

Dear Colleagues,

How about a big shoutout for the men's basketball team and their commanding victory Tuesday night over No. 1-ranked University of Connecticut! Not only is it a first for the Bluejays, but it also brought Head Coach Greg McDermott his 600th career win. It was definitely an electrifying environment. Congratulations all around!

February started with the celebration of Creighton's Founder's Week, which featured an in-person [address by Creighton's president](#), the **Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD**, at our Omaha and Phoenix campuses. Fr. Hendrickson spoke on important partnerships, budget and finance, strategic enrollment planning, and future initiatives for the University.

The All-University Committee on the Status of Women presented the 44th annual [Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Creighton Award](#) to three women who have created an environment supportive of achievement for women, encouraged women in their talents or served as a role model for women. This year's recipients included **Susan Coyle Natz**, senior director for Ignatian Formation and Ministry for Faculty and Staff, **Britta McEwen, PhD**, associate professor of history and director of Women and Gender Studies, and **Liza Zaruba**, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We also saw three deserving colleagues – **Paul Price, PharmD**, associate professor and senior associate dean in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions; **Julie Manz, PhD**, professor and chair of the BSN program in the College of Nursing; and **Richard Davis**, director of internal communications in University Communications and Marketing – inducted as [honorary members of Alpha Sigma Nu](#), the honor society of Jesuit institutions of higher education.

February has also been filled with great events celebrating Black History Month. Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 23, from 6-9 p.m. is CUASA's annual Soul Food Dinner in the Skutt Ballroom. An exhibition of the Markoe Collection in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, featuring the personal collection of correspondence, photographs, rare and powerful flyers and handbills of civil rights activist and Creighton Jesuit, the Rev. John Markoe, SJ, is available for viewing by appointment from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 29. Fr. Markoe was an influential member of the Creighton community who founded the Omaha DePorres Club, a group whose members fought boldly for civil rights with the North Omaha community and worked to encourage businesses to change racially discriminatory practices.

27. The skull of St. Jean de Brébeuf is traveling throughout the United States and will make a special one-day visit to Creighton. [Learn more about the day's events](#), made possible by Creighton Jesuit the **Rev. Eric Immel, SJ**, vocation coordinator for the Midwest Province, and **Chase Becker**, liturgy coordinator for Creighton University and St. John's Parish.

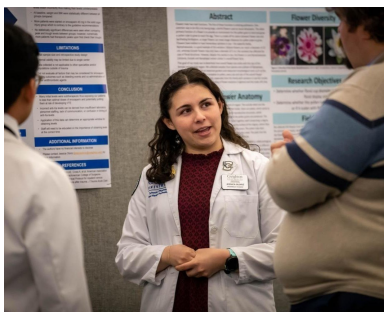
Looking into March I am anticipating another exciting month. Following spring break we will have the men's and women's Big East Tournaments and the annual Big East Undergraduate Research Poster competition. We kick off March Madness with selection Sunday on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. That same week we will celebrate the annual Faculty Staff Awards on Tuesday, March 19, where four colleagues will receive distinguished service awards and 294 colleagues will receive recognition for their years of service to Creighton. Watch *Creighton Today* for details about registering to attend the Faculty Staff Awards celebration. All of these events occur while we also welcome prospective students and their families during the various Admitted Student Days events that so many of you help to make successful.

As we approach midterms I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your daily contributions to making Creighton the special place it is – not just for our students – but for each other as well. Your work, support and encouragement for one another as well as insights and collaborations strengthen our University and bring to life the Jesuit mission we strive to achieve.

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## Observe a Class Invitation During Open Nest Weeks

During the weeks of Feb. 26 to March 1 and March 11 to 15, approximately 15 Creighton colleagues from across the university will be opening their classrooms for a pilot project called Open Nest. [Creighton faculty and professional staff are invited to sign up to visit and observe these colleagues' classes, in person or online.](#)



## 2024 University Research Week

Creighton University will host its annual St. Albert's Day/ University Research Week celebrations on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 and 27, in Omaha and Phoenix. Faculty, staff and students are invited to learn about Creighton research and scholarly projects by viewing posters, watching [talks and celebrating University Research and University Research Mentor awardees.](#)

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## WOWT Highlights \$1 Million Federal Grant to School of Law

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prevention and early intervention legal services to at-risk youth and families at the Highlander Accelerator. [The segment highlighted the positive impacts of these expanded offerings and how they are sorely needed within our local community.](#)

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## Two Publications Print Purcell Articles

Tom Purcell, PhD, CPA , the John P. Begley Endowed Chair in Accounting, recently had two articles published. His article, "[How Tax Practice Standards Affected CPAs](#)," was published in the *Journal of Accountancy*. The article evaluates the impacts of recent changes in the standards by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Purcell also had an article, "[Teaching Tax Ethics: Resources for Educators](#)," published in the *Tax Adviser*. Each article considers a different aspect of the relationship between accounting and ethics.

