

August 22, 2024

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I hope you all were able to find some time this summer for reflection and relaxation and are refreshed and ready to welcome the new academic year.

The Provost Office hosted two successful New Faculty Orientations to start the year – Aug. 7 in Phoenix and Aug. 15 in Omaha – allowing us to welcome our new colleagues to the Bluejay family and to familiarize them with our mission and resources to support them in their faculty careers. I am grateful to those who planned and executed the events and also to those who participated in the events on both campuses. In Phoenix, we finished the day with a Provost-sponsored faculty social. Omaha's faculty social is scheduled Thursday, Aug. 29.

Now that the students have settled in and classes have started, I want to thank our colleagues in Student Life, who, in cooperation with so many others across the University, provide such a warm welcome to our newest undergraduate students and their families during move-in and Welcome Week. You are an inspiration, and I am grateful for the many ways you facilitate community.

Jesuit education is rooted in a more than 475-year tradition, and we have an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on that rich heritage with our annual [Mission Week](#), scheduled for Aug. 23-Sept. 5. A prelude began with the Mass of the Holy Spirit yesterday at Creighton's Phoenix campus. The **Mass of the Holy Spirit on the Omaha campus is set for Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 3:30 p.m. CT, 1:30 p.m. MT**, at St. John's Church with livestreaming available.

The **Mission Week keynote address** will feature the **Rev. Greg Boyle, SJ, HON'09**, at **7 p.m. CT, 5 p.m. MT, Monday, Aug. 26, in the Harper Center Ahmanson Ballroom or via livestream**. Fr. Boyle is the founder of the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation program in the world. [Register to hear Fr. Boyle's address.](#)

The **inaugural Omaha Mission Week Faculty and Staff Luncheon** is scheduled from **11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 29**, in the Harper Center Ahmanson Ballroom. [Registration is required](#). Mission Week events began in Phoenix yesterday with Mass of the Holy Spirit and an followed by an all-campus lunch. [See the full schedule of Mission Week events.](#)

As we move into September, Fr. Hendrickson will present his **Town Hall address in Omaha at 3:30 p.m. CT, 1:30 p.m. MT on Tuesday, Sept. 3**, in the Harper Center Hixson-Lied Auditorium

registration and more information.

Starting this fall, Creighton will launch Interfolio for all faculty searches. Interfolio covers the entire recruitment process—including the job board and applications, confidential letters, fair committee review, diversity data and more. I am grateful to the team that worked so hard to ensure successful integration of this new asset, led by **Barron Breland, DM**, vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, **Renee Mixan** and **Pam Hopkins** from the Office of the Provost, **Pernell Toney** and **Alison Merkel** from the Department of Human Resources, **Ashley Shearer** and **Tracy Ortgies** from the Department of Information Technology, and **Will Solomon** from the College of Arts and Sciences.

If you would like to learn about Creighton's internal research grant funding opportunities, please attend a virtual session on **Friday, Aug. 30, from 10-11 a.m. CT/8-9 a.m. MT**. Watch *Creighton Today* for information on how to register for this event.

The University Research Council and associate vice provost for research and scholarship invite you to attend its **Research from all Angles** event focused on the topic area of cancer. Join them **Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. CT/1:30-3:30 p.m. MT in the Skutt Student Center on the Omaha campus** to hear about various angles to study this important topic. Colleagues from the School of Medicine, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Nursing and School of Law will serve as guest panelists. Everyone on campus – students, staff, faculty and administrators – is invited to this exciting event. Watch *Creighton Today* for details and Zoom information for Phoenix colleagues.

With the kickoff of a new academic year there is much going on, but let's not forget the start of Creighton's fall sports. We have student-athletes competing in cross country, rowing, golf, soccer, softball and volleyball, so show your Bluejay spirit and support our student-athletes as they strive to be and do their best!

Wishing you a wonderful semester filled with good energy, enthusiastic students and many blessings.

