

Dear Faculty and Staff,

The months seem to roll by quickly, and it is already the end of 2024 and the Annual Holiday Edition of the *Provost Digest*. As is customary, I like to share a little bit about our family holiday traditions each year.

Many of you know that as my schedule allows I enjoy baking, cooking and entertaining. I also do the majority of the food preparation at our home. At Thanksgiving my husband, Dave, asked me what I was looking forward to on our menu. Although I like to cook for others, I honestly do not always enjoy eating my own cooking. However, at Christmas we do have a couple of menu items that I do look forward to.

Traditionally, our family attends both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. When the boys were younger, we had an early rise time on Christmas Day as we opened gifts before going to church. As the kids grew older and into their adult versions of themselves, we still attend both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship but we do not open gifts until after we get home from church.

We pair our gift opening with holiday music and a breakfast casserole and coffee cake that are fan favorites at our house. For many years, my mother would supply homemade cinnamon rolls that I would take out of the freezer. Although I have her recipe, they just don't ever seem to taste the same as mom's and they are definitely a time commitment. I do believe in her lifetime she likely produced hundreds of pans of rolls and as they say...practice makes perfect. For now, the coffee cake is a tasty alternative.

I personally love brunch. So, in fact, I do look forward to making these dishes for my family and enjoying them together as we unwrap gifts with the fire in the background, Christmas music playing, and a mimosa to complement our brunch items. I have included the recipes in the event that you might also like to try them.

Tater Tot Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients

- One 16-ounce bag frozen Tater Tots®
- Butter, for the baking dish
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

- 1 small yellow onion, very finely diced
- 1-3/4 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne (I also add some Cholula sauce)
- 8 large eggs
- 1 red bell pepper, very finely diced
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese – or a cheese of your choice
- 1 cup grated pepper jack cheese
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. Line the tater tots in a buttered 9x13 baking dish.
2. Add the olive oil to a large skillet over medium heat. Add the sausage and onion and cook, breaking the sausage up with a wooden spoon, until browned and cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly, then sprinkle it over the tater tots.
3. In a large bowl, mix the milk, seasoned salt, cayenne, eggs, red bell pepper, half of both cheeses and some salt and pepper. Pour over the tots and sausage mixture, then top with the rest of the cheese. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.
4. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
5. Bake, covered, for about 25 minutes. Remove the foil and continue to bake until the cheese is brown and bubbly and the casserole is cooked through, another 30 to 35 minutes. Cut into squares and serve. *It may take longer depending on your oven and how long the casserole is removed from the overnight refrigeration.*

Graham Streusel Coffee Cake

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar – I like to use dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (I use less)
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 (15.25-oz) package yellow cake mix (and ingredients called for on the package such as eggs and oil)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon
- 1 tablespoon milk

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350° and grease a 9x13 baking pan.
2. In a small bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, brown sugar, pecans and cinnamon. Stir in butter; set aside.
3. Prepare cake mix according to package directions.

streusel doesn't sink to the bottom. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with half of the graham cracker mixture.

5. Carefully spoon the remaining batter on top. This is tricky, but it's very forgiving. Sprinkle with the remaining graham cracker mixture.
6. Bake at 350° for 25-35 more minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.
7. For the glaze: combine powdered sugar, butter and milk; add more milk 1 tablespoon at a time to desired consistency. Drizzle over cooled coffee cake.

Mimosas

- Juice of your choice
- Champagne, sparkling wine, club soda of your choice
- In the amounts of your choice
- Cheers!

Now I have just a few quick notes before signing off.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Coach Kirsten Bernthal Booth and the volleyball team for their spectacular season, ending with last Sunday's heartbreaking loss to Penn St. in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament. It was, in fact, the most successful season in Creighton volleyball history, with the Bluejays ranked sixth in the nation with a record of 32-3 (18-0 in the Big East) and also leading the nation with a program-record five players named All-Americans. Congratulations to all!



It is always exciting to see our students excel, whether in or out of the classroom, and last Friday, we celebrated Winter Commencement in the Ryan Center on our Omaha campus. It was a lovely celebration of the achievements of students in our Graduate School and College of Professional and Continuing Education. I am grateful to everyone who participated in this inspirational event.

I want to remind you that Creighton will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, with regular hours resuming on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Let me also take this final opportunity of the year to thank you for all that you do for our students, our communities in Omaha and Phoenix and one another. The family environment and our commitment to *cura personalis* for all are just a couple of the many blessings that we have at Creighton. I am hopeful that you are able to enjoy all the treats of the holidays paired with family and friends that make the season both merry and bright.

