

Nov. 16, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Here we are, fast approaching the end of another incredible semester. I am so very grateful for your dedication and commitment to our students and each other. It truly makes a difference in their – and our – lives. Creighton will hold its graduate hooding and commencement Dec. 8 in the Harper Center. In turn, we will immediately begin [Winter Session](#) classes Dec. 11.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the inaugural symposium hosted by the Institute for Population Health Oct. 23-24. **Scott Shipman, MPH, MD**, executive director, and his team hosted the event in the Harper Center. The symposium attracted more than 250 registrants from internal and external audiences and officially launched the institute. We are grateful to all the faculty, staff and community members who participated. Also, just a reminder that the application deadline for the [President's Fund in Population Health](#) grants has been extended until Nov. 27. I encourage faculty to apply in one of the three grant areas. Please also promote the institute's [Student Photo Contest](#). The deadline for entry is Nov. 30.

The Heider College of Business hosted its 20th annual Business Symposium Oct. 27. The largest student-led business symposium in the country, the symposium brings together Creighton students and global business executives to network and discuss issues in today's dynamic business environment. More than 800 students registered to attend the networking event.

Creighton is hosting its [Mini Medical School](#) program through Dec. 9 with faculty and students introducing medical and health sciences education to diverse families in the Omaha and Phoenix metro areas. The program currently serves between 200 and 300 students, familiarizing them with the language, the equipment and the practices of the medical world. Parents receive separate instruction about academic requirements, scholarships and the process of enrolling their children, matters with which they may be unfamiliar.

We are also in the University librarian search process. **Barron Breland, DM**, vice provost of Faculty and Academic Affairs and dean of the Graduate School, is chairing the Librarian Search Committee. [The full committee members are listed here.](#)

Last, but not least, how about those Bluejays! The women's volleyball team is ranked No. 15 in the nation. The men's tennis doubles team of Matthew Lanahan and Alejandro Gandini reached the round of 16 in the ITA National Fall Championships. And, of course, our men's and women's basketball teams started the season ranked No. 8 and No. 22 in the nation, respectively. Go

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We have only a short time before the Thanksgiving holiday is upon us. I hope you find time during the break to relax and reflect on the blessings in your lives. I know that being part of the Creighton community is certainly one of mine.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday,

Zallocchi Awarded NIH and DoD Funding

Marisa Zallocchi, PhD, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine, recently received a National Institutes of Health award for \$2.1 million to study Usher syndrome and the role of Usher proteins during inner-ear development. Zallocchi also received a \$363,750 award from the Department of Defense to determine if compounds from the Indian long pepper can help combat noise-induced hearing loss. [Read more about the grants.](#)



Dunlay Speaks at Catholic Medical Association White Mass and Banquet

Bo Dunlay, MD, dean of the School of Medicine, addressed members of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) about Catholic academic medicine at a banquet Oct. 20. He shared an excerpt from his address to new medical students at the white coat ceremony, which emphasized the importance of forming the whole person while in medical school so Creighton physicians can treat their patients as whole people.

Magis Research Awards Announced for Fall 2023

The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship proudly announced the fall 2023 Magis! Investigation Research Awards (MIRA) recipients: **Andrew Ekpenyong, PhD**, Physics, College of Arts and Sciences; **Rosalind Heckman, DPT, PhD**, Physical Therapy, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions; **Martin Hulce, PhD**, Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, **Christopher Krall, SJ, PhD**, Theology and Neuroscience (Biology), College of Arts and Sciences; **Jason D. Marshall, PhD**, Marketing & Management, Heider College of Business; **Peter S. Steyger, PhD**, Biomedical Sciences, School of Medicine. [Read more.](#)

Santos Presents Papers at International



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The **Rev. Nicky Santos, SJ, PhD**, associate professor of marketing in the Heider College of Business, presented two papers at the [30th International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference: New Frontiers in Business Ethics](#) in Dublin, Ireland, Oct. 26-28. The paper “Using Data to Actualize the Principles of Catholic Social Thought for the Greater Good,” was co-authored with **Ravi Nath, PhD**, the Jack and Joan McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology Management in the Heider College of Business. [Read more.](#)



Kunin Shares Research in the *Journal of Neuroscience*

Alex Kunin, PhD, was published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* (JNeurosci) on Sept. 13. His work analyzes brain connectivity in the fruit fly.



Danielsen, Student Present Research

Sociology faculty member **Sabrina Danielsen, PhD**, and sociology and justice and society major Ellie Simmons co-presented a paper titled, “Community as Catalyst for Change: American Catholic Sisters Engaging in Environmental Activism,” at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City in October 2023.

