

F A L L 1 9 9 9

CREIGHTON

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

MIKE JOHANNIS:
*Creighton's
First Governor*

A detailed oil painting of Mike Johannis, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and white patterned tie. He is looking directly at the viewer with a slight smile. In the background, the golden dome of the Creighton University building is visible against a dark, cloudy sky. He is holding a book in his hands at the bottom of the frame.

Moral Courage:
Lessons from
South Africa

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A New Cancer Drug
on the Horizon?

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The Millennium, the Months
and the Moon

Page 32

Portrait by Tim Guthrie, BFA '89 (see page 5)



FALL 1999

CREIGHTON

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

COVER STORY

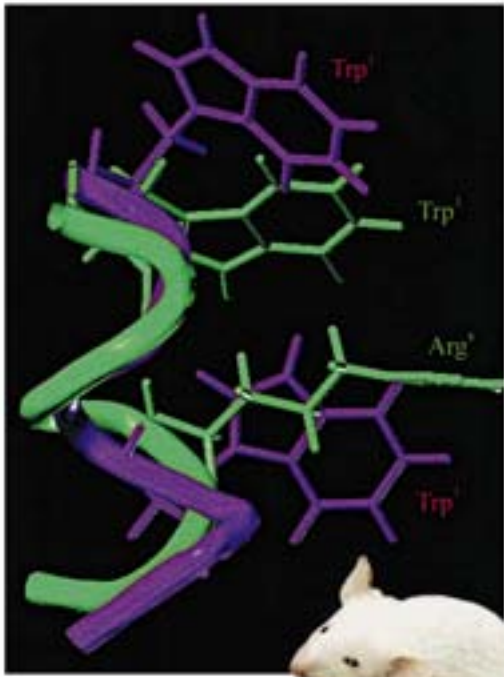


Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

14 **CREIGHTON'S FIRST GOVERNOR** When Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, a 1974 Creighton law graduate, was elected to serve as the state's 38th governor on Nov. 3, 1998, it marked a first for Creighton. Johanns, who took office in January, became the first Creighton University alum elected to a state governorship. Executive Editor Steve Kline examines the life of this former mayor of Lincoln: his years growing up on the family farm near Osage, Iowa, his law school struggles, and his new life as one of Nebraska's highest elected officials.

20 **MORAL COURAGE: LESSONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA** What prompts people to act in the common good in the face of personal risk or danger? Dr. Ruth Purtilo, Creighton's Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Professor and the director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, examined that question during her time in South Africa. Through in-depth interviews with people who had stood up against the injustices of apartheid rule, Dr. Purtilo discovered some common themes.





26 A NEW CANCER DRUG

ON THE HORIZON? Creighton researchers are investigating a new compound that targets breast cancer without damaging other tissues. The drug, which combines a peptide called GnRH-III and a synthetic polymer, has been shown to be effective in killing breast cancer cells in mice. How did Creighton researchers come upon this cancer-killing compound, and what are its possibilities? Writer Lori Elliott-Bartle investigates.

32 THE MILLENNIUM, THE MONTHS AND THE MOON With the year 2000 approaching, Creighton's Fr. John Scott, S.J., examines the creation of our calendar and its ties to the phases of the moon ... and the Jesuits!



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51 • GLIMPSES OF HAVANA Creighton history professor Richard Super, Ph.D., recently visited the Cuban capital and returned with many images of this complex city.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE'S PURPOSE

Creighton University Magazine, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will support the University's mission of education through thoughtful and compelling feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God's creation, a special concern for the poor and the promotion of justice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOSPITALS TO BLAME

Crisis Looming?, an article on the latest nursing shortage, by John C. Glenn (Spring'99) is off the mark.

Keeping nursing positions filled with competent individuals has been a struggle for a long time. The key to recurring shortages has been bad decisions by hospitals, creating very poor career choices for individuals attracted to nursing. Hospitals don't value nurses enough to change the way they pay, promote and make secure, nursing positions.

The same hospitals that are singing the blues about not enough nurses now, would lay them off in a minute in order to save a buck tomorrow. Hospital administrators are in a position to smooth things out, but they are shortsighted and bottom-line driven so they drive nurses away from hospital jobs by treating them as disposable. At one time of the year, nurses are asked to work extra without complaining and, at another time, to voluntarily take a partial layoff to make the books look a little better. Add nights, weekends, holidays with rude or disinterested doctors — great opportunity, nursing.

Last, but not least, is the gender problem. I would expect a fastidiously politically correct magazine such as *WINDOW* to really emphasize this. Nurses are treated like school teachers because they are overwhelmingly female. They are considered by their bosses to be a necessary evil, involved in uninspiring and monotonous women's work. Sure, sometimes they are treated well; sometimes they are appreciated; sometimes the job has great rewards. Why, then, do so many leave? My answer is that the people who make decisions in a hospital environment don't appreciate nurses any more than school administrators appreciate a classroom teacher.

Hospitals need to change their attitude and treat their nurses like their strongest asset, or the nursing shortage will continue.

John Dale Dunn, BS'67, MD'71, JD'79
Lake Brownwood, Texas

DEAD HAND OF RELIGION

Your sidebar to the quark-gluon plasma article, *Balancing Science and Religion* (Spring'99), was a typically strained attempt to give religion an equal status with science. Both Dr. Janet Seger and Fr. Thomas McShane played the academically approved game of a member of the scientific community pretending to

agree with a cleric on the issue of God's existence. In truth, faith and religion are and always have been in conflict with science. While the former demands blind obedience to orthodoxy, the latter looks to empirical evidence before making a judgment.

Fr. McShane's remarks are characteristic of those in the clergy being forced to accommodate overwhelming evidence that contradicts Scripture. Rather than having an unknowable deity create the universe in a finite amount of time, McShane now signs on for continuous creation. But he still maintains that "...God is still actively creating the universe." What evidence there might be for divine interaction is not put forth. This gets "faith" back in the picture. For McShane and other believers this amounts to believing in what you want to believe despite the absence of any reason for believing it.

Dr. Seger follows McShane's lead with her statement that the Big Bang "leads us closer to God." She reinforces her ratification of dogma by observing that belief in God is a prerequisite for a belief in the physical order of the universe. Obviously, Dr. Seger would profit from a close reading of David Hume and Immanuel Kant. Both they and other thinkers attacked this line of gauzy and insupportable reasoning. Hume and Kant realized there was no cause to assume God's existence simply because of an orderly universe. And never mind all the evidence that argues against order, e.g., hurricanes, tornadoes, uninhabitable planets, etc.

Religion would do well to steer clear of science and stop embarrassing itself. But that would require a humanity willing to give up its superstitions and wishful thinking. That is hardly likely among the general populace when academics such as Seger and McShane still pay homage to the dead hand of religion.

Brian Hill, BA'71
Albuquerque, N.M.

IS THERE NO END?

In 1939, when I was 7 years old, I wondered if a crumb of bread was still bread. When I was 13, I heard that atoms were inside molecules. When I was 23, there were protons and neutrons and quarks and other little things working inside the insides. Now, I read about quark-gluon plasma. Hmm, I wonder what I will read when I am 101 or 205, when smaller and smaller things are found inside what was thought to be the final inside. Is there no end to this? Well, maybe, if we just put a limit on God's creation. It seems like the Big Bang is trying to do just that.

Hugh Manhart, BS'55, Omaha

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Photo by Elizabeth Broderick



ABOUT THE COVER...

The fact that artist Tim Guthrie's painting is our choice for the cover of the inaugural *Creighton University Magazine* has a symmetry all its own.

Not only is Tim, BFA'89, an award-winning artist in his own right who has exhibited and

published throughout the United States, but he is the son of Robert U. Guthrie, founding editor of the new magazine's predecessor, *WINDOW*.

Tim is a visual arts, oil painting and digital imaging instructor at Western Nevada Community College. His Web sites (<http://www.wncc.nevada.edu/~tguthrie> and <http://www.scs.unr.edu/~tguthrie>) best reveal Tim's own special art of the portrait.

In the medium of our inaugural cover, however, Guthrie reverts to the more traditional portrait and paints a likeness of Creighton's first-ever governor, Mike Johanns.

Thanks, Tim, for sharing your talent with us — and so fittingly helping us launch *WINDOW*'s successor, *Creighton University Magazine*.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



When we began the Creighton 2000 Campaign a few years ago, our goal was to make Creighton the outstanding comprehensive Jesuit university in the United States.

I think we attained that goal, primarily because of the great people who are Creighton University — exceptional faculty, talented staff, committed administrators, wonderful students and you, our alumni, friends and supporters. It is an honor to be associated with you. You make it difficult to say goodbye to Creighton.

I have announced that I will resign effective June 30, 2000, unless a successor is appointed sooner. At that time, I will have been president of Creighton for 19 years.

I am proud of what Creighton has become in the years since 1981, when I took over as president. Our endowment has grown from less than \$20 million to more than \$200 million. The campus has blossomed. We have an excellent academic reputation. The future looks bright, but there are things I want to do to be sure Creighton is in the best position for the new president.

Among the challenges ahead: Competition is intense for the best students, for gift income and for patient referrals to our clinics. Higher education must keep pace with changes in the ways people live, work and learn. To meet these challenges, the University's top administrators will spend several days in late August charting a course for the future. As part of their work, they will review information that was gathered in a May 12, 1999, all-university planning day.

Five hundred sixty-seven faculty, staff and administrators met to hear the reports of 18 planning committees that worked for a year on ideas for a better Creighton. The results from the day's discussions and feedback sheets have been analyzed and prepared for consideration by our strategic planners.

The goal is for Creighton to enter the new millennium with a clear sense of direction — with a strategic plan and the resources to carry it out. As we grow and change to meet the future, it will be important that we keep sight of our heritage

and core values. The characteristics of Jesuit education, Creighton's Mission Statement, and the values from our Judeo-Christian heritage make up the compass that will guide us into an exciting future.

We emphasize four characteristics of Jesuit education:

1. The highest quality educational experience;
2. The education of the whole person;
3. An education that is committed to and leads to service;
4. An emphasis on values.

Creighton's Mission Statement says: "Creighton exists for students and learning ... Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton." In addition to these institutional values, we teach values that arise from our Judeo-Christian heritage:

1. A respect for each individual as a child of God;
2. A respect for all of God's creation;
3. A special concern for the poor; and
4. The pursuit of justice.