IPH to launch quarterly e-newsletter

The Institute for Population Health is launching a quarterly email newsletter in the coming weeks to share stories of Creighton's work in population health across the University's colleges and schools. That work could be on campus or in the community, in the classroom or in the lab, or in partnership with health systems and clinics. This e-newsletter will reach both internal and external audiences to show the amazing work our university does every day to address population health, health equity and wellness in the communities where we live and serve. Those who registered to attend the IPH symposium last fall will receive the inaugural edition. Others who wish to receive it may [sign up here](#).

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Tietjen leads annual Jesuit Student Success Network Conference

The annual conference of the Jesuit Student Success Network was held virtually in July, led by conference committee chair, **Mary Ann Tietjen, EdD**, senior director of the Success Center. **Wayne Young Jr., PhD**, vice provost for Student Success, and **Anne DeLuca, PhD**, director of Student and Family Support, presented on the "Student Colloquium Initiative - A Holistic Retention Tool" at the conference. The conference brought together more than 130 participants from 23 Jesuit institutions worldwide to share best practices and innovative strategies for enhancing student success. The conference included keynote speaker Fr. Steve Katsouros, SJ, who serves as the founder, president and CEO of the Come to Believe Foundation.



Creighton Engage Tracks User-Reported Community Service

Creighton's Office of Global and Community-Engaged Learning and the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice have joined together to offer a new platform to centralize service and volunteer opportunities across the University. Creighton Engage will allow students, faculty, staff and alumni to register for service events, log their service-learning course hours or self-report their volunteering through the platform, which is synchronized with Creighton's Net ID system. The system also enhances the University's ability to share the impacts on students and community partners with various stakeholder groups, including donors, accrediting bodies, prospective students and alumni. [Learn more about the platform](#) and find a link to a 10-Minute Tidbit demonstration in Bridge.

Goss co-authors article in recent edition of *The Conversation*

Ernie Goss, PhD, the Jack A. MacAllister Endowed Chair in Regional Economics, co-authored an article titled "Paying Caregivers More Could Boost Nebraska's Economy: New Research," which recently appeared in *The Conversation*. [Read the article free.](#)



Occupational Therapy shows up in force at Heartland Summit

The Heartland Innovations in Interprofessional Practice and Education Summit, jointly sponsored by Creighton and other universities, was held earlier this summer. Many members of Creighton's occupational therapy program helped to plan the event and served as presenters and facilitators. [See Creighton's participants.](#)



Elsasser advises project that wins CommonSpirit Health Fund award

Gary Elsasser, PharmD, vice chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and professor of pharmacy practice, served as a grant application advisor for the project "Community Based Doula Program to Improve Maternal/Infant Health," and was awarded \$648,479 by the CommonSpirit Health Mission and Ministry Fund for FY'25, '26 and '27.

CURAS to host Open House Sept. 5

Everyone is invited to meet the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship team, including our student ambassadors for 2024-2025, during an open house from 4-5 p.m. CT on Thursday, Sept. 5. Location to be announced in *Creighton Today* at a later date. Refreshments provided.

Three receive Undergraduate Research Awards at National Institutes of Health INBRE Scholars meeting

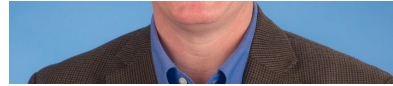
Creighton is part of a statewide \$17.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health—the INBRE (IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence) grant—aimed at increasing undergraduate research experiences and producing more scientists in the state. The annual Nebraska INBRE meeting was recently held with 17 Creighton students presenting. [Creighton students earned three of 10 honors presented.](#)

Paulus serves on Association of College Research Libraries AI task force



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appointed to an Association of College and Research Libraries [AI competencies task force](#). The task force is charged with developing competencies for library workers that align with the evolving needs of academic libraries in the context of AI integration.



Symposium on Population Health set Oct. 10 in Phoenix

The Institute for Population Health will host its second annual **Symposium on Population Health – Beyond Barrier: Advancing Population Health in Arizona on Thursday, Oct. 10**, at the Creighton University Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix. A panel presentation titled **"Dinner & Dialogue--Surgical Equity: A Call to Action"** will immediately follow this event. CE credits will be offered for both events. Watch *Creighton Today* for more details and registration.

