukai Mailolo Endowed Fund for Excellence in Medical Humanities**, which made it possible for six Omaha-based medical students to travel to Phoenix for this event. Students from the Mayo Clinic, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University also participated in the conference.



Conference Highlights

Plenary: Eric Avery, MD

Artist, activist, and retired psychiatrist

Dr. Avery passionately recounted highlights of his unique career and advocated for the role of art in medicine. He also exhibited several original art works onsite, many of which tackle both health and social issues such as the AIDS crisis, and led a workshop on “thinking like a doctor” by encountering art.



"Dr. Avery is now my inspiration as I continue to ponder the question of how [to] make medicine beautiful."

-Ali Mauritsen, Creighton University MD Candidate, 2027

William Carlos Williams Poetry Contest Award Ceremony, with Natalie Diaz

This annual contest, sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Medical University, recognizes the best poems by medical students across the U.S. The tradition of holding the ceremony at the HHC conference continued in Phoenix with guest reader **Natalie Diaz**. Diaz is a Pulitzer Prize- winning poet, director of the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands and is the Maxine and Jonathan Marshall Chair in Modern and Contemporary Poetry at Arizona State University.

Plenary: Ricardo Nuila, MD

Physician and author of *The People’s Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine*

Dr. Nuila shared what his experiences at a public hospital in Houston have taught him about the U.S. healthcare system and read from his book.





Conference Highlights

Students Experienced and Supported the Conference



Student volunteers were a valuable part of the conference team. From left, Sydney Dang and Lucia Chang (Creighton University School of Medicine students-Phoenix), with Broc Evitch (Kingfisher Institute intern and pre-medical Creighton BFA student), Ali Mauritsen (Creighton University School of Medicine student-Omaha), and Claire Tracey (Creighton University School of Medicine student-Phoenix). Evitch designed the logo that appears on the bags and T-shirts.

Thank you to Creighton University Provost Mardell Wilson, Creighton Phoenix campus colleagues and students, volunteers, Arizona State University partners, lead sponsor Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Foundation for Community & Health Advancement, Dr. Deborah Dang & Mr. David J. Campbell, all other sponsors, and the Health Humanities Consortium for their support.





Humanities and Health Justice Pathways Program

Funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the program introduces first-generation college students to the humanities as key parts of healthcare and health justice.

Welcoming Students

This project began engaging freshman and sophomore first-generation students in the 2023-24 academic year. Two core components of the program were piloted separately at Arizona State University and Creighton University.

Bridge Program

Designed as an immersive residential experience for incoming freshman students, eight students participated in the weeklong program at Arizona State University. Project co-director Alan Rawls, PhD, ASU associate professor and executive director of clinical partnerships, and Tracy Leavelle worked closely to plan a week of site visits, social opportunities – including theater improv – and academic activities to introduce the students to health justice and health humanities concepts.

Facilitators included:

- Sarah Berry, PhD, independent scholar/consultant
- Cora Fox, PhD, associate professor of English and director of the Health Humanities Initiative, ASU
- Emer Lucey, PhD, postdoctoral scholar, College of Health Solutions, ASU



Creighton medical students at the Phoenix Health Sciences campus hosted a clinical skills workshop for ASU students.

- Barret Michalec, PhD, associate professor and director of the Center for Advancing Inter-professional Practice, Education, and Research, ASU
- Nate Wade, PhD, executive director of strategic initiatives, College of Health Solutions, ASU
- Michael Yudell, PhD, vice dean, College of Health Solutions, ASU

“Reimagining Care” Course

Using *The People’s Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine*, by Ricardo Nuila, MD, in conjunction with multimedia poetry materials from partner Verse Video Education | Poetry in America, this one-credit course invited students to view health justice through the lenses of art, poetry, history, and other humanistic disciplines.

Dr. Nuila joined the course by Zoom on April 18 for a discussion led by the students. Five deeply engaged Creighton students participated in the course.

In the service of our goal to connect first-gen students with faculty as they build social capital, instructors alternated between Dr. Leavelle and these “guest” instructors:

- Andrew Hogan, PhD, Fr. Henry W. Casper, SJ, Professor of History, associate professor of history
- Brooke Kowalke, PhD, assistant professor of English
- Trish Ross, PhD, assistant professor of Modern Languages and Literatures
- Rachel Mindrup, MFA, Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities, associate professor of drawing and painting
- Jim F. Smith, MD, DBioethics, professor of medical education

In addition, we are grateful for our colleagues in Student Success, who helped with a quick turnaround for course creation and approval.