I hope that you enjoy this inaugural issue of *Creighton University Magazine*. We are excited about this publication, which replaces *Alumnews* and *WINDOW* magazine.

We combined the publications, both of which were sent to the same audience, to provide you with a better, more comprehensive magazine and to make the best use of our resources.

In this issue, you will read about Creighton's first alum to be elected governor, Gov. Mike Johanns of Nebraska. Also, Ruth Purtilo, Ph.D., writes compelling tales of moral courage. You will find the latest news about medical research into peptides and many other fascinating items about Creighton people and programs.

God bless you.

Michael G. Morrison SJ

FR. MORRISON ANNOUNCES HIS RESIGNATION

Creighton University President the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., has announced his resignation as president effective June 30, 2000, unless a successor is appointed sooner.

Fr. Morrison is Creighton's longest-serving president, having been in the post since 1981. Fr. Morrison is the University's 22nd chief executive. Previously, the longevity record was held by the Rev. Michael J. Dowling, S.J., who served from 1885 to 1889 and from 1898 to 1908.

"I have enjoyed my years at Creighton and I hope that I helped young people get a quality Jesuit and Catholic education," Fr. Morrison said. He plans to take a one-year sabbatical after he leaves office. Creighton's board of directors is responsible for finding a successor.

Fr. Morrison has shaken hands with more than 24,500 graduates of Creighton University and has signed about 44 percent of the degrees conferred by Creighton during its 121-year history.

Fr. Morrison, 62, entered the Society of Jesus in 1955 and was ordained in 1968. He has earned degrees in philosophy, history and theology and completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1971.

He began his administrative career as assistant vice president for academic affairs at Marquette. He came to Creighton in 1977 as the vice president for academic affairs. In August of 1981, Fr.

Morrison began serving as acting president of Creighton. In December of that year he dropped the term "acting."

Under Fr. Morrison's leadership, Creighton has been ranked highly in many publications, including *Money*, *Changing Times* and *Barron's*. This year, Creighton ranked

terms of endowment, quality of students and campus improvements," said Richard McCormick, immediate past chairman of Creighton University's board of directors.

"While Father Morrison has done much to make sure young people received an

under Fr. Morrison's leadership has grown from less than \$20 million when he took office to its current level of more than \$200 million. Creighton surpassed its goal of \$100 million in its most recent capital campaign for a total of \$127 million raised.

"I am pleased with the increase in Creighton's endowment. In order for the University to succeed in the next century, a strong endowment is essential," said Fr. Morrison.

He has overseen construction of 10 new buildings, including the McGloin residence hall, which opened last year, and the University's showcase for fine and performing arts, the Lied Education Center for the Arts.

"As past chairman of Creighton's board of directors, I have seen the difference that Father Morrison has made. Because of his dedication, Creighton University was able to grow and prepare for the future. Thanks to Father Morrison's dedication, the University has made great strides over the past 18 years," said Walter Scott, chairman of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and chairman emeritus of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc.

"Father Morrison made good on his commitment to keep Creighton's education affordable. The new construction and improvements to the campus will stand as testaments to his leadership," said Scott, who served as Creighton board chairman from 1990 to 1996.

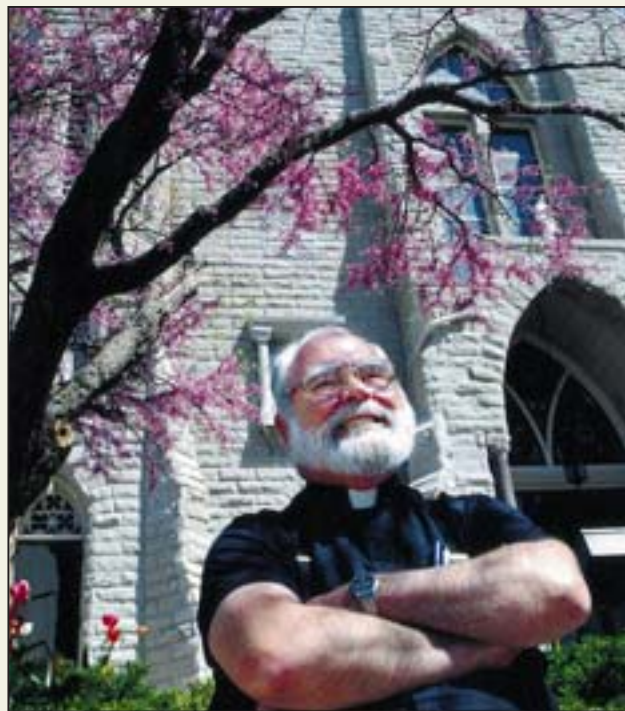


Photo courtesy of Omaha World-Herald

Fr. Morrison is Creighton's longest-serving president, having been in the post since 1981. Over the years, Fr. Morrison oftentimes could be found sitting in front of St. John's Church visiting with students.

No. 1 for the third consecutive year among Midwestern universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* 1999 "America's Best Colleges" edition.

"Father Morrison has presided over a period of unprecedented growth at Creighton University, in

excellent education at Creighton, he also made it possible for the University to continue to provide quality education in the next century by helping to build the University's endowment," said McCormick, chairman of U S WEST Inc.

Creighton's endowment

CREIGHTON'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Creighton University Vice President for Health Sciences Richard L. O'Brien, M.D., has announced that he will retire from his executive position effective Oct. 1, 1999.

Dr. O'Brien has served as vice president for 15 years. He will continue as professor of medicine and a member of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. He intends to focus on research and teaching of health policy and its effects on practice and education in the health sciences.

"Dick O'Brien has led Creighton's medical center through some difficult times," said the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., Creighton president. "But we have enjoyed tremendous accomplishments during his tenure. He has worked diligently to forge partnerships with other health care organizations as we continue to evolve with the health care market."

"It has been a great 15 years," Dr. O'Brien said. "I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with the president, the board, the deans and the faculty of Creighton. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience, and I believe together we have enhanced Creighton in support of students, faculty and patients. I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement here as a faculty member."

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., dean of Creighton's School of Medicine, will serve as interim vice president during the search to fill the permanent position.

Dr. O'Brien earned a master's and a medical degree from Creighton. He served an internship and residency at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship funded by the National



Photo by Kent Sievers

Institutes of Health at the Institute for Enzyme Research at the University of Wisconsin. He also completed a Special Fellowship at the National Cancer Institute at the University of Southern California.

Dr. O'Brien was on the faculty at the University of Southern California from 1966 to 1982. He began as an assistant professor of pathol-

ogy and became a professor of pathology there. He returned to Creighton in 1982 as dean of Creighton's School of Medicine and held a faculty appointment as a professor of medicine and medical microbiology. In 1984 he became acting vice president for health sciences and a year later took over that position while continuing to serve as medical dean until 1992.

CREIGHTON MOURNS LOSS OF DR. AND MRS. FITZGIBBONS

Dr. Robert J. Fitzgibbons, BSM'42, MD'43, a longtime professor in Creighton's School of Medicine, and his wife, Mary Jane, died July 21 in an accident at their Omaha home.

Police said a car in an attached garage apparently had accidentally been left running. Dr. and Mrs. Fitzgibbons were found dead inside their home from carbon-monoxide poisoning.

Dr. Fitzgibbons had been on Creighton's faculty since

1948. He received the School of Medicine's first Crystal



Dr. Fitzgibbons received the Crystal Caduceus Award in 1997.

Caduceus Award in 1997 and the University's Distinguished Service Award in 1990.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitzgibbons were the parents of eight children, seven of whom graduated from Creighton and six of whom graduated from the School of Medicine.

Son Robert Fitzgibbons Jr., MD'74, holds the Dr. Harry E. Stuckenhoff Chair in Surgery at Creighton and serves as interim chair of the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Fitzgibbons Sr. was president of the Saint Joseph Hospital staff, president of the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society, president of the Midwest Clinical Society, member of the Creighton University Medical Alumni Advisory Board, commander in the U.S. Navy and member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society.

Mrs. Fitzgibbons volunteered at St. Margaret Mary's school and church and with the Christ Child Society.

CREIGHTON DEDICATES NEW GREENHOUSE



Photo by Patty Perry

Susan and Jim Stuppy outside the new Greenhouse.

A dedication ceremony for Creighton University's newest learning center, the Susan Tracy Stuppy Greenhouse, was held April 20. The Stuppy Greenhouse is located on the north side of the College of Business Administration Eppley Building.

The Greenhouse was given to Creighton by **Jim Stuppy, BSBA'67**, and **Susan (Tracy) Stuppy, BSN'68**, of Kansas City, Mo. The couple is involved in the floral supply and greenhouse manufacturing industry in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois.

Both teaching and research in the biology and environmental science programs will be supported in the facility. The Greenhouse is separated into two wings. The West House will be used for research projects and a teaching collection to show plant diversity. The East House will be used primarily for research and includes aquatic plants among the collection. A small arboretum area located outside the building has plants native to Nebraska, particularly grassland species.

JESUIT UPDATE BY FR. WILLIAM KELLEY, S.J.

Frs. **Bob Brodzeller** and **Harry Eglsaer**, chaplains at Bergan Mercy Hospital, will take up permanent residence with the Creighton Jesuit Community.

Fr. **Neil Cahill** has been recuperating at Mercy Care Center. Also living at Mercy Care are **Bishop John Sheets**,

Frs. **Tom Halley** and **Thomas C. Donohoe**, and **Brother Paul Kemper**.

Fr. **Greg Carlson** will occupy the Miller Chair at John Carroll University in Cleveland for the 1999-2000 school year.

Fr. **James Egan** will be in Uganda, Africa, on a

three-year mission assignment.

Fr. **Gene Jakubek** continues his busy schedule of broadcasting on Omaha's CoxTV, channel 23, and on FM radio 88.9.

Fr. **Charles Kestermeier** is continuing his research for the next edition of his bibliography on a French author.

Fr. **Thomas Krettek** was selected to be the Wisconsin Province Delegate to the worldwide Procurators Congregation in Rome in September.

Fr. **Norbert J. Lemke** was a chaplain at the Sacred Heart Benedictine Monastery in Yankton, S.D., this summer.