2025 University Research Days set

Please mark your calendars for our 2025 University Research Days, scheduled April 1 and 2, 2025, in Omaha and April 1, 2025, in Phoenix.



Two join TRIO Student Support Services

Please join us in welcoming two new TRIO Student Support Services staff members. **Felix Cortes** recently accepted the role of assistant director for recruitment and assessment. With a passion for education and leadership, Cortes will play a pivotal role in recruiting the next class of young adult leaders to the program along with providing the additional support to enhance student success. **Blanca Gomez** joined TRIO as assistant director for academic support and retention. She served in a variety of positions with Briar Cliff University, including as a career navigator and a financial aid counselor, before leaving higher education for a time and relocating to Tucson, Arizona. With a profound passion for supporting students and a desire to live closer to her family in the Midwest, she joined the Creighton TRIO team.



Tampi talks dementia prevention with *World-Herald*

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the *Omaha World-Herald* the social determinants of health for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as the pivotal role of lifestyle in reducing the incidence of neurodegenerative disorders. See the [Omaha World-Herald article](#).

American Physical Therapy Association names Black fellow

Lisa Black, DPT, professor of physical therapy, earned recognition as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association, the highest member category which recognizes her unwavering efforts to advance the physical therapy profession.

Marshall serves on GlobalMindEd panel

Jason Marshall, PhD, assistant professor of marketing and management, served on a panel at the [GlobalMindED Conference](#), an event dedicated to providing learning and mentoring opportunities for first-generation students. Marshall was also selected to join the editorial board for the [Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies](#).



Center for Faculty Excellence kicks off 2024 with new initiative

The mission of the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) is to actively support faculty success in teaching that enhances student learning, scholarship and service/practice across the career lifespan in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition at Creighton University. To support this mission, the CFE will launch a new faculty consultation process. This initiative connects faculty and staff with others with expertise in a specified area and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration among colleagues. If you have questions, ideas or need resources, please [submit a request](#). CFE will match you with the most suitable resources to meet your needs.

Graduates achieve career outcome rate of 99% for 2023

The John P. Fahey Career Center, in collaboration with the Analytics and Institutional Research Office, proudly announces that Creighton students have once again achieved a remarkable 99% career outcome rate for 2023. This impressive figure is backed by an 85% knowledge rate of first destinations for May 2023 graduates. Notably, for six of the last eight years, Creighton students have maintained this outstanding 99% career outcome rate. The 2023 career outcome rate for first-generation graduates is an exceptional 98%. Learn [more about student outcomes](#) at the Career Center.

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Long, Hogan receive National Science Foundation awards

Makenzie Long, PhD, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for support of her project titled “LEAPS-MPS: Computational Modeling of Metal Ion Mediated DNA Adsorption to Functionalized Surfaces.” **Andrew Hogan, PhD**, director of the science and medicine in society program, received a \$200,000 grant from the NSF for support of his project “Health Professions Education Strategies for Broadening Participation in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.”



Center for Faculty Excellence to host panel programs

The CFE will host the following panel programs:

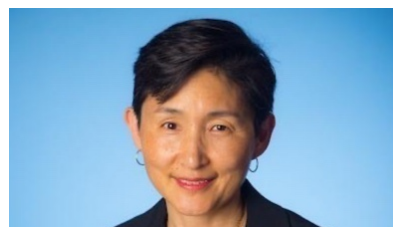
- Aug. 30 – Creighton Internal Grant Funding Opportunities – [Register in Bridge](#)
- Sept. 5 – Navigating Your First Years in Academia – [Register in Bridge](#)
- Sept. 17 – Panel Discussion: Using Generative AI for Instruction – [Register in Bridge](#)
- Sept. 18 – Research From All Angles: Cancer – [Register in Bridge](#)

Strong first-generation presence defines new PA cohorts

Earlier this month, the School of Medicine welcomed new cohorts of PA students: 36 on the Omaha campus and 44 on the Phoenix campus. Among the 80 students, 25 are first-generation college students. **Stephane Vandermeulen, MA, MPAS, PA-C**, associate professor and chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Health Professions and director of the physician assistant program on Creighton’s Omaha campus, spoke about the importance of learning from classmates with diverse backgrounds in [this article about the new PA cohort](#).