CURAS Director Candidates to Visit Campus

CURAS will be bringing two director candidates to the Omaha campus for in-person interviews during the week of Dec. 11-15. Watch *Creighton Today* for details about how to participate, coming soon.

Mullins Publishes Short Story



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Dave Mullins, director of creative writing in the Department of English, has published a new short story, titled "In the Flesh." The story appears in the current issue of the *Chicago Quarterly Review* (Volume 38, Fall 2023).



New Trendsetters Group to Explore Interdisciplinary Practices

Faculty are invited to join the new Trendsetters group, which will share interdisciplinary practices and approaches to statistics, econometrics and a wide range of quantitative research methods. The informal, voluntary group plans to meet quarterly to discuss these topics, conduct workshops and organize meetups to share research and receive ideas and feedback. Faculty facilitating the Trendsetters include: **Gargi Vyas, PhD**, assistant professor in the Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Leadership, College of Professional and Continuing Education, CFE Faculty Associate; **Jack Taylor, PhD**, biostatistician, Research and Compliance, Biostatistical Core; **Jim Martin, PhD**, associate professor and assistant director of the Doctoral Program in Interdisciplinary Leadership, College of Professional and Continuing Education. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25, and is offered in person or via Zoom. [Register online](#).



Ford Serves as International Leadership Course Guest Faculty

Debra Ford, PhD, associate professor and chair, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Professional and Continuing Education, served as guest faculty for the Leadership Course for Cultural Heritage Stewards in Challenging Circumstances for a fifth year. The course, held in The Hague, Netherlands, was sponsored by the Netherlands' Cultural Emergency Response office and the Smithsonian Cultural Heritage Response Initiative (SCRI).

School of Medicine Celebrates Research Cores

The School of Medicine celebrated the Research Cores with an open house on Nov. 1 at its office in Criss Building II/III, Room 310. Prospective and current users took tours, spoke with personnel and learned more about the resources available to all investigators at the University. Research cores highlighted included: Biorepository, Biostatistical, Flow Cytometry, Histology, Innovative Genomics, Molecular Biology, the Integrated Biomedical Imaging Facility and the [Bellucci Translational Hearing Center](#). [Read more about Research Cores](#).

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Senda-Cook Wins Journal Article Award

An article co-authored by **Samantha Senda-Cook, PhD**, chair and professor in the Department of Communication Studies, titled "[Building Coalitions for Shared Pieties: Polyvocal Religious Environmentalism at the Asian Rural Institute](#)," has been selected the winner of the 2023 Christine L. Oravec Journal Article Award from the Environmental Communication Division of the National Communication Association. She will receive the award during the National Communication Association's convention on Nov. 17.



Encourage Student Participation in SURF

Please encourage students seeking funding for research and creative projects during summer 2024 to apply for a Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) SURF award. Applications are due Feb. 14, 2024. CURAS will host an application workshop and advice panel for interested students on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 6-7 p.m., in Skutt Student Center, Room 209. [Application information and materials are available online.](#)



Nath Co-Authors Feature Article, 'Data for Societal Good'

Ravi Nath, PhD, the Jack and Joan McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology Management in the Heider College of Business, co-authored the feature article titled "[Data for Societal Good: A Contextual Approach](#)" in the most recent issue of *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*.

Crowdfunding Opportunities Available

Creighton faculty and staff have an opportunity to support various projects that need additional funding through the University's Crowdfunding site. [Learn more about Crowdfunding at Creighton and how you can participate.](#)

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Kelly Presents Research At UN Internet Governance Forum

Michael J. Kelly, JD, LLM, the Sen. Allen A. Sekt Endowed Chair in Law at Creighton University, presented the findings of his latest research into the digitization of human rights to the United Nations at its Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Kyoto, Japan, which drew more than 10,000 participants. The head of cyber security issues at Chatham House (London) moderated Kelly's tutorial workshop. Co-authored with David Satola, lead counsel for Innovation and Technology at the World Bank, Kelly's work creates a matrix which maps the transference of human rights from physical space to cyberspace.



Get Moving Challenge

Get moving this month, and take part in the Get Moving Challenge. Pick up a punch card from the Recreation and Wellness office in the Kiewit Fitness Center. Attend 10 group fitness classes to spell out "GFMOVEMBER." Bring your completed punch card to the office by Nov. 30 to receive a prize.

Sincerely,



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

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

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UNIVERSITY

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