Fr. **Michael Proterra**, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was elected to the board of directors of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Fr. Proterra began his full-time university teaching career at St. Joseph's

as a regent in his early years of Jesuit formation.

Brother Edward Stetzen, **Fr. Larry Flanagan** and **Fr. Harry Eglsaer** are celebrating their 60th year in the Jesuit Order (1939-1999).

Fr. **Joseph Weiss** will join the faculty of the University of Notre Dame as associate director for the Center for Pastoral Liturgy.

Fr. **Andy Alexander** and **Maureen Waldron, BA'75, MA'98**, of the Collaborative Ministry Office made a presentation in New Orleans to HERO, the Rectors of the 28 American Jesuit colleges and universities, on the role of the Rector and the Jesuit Community in the Jesuit/Lay partnership in the mission and identity of Jesuit schools.

Fr. **David Schultenover** will be spending his sabbatical doing research at St. John's College in Collegeville, Minn.

OSTEOPOROSIS STUDY FOCUSES ON KIDS

Healthy children in the Omaha area have helped in a research project by having their heels scanned to indicate bone density. Creighton University osteoporosis researchers took ultrasound measurements of girls and boys to compile data on healthy children that will be used as comparisons in studies examining bone growth and development. **Joan Lappe, Ph.D., R.N.**, associate professor at Creighton, says that this information will help fight the bone disease osteoporosis.

The researchers use ultrasound, or sound waves, to measure the bone in the heel. This method is painless and risk free. Children place a foot in a water bath and sound waves run through their heel bone. The sound waves are monitored on a computer screen.

"Although osteoporosis is a disease that usually affects older people, the foundation for preventing it is built in adolescence," Lappe said. "Through our research, we are trying to better understand what will strengthen that foundation."

FINDING ANSWERS TO TOUGH TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

Creighton University will host "The Conference on IT in the Workplace (ITW): Opportunities, Challenges and Solutions," Sept. 13-14 at the Embassy Suites in Omaha's Old Market.

Uma Gupta, Ph.D., holder of the Jack and Joan McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology Management, and Leslie Byers, director of information technology at the *Omaha World-Herald*, are the co-chairs of the event.

The conference is designed to help employers and individuals gain valuable knowledge in the areas of recruitment, retention and career development, which are crucial to the expanding information technology industry.

The list of speakers for the conference includes: Dr. Anita Borg, a member of the research staff at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center; Joyce Wycoff, the founding director of the Innovation Network; Nancy Ramsey, co-author of *The Futures of Women: Scenarios for the 21st Century*; David Russo, vice president of human resources for the SAS Institute, and many more.

The cost of the conference is \$299 per person. For more information, contact: Colleen Hendrick, College of Business Administration, at (402) 280-5520 or <http://itw.creighton.edu/itw>.

NEW DEAN READY TO START COOKING

When the new dean of Creighton's College of Arts and Sciences rolls up his sleeves this fall, he may be preparing to tackle a difficult administrative issue ... or the ingredients to a mouth watering pan of lasagna.

"I love cooking," said the Rev. Albert A. Agresti, S.J., who became dean of Creighton's largest college July 1. "The thing about cooking is it's very concrete, very tactile. I can spend a couple of hours in the kitchen and produce something, and then I can enjoy it with people."

Fr. Agresti replaces the Rev. Michael Proterra, S.J., who had served as dean of the College since 1988. Deans typically serve 10-year terms.

In addition to his love of cooking, Fr. Agresti is a fan of opera, symphony music and now Creighton.

The Boston native said he was "amazed" and "extraordinarily impressed" when he first visited the Creighton campus this spring to interview for the position.

"I was impressed with the physical plant; it's amazingly

compact, yet not crowded," Fr. Agresti said. "I was amazed at how much is here."

He was equally impressed with the people he met.

"I liked the feel of the place," Fr. Agresti said. "I had a real sense of people being interested in me as a person, as well as a candidate."

Fr. Agresti brings impressive credentials to the job. He was most recently associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at St. Louis University, another Jesuit school.

He holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University in psychology and other academic degrees from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., the University of San Francisco, Boston College and the University of Massachusetts.

Fr. Agresti said the complexity of the University, with its various undergraduate programs and professional schools, is what attracted him to Creighton.

"Having been a director of

a doctoral program in psychology (at Loyola University of Chicago), I'm attuned, if you will, to professional and



Photo by Don Black

pre-professional training," he said. "And one of the things that struck me about Creighton is that it really is and can be a place where professionals receive a qualitatively different kind of education — one with a strong grounding in the liberal arts and one that asks the ethical questions that professionals in business, law and medicine have to wrestle with in our society."

CREIGHTON, ALEGENT COMBINE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Creighton residents and students will learn in a new psychiatric unit at Omaha's Immanuel Medical Center that opened as part of an alliance between Creighton and Alegent Health.

In an agreement signed last summer, Creighton and Alegent combined mental

health and substance abuse services. The former Saint Joseph Center for Mental Health was closed and services were transferred to the new unit at Immanuel.

The new unit incorporates features designed to enhance healing, such as soothing colors, soft lighting, home-style

furniture and intimate reading and conversation areas.

Stan Moore, M.D., medical director of Alegent Behavioral Services and interim chairman of Creighton's Department of Psychiatry, said he anticipates serving 3,000 patients in the first year.

GRADUATES HONORED WITH ALUMNI MERIT AWARDS

College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences presented its Alumni Merit Award to **Alejandro Portes, Ph.D., BA'65**, on May 14. After graduating from Creighton in 1965, Dr. Portes earned master's and doctoral



Portes

degrees in sociology from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Portes, professor of sociology at Princeton University, is a noted scholar on Latin America and contemporary immigration to the United States. Among his most recent books, *City on the Edge, the Transformation of Miami*, co-written with Alex Stepick, won the Robert E. Park Award for best book in urban sociology. His current research is on the adaptation process of the immigrant second generation and the rise of transnational communities in the United States. In 1998, Dr. Portes was elected president of the 13,000-member American Sociological Association.

College of Business Administration

Elias J. Eliopoulos, BSBA'67, received the College of Business Administration's Alumni Merit Award on May 7. Eliopoulos earned his bachelor's degree from Creighton in 1967 and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1969.



Eliopoulos

That same year, he joined First National Bank of Omaha as a management trainee, beginning a 30-year career with the bank. He currently is an executive vice president and a member of the executive committee of First National Bank of Omaha. Eliopoulos also serves as president of First of Omaha Merchant Processing and heads the First Bankcard Center, the credit card division of First National Bank of Omaha.

Graduate School

At a May 7 ceremony, **George F. Haddix, Ph.D., MA'66**, received the Alumni Merit Award from the

Graduate School. Dr. Haddix earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1962. He received his Master of Arts in mathematics from Creighton in 1966, and his doctorate, also in mathematics, from Iowa State University. From 1969 to 1971, Dr. Haddix taught mathematics at Creighton University, then moved to HDR Systems, Inc., in Omaha, serving as president and general manager. In 1982, Dr. Haddix became president and chairman of Applied Communications, Inc., a supplier of computer software to financial institutions. Other technology companies headed by Dr. Haddix include U S WEST Network Systems Inc., of Bellevue, Wash.; Surface Systems, Inc., of St. Louis; Denver-based CSG Systems International, Inc., and CSG Systems, Inc., Omaha.

School of Dentistry

William L. Carlisle, DDS'58, received the School of Dentistry's Alumni Merit Award at the School's Spring Dental Assembly Alumni Reunion Dinner on April 16. Dr. Carlisle opened



Carlisle

a private practice in Omaha after receiving his dental degree from Creighton. He also has been an adjunct professor in Operative Dentistry at Creighton since 1959. He is a member of the American Dental Association and the

Omaha District Dental Society. Dr. Carlisle served as president of Creighton's Alumni Association in 1970 and has served in the past as an organizer and chairman of the Spring Dental Assembly.

School of Law

The Hon. James M. Murphy, BS'52, LLB'54, received the School of Law's Alumni Merit Award on Aug. 6. Judge Murphy has distinguished himself through a 40-year career in public service. Throughout his career, Murphy has practiced law, served as a Douglas County Commissioner (Omaha), chief deputy county attorney,



Murphy

District Judge for the 4th Judicial District (Omaha), presiding Judge for the 4th Judicial District and president of the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts. He retired from the District Court bench in 1997. One of his noted accomplishments while on the bench was his instigation of the current "county docket" system, still in use today. The system allows one judge to hear a case from beginning until the final judgment. After retiring from the bench, Judge Murphy became the magistrate for a new Douglas County Drug Court. This court allows non-violent drug offenders to receive treatment for their addiction and serves as an alternative to putting more people in jails.



Please Mark Your Calendar for the Annual **THANKSGIVING DAY MASS**

Thursday, Nov. 25, 1999
9 a.m. Mass

St. John's Church
Creighton University Campus

Followed by a continental breakfast
in the V.J. and Angela Skutt
Student Center

IMADA, EASTMO RECEIVE SPIRIT OF CREIGHTON AWARDS AT MAY COMMENCEMENT

The Spirit of Creighton Award is given annually to two students who represent the best qualities of the University's founders. Recipients are honored for their initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits. This highest student honor is conferred each year at May Commencement.

In 1999, College of Arts and Sciences senior Dawn Imada and School of Medicine graduate Eric Eastmo were chosen for the Spirit of Creighton.

Imada received a bachelor of science degree in biology. During her four years at Creighton, Imada was an enthusiastic volunteer on and off campus for such groups as Girls Inc. and the Omaha Public Schools Minority Internship Program. She also developed and implemented a

program that works to develop leadership skills in mildly handicapped children. Imada was the 1998 Homecoming Queen and has been very active in the Greek system. She was president of the Panhellenic Council and chair for Greek Week as well as co-chair for the Greek Standards Board. In 1996, she won the Father Schloemer Award for Freshmen and was named the Freshman Leadership Program's Woman of the Year.

Eastmo was very active in the medical school's programs. He served on the Admissions Committee, the Executive Council, the Freshman Orientation Committee and the Class of 1999 Spiritual Retreat Planning Committee. Eastmo also served as class president for two years and was a delegate for the organization of Student Representatives to the



Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Imada and Eastmo received the Spirit of Creighton Awards for 1999 at May Commencement.