Flatwater Free Press quotes Uchimiya in class action story

Diane Uchimiya, JD, LLM, director of the Abrahams Legal Clinic and assistant professor of law, was quoted by [Flatwater Free Press](#) in an article about a federal class-action lawsuit filed



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Authority for predatory behavior. The Abrahams Legal Clinic is co-counsel on the class-action lawsuit, along with local firm Car & Reinbrecht and the San Francisco-based National Housing Law Project. Kudos, also, to **Kate Mahern, JD**, professor emerita. It is, in large part, her work with the plaintiffs that led to the class action coming together.

Kingfisher Institute awards Curriculum Innovation Grants

The Kingfisher Institute awarded three 2024 Curriculum Innovation Grants:

- **Fostering Connection: An Innovative Assignment to Confront Isolation in the EdD Program Online Learning Environment.** **Candace Bloomquist, PhD**, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies and director of the EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership Program in the College of Professional and Continuing Education
- **Non-linear Teaching/Learning Model.** **Manuel Cevallos, MD, MEd**, assistant professor in the School of Medicine, Medical Education Department-Phoenix
- **Plant & Herb Propagation Collective: Gold Track Activity.** **Rachel Jones, MAEd**, assistant dean for Student Affairs, School of Medicine-Phoenix

The grant program provides [opportunities to integrate content related to institute initiatives](#) into courses across schools and colleges. The next call for grant proposals will open in September.

Creighton names Vivekanandan associate dean for clinical affairs

Renuga Vivekanandan, MD, has been named the associate dean for clinical affairs at the School of Medicine in tandem with her new position as vice president and chief medical officer for physician enterprise at CHI Health. She will play an important role in strategic planning that will strengthen the Creighton University School of Medicine CHI Health academic health system partnership.



250 join Creighton's MD Class of 2028

More than 5,750 prospective students applied to Creighton's medical school and 250 were selected as members of the class of 2028. Of the 250 first-year students, 130 attend on the Omaha campus and 120 on the Phoenix campus. Eight percent of the class has already earned advanced degrees and 14% are first-generation students. Learn more about this [exceptional class of physicians-to-be](#).

Creighton professors receive grants totaling more than \$3 million from the National Institutes of Health

Eight Creighton professors have received grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling \$3,093,572, including **Peter Steyger, MD**, professor of biomedical sciences, who received an NIH R25 award in the amount of \$1,010,122 for his project "Enhancing diverse graduate student opportunities in auditory and vestibular neuroscience." [See the rest of the recipients' names and projects](#).



McGreal to write chapter for 2024 SCOTUS decisions book

Joseph Paul McGreal, JD, LLM, professor of law, has been selected to write a chapter on the U.S. Supreme Court's recent case, *NRA v. Vullo*. The chapter will be included in the 2024 volume of "[Major Decisions and Developments of the US Supreme Court](#)."

Applications open soon for CURAS funding

Applications will open soon for the following faculty funding opportunities:

- **Magis! Investigatio Research Award (MIRA):** Awards up to \$5,000 to faculty engaging in undergraduate research and scholarship during the academic year. Two deadlines this academic year: Sept. 16, 2024, for AY'24-'25 awards; Jan. 21, 2025, for AY'25-'26 awards.
- **Summer Faculty Research Fellowship (SFRF):** Awards up to \$10,000 to faculty engaging in undergraduate research and scholarship during the summer. Deadline: Nov. 13, 2024 (for summer 2025 awards).
- **CURAS Faculty Publication Grants:** Awards up to \$500 to defray open-access publications costs for manuscripts with Creighton undergraduate co-authors. Rolling submissions.