Join Fr. Gillick for a Silent Ignatian Retreat in 2025

Join the **Rev. Larry Gillick, SJ**, director of the Deglman Center for Spirituality, for a Silent Ignatian Retreat Weekend March 13-16, 2025, at the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. This retreat invites you to deepen your relationship with God as you enter the Lenten journey. Cost is \$425 per person. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 will be requested at registration. [Learn more and register today.](#)

January Jumpstart in the CFE

Join the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) on Monday, Jan. 13, for coffee and donuts to kick off the spring semester. CFE staff will introduce the new Teaching Effectiveness Framework and the new CFE intranet page and calendar and also talk about their Faculty Guides and Vevox consultation opportunities. Check out the [announcement](#) for details. Date and time for the Phoenix event is pending and will be updated on the same announcement.



Nursing Students Educate on Population Health, Engage Elementary Students

Nursing students visited local grade schools to promote health with fun, hands-on activities as part of their health promotion rotation. They not only gained experience in conducting health screenings, but they also provided important health education for communities in need. Read more about this [health promotion rotation](#).

Law School Negotiation Team Advances to Nationals

Larry Teply, JD, professor of law, and **David Weber, JD**, professor of law, coached Creighton's three American Bar Association Negotiation Competition teams in October. All three teams finished in the top half of their region. The team of **Max Lamberty** and **Elsa Abrahamson** advanced to the finals, and the team of **Zach Lee** and **Iesha Comia** advanced to nationals next spring.

Hogan Receives \$200k NSF Grant to



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The National Science Foundation has awarded **Andrew Hogan, PhD**, professor of history and director of the Science and Medicine in Society Program, and his team a \$200,000-plus grant to examine how efforts to increase accessibility to U.S. health professions have developed from 1960 to the present. The funding will run from September 2024 until August 2027 and support travel to over a dozen archives as well as dozens of oral history interviews with health profession educators. [Read More](#)



Haneman Publishes New *Tax Notes* Column

Victoria Haneman, JD, professor of law and the Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates, has published a piece in her [Tax Notes column](#) titled “The Estate Tax and De/Valuing Postmortem Publicity Rights.”

Omaha World-Herald Honors Faculty and Volleyball Coach

Congratulations to Creighton professors **Diva Wilson, MD, BA’11**, **Angela Patterson, OTD’15, BS’99**, and Creighton volleyball head coach **Kirsten Bernthal Booth** on being named finalists for the Inspire Award by the *Omaha World-Herald*. The annual Inspire Award recognizes women whose dedication, vision and talents set them apart as true leaders in their fields. Wilson is an assistant professor in the School of Medicine’s Department of Family and Community Medicine and a family medicine physician with CHI Health. Patterson is an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and director of the master of science in rehabilitation/master of science in occupational therapy program and the MSR/MSOT programs in Graduate School for international students. Booth is a three-time National Coach of the Year and president of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.



Alston, Seykora Among 16 to Create Art for New Omaha Public Library

Littleton Alston, MFA, professor of fine art, and **Angie Seykora, BFA’09**, part-time instructor in studio arts, are among the 16 local artists selected to have their creations on permanent display at Omaha Public Library’s new Central Library, currently under construction at 72nd and Dodge streets. The artists were chosen from 242 local applicants in a call for

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Dallon Presents Session at Annual Yale Richards Seminar

Craig Dallon, JD, professor of law, presented a continuing legal education session in November as part of the [14th Annual Yale Richards Professional Education Seminar](#), sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation. His remarks were titled “Attorneys’ Ethical Obligations in Estate Planning and Wealth Management.”

Brock Serves as Keynote at Conflict Resolution Conference

Mary Lee Brock, MEd, BA’82, assistant professor of marketing and management and director of the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (NCR) program, served as keynote speaker at the Association for Conflict Resolution’s national conference held at Creighton in November. Her talk, “Reflections on Ways the Society of Jesus, a Global Organization, Can Guide Our Impact on Conflict Engagement,” exemplified the conference theme: *From Local to Global: The Impact and Reflection of Conflict in our Lives*.

Hein Publishes First Book

Aimee Hein, PhD, assistant professor of theology, had her first book [published by Fortress Press](#) in November. “Theology in Motion: Migration, History, and Responsibility” tracks the story of the United States—how it formed and how it came to dominate the land that now rests between its borders—to consider more fully what type of nation the US has been and the type of global neighbor it has chosen to be.

Papneja Published in Computing Journal

Hashai Papneja, PhD, assistant professor of accounting and business intelligence and analytics, published “Self-disclosure to Conversational AI: A Literature Review, Emergent Framework, and Directions for Future Research” in *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing*. [Read the full article](#).