American Association of Medical Colleges. He was the recipient of the Creighton Family Medical Scholarship for his fine academic performance throughout medical school, and he won the prestigious Aesculapian Award for exceptional humanitarian service during his sophomore year

and was nominated to receive the award again in his junior year. Off campus, Eastmo volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and the Make-A-Wish Foundation Fun Run.

Congratulations to Imada and Eastmo ... and the many Creighton students they represent.

TWO HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED AT MAY COMMENCEMENT

More than 1,100 students received degrees during Creighton's Commencement exercises on May 15. The University also awarded two honorary degrees.

Dennis A. O'Neal, executive vice president and treasurer of First National Bank of Omaha, received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. O'Neal has been with First National Bank of Omaha for 18 years. In 1997, he was appointed to the board of



O'Neal

directors of First National Nebraska, which is the holding company of First National Bank of Omaha. In the same year, former Gov. Ben Nelson appointed O'Neal to the board of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. O'Neal also is very active in the community. He has served as chairman of the board for Saint Joseph Hospital, Saint Joseph Center for Mental Health and Creighton Prep High School. He also has volunteered countless hours for Children's Square USA, Omaha Food Bank, Boys Club

of Omaha and Catholic Charities.

Robert M. Veatch, Ph.D., professor of medical ethics at Georgetown University, also received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Dr. Veatch has been described as a founder of modern bioethics.



Veatch

With a Master of Arts from Harvard University in Religion and Society (medical ethics) in 1970 and a Ph.D. in the same field from Harvard one year later, Dr. Veatch's

pioneering contributions to bioethics literature have touched disciplines of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, allied health and dentistry. Dr. Veatch is the author of *Death, Dying and the Biological Revolution*, and he has published more than 350 scholarly articles and continues to lead the field in the areas of death and dying, and genetics. Since 1979, Dr. Veatch has been at Georgetown University, where he also is a professor of philosophy. He also has served as director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown.

FORMER BLUEJAY USES DEGREE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Orlando “Chuckie” Johnson, at 6-6, wasn’t the tallest player on Creighton’s basketball roster when he came to Omaha in 1995. Still, the junior college transfer led the team in rebounding that season.

Johnson’s tenacity on the court was matched by his determination in the classroom.

“Some people thought I couldn’t do it (get my degree),” Johnson said, “but I proved them wrong.”

Johnson earned his sociology degree from Creighton in May 1998, a year after he finished playing basketball for the Jays.

“I made a whole lot of people proud of me when I walked across that stage,” said Johnson, who is now living in his hometown of St. Louis.

“Getting my degree is my greatest accomplishment,” Johnson said.

“It was a tough road. I had tutors. I spent extra time with my professors. Whatever it took, I was willing to go the extra mile to get my degree.”

Johnson said encouragement from people like coach Bill Barton of State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo., and Dana Altman of Creighton helped him succeed.

“The key to my success was I had a lot of people in my corner who were helping me get over the hump,” said Johnson, who turned

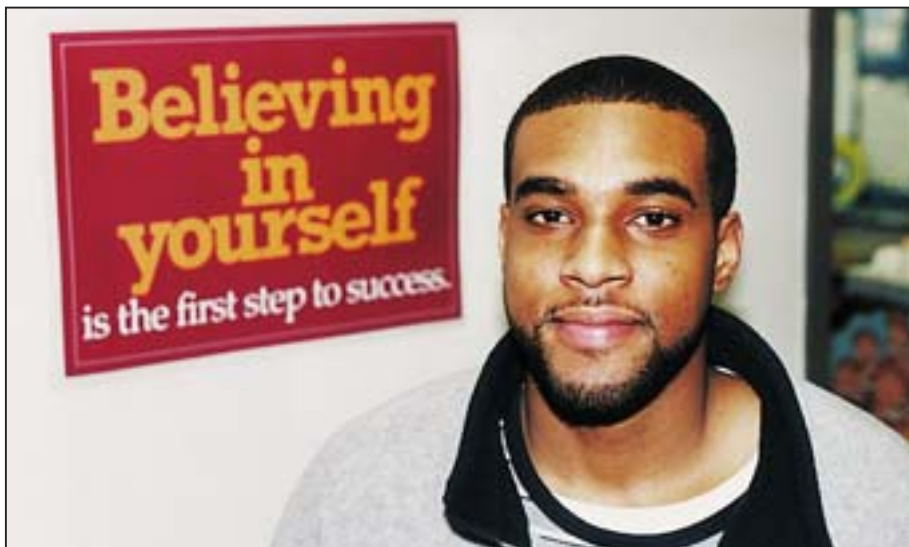


Photo by Rick Davis, BA '88

Orlando “Chuckie” Johnson, the former Bluejay, is now a psychiatric aide at Hawthorn Children’s Psychiatric Hospital in St. Louis.

“I’m interested in helping disturbed kids, mentally challenged kids to see that there’s not just a bad side to the world. You can succeed in life even if things pull you down.”

down try-out offers from professional teams in Europe after his senior season and, instead, attended summer school.

Johnson now preaches his own message of encouragement and determination to children from eastern and southeastern Missouri who suffer from mental illness.

“I’m interested in helping disturbed kids, mentally challenged kids to see that

there’s not just a bad side to the world. You can succeed in life even if things pull you down.”

Johnson is a psychiatric aide at the state-run Hawthorn Children’s Psychiatric Hospital in St. Louis — a 26-acre facility that can serve up to 50 children and adolescents on an inpatient basis. The former Creighton athlete stands tall



Photo courtesy of Creighton Sports Information

in the children’s eyes.

“They like to see me slam dunk,” Johnson said. “I’ve brought in tapes of me playing ball. It’s an easy way to relate to the kids.

“I also use my degree as an example. I tell them, ‘It might have taken me five years, but I didn’t give up.’ I try to instill that same determination in them.”

SPORTS SHORTS

A Banner Year for CU

With five postseason and four NCAA tournament appearances, in addition to numerous individual honors, 1998-99 was a banner year for Creighton athletics.

The men's soccer team won its sixth Missouri Valley Conference tournament title and made its seventh consecutive NCAA tournament appearance — the fourth-longest active streak in Division I.

The men's basketball team won the MVC tournament title and earned its first NCAA tournament berth since 1990-91, while the Creighton women received a National Invitation Tournament bid.

Creighton's softball team

won its second consecutive regular season conference title and its first MVC tournament title for an NCAA tournament berth. The baseball team advanced to the NCAA regionals for the fourth time in the '90s.

Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen said the University has been able to recruit top student-athletes, thanks to Creighton's high academic reputation and outstanding coaches.

"I think it's easy to recruit student-athletes to Creighton University," Rasmussen said. "Our student-athletes receive a quality education that's both personal and mission-based. I also think we have the best athletic staff in the league and a great group of coaches."

October

30



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**1999 Jaybacker Jamboree
Dinner/Auction Fundraiser for Athletics
Saturday, Oct. 30
Creighton University Gymnasium
Co-Chairs: Dede Johnson and Rod Kestel**

Anyone wishing to donate an auction item should contact Carol Ketcham at (402) 280-1794.

Gripp, Lewis Chosen in Draft

After leading Creighton to an NCAA regional tournament berth, third baseman Ryan Gripp and pitcher Peyton Lewis were selected in Major League Baseball's amateur draft.

Gripp was taken in the third round by the Chicago Cubs, and Lewis was selected in the 18th round by the Toronto Blue Jays.

Both Gripp, a junior, and Lewis, a fifth-year senior, made the All-Missouri Valley Conference team this past season.

Keeping Tabs on the Jays

For schedules and rosters, visit Creighton Athletics on the Internet: <http://www.creighton.edu/Athletics>. For scores and more, dial the Creighton Sports Hotline: (402) 280-5555.

STREET NAMED AFTER FORMER BLUEJAY, MAJOR LEAGUER GIBSON

Hall of Famer **Bob Gibson**, a former student-athlete at Creighton, was honored by the City of Omaha in June with the dedication of



File photo

"Bob Gibson Boulevard" just north of Rosenblatt Stadium.

Gibson played both basketball and baseball at Creighton in the 1950s. He was the first Bluejay inducted into Creighton's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1968.

Gibson, who played for 17 years with the St. Louis Cardinals, is considered

one of the best pitchers in the history of professional baseball.

His accomplishments are numerous: two-time Cy Young Award winner, two-time World Series champion, World Series MVP (1967), National League strikeout leader and MVP (1968), eight-time All-Star selection, nine-time Gold Glove winner, and Hall of Fame inductee (1981).

Gibson, an Omaha native, came to Creighton in 1953 on a basketball scholarship. Gibson averaged 20 points a

game in three varsity seasons with the Bluejays, and still ranks among Creighton's top 15 all-time scorers with 1,272 career points. On the baseball field, Gibson played mostly outfield.

After leaving Creighton, Gibson played basketball for the Harlem Globetrotters and signed with the St. Louis Cardinals. He played for three

years with the former Cardinals farm team in Omaha, near the street that now bears his name.



Gibson, with Omaha Mayor Hal Daub, and his son, Chris, at the unveiling of Bob Gibson Boulevard.

Photo courtesy of Omaha World-Herald

Creighton's First Governor

by Steve Kline

Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, JD'74, is the first Creighton University alum elected to a state governorship. And he is the first Roman Catholic to serve as governor of Nebraska. Johanns, a Republican, defeated Democrat Bill Hoppner in the November 1998 governor's race. Prior to that, Johanns served two terms as mayor of Lincoln. Creighton University Magazine Executive Editor Steve Kline interviewed Gov. Johanns at the Governor's Mansion in Lincoln for the following story.