Bluejays research VR training to combat racial bias in maternal healthcare

Joseph Maurice, MD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and co-investigating medical students are trailblazing medical education by employing VR technology, increasing racial sensitivity to combat Black maternal health disparities. The simulation is viewed through Meta Quest Virtual Reality Headset glasses, an affordable way to train medical students to recognize bias. Soon, medical students and residents on the Phoenix campus will also use the technology. Read more [about the VR study](#).

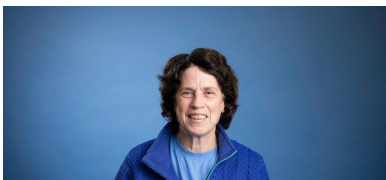


CURAS opportunities to open for students

Please encourage your students to [apply for the following opportunities](#): **Students Transforming Through Research**: New this year, students with a passion for advocacy are encouraged to apply to join the CURAS team competing for a spot in the Council on Undergraduate Research's advocacy program, Students Transforming Through Research . If selected, the team will undergo remote training throughout the fall/winter preparing them to advocate for undergraduate research and scholarship on Capitol Hill in March 2025. **Deadline to apply is Sept. 2, 2024.** **CURAS Student Travel Grants**: Awards \$800 for domestic, or \$1,500 for international, travel to present the results of their undergraduate research and scholarly work at a conference. Rolling submissions.

Wishart, Danielsen publish articles on segregation in Omaha

Sabrina Danielsen, PhD, director of the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society, and **Ryan Wishart, PhD**, director for the sociology program, recently published two articles adding to our knowledge of racial inequality and segregation in Omaha. Both articles use innovative location-based services data provided by a grant from Spin Mobility Data for Safer Streets Initiative jointly awarded to Creighton's Social Science Data Lab and the City of Omaha.



Knoepfler co-leads 'speed mentoring' workshop at conference

Carol Knoepfler, JD, associate professor of law and director of the legal writing program, served as co-leader of the "Speed

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devoted to introducing new legal writing professors to topics such as classroom ideas, promotion and advancement, and scholarship at the Legal Writing Institute's Biennial Conference.

Skrabal presents at Nurse Practitioners Association event

Maryann Skrabal, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice, presented “The Vital Role of Interprofessional Communication in Long-Term Care Pharmacy” at the Nurse Practitioners Association Long-Term Care Network Education Day in June.

New office name, new director lead Academic Service-Learning

Lizzy Curran has recently taken on a new challenge as director of the newly created Office of Global and Community-Engaged Learning, which intentionally focuses on implementing and assessing global learning. She collaborates with school/college liaisons and community representatives to connect academic courses with local and global community partners and advises faculty on attaining the Academic Service-Learning (AcSL) course designation. “I hope to learn about what resources can build bridges for faculty to do this work, bridges between them and the community or global partners,” Curran says. That support may involve coordinating with community partners or providing a stipend for class materials, transportation or other needs. [Learn more about Curran's new role.](#)

Omaha Public Library selects Wheeler's book for Omaha Reads 2024

The Omaha Public Library announced that *The War Begins in Paris*, a novel by **Theodore Wheeler**, assistant professor of English, has been selected as the featured book for the 2024 Omaha Reads program hosted by the Omaha Public Library. [Read more about the annual program and book selection.](#)



Summer Undergraduate Research and Creative Project Fellowship (SURF) Showcase Set for Sept. 11

Join faculty and staff from 4-6 p.m. CT on Wednesday, Sept. 11, in Eppley 119 (Omaha campus)

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research and creative inquiry. All are welcome to attend.

Coffee and ConverStations

To kick off the year, the Center for Faculty Excellence invites you to join us for *Coffee and ConverStations*. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues, share teaching experiences and discuss exciting plans for the upcoming year. Highlighted stations for engagement: Vevox, Generative AI, Open Nest, Request a Consult Program, and the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Symposium. Drop in for coffee and donuts.

- **Omaha – Thursday, Aug. 29** | 8-9:30 a.m. CT| CFE Training Room – Reinert Alumni Library, Lower Level, Suite 33
 - **Phoenix – Thursday, Sept. 5** | 8:30-10 a.m. MT|PHSC 604
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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

2500 California Plaza | Omaha, NE 68178 US

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