Research and Scholarly Activity

Establishing a Humanities Lab

Zachary B. Smith, PhD, associate professor of theology and of classical and near Eastern studies, is the founding co-director of the Religion and "Othering" Humanities Lab. A curriculum grant from the Institute provided materials for Smith to update his "Studies in Early Christianity" course, where students began projects that they wished to continue after the course. Thus, the lab was born.

Word spread, and Surbhi Maillk, PhD, associate professor of English, soon came aboard as co-director of the lab. Other faculty members plan to join the lab for the 2023-2024 academic year. Not a lab in the physical sense, the model is a semi-structured collaborative style of inquiry between students and faculty.

The co-directors seek to develop and share models for collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences more broadly. Dr. Smith and his students are awaiting the publication of one peer-reviewed article and one invited book chapter on race and religion.



Zachary Smith, PhD, and Surbhi Malik, PhD, co-directors, Religion and "Othering" Humanities Lab



Research & Scholarship Mini-Seminar

This year's Research and Scholarship Fellows participated in a mini-seminar, a cohort of four collaborative teams who met throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. Fellows included faculty, staff, and students across eight departments, with research projects ranging from exploring how to support students writing personal statements for professional programs, to "training" AI to help healthcare providers offer culturally competent palliative care (*see the following page for details on each project*).

Each team will present briefly on their project and meet the incoming cohort of fellows at an event in September 2024. Also, a record number of promising proposals for the incoming cohort was received.

"I have enjoyed getting to know everyone and building connections and relationships. Thank you so much for funding this important initiative!"
-2023-24 mini-seminar participant

Since 2019, more than 70 faculty and staff, representing 30 departments, have received financial support from the Institute for scholarship, curriculum development, and other professional development activities.



Mini-Seminar Project Outcomes

Cross-Disciplinary Project: Department of Occupational Therapy and Heider College of Business Accounting Department

Angela Lampe, OTD, OTR/L (Occupational Therapy)
Brenda Coppard, PhD, OTR/L (Occupational Therapy)
Yongyue Qi, MS, PhD (Occupational Therapy)
Ali Maloy, MS, CPA (Accounting)
Maggie Knight, DBA, CPA, CGMA (Accounting)

Since implementing the collaborative activity between occupational therapy and accounting students, the team has had presentations accepted for the Heartland Innovations in Interprofessional Practice and Education (HIPE) Summit and the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.

Enhancing Compassionate Palliative Care with AI: Respecting Human Dignity and Cultural Diversity

Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN (Nursing)
Steven Fernandes, PhD (Computer Science)
Kaylee Van Handel (Data science major)
Jacob Siedlik, PhD, CSCS (Exercise Science)

Health care providers often feel ill-prepared for difficult end-of-life care conversations, which carry weighty social and cultural assumptions. To address this challenge, Steven Fernandes led data science students in the development of a user-friendly and interactive AI chatbot application called PalliCare AI. The team conducted a pilot study to explore uses of the application in the health professions classroom.

Helping Pre-Health Students Write Personal Statements

Faith Kurtyka, PhD (English)
Meghan Dowd Schlattman, PT, DPT, CSMT (Exercise Science)
Seth Kleinwort (Career Center)
Jess (DeWall) Michel (Student Accessibility Services)
Amelia Harahap (BA'23, English)

This group discussed a range of topics related to pre-professional personal statements, including brainstorming strategies, "trauma dumping" and the personal statement in the context of the medical school application. Team members are now exploring options to create centralized resources at Creighton.

LifeSavers: An Interprofessional Critical Care Escape Room

Lindsay Iverson, DNP, APRN-NP, ACNP-BC (DNP program)
Theresa Jizba, DNP, AGACNP-BC, ACHN (DNP program)
Andrew Eckhart, BS, NRP, EMS-I (Paramedicine)
Ryan Batenhorst, EdD, MEd, NRP (Paramedicine)

The team created and piloted an "escape room" activity in which nursing and paramedicine students worked together in a simulated high-pressure scenario. Based on enthusiasm from students, the team hopes to offer the experience annually and present about it at conferences this fall.





"Divisible" Documentary Screening

This 2023 documentary takes an honest look at the practice and lasting impact of “redlining” across the U.S., which perpetuated racial discrimination.

Exposing Redlining in Omaha

The Kingfisher Institute worked with director Lizzy Barrett, along with the Creighton Intercultural Center and Arts and Sciences Dean’s Fellows Program, to screen the film on campus in February 2024. Omaha serves as a case study in the film, which highlights the lived experiences of those most affected by redlining.

More than 150 attendees participated. Many were undergraduate students from the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Fellows Program. Dean’s Fellows is a competitive leadership program in which students work closely with College leaders. Heider College of Business Dean’s Fellows also attended.

