

Dear Faculty and Staff,

The spring semester certainly got off to a cold and snowy start! However, it didn't stop us from hosting our annual Unity Prayer event, a community breakfast honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I was so pleased to see nearly 200 people from Creighton and the broader Omaha community in attendance. In addition to the breakfast, a panel discussion featuring Nichelle Horton-Brown, MD, BA'94, president and CEO, Endeveren Family Medicine; her husband, Wayne Brown, JD'09, president and CEO, Urban League of Nebraska Inc.; Oluseyi "Seyi" Olowolafe, JD'18, Olowolafe Law Firm, LLC, and **Yvonnda Summers, JD, BSBA'11, MS'14, JD'14**, associate dean of student affairs, equity, diversity and inclusion, Creighton School of Law, provided a robust discussion around "Reclaiming Dr. King's Legacy." Kudos to the planning team for another outstanding celebration.

I am very excited to announce that to assist Creighton University in setting priorities for external funding and supporting our efforts, we have engaged in a partnership with McAllister & Quinn to undertake an analysis of potential alignment between external funding pathways and the University's strengths, current and future needs, and strategic goals. The analysis will serve as a "discovery" phase for McAllister & Quinn and will consist of a series of brief meetings with key administrative leaders, faculty, and other key personnel on campus, along with review and analysis of data points related to the University's federal funding portfolio. After evaluating information gathered during the discovery phase, McAllister & Quinn will make recommendations to the provost on effective deployment of key McAllister & Quinn service lines in the areas of strategic intelligence on funding trends, faculty research development services, and proposal development support on funding solicitations that are directly aligned with University priorities.

We are excited to engage in this new partnership that will help to inform and advance Creighton's efforts to secure extramural funding that aligns with University priorities while also providing additional research development services to our faculty. **Juliane Strauss-Soukup, PhD**, associate vice provost for research and scholarship, and I will share more information as priorities are outlined and resources are made available.

Creighton will celebrate the annual Founders Week Convocation in person and virtually at both our Omaha and Phoenix campuses. The Omaha event is at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Harper Center Hixson-Lied Auditorium, while the Phoenix event is at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, in the Doris S. Norton Ballroom. I hope you will join us as **President Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD**, shares the University's accomplishments and updates for the year. [Register](#) to attend

Later in the week, the All-University Committee on the Status of Women will host the annual Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily Awards and Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the Harper Center Ahmanson Ballroom. Please [register and join us for the luncheon](#) as we honor outstanding women who make a difference at Creighton and in the greater community. View the full schedule of Founders Week [events](#).

Another fun upcoming opportunity is the first Belong event of 2024 sponsored by the Divisions of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Mission and Ministry on Friday, Feb. 9. This spirited lunchtime conversation will focus on the power of storytelling with the **Rev. Greg Carlson, SJ**, who, over the past 40 years, has built one of the greatest Aesop's Fables collections in the world. [Register now](#).

The semester is going to fly by, I know. I do hope you are able to find time to enjoy these and other campus events. Your presence and participation are valued and appreciated! I also encourage you to check out the basketball schedules for both our women's and men's teams. These student athletes and coaches are certainly making this year's season in BIG EAST play thrilling!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those faculty and staff who have cared so deeply for those impacted by the tragic loss earlier this week of a member of the Class of 2027, Bennett Kotok. This has been a difficult week for many, and I remain blessed and impressed by the Creighton community who support one another in such meaningful ways. Thank you for what you do for our students and for our campus family.

Go Move Challenge, Group Fitness and Personal Training

Each year, faculty and staff from Jesuit universities and colleges compete to see which school is the most active during the Go Move Challenge throughout the month of February. Participate in the Go Move Polar Walk and virtual yoga event on Feb. 1. [Read more and join Creighton's team](#). Heading into the new year and looking for some fitness options? Creighton Recreation and Wellness also hosts [group fitness programs](#) and [personal training options](#).



Wareham Court Reopens

Wareham Court, the food court in the Skutt Student Center, reopened Jan. 10. The redesigned space includes Qdoba and Firehouse Subs, joining beloved favorite Mein Bowl and Jack and Ed's convenience store. Student Life, Facilities, Sodexo and University Communications and Marketing collaborated on this renovation, with many other teams providing input and

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meal. [Find campus dining options and hours on the Creighton website.](#)

2024 University Research Week

Creighton's campuses will host the annual St. Albert's Day/University Research Week celebrations in the Harper Center on the Omaha campus from 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. CT on March 26-27, and on the Phoenix campus from 8:45 to 11 a.m. MT on March 26. 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. The deadline to submit abstracts is Friday, Feb. 16. [Watch Creighton Today for more details about how to submit abstracts.](#)



New York Medical Humanities Exhibit Features Creighton Students' Work

Creighton students teamed with a global foundation to create a New York City art exhibition portraying the beauty and humanity of people whose physical appearances can lead to discrimination and exclusion. The "A Portrait of Medical Humanities" exhibition is a joint production of Positive Exposure, Creighton's Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowment in Medical Humanities and the Dr. Tom Kirsch Advancement of Visual Arts Fund and consists of approximately 40 pieces of art created by 33 students from the [Creighton School of Medicine's Omaha and Phoenix campuses, the College of Nursing, the School of Dentistry, and the College of Arts and Sciences.](#)