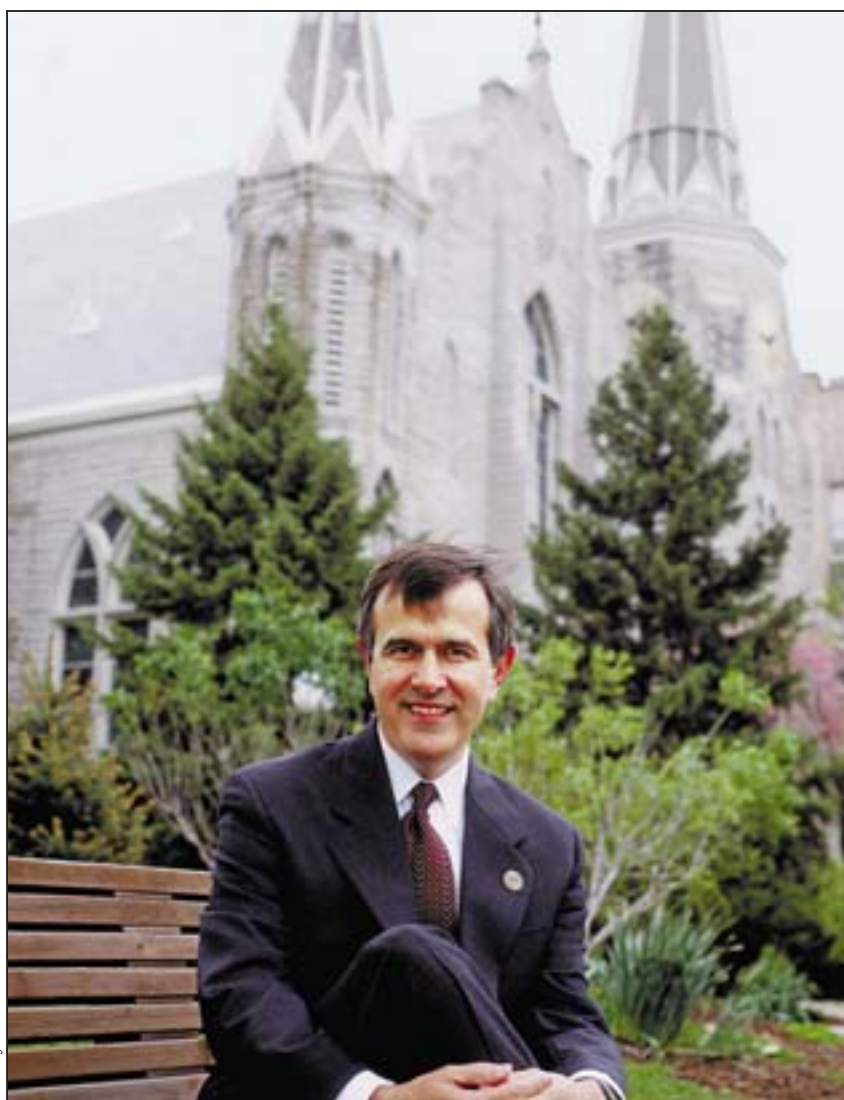


Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Johanns sits outside St. John's Church during a recent visit to campus.

It was just a little straight talk from a good friend.

And it turned out to be a key to the making of a governor.

Fall 1971 at the Creighton University School of Law: A discouraged first-year student, 21-year-old Iowa farm boy Mike Johanns, was about to quit.

"A few weeks into it, I just decided that enough was enough. I didn't think I was going to be able to cut it. And I was ready to pack it up and head back home and do whatever," Johanns said. Well, whatever "whatever" might have been, the Iowa farm boy never had the chance to find out. He stayed at Creighton, received his law degree in 1974, and in 1998, Mike Johanns was elected governor of Nebraska.

Had it not been for Johanns' roommate/classmate David L. Buelt, JD'74 and now an attorney in Omaha, someone else might be running the state's executive branch.

Back to 1971:

"I said to Dave, 'I'm heading home. I'm going to drive back tonight,'" Johanns said.

"And he said, 'Now, you sit down. Now think about this.' He said, 'I've been your roommate for three years during college. I know how hard

you've worked. If you don't stick out the first semester and see how you do, I know you well enough to know you'll spend your whole life wondering if you could have made it.' And he said, 'I don't think you want to live through that,'" Johanns said.

"Even though I desperately wanted out at that point, I decided to stick it out to the end of the semester. I did reasonably well at the end of my first semester, and after that did very, very well and graduated, I think, in the top 15 percent of my class," he said.



Johanns campaigns with his wife, former state Sen. Stephanie Armitage, during his run for governor.

"If Dave hadn't been there with me, I don't know what I'd be doing today," the governor said.

Buelt and the governor have remained friends through the years, through Johanns' early career, his move into public service, his switch from the Democratic to the Republican Party, his two terms as mayor of Lincoln, his run for governor.

Buelt, who is with the Omaha firm of Ellick, Jones, Buelt, Blazek & Longo, said it was not difficult to talk Johanns into

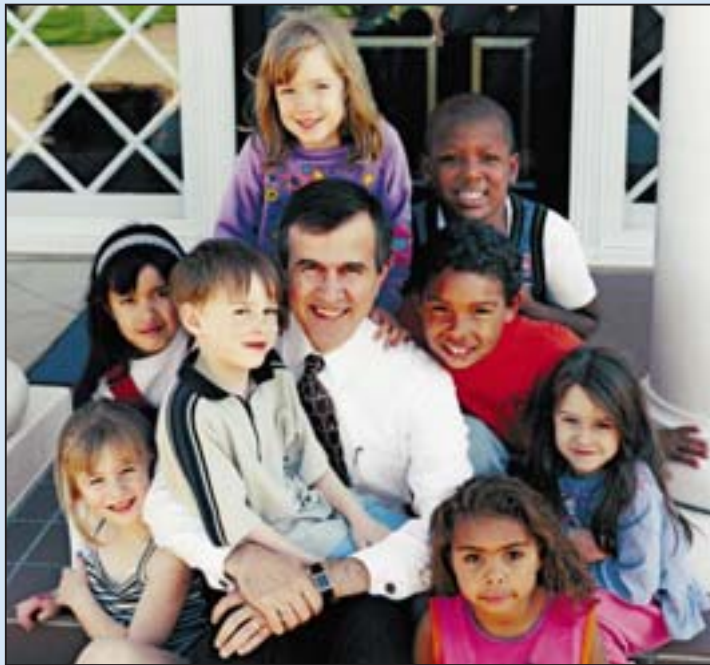
'Hey, Mayor!'

Gov. Mike Johanns patiently poses for photos on the front porch of the Governor's Mansion. It is a glorious, bright sunny afternoon in Lincoln.

Across the street, kids from Lincoln's McPhee Elementary School pass by, a noisy parade in the shadow of the state-ly, towering Capitol Building. They catch sight of the governor. But for as long as they remember, for as long as most of them have been alive, he has been mayor of Lincoln.

"It's the mayor," one of the kids says. Then louder, with a wild wave of the arm: "Hey, MAYOR!" Others join in the chant.

"Mayor! Hey! Hi, Mayor!"



Students from McPhee Elementary School in Lincoln gather around the governor. Clockwise from left are: Phalin Strong, Michelle Nguyen, Kyler Mackel (on the governor's lap), Kennedy Watson, SaVontae Brown, James Timmerman, Holly Lombard and Annette Timmerman.

On this afternoon, the governor has been the governor for about four months. He smiles. He's been standing, sitting, slinging his coat over his shoulder, leaning against the white columns in front of the Mansion, all at the beckoning of the photographer.

The kids keep shouting.

"You want to get a picture with them?" he asks.

Great idea!

Soon the kids are clustered around the

governor, grinning, mugging, sitting on his lap, throwing their arms around his neck. The governor wears a wide, patient grin. He enjoys every minute of it.

staying at Creighton.

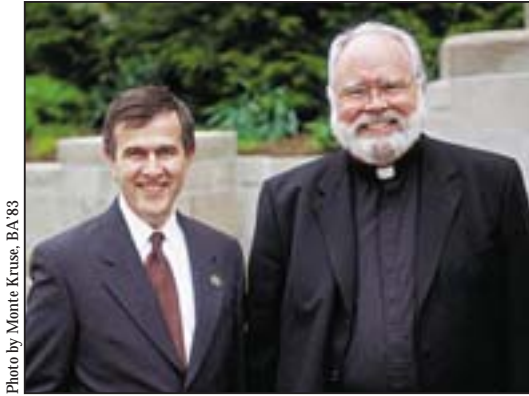
"I knew from college that Mike was not a quitter," Buelt said. "He never has been scared of hard work."

Buelt said that he, Johanns and other first-year students were frightened because they were being told that a third of the incoming class would be washed out by the end of the first year.

"The significant part of the story is that Mike did not act impulsively. He did not write a note, pack up and leave. Instead, we talked, he thought about the matter some more, and then he came to his own good decision. That was his way," Buelt said.

"Mike has always had a level head on his shoulders," Buelt added.

"Creighton is kind of what shaped Mike Johanns," the governor said, recalling his frightening, unrelenting CU professors of law. He remembered Professor Dick



Johanns visits with Creighton President the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Johanns graduated in the top 15 percent of his law school class.

Shugrue (who still teaches at the Creighton School of Law) saying to a battle-hardened ex-Marine who served in Vietnam: "You thought the Marines were tough? It ain't nothing like you're going to see here!"

Johanns said he and fellow students quaked and prayed that they would not be called upon in class. Professors like Shugrue "would stand you up and grill you for the next 50 minutes and challenge you in every way possible."

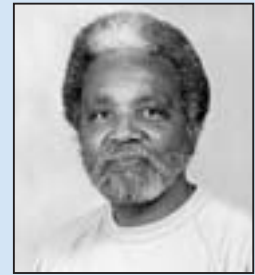
"I've done a lot of things. I campaigned for three years to become governor, while I was mayor. I never worked as hard as I did those three years at Creighton," he said. "It challenged me down to the tips of my toenails and up to the hair on the top of my head."

Professor Shugrue acknowledged that "boot camp" methods were in place when Johanns studied law at Creighton. He said that kinder and gentler motivational

The Legislature that Gov. Mike Johanns has been working with includes six Creighton University graduates



State Sen. Patrick J. Bourne, JD'97, of Omaha, representing District 8



State Sen. Ernie Chambers, BA'59, JD'78, of Omaha, representing District 11



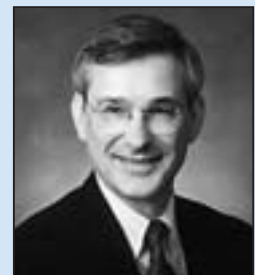
State Sen. John A. Hilgert, JD'89, of Omaha, representing District 7



State Sen. Nancy P. Thompson, BA'69, MA'82, of Papillion, representing District 14



State Sen. Gene Tyson, BSBA'58, of Norfolk, representing District 19



State Sen. William R. "Bob" Wickersham, BSBA'70, of Harrison, representing District 49

methods are used today, “although sometimes we long for the old days.”