Following the film, a panel discussion featured members of the film's governing board. Mario Alejandro (second from left below), director of the Creighton Intercultural Center, moderated the conversation. Panelists were:

- Terri Crawford, JD, activist, advocate, historian, and writer (third from right)
- Rev. Dr. Nikitah Okembe-RA Iman, professor of Black Studies at the University of Nebraska–Omaha (second from right)
- Schmeeka Simpson (BS'17), community organizer and activist (third from left)

Below with panelists are students Leah Keith (left), and Dominick Scipione (right).



"I watched the film to become educated about my new city's scars and battles. Watching 'Divisible' made my heart hurt. But that same pain needs to be opened in all of [our] hearts, allowing them to beat with the pain of change."

-Dominick Scipione, BSBA Economics '25



Curriculum Innovation

Several creative faculty members received grants to develop an aspect of their course focused on one of the three Kingfisher Initiatives: Antiracism, Humane Health, or Sustainable Development.

Course: Culturally Responsive Care Modules for Students at St. Vincent de Paul clinic

Instructor: Jessica Goodman, PT, DPT, PhD, RMSK, assistant professor, physical therapy

Students: 40 2nd-year physical therapy students (Creighton University Health Sciences Campus-Phoenix)

What? Incorporating health system awareness, patient advocacy, and ethical decision making into an applied clinical experience (ACE)

Why? At the St. Vincent de Paul clinic, patients receive care on a “*pro bono*” basis. This activity gave students an opportunity to reflect on this model as opposed to insurance-based health care settings, including the different social, cultural, and economic realities of each.

Course: Food for Thought (Environmental Communication)

Instructor: Samantha Senda-Cook, PhD, professor and chair of communication studies

Students: 22 undergraduate students

What? Exploration of the relationships between food, culture, and the environment; learning how to communicate about these issues

Why? Give students the opportunity to take a critical look at food from a cultural, personal, and communication lens, as well as give them research skills

Curriculum: Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Track

Instructors: Sara Banzhaf, NP, APRN-NP, PMHNP-BC, assistant professor, PMHNP track leader, and Becky Davis, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, assistant professor, College of Nursing

Students: 12 advanced practice nursing students per year

What?: Revision of practicum courses to integrate reflective practice competencies

Why? Equipping nurses with tools for self-reflective practice promotes personal health, well-being, and resilience (The American Association of Nurses [2021]), which in turn supports a more intentional approach to patient care.

Course: “What’s for Dinner, Honey?” – Food, Culture, Gender and Health

Instructor: Laura Heinemann, associate professor of medical anthropology

Students: 19 undergraduate students

What? In addition to readings and reflections on food systems, the class traveled to Little Mountain Ranch and Garden, a family farm in the nearby Loess Hills that practices regenerative agriculture,

Why? Experience food production’s connections with global environmental stewardship and health.



Curriculum Innovation

The Institute partners with the Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education & Scholarship on activities in which students in varying health professions interact, which counts toward a graduation requirement.

Inter-Expressional: Creative Expression and Ignatian Reflection for Health Professions Learners

Dental and medical students came together to explore how the arts and humanities can make them better communicators, collaborators, and care providers. A total of 31 students, more than triple the number of participants from last year, completed the activity.

Students chose to attend at least two of three sessions:

- **Poetry, with Trey Moody, PhD**, poet and associate professor of English, and **Ingrid Berg, DO**, palliative care physician with CHI Health
- **Drawing comics, with Rachel Mindrup, MFA**, associate professor of drawing & painting and Richard L. Deming Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities, and **Sarah Jo Ball, PhD**, RNC-OB, C-EFM, CSHE, assistant professor in the traditional undergraduate nursing program
- **Memoir, with Brooke Kowalke, PhD**, assistant professor of English, and **Patrick Lloyd, MD**, pediatric palliative care physician at Children’s Nebraska



Colette O’Meara-McKinney, EdD, associate dean for student affairs in the School of Dentistry, facilitated a final reflection and helped recruit dental students.