2024 Summer Undergraduate Research and Creative Project Fellowships

Please encourage students seeking funding for research and creative projects during summer 2024 to apply for a SURF! Applications are **due Feb. 14**. Read more information about the [SURF program and the application.](#)



Gustafson Creates Course Segments, Publishes on Economy of Communion

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Heider College of Business, recently prepared two course segments on the economy of communion, "Addressing the Many Forms of Poverty Through Economy of Communion," and "Economic Theory and EoC: What is the Purpose of Business?" [He also recently co-authored two articles on the subject in the *Humanistic Management Journal*.](#)

Martin and Bharwani to Write Book for Routledge

Jim Martin, PhD, associate professor and assistant director, Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Leadership, and **Sara Bharwani, EdD'20**, special assistant professor, School of Medicine, recently contracted with Routledge to write a book titled: "Pursuing the Doctorate: Candid Insights from 20 Graduates." They anticipate publication in early 2025.



Research Compliance Office

Kindra Cooper, JD, director of the University's Institutional Review Board, served as an invited faculty at the Radiological Society of North America (RNSA) Annual Clinical Trials Workshop. She has been invited to present at the May 2024 annual Association for Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) Conference in San Diego, California, about IRB reporting requirements to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP).

Call for Participants in Magis Core Assessment Activities

The Magis Core Assessment Committee will conduct a work-from-home assessment for reviewing artifacts focusing on oral communication and designated oral communication prior to Magis Core Day and present and discuss the outcomes of the assessment on Magis Core Day, scheduled May 14. The committee's goal is a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary conversation about oral communication in the core. Magis Core is led by **Guy McHendry, PhD**, director, and **Faith Kurtyka, PhD**, associate director. The committee needs Work-from-Home Assessors and Magis Core Day Participants. Faculty do not need to have taught in either of these areas to participate. [Read more about these roles.](#)



Attend a Day Personal Retreat in 2024

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Enjoy a personal retreat and consider participating in a three-day experience at the Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa. Participants will meet daily with their assigned spiritual director who is guided by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Check-in begins at 4 p.m. on day one and ends at 3 p.m. on day three. Upcoming retreat dates include March 21-24, May 2-5, and July 14-17. [Register today.](#)

Community Standards and Student Conduct Funding

The Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct has received funding from the Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance (NECPA) for a second year. The American Rescue Plan, a Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, will be applied to primary prevention – providing knowledge and increasing awareness of the nature and extent of alcohol and other drug use, abuse and addiction, as well as their effects on individuals, families, and communities.



López-Villa Joins Student Success as Assistant Director

Yajaira López-Villa has joined Creighton's Center for Advising Resources and Support as an assistant director. López-Villa has worked with college students through her previous roles with the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce and the College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. López-Villa earned her master's degree at Iowa State University in higher education, student affairs. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

National Nursing Council Utilizes Creighton Evaluation Tool

The Creighton Competency Evaluation Instrument (C-CEI) was recently utilized by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as one of the outcome measurement tools in their national study of the impact of COVID on nursing education. Current C-CEI team include: **Martha Todd, PhD, Julie Manz, PhD, Sarah Jo Ball, PhD, Lindsay Iverson, DNP, and Lucas Manning.** The manuscript reporting the study was recently published by the [Journal of Nursing Regulation.](#)

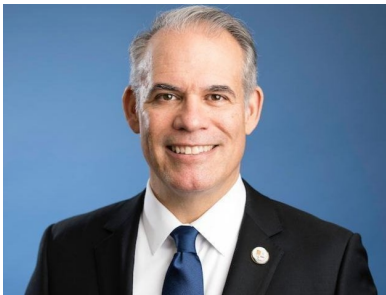


Lung Cancer Surgery in the CHI System

Erin Gillaspie, MD, the founding chief of thoracic surgery, and her team recently performed the first double robotic lung cancer surgery within the CHI system and one of the first cases in the State of Nebraska.

MyIT Releases New Classroom Technology Videos

The myIT Service Desk has released new classroom technology videos focused on the Werner Building. The videos are posted in Bridge. [Read more and enroll](#). Contact the [myIT Service Desk](#) or call 402-280-1111 or 800-329-1011 with questions.



Journal Publishes Kelly's 'Internet Human Rights' Research Article

Michael Kelly, JD, The Sen. Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law, and his research partner, David Satola, lead counsel for innovation and technology in the legal department at the World Bank, published an article titled "Internet Human Rights," about their research on how human rights translates into the digital space in volume 27 of the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Law & Social Change*.

New Distinguished Lecture Series on Planetary Health and Sustainability

The School of Medicine announced its new *Laudato Si'* Distinguished Lecture series starting on Feb. 20 with "Health Professional Action in the Climate Crisis." Featuring Cecilia Sorenson, MD, the lecture will begin at 5 p.m. MST at Creighton University Health Science Campus – Phoenix. Sorenson is associate professor of environmental health sciences and emergency medicine and the director of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education, Columbia University. Watch *Creighton Today* for more information.

Have a great semester!



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