Shugrue did not tab student Johanns as a future governor.

“He was a kid, he was a young guy, and he suffered all of the anxieties that young law students suffer. A lot of people were like that and it was important to help them take the long view,” Shugrue said. The long view involved understanding that if you were going to defend a murder suspect or protect a widow in court, you had to be sharp, prepared and tough. You needed leadership skills.

Johanns said Creighton taught him a formula for leadership.

“I am not the smartest person that has ever been governor. But I don’t think anyone is ever going to be able to say that they worked harder than me in this job. And I just find that hard work and focus and determination and discipline — all those things that I learned at Creighton — that’s the key to success,” Johanns said.

The governor repeated a saying he heard from a friend: “Successful people do those things that failures won’t.”

“There’s a lot of truth to that. Whether it’s success in their church, whether it’s success in their professional career, whether it’s success, period. They’re willing to pay an extra price,” Johanns said.

Elected officials do pay a price.

“This can be at times very difficult. I don’t enjoy picking up the morning paper and having the headline about me, and the story something you’d prefer not to read.

“But perseverance and patience will always win,” he said. “You add a dose of good hard work and you’ve got a pretty good winning combination.”

And don’t forget stamina. The governor is out of bed by 6 a.m. on most days, and his first meeting can be at 7 a.m. He is booked seven days and seven nights a week. Sixteen-hour days are very much the norm, he said.

How does he keep going?

“I don’t know, I’ve been doing it so long. I tell people that after growing up on a dairy farm with John Johanns Senior, everything in

Mike Johanns, Governor of Nebraska

BIRTHDATE: June 18, 1950

POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican since 1987. He was a Democrat prior to that.

RELIGION: Roman Catholic.

BIOGRAPHY: Michael O. Johanns was born in Osage, Iowa. Johanns received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary’s College in Winona, Minn., in 1971. He earned a law degree from Creighton University in 1974. For one year, he served as a clerk for Nebraska Supreme Court Judge Hale McCown before moving to O’Neill, Neb., in 1975 to practice law. In 1977, he became a partner in the Lincoln law firm Nelson, Johanns, Morris, Holdeman & Titus. As a Democrat, Johanns was elected to the Lancaster Board of Commissioners in 1982. He served as chairman in 1984. He left the board in 1987 and switched parties the following year. He was elected to the Lincoln City Council in 1989 as an at-large member and was first elected mayor in 1991. He is married to former state Sen. Stephanie Armitage, who had served with Johanns on the county board. Johanns has two children from a previous marriage: a son, Justin, and daughter, Michaela.

POLITICAL FACT FILE: Mike Johanns began running for governor in October 1995, six months after starting his second term as mayor of Lincoln and more than three years before the Nov. 3, 1998, general election. Johanns had defeated incumbent Bill Harris by eight percentage points in 1991 to become mayor of Lincoln. Four years later, he became the city’s first mayor to run unopposed for re-election since the 1950s.

In the 1998 Republican gubernatorial primary against U.S. Rep. Jon Christensen and State Auditor John Breslow, Johanns benefitted when Christensen was criticized by U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel and others inside his own party for sending a last-minute flyer accusing Johanns of not doing enough as mayor to remove an “obscene and racist” program from Lincoln’s public-access cable station. Johanns won the primary and in November 1998 defeated Democrat Bill Hoppner in the general election. Johanns garnered 54 percent of the vote to Hoppner’s 46 percent.



Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Johanns Tackles Tough Issues

Nebraska lawmakers made national news in May when they passed legislation to suspend imposition of the death penalty for two years while studying whether it is applied fairly. Gov. Mike Johanns vetoed the bill, LB 76, and its accompanying appropriations bill, LB 76A.

In late May, lawmakers restored funding for the study, but the moratorium veto stood, meaning death sentences will continue to be carried out in Nebraska. The death penalty is a hot-button issue, especially among the governor's fellow Roman Catholics. All three Roman Catholic Bishops in Nebraska earlier this year urged Johanns to grant clemency to convicted murderer Randy Reeves. Johanns did not grant clemency. In his veto message, Johanns acknowledged that he had listened to the views of church leaders, among others, as he made his decision to veto LB 76.

"As governor, I have taken an oath to uphold the law of the state of Nebraska. In Nebraska, that law includes the death penalty," Johanns said when asked how he reconciles his faith and his stand on the death penalty. "On a personal level, I am faced with decisions that are driven by my background and faith. On a professional level, I will honor my oath to the citizens of Nebraska and discharge my responsibility to uphold Nebraska laws."

Johanns is proud of his accomplishments during his first go-round with the Nebraska Legislature, which in recent years has experienced some bumpy relationships with governors.

Several pieces of the governor's crime package were adopted, including his bill providing tougher penalties for methamphetamine and amphetamine dealers. (See Scorecard, page 19.) Among other accomplishments, Johanns cited additional support for public and private higher education.

A property tax relief measure that uses a method different from the direct rebates proposed by Johanns was passed. The compromise was worked out by State Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron, who had praise for Johanns.

"Governor Johanns has had a little different approach

to his relationship with the Legislature compared to past governors," Coordsen said. "I believe that he has a flexible hands-on method. My experience has been that, after he has made a proposal, he will sit down with opponents and work out differences. I believe that he receives advice well from his support staff, but still makes the final decisions.

"And, his word is good!"

Lawmakers trust him. Good start for a "rookie," to use Johanns' own word. Even when the governor vetoed \$18 million in spending that senators sent to his desk, there were few hard feelings. State Sen. Pat Engel of South Sioux City, who sat on the Appropriations Committee that hammered out the budget, said Johanns was "fair" with the veto pen.

Johanns said the key to the session's success "was a commitment to disagree respectfully and treat each other professionally and with human dignity. It's interesting to note that these are values taught at Creighton."

State Sen. Paul Hartnett of Bellevue, a retired Creighton University faculty member, said Johanns' style helped.

"He's really a pretty good listener," Hartnett said.

Hartnett said that Johanns worked hard to reach agreement on property tax relief, which he labeled as Johanns' greatest achievement of the session.

What are the most compelling issues facing Nebraskans under

Johanns' governorship?

"Education ... a continued investment in the state in education, both public and private," Johanns said.

Other issues he ticked off included keeping Nebraskans in Nebraska and "growing our population."

"The tax burden ties right into that. We need to be smart about how we're spending our money," Johanns said.

And the governor said Nebraska families need continued support.

"As mayor, when we dealt with problems of juveniles, I always felt if we had some semblance of family structure there, we had a running chance."



Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Johanns vetoed a bill to suspend the death penalty and pushed for tougher crime legislation.

life has been easy after that,” Johanns said. Then, after a pause: “It doesn’t seem that bad.”

If Creighton shaped Johanns into a leader, the good solid raw material that took the shape so effectively was nurtured on the Johanns family farm near Osage, Iowa. Johanns grew up in the 1950s and 1960s accustomed to early rising and a long list of chores. His family lived out values that are reflected in the Creighton University Mission.

It was not a particularly political family, Johanns said.

“My parents were very caring individuals. I had a cousin that lived with us while there were some tough things going on in his family, so he just came to live with us. I had an uncle who had a problem with alcohol. He came to live with us. I had a classmate in high school whose parents were struggling through some things, and he came to live with us.

“We were a conservative Catholic family. But the lesson kind of was, ‘You look out for your fellow man.’

“You know, when the neighbor got hurt or we had a tornado go through our area at one point, we all pitched together. If the neighbor was hurt or sick, you harvested the neighbor’s crops, or planted them,” Johanns said.

An important role model for young Mike Johanns was an Osage-area lawyer named Joe Casey. He was admired and respected by Johanns’ parents.

“Somewhere along the line I decided I kind of wanted to be like him. Why do it? It is about service,”

Johanns said. The governor said he hoped that he would be remembered for commitment to service and his conservative political philosophy. It is important, Johanns said, to conduct himself honorably in his personal and public life.

“I hope when my kids and grandkids are here and I’m not, that people will say that the name ‘Johanns’ means something,” the governor said.

In just a few short years, the name has come to mean much in Nebraska. The new governor “is a thoroughly studied actor on the political scene,” Professor Shugrue said. It took careful planning, dogged persistence, untiring campaign skills for Johanns to do away with several powerful opponents in the GOP gubernatorial primary, Shugrue pointed out.

The opponents included former State Auditor John Breslow, who had a huge funding advantage, and former U.S. Rep. Jon Christensen, who was hurt late in the campaign when he mailed out a flyer that even fellow Republicans viewed as an unfair attack on Johanns.

“He (Johanns) had to start early and remain very tenacious,” Shugrue said.

That sounds a lot like the Johanns formula for getting through the farm chores, or for sticking with it to finish a law degree at Creighton.

— *About the author: Steve Kline is director of public relations at Creighton and executive editor of Creighton University Magazine. He can be reached via e-mail at skline@creighton.edu.*

Johanns’ Legislative Scorecard

How the Governor’s Crime Initiative Fared in the 1999 Nebraska Legislative Session

LB 186 Post-conviction proceedings would be limited to one round and would need to be initiated within three years of the date the conviction became final. **Status:** *Referred to Judiciary Committee.*

LB 159 A person convicted of a felony committed in the course of gang activity would be subject to tougher penalties.

Would have Nebraska use federal law definitions of “gang” and “gang activity.” Would make information about juveniles convicted of crimes more readily available to law enforcement. **Status:** *Referred to Judiciary Committee.*


LB 299 Would provide longer sentences for offenders dealing in amphetamines and

methamphetamines, similar to those now provided for crack, cocaine and heroin dealers. **Status:** *Signed into law.*

LB 79 Would toughen penalties for people convicted of using computers to commit crimes. **Status:** *Referred to Judiciary Committee.*

LB 111 Would redefine “person” for purposes

of homicide statutes to recognize unborn children as potential victims of homicidal acts, without affecting existing abortion statutes. **Status:** *Referred to Judiciary Committee.*

LB 185 Would make extensive revisions in handling of legal actions filed by prisoners. **Status:** *Referred to Judiciary Committee.* 

Step Up, Speak Out, Stand Firm!



Moral Courage

Lessons from South Africa



By Ruth B. Purtilo, Ph.D.