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## Faculty Development Grants Awarded 2024-2025

Nine teams from Omaha and Phoenix campuses, including 25 faculty and two staff, were awarded the 2024-2025 Faculty Development Grants for the Assessment of Student Learning/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. This grant program provides seed money for work in its early stages, developing a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) project, and/or designing faculty development initiatives to achieve advancements in student learning. [See the list of grants awarded.](#)

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## Horowitz Serves as Featured Expert

Ed Horowitz, PhD, associate professor of practice and the Mutual of Omaha Endowed Chief Risk Officer, was featured as an expert for the article, "[Is Joint Banking the Key to a Happy Marriage?](#)" on *Marketwatch*. Horowitz provided input about relationships and joint bank accounts.

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## Distinguished Educator Awardees Celebrated

Join 2024 Distinguished Educator Award recipients, **Julie Peterson, DPT, EdD**, associate professor of physical therapy, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and **Patricia Soto-**

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insights and stories about their careers on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at a program and reception.

[Read more and register.](#)

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## Gautier to Read from New Book

Attend a special evening event featuring award-winning author Amina Gautier, PhD, the first Black woman author to win the PEN/Malamud Award, at 7 p.m. March 27 in the Skutt Student Center, Mutual of Omaha Ballroom. Gautier will read from her new collection of short stories, *The Best That You Can Do*, and other works. The reading is jointly sponsored by the Office of the President; Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; University Libraries; College of Arts and Sciences; Kingfisher Institute; Phi Beta Kappa; Center for Henry James Studies; and Lectures, Films and Concerts. [Read more.](#)

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## Fed Reserve Magazine Features Dunham, Gove

Lee Dunham, PhD, CFA, professor of finance in the Heider College of Business, and sophomore Alyssa Gove were featured in *TEN Magazine*, a publication of the Federal Reserve of Kansas City. The article, "[How Gen Z and millennials are using social media tools to handle their money.](#)" showcased the pros and cons of mobile banking, lending and other topics covered in the college's FinTech program.

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## Students Elect First All-Female Students Union Executive Team

The Creighton Students Union (CSU) 2024 executive team is composed of all females for the first time in history: **Emily Meister**, president, pictured left, sophomore neuroscience major; **Kate Ellis**, executive vice president, pictured, right, sophomore chemistry major; **Kara House**, vice president for programming, junior management and marketing major; and **Savannah Peters**, vice president for finance, junior accounting major. CSU is the primary student government for Creighton students across colleges and schools and exists to ensure all [students enjoy a fulfilling experience at Creighton.](#)

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## CURAS' 2024 Summer Faculty Research Fellowships

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) announced faculty receiving fellowships: **Angela Devlin, PhD**, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences; **Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD**, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences; **Faith Kurtyka, PhD**, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences; **Makenzie Long, PhD**, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences; **Britta McEwen, PhD**, Department History, College of Arts and Sciences; **Sherri Weitzl-Harms, PhD**, Department of Computer Science, Design, and Journalism, College of Arts and Sciences, and **Amber Witherby, PhD**, Department of Psychological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences. [Read more about about the fellowship and research projects.](#)

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### Five Proposals Receive President's Fund in Population Health Grants

The **Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD**, announced five recipients of the special President's Fund in Population Health grants during his Founders Day Convocation message. The grants, managed through the Institute for Population Health, all focus on health and health equity issues among specific, underserved populations within the Omaha metropolitan community. The winning proposals will involve 33 faculty and staff members, 52 students and five community partners. [Read more about the projects and teams receiving funding.](#)

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### Open Call: Faculty Associates Program 2024-2026

Creighton benefit-eligible faculty and professional staff who teach and have a passion for teaching and scholarly work are invited to apply to the Faculty Associates Program for 2024-2026. Deadline to apply is March 6. [Recipients will be notified of the award March 28.](#)

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### Wall Street Journal and Washington Post Quote Haneman

**Victoria Haneman, JD, LLM**, Endowed Professor, Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates in the School of Law, was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article, "[How the Funeral Industry Got the FTC to Hide Bad Actors](#)," about the Federal Trade Commission shielding groups from public scrutiny. She

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[Idea of Taylor Swift's Super Bowl Jet Trip is Sparking Controversy](#)," about taxes on private jet usage.

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## FSL Spring Recruitment

Faternity and Sorority Life (FSL) welcomed more than 400 new members in January. The Panhellenic, Interfraternity and Culturally Based Fraternity councils all host formal recruitment in the spring, allowing freshmen to acclimate to college life before getting involved in a fraternity or sorority. Among freshman women, 54% participated in Panhellenic recruitment, and 40% of freshman men participated in IFC recruitment. Culturally Based Fraternal Council recruitment continues through the end of February. Creighton has 22 chapters on campus and focuses on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, social development and service. Undergraduate students are actively invited to Greek life, with 40% of the student body currently participating.

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Sincerely,



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

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

**Creighton**  
UNIVERSITY

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