Trey Moody, PhD



Ingrid Berg, DO



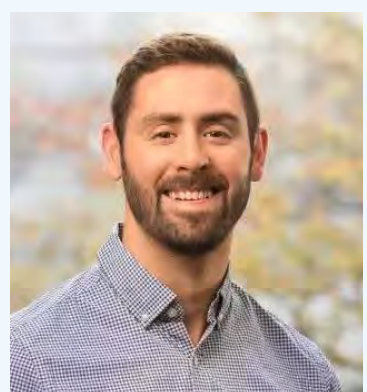
Rachel Mindrup, MFA



Sarah Jo Ball, PhD



Brooke Kowalke, PhD



Patrick Lloyd, MD



Campus Engagement and Partnerships

Cocktails and Connections

Faculty/staff trivia night was back by popular demand on April 2, 2024. In 2022-2023, the Institute and partners held a series of social events, "Cocktails and Connections," to reconnect faculty and staff, culminating in a lively pub quiz-style trivia night. This year, the Research and Instruction Department of University Libraries joined with the Kingfisher Institute and Faith Kurtyka, PhD, of the English Department to host the event and create a signature cocktail (and companion mocktail).

The Carlson Fables Collection inspired the libation, "La Fontaine de Jouvence," a nod to 17th-century French fabulist Jean de la Fontaine, whose works are represented in the collection. The collection, part of the library's Special Collections and Archives, includes more than 10,000 books of fables and related items collected by the Rev. Greg Carlson, SJ, a longtime Jesuit at Creighton.

Five teams had a great time, with first-place winners earning sets of coasters customized by the library's Glowforge laser cutter, along with a choice of cookbook for each finisher, plus a fable-themed towel that Fr. Carlson promptly scooped up. Dr. Kurtyka shared the emcee role with Ian Hughes of University Libraries.



Winning trivia team "Fabuloso," (from left), Deborah Divis, Fr. Greg Carlson, SJ, and Adam Sundberg, lived up to their name.



Planning and hosting team (from left): Tracy Leavelle, Faith Kurtyka, Charise Alexander Adams, Deborah Divis, and Ian Hughes





Campus and Community Engagement and Partnerships

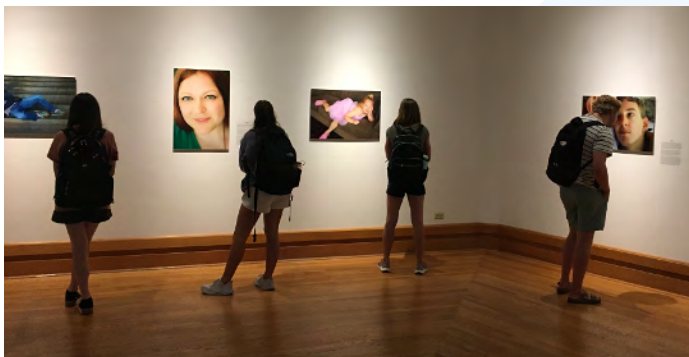
Partner Highlights

Co-sponsored campus visit by **Sharrona Pearl**, associate professor of medical history and ethics at Drexel University; with Creighton University's **Father Henry W. Casper, SJ Professor of History endowed chair and the Department of Medical Humanities**. In addition to a lecture: "Bodies and Borders: The Long History of Biometric Surveillance," Pearl visited art and medical humanities class (Sept. 18-21, 2023)

Co-sponsored campus visit by **Amina Gautier**, award-winning author, professor, and the 2023-2024 Women's Chair in Humanistic Studies at Marquette University; with the **Department of English** and other campus co-sponsors (March 27, 2024)

Co-sponsored the conference "**Reconciling Science and Faith: Contemplating Reason and Relationship**" at Creighton University (Omaha) and the Kiewit Luminarium (April 4, 2024), with other campus sponsors

Co-sponsored the "**A Portrait of Medical Humanities**" exhibition at the Lied Education Center for the Arts (see photo); with the **Richard L. Deming, MD Endowment in Humanities, the Department of Medical Humanities, and the Dr. Tom Kirsch Advancement of Visual Arts Fund**. Designed to reveal the humanity behind the practice of our future healthcare workers, the collection features work by Creighton students in the School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, College of Nursing and College of Arts and Sciences (March 22-April 14, 2024).



Co-sponsored "**Voices and Votes: Democracy in America**" exhibit at **Great Plains Black History Museum**. The interactive portable history lesson is part of "Museum on Main Street," an outreach collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide (Dec. 1, 2023-Jan. 27, 2024).

With the **Division of Mission and Ministry**, co-sponsored Creighton's sponsorship of "United We Walk," an annual event at Omaha's **Tri-Faith Initiative** that encourages unity in a diverse community. Several Creighton students participated in the walk (Sept. 11, 2023).

University-wide Involvement

- Faculty Development Advisory Group
- ASU-CU Partnerships Working Group
- Institute for Population Health Advisory Board
- President's Inclusive Excellence Council
- University Research Council/
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week Committee
- Sustainability Across the Curriculum Task Force

Professional Leadership

National Humanities Alliance, Board of Directors, member: Tracy Leavelle

Place-Based Justice Network, Sustainability Working Group member: Charise Alexander Adams

Tracy Leavelle, with James Smith, MD, DBioethics, professor of medical education and medical humanities, participated in a roundtable discussion, "**Connecting Humanities and Professional Education: Perspectives on Partnerships**" during the National Humanities Alliance Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, March 11, 2024.