*Director and Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Professor,
Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics*

I'm often asked: "How did you become interested in the study of moral courage?" My answer is straightforward: I want to learn how to become courageous myself



Ruth Purtilo, Ph.D.

and, as an educator, help cultivate this powerful virtue in students and others. I'm encouraged by the many apparently common, ordinary people who are remarkable for their ability to act purposefully in order to uphold or create something of moral and social worth. They seem prepared to act, even in high-risk situations that engender realistic fear. Depending on the nature of the challenge, their courageous response flows from a resolve to step up, speak out or stand firm.

During the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of following the lives and actions of many South Africans who have courageously fought the unjust laws of apartheid. They are young and old, men and women, well-to-do and unemployed,

people classified there as white, coloured or black. Their common denominator: a "conviction that they feel they should do what they could to see justice done."

My most recent visit to South Africa last winter, made possible through a Greenwall Foundation grant, had as its expressed purpose to record, through 31 in-depth interviews, stories of moral courage —

Their common denominator: a "conviction that they feel they should do what they could to see justice done."

courage motivated by the desire to serve the good of the whole community.

Those interviewed were at first hesitant, almost embarrassed, to be characterized as exemplars of moral courage. However, when I told them that their stories may help others make some of the same choices, most became far less reticent. I discovered five common

themes that arose time and again. I call these the "preparations" for morally courageous action. They are the reasons people gave for getting involved in the struggle against apartheid in the first place and, more importantly, why they persevered through harrowing experiences and, sometimes, over many years.

PREPARATIONS FOR COURAGEOUS ACTION

1. Name the Seriousness of the Situation

Almost everyone who resisted apartheid emphasized how they had to consciously acknowledge apartheid as such a serious threat to the human community that it called for serious personal action. Often a particular incident startled them into acknowledgment: "Suddenly it crashed in on me, the realization that I was allowing...", "After the police left, I saw my mother's face."

Some had learned from parents or religious leaders that resistance was necessary. A white, middle-aged newspaper reporter said, "We lived in a wealthy white suburb,

but my dad was a doctor at Baragwanath (the hospital for Black Africans in Soweto), and an activist. From the time I was a toddler, our family prayers focused on all who suffered under the weight of apartheid.” A Zulu farmer recalled, “We lived in a one-room shack with no heat or hot water, but my dad and uncle told us kids daily that what the white government was doing hurt everyone, even the white people, and had to be resisted.”

Did their recognition of apartheid injustices grow out of an especially keen sensitivity to morality that could not be expected of the rest of us? Perhaps. But, from those interviewed, I concluded that this acknowledgment of wrongdoing could have been made by anyone. After all, the extremely cruel situations directly associated with apartheid laws, policies and practices were visible to anyone who chose to look.

2. Believe that Good will Prevail over Wrongdoing

A second theme was the deep conviction that the apartheid system would and could not sustain itself. In short, good would prevail. At the same time, none of those interviewed were sure they would personally see apartheid’s demise. Their conduct was more akin to “hoping faith,” the definition of moral courage by Catholic theologian Karl Rahner.

Many interviewees based their certainty (and the strength that came from it) on religious beliefs. One “Cape coloured” woman exclaimed, in broken English, “Lady, we are all children of God, and in that way we are equal — black, white, green or any other

color!” Later that day, I met with the son of a powerful Afrikaans supporter of apartheid. He led me to a far corner of his veranda where the sea crashed far below. The long afternoon sun was beginning to disappear behind Table Mountain. We stood silent for some time before he, an outspoken opponent of apartheid, said, “Just look at the beauty I grew up with. You tell me

how a good and just God could condone what has come to pass in this beautiful country. Apartheid is not the work of God. It is evil. It can’t last.”

Their certainty was complemented by another insight, namely that good would prevail because the perpetrators were mere mortals like themselves, not all-powerful. Strength for their lowest hours



Photo by Sam Nzima

This gripping photo by former photojournalist Sam Nzima (pronounced Z-ma) captured the attention of the world in June 1976. It shows a young boy, bleeding from the mouth, being carried by a fellow student after apartheid police had opened fire on unarmed schoolchildren in Soweto. Running alongside crying is the young boy’s sister. (See box, page 22.)

arose from recognition that the perpetrators seemed so unconvinced of the ideas they were defending, or were so ill organized or scared themselves, that apartheid could not survive. Many, but not all, described this realization as a kind of grace reserved for such a crisis moment. Almost everyone identified the deep, shared humanity of the perpetrators as a prompt to persist.

Gille de Vlieg, for instance, had been among the upper-middle class of white South Africa. Her journey of resistance took shape initially

through her involvement in the Black Sash, an organization of wealthy and influential women who protested and lobbied for an end to apartheid — often targeting family members, friends or acquaintances in Parliament or other government positions.

I studied her beautiful face, her worldly sophistication. It was difficult to imagine her in a cramped, dirt-floor cell of a makeshift political prison. She admitted that facing imprisonment had been a possibility she had dreaded, and when she was arrested (held beyond the usual

two weeks, up to six, then eight), she fought despair. “However,” she said, “I became aware that I was a source of great embarrassment to the prison guards and others who had to watch over me. The guards were so apologetic and clumsy that eventually I became less and less afraid, and more and more bold in my resolve that I would fight apartheid to the finish.”

Others laid claim to finding strength in a long history of questioning authority, or in the belief that every human encounter is an opportunity to touch another in a

The Horror of Apartheid

Perhaps no image captures the brutality and horror of apartheid rule like this heart-wrenching photo by former photojournalist Sam Nzima.

The photo shows 12-year-old Hector Petersen being carried by a school-mate, Mbuyisa Makhubu, after being shot by apartheid police on June 16, 1976. Petersen’s distraught sister, Antoinette, is running alongside.

Schoolchildren in the South African township of Soweto had been marching that day in protest against the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in their segregated schools.

“Their march was a peaceful one from the beginning,” Nzima later told South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. “They were carrying placards on which were written: ‘We are not

educated but certificated,’ ‘Afrikaans must be abolished,’ ‘We are being fed by the crumbs of education.’”



Nzima displays his dramatic picture from the 1976 Soweto uprising.

Nzima told the Commission that the police gave the students three minutes to disperse. When the students refused to leave, one of the officers “pulled out his firearm, and he shot directly at the

students. Now all hell broke loose. All these policemen were shooting at the students randomly.”

The resulting carnage touched off months of violence. Hundreds were killed. Nzima was harassed by police, quit his job at the newspaper and went into hiding. Petersen, who was fatally wounded, was the first casualty in the uprising — which has been described as one of the defining moments in South Africa’s recent history.

Nzima’s picture was reprinted in newspapers and magazines around the world and became a symbol of South Africa’s apartheid oppression. Paul Velasco, the current picture editor at the *Sowetan*, South Africa’s largest daily newspaper, said the picture remains one of “the single most important images to emerge from the South African struggle.”

mutually beneficial way. In short, the common denominator was their feeling of renewed strength at a time when they were faced with what they had feared most. A governing component of their steadfastness had been the ability to look their perpetrator in the eye and see another human being as themselves, but one who was misguided and vulnerable.

3. Nurture and be Nurtured by Essential Sources of Support (“Coms”)

“Comrade” was a term I had encountered only in movies and books about militant revolutionaries. So when I heard it used over and over again (usually shortened to “com”), I finally asked what it meant. This term had come to signify all people — family, friends, allies, fellow resisters — who shared a common goal: bringing an end to apartheid injustices.

Martin (a fictitious name), who spent 12 years on the famous Robben Island unjustly convicted of treason, said: “During my years as a leader for human rights and my trial for treason, during floggings and other torture, when I was in solitary confinement and deeply depressed, on the boat trip to ‘The Island,’ I found myself saying, ‘Pray for me, father!’ All those years I could hear my priest’s promise to pray for me. He was a ‘com.’”

Gille said: “(My husband and I) would go sailing most weekends. But the more I became involved in the movement, the more I became an embarrassment to him and our friends in the sailing world. Tembisa (a black township near Jan Smuts Airport north of Johannesburg) had become a very important place for me to be. They accepted

me. Invited me into their homes. I went to their public meetings and I was going to their funerals; people came to know me all over that township. They didn’t know where I lived or anything, but we were ‘coms’ because we were all part of the struggle.”

Three academics (two physicians and a Nobel laureate human anatomist) persevered for 10 years to bring to accountability their fellow physicians who had lied about the cause of death of a young activist, Stephen Biko. One of the physicians, Dr. Trefor Jenkins, said they were able to stay the course through threats on their lives,

ostracism by colleagues, harassment and eventually a lawsuit by their own professional organization, by relying on “each other, of course, family, friends at home and around the world, even people who anonymously sent funds for our defense when our own had been exhausted.”

Mentors were especially praised. One old pastor told the story of a 14-year-old black teen-ager who had been tortured with electric shocks and later spoke to his church congregation — describing what it felt like, how he faked more suffering than he was actually experiencing to deter further torture, how he remembered his mother and other



Photo by AP Wide World Photos

A black youth, bleeding from his right leg, is carried away by South African police during the Soweto riots of 1976.

people who loved him. “I kept seeing the face of that young man in my parish and I thought, ‘If he survived this, I can too.’ And I did,” the pastor said.

4. *Be Prepared for the Cause You Embrace to Embrace You*

It may not be surprising that most people I interviewed had no idea at the outset how much their lives would be altered when they first acknowledged the seriousness of the situation. Resistance to apartheid was a centripetal force that drew them deeper and deeper into the cause until, for many, the cause was at the very center of their identity.

Bernard Spong went to South Africa from England to become a missionary in 1961. He was young, in his 30s. While he was aware that apartheid was inconsistent with his understanding of the Christian story, he did not know how it would affect his work directly. Bernard was soon identified as an able leader and became a general secretary of the region. But his success as

a missionary society leader was running abreast with a growing awareness “that I had to go from being needed to being accepted. People I came to serve as ‘them’ had to accept me, they had to say ‘you are one of us.’ Little did I know that this meant I also had to let them help define who I was and what I should do. Nonetheless, we worked at it together and I learned that they wanted justice. To help bring about justice, I had to have my feet in grassroots.”

“At times I was scared stiff,” Spong continued. “But I didn’t dare to pack it up and leave even though by now I had decided to cut my ties with the missionary society. Already I was getting deeply into it. I know that now because I remember asking myself, ‘Where would I go (if I were not here)?’”