Myslinska’s Book Nominated for Law & Society Book Prize

Law, Migration, and the Construction of Whiteness, a book by **Dagmar Myslinska, JD, PhD**, associate professor of law, has been nominated for Law & Society’s Herbert Jacob Book Prize.

ACSL Business Course Includes Week in Dominican Republic

When **Charlie Braymen, PhD**, associate professor of economics and finance at the Heider College of Business, began developing the “Practicum in International Development” course, he worked closely with what is now the Office of Global and Community-Engaged Learning. “The office was instrumental in designing a course that both a) properly prepared students for engagement with the communities that we serve and b) provided appropriate avenues of reflection for our Creighton students while in the Dominican Republic as well as once they returned,” Braymen says. [Read more about the interdisciplinary course and the benefits of academic service-learning experiences](#) for students and faculty.



Faculty Mentor at Undergraduate Sociological Symposium

Kevin Estep, PhD, associate professor of cultural and social studies with primary responsibilities in the health administration and policy undergraduate program; and **Laura Heinemann, PhD, BA'98**, associate professor of medical anthropology and director of undergraduate programs in medical anthropology and cultural anthropology; and **Alana Haynes Stein, PhD**, assistant professor of cultural and social studies, mentored four undergraduate presenters at the Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium hosted at

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Award in Theory and Literature Review for her paper, "The Structuration of the 108th Nebraska Legislature."

Phoenix Campus Hosts OB Emergency Simulation Event

FOX10 Phoenix visited the Creighton Health Sciences Campus -- Phoenix in November to [report on the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association's OB Emergency Simulation Event](#). The AzHHA utilized the simulation space on campus to improve the skills of nurses and other providers who may need to provide life-saving measures for a mother during childbirth.

Weber Presents 'Death of the NCAA' at Tennessee Law

David Weber, JD, professor of law, presented his forthcoming article, *The Death of the NCAA as We Know It*, at the University of Tennessee School of Law at a joint event sponsored by the Tennessee Law Review and the Tennessee Sports & Entertainment Law Society in November.

Renaming Learning Outcomes to 'Creighton Commitments'

The Center for Faculty Excellence announces that University Learning Outcomes have been renamed "Creighton Commitments." This change better reflects their purpose and the promise of a Creighton University education. [Read more](#).

American Academy of Nursing Inducts Todd as Fellow

In November, **Martha Todd, PhD, MS'07**, professor of nursing, was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing in Washington, D.C. The award recognized her work with the Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument.



Arizona District Court Cites and Follows Borchers' Ruling

Pat Borchers, JD, professor of law and endowed professor, Lillis Family Professorship in Law, was cited and followed by a District Court in Arizona in "Shannon Gomez, Plaintiff, v. American Medical Systems Incorporated, Defendant. (D. AZ)" June 17, 2024.

NIH to Require SciENCv for Biosketches; Presentation in Bridge

Starting May 25, 2025, the National Institutes of Health will require the use of SciENCv for biographical sketches. This is a significant change, so the Sponsored Programs Administration and the Creighton University Libraries prepared and presented a virtual program to discuss the essential points. If you wish to watch or rewatch the presentation, please register for the [on-demand course in Bridge](#).

Gillaspie Talks About Improving Lung Cancer Survival Rate

According to the American Lung Association's 2024 State of Lung Cancer Report, the lung cancer survival rate has improved by 26% in the last five years to 28.4%. Despite this improvement, lung cancer is still the leading cause of cancer death in the US. Among those fighting those statistics is our very own **Erin Gillaspie, MD, MPH**, chief of thoracic surgery and associate professor in the School of Medicine. [Read more in the Omaha World-Herald report](#).



Google Fiber Commissions Kalk for Art

Betni Kalk, MFA, associate professor of computer science, design and journalism, was recently commissioned to create two murals in the Omaha community. Her mural of the Omaha skyline appears in Google Fiber's new office in the Millwork Common's Ashton building, and her floral mural created for Insight Global can be seen in their Aksarben office.

Creighton's Center for Undergraduate Research (CURAS) would like to ensure that faculty are aware of a handful of [upcoming grant deadlines](#).

Menzel Baker Published Included in Consumer Affairs Journal

Recent commentary by **Stacey Menzel Baker, PhD**, professor of marketing and management, on “Social Traps and the Wicked Problem of Single-Use Plastics: A Marketing, Policy and Citizen-Consumer Perspective” was published in *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*. [Read the full article](#).

Fazilatfar Presents at Law School Association Conference

Hossein Fazilatfar, JD, associate professor of law, presented his “Clause Expansion” paper at the Association of American Law Schools Alternative Dispute Resolution Section’s 17th Annual Works-in-Progress (WIP) Conference in October at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California.