The Fr. Markoe, SJ, Collection and the Omaha DePorres Club

The archive of the Jesuit civil rights pioneer, donated to Creighton's library, was introduced to the community at an event co-hosted by the Institute: "Righting History: An Invitation."

An Historic Collection

In 2023, University Libraries received a treasure trove of Creighton and Omaha's early civil rights history. This collection contains the correspondence and other papers of Fr. John P. Markoe, SJ, who founded the Omaha DePorres Club at Creighton in 1947 to address racial injustice. Fr. Markoe's effects – donated by Matt Holland, son of club member Denny Holland – include items such as a telegram from Markoe's good friend Dwight Eisenhower and flyers encouraging boycotts of local business that refused to hire or serve Black Omahans. The DePorres Club was an early adopter of tactics such as boycotts that became central to the Civil Right Movement.

Righting History: An Invitation

The Kingfisher Institute and the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice joined University Libraries to introduce the collection to the local community. An event to highlight the collection and the history it represents took place at the Revive Center on N. 24th Street on September 28, 2023.

- Deborah Divis (right), a key organizer of the event on behalf of University Libraries, started off by welcoming everyone to the program.



- Creighton University archivist Pete Brink described the historical significance of the collection.
- Great Plains Black History Museum executive director Eric Ewing (above) explained the importance of community members, especially youth, learning this history and continuing the legacy of working towards racial justice.
- Matt Holland spoke of his work documenting the history of the DePorres Club and Fr. Markoe and signed copies of his book, "The Rarest Kind of Courage: The Extraordinary Life of Fr. John Markoe" in the Great Plains Black History Museum following the talks.

To learn more about the collection or request a viewing, contact University Archives and Special Collections at archives@creighton.edu or 402.280.2746.



Cultivating Community: Reading Groups

MLK Reading Group

In partnership with the University's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, the Institute convened about 25 faculty, staff and alumni to read *Why We Can't Wait*, by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and gathered in virtual and in-person meetings to discuss. This was the second year in which we led this opportunity to dive into Dr. King's words during the fall before the MLK Week events in January. Each year has a theme that helps inform the book selection, and 2024's was "Reclaiming Dr. King's Legacy."



"I'll use the new information [I learned] to raise my awareness of injustice and utilize this in the EDI council as well as my own life."

-MLK Reading Group participant

The Ministry for the Future Sustainability Reading Group

Confronting the global climate crisis and deciding how to respond can feel as overwhelming as it is critical. To offer a hopeful vision of the future, the Institute teamed up with the Office of Sustainability Programs and the School of Medicine to host discussions of ***The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson**. What one critic called a "science fiction nonfiction novel," the book presents a not-too-distant future in which a deadly climate emergency forces society to change dramatically.

After a series of several meetings, the group and other faculty and staff took a campus tour of sustainability highlights for Earth Month, guided by Andrew Baruth, PhD, director of the Office of Sustainability Programs.





Advisory Council

We thank our advisory council members for their time and support.

Lizzy Curran, MS: Director of Global and Community-Engaged Learning, Global Engagement Office

Joy Doll, OT, OTD: Program Director, Health Informatics Program

Gintaras Duda, PhD (on sabbatical): Professor and Chair of Physics

Fr. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD: Chair of Medical Humanities, School of Medicine

Victoria Haneman, JD: Associate Dean for Research & Innovation, Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts & Estates, School of Law

Annabel Huxtable: College of Nursing student, anticipated BSN'25

Ayushi Kaul: M2 student, School of Medicine; Creighton alumna, BS'20

Christine Keith, DDS: Assistant Professor, General Dentistry, School of Dentistry

Rachel Mindrup, MFA: Associate Professor of Fine & Performing Arts, Richard L. Deming MD Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities

Margo Minnich, DNP: Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Patrick Murray, PhD: Professor of Philosophy, John C. Kenefick Faculty Chair in the Humanities

Kirk Peck, PT, PhD, CSCS, CCRT, CERP: Chair of Physical Therapy (Omaha), School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Nicole Piemonte, PhD: Associate Dean, School of Medicine (Phoenix)

Sarah Singletary Walker, PhD: Professor of Management, Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion

Thank you to **Broc Evitch**, our intern throughout 2023 and 2024, for his creative contributions to the Institute, especially the HHC conference.

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