Bloomquist Presents at International Transdisciplinary Conference

Candace Bloomquist, PhD, BS’01, associate professor and assistant director of the EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership Program in the College of Professional and Continuing Education, presented “Interdisciplinary Leadership: A Leadership Development Model” at the International Transdisciplinary Conference (ITD 2024) in Utrecht, Netherlands, in November.



Fox Presents at State Bar Securities Section Annual Meeting

Irina Fox, JD, professor of law, presented “The Howey Test for Investment Contracts as a Definition of a Security in the Context of Digital Assets,” focused on the Securities and Exchange Commission’s treatment of digital assets and the courts’ application of the Howey test to crypto-assets, for the Securities Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association at its annual meeting.

KSNB Hastings Reports on Internal Medicine Rural Track

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residents began the rural portion of their training in Kearney at Good Samaritan Hospital. Their time in Kearney began after finishing their first year of training at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy in Omaha. Psychiatry residents will follow in May 2025, relocating from Omaha to Kearney to train at CHI Health Richard Young Behavioral Health Medical Center.

Flott recognized as Outstanding Nurse Educator

Beth Flott, EdD, MS'08, BSN'04, associate professor of nursing and assistant dean of faculty development, received the Outstanding Nurse Educator Award at this year's Nebraska Nurses' Association (NNA) Convention.



Richardson Featured in 'Who's Who in Arizona Healthcare for 2025'

Randy Richardson, MD, regional dean for the School of Medicine in Phoenix, was featured in AZ Big Media's [AZ Business Leaders 2025](#) publication.

Correction to AY 2024-2025 MIRA! Recipients

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship submits this correction to the AY 2024-2025 *Magis! Investigative Research Award* recipients listed in the November Provost's Digest, with apologies to the co-primary investigators who were erroneously left off the previous announcement: **Lindsay Iverson, DNP'11, MS'09, BSN'05**, associate professor of nursing, **Tamara Oliver, PhD, BSN'09**, assistant professor of nursing, and **Steven Fernandes, PhD**, assistant professor of computer science, design and journalism: "Navigating Difficult Conversation in Healthcare: The Use of AI Chatbots in Training Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Students."

Three Receive Nebraska Nurses 40 Under 40 Award

Whitney Van De Graaff, BSN'11, assistant professor of nursing, **Jamie Beck**, instructor in nursing, and **Falah Rashoka, PhD**, assistant professor of nursing, were among the Nebraska Nurses Association 40 Under 40 awardees during the annual convention in Kearney in October. As a joint recognition, the Nebraska Organization of Nursing Leadership (NONL) and the Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) selected 40 nurses under 40 years old from across the state who are currently licensed as RNs or LPNs.

Kelly Essay to be Published in *Rutgers University Law Review*

Mike Kelly, JD, professor of law, will have his essay "Democracy v. Authoritarianism 3.0" published in *Rutgers University Law Review*, which also featured the piece online before the recent pivotal election.



UPDATE

King, Shipman Article Printed in *Academic Medicine*

Sarah King, Institute for Population Health program manager, **Scott Shipman, MD, MPH**, executive director of the Institute for Population Health, and a colleague had their one-page, peer-reviewed article titled "[Opportunities and Risks for Telehealth in Advancing Health Equity](#)" published in the December 2024 print edition of the journal [Academic Medicine](#).

Envisioning Population Health: Student Photo Contest

The Institute for Population Health and the Kingfisher Institute are partnering for this year's Envisioning Population Health Student Photo Contest that will launch in January. We hope you will encourage students across the University's schools and colleges to participate. To be eligible to win a cash prize, students must submit a photo under one of this year's three categories: 1) mental health and well-being, 2) social determinants of health, and 3) planetary health. An announcement with additional details and a link to the entry form will appear in *Creighton Today* during the first week of the spring semester. Last year's winning images are on display in the CL and Rachel Werner Center for Health Sciences Education gallery.

CommonSpirit Health LEAD Scholars Hold Roundtable

The CommonSpirit Health Leadership in (health) Equity, Advocacy and Diversity (LEAD) Scholars program at Creighton's Health Sciences Campus – Phoenix launched with its first group of scholars and mentors earlier this month, including five residents, three medical students and three physician assistant students. This leadership and service development program, in collaboration with CommonSpirit Health, is for rising third-year medical students, rising second-year physician assistant students, medical residents, and faculty physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) at CommonSpirit Health. Through mentorship, participants will develop and strengthen leadership and mentorship skills, learn principles and strategies for becoming a health equity leader, gain a deeper understanding of health system management, and be empowered and emboldened to take action and make a difference in the spaces they currently occupy as well as develop a vision for their future.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mardell A. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

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UNIVERSITY

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