At the time, there had been growing tension about the conditions of the Soweto schools. On June 16, 1976, thousands of schoolchildren in Soweto marched in protest against the government’s insistence that the Afrikaans

language be used as the medium of instruction in schools. Bernard, who had helped build a community center in Zola, deep in Soweto (“like Harlem in the U.S. or the East End in London”), remembers the day well.

“We set up a community center where young people could meet, study, et cetera,” he said. “This day I was with a local (black) pastor and five or six young people who had come there instead of going to school. Someone came in hollering, ‘Police are combing the area. If they find students, they will be detained (arrested).’ The local pastor exclaimed, ‘We’d better go!’ We gathered up the students into my old car along with the pastor. Everyone was very frightened because there were police with machine guns everywhere. On the way to the gate I thought, ‘What am I doing? I could simply drive out of here!’ When we came to the gate of Soweto, they assumed I was taking these kids to be arrested because I was a white man. They simply lifted the gate and saluted me. I saluted back. I don’t think my friends saw it, but I was shaking so hard I could hardly hold the wheel.”

Later, outside the schools, the police opened fire on the unarmed demonstrators. The carnage touched off months of violence, and hundreds were killed in the resulting riots. The day after the initial uprising, Bernard went back into Soweto to be with the families of the students who had been killed in the shooting, but this time he had to stow back in the trunk of a black South African’s car. “I smelled gas fumes. I smelled smoke. Every time the car was stopped by police I didn’t know if they would discover me in the trunk. But this time



Photo by Peter Goodman

Bernard Spong with his wife, Rykie, in their South African home. Bernard came to South Africa as a missionary in the 1960s and became involved in the struggle to end apartheid.

there was no thought, 'I could just drive out of here.' Something had broken, a barrier. You know, it's incredible how these things happen. This time, I couldn't do anything different."

Bernard and I sat on the old couch in their living room, each drinking tea. As he spoke, my eyes wandered to the African paintings and, in a dominant place, a photo of the carnage following the Soweto uprising. By the time he had finished, we had talked through most of this hot December afternoon about his more than 30 years in South Africa. Finally we lapsed into a long silence. When he spoke again he said, "All I know is that I had a vision, and, in ways I never imagined, it became an inner part of me."

5. Make Use of Ritual and Symbol

Spong's mention of "vision" was echoed by many others. One Indian nurse who had helped desegregate a local hospital said, "You hold a vision before you and then each day you work according to that, wherever you are and in whatever way you can."

I was deeply moved that their vision allowed them to be creative in honoring the cause to which they were committed when usual avenues of resistance were cut off.

Some examples: An anthropology book by a world-famous South African includes 30 blank pages as a protest to text that was censored because it was deemed too critical of apartheid. An artist in prison used "everything but food and sometimes food" that came into her cell to create mobiles and other pieces of art, reminding herself that "beauty can be made from garbage." A man named Molefe,



Photo by AP-Wide World Photos


A student protester is detained by South African police during a 1977 anti-apartheid demonstration in Johannesburg.

who as a prisoner had no human contact for several weeks, tamed a mouse as a friend "to remind me that I'm not alone." In churches, synagogues, and other places of worship the Amnesty International candle (a candle encased in barbed wire) burned prominently. Chairs at conferences, in classrooms or at board meeting tables were left empty to acknowledge members in exile, under house arrest or imprisoned. Around the world, apartheid resisters in exile set up apartheid-free zones in universities, churches, neighborhoods and other public places.

These rituals and symbols are powerful reminders that the anti-apartheid crusade for justice went beyond a particular place and time; rather it reached high into the

essence of human community. As the poet Wilferd A. Peterson prayed, "...inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny."

This article ends where it began. The powerful stories of my South African interviewees are witness of a seed of moral courage in us all. The fears and hesitance we may experience in our life challenges were expressed by virtually all the people whose lives I would now count as exemplary. They were able to step up, speak out or stand firm and successfully link arms against injustice.

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Creighton Researchers on Road

by Lori Elliott-Bartle

Medical researchers who conduct basic-science studies may work for decades in laboratories to expand knowledge. Years later those contributions may lead to improved therapy for a disease. Creighton researchers think they are on a shorter and more straightforward path from discovery to application. And the speed of its development isn't the only exciting element of the work — they have developed a compound that targets breast cancer without damaging other tissues. Along with Hungarian collaborators, Creighton researchers Sandor Lovas, Ph.D., and Richard F. Murphy, Ph.D., began the journey six years ago to develop what could become a new drug to treat breast cancer.

Tested in mice, the new peptide-based drug kills breast cancer cells in tumors. The drug also kills other cancer cells, such as prostate cancer, in culture. The drug is a combination of a peptide called GnRH-III and a polymer that protects it as it travels through the bloodstream to the cancer site. The new compound has been patented internationally.

GnRH-III is a variant of GnRH (gonadotropin-releasing hormone), a reproductive hormone found in humans. GnRH is produced in the hypothalamus and is released into the bloodstream. It travels to receptors that signal the production of other hormones, such as those that

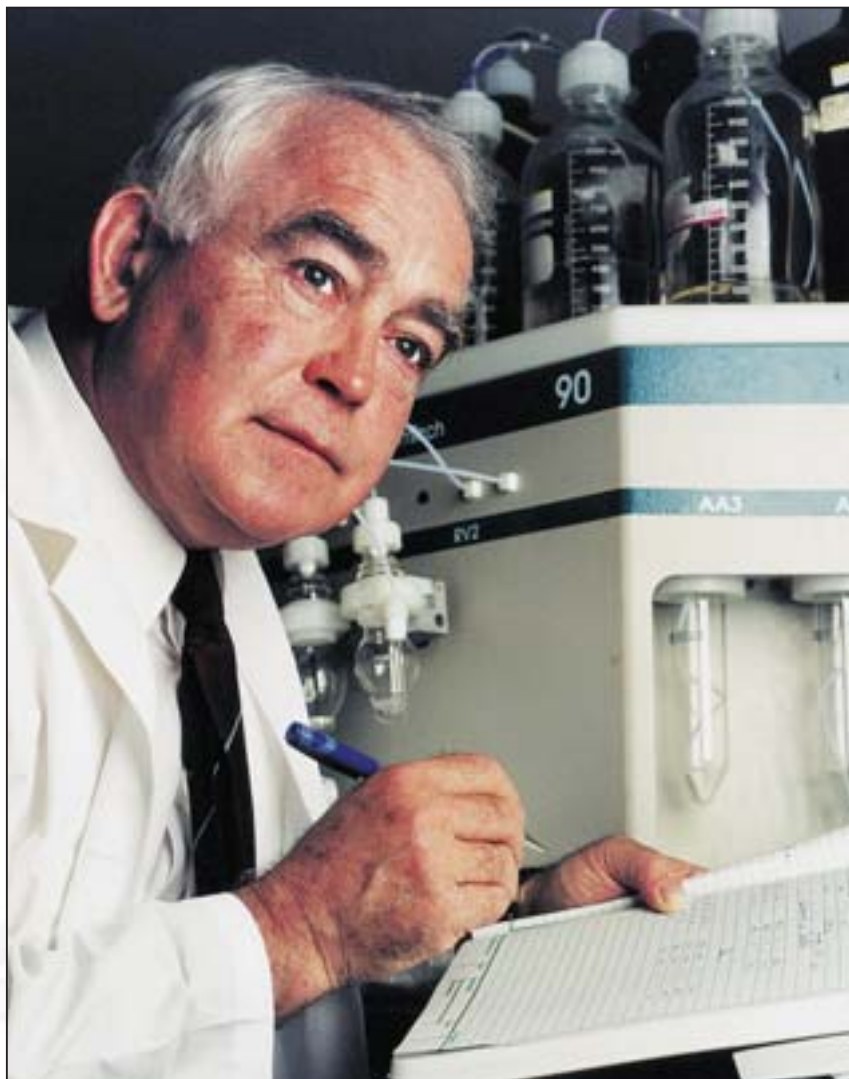


Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Dr. Murphy, who holds the Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine at Creighton, serves as a senior scientist and administrator for an international research team investigating a possible new drug to combat breast cancer.

stimulate ovulation and sperm production. Some abnormal tissues, such as cancerous tumors, also have receptors that respond to analogs of GnRH.

Researchers outside of Creighton recognize the potential in further

developing this line of research refining such analogs in cancer treatment.

“This work is promising from the standpoint of targeting particular kinds of cancer,” said Victor J. Hruby, Regents Professor of

to Developing Cancer Treatment



Dr. Lovas, a Hungarian native, connected Creighton scientists with scientists at the National Institute of Oncology and Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary.

Chemistry at the University of Arizona and editor in chief of *The Journal of Peptide Research*. “In this type of research, you’re trying to understand how to kill cancer cells without killing everything else in sight, which often

is what we do now.”

The new compound directs its toxic effect to cancerous tissue, while other tissue is seemingly unaffected.

“It is believed that the receptors for GnRH are not widely expressed

throughout the body, so the level of toxicity would be low with this compound,” said Robert Clarke, associate professor of physiology and biophysics at Georgetown University and the Vincent T. Lombardi Cancer Center. “Compounds now in use are toxic to many tissues in addition to the cancer cells. This new compound has the potential to be much more selective and therefore less toxic.”

The first steps leading to the compound’s development were taken in 1993 when J. Michael Conlon, Ph.D., professor of biomedical sciences at Creighton, collaborating with Stacia A. Sower of the University of New Hampshire, identified and characterized GnRH-III from the sea lamprey, a jawless fish of interest to peptide researchers for its place in the evolutionary chain.

Lovas, who is from Hungary, knew of scientists at the National Institute of Oncology and Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary, who were examining GnRH and its potential for treating breast cancer. He asked them to test GnRH-III.

“The GnRH-III peptide tested in breast cancer cultures was the most powerful anti-cancer peptide they had seen,” said Lovas, assistant professor of biomedical sciences.

Murphy, chair of Creighton’s Department of Biomedical Sciences, was asked to join the research team

Peptides: Messengers Between the Cells

Peptides are molecular communicators. Made of amino acids varying in composition and sequence, peptides act as messengers between cells throughout the body. Peptides play important roles in health and disease. They help regulate growth and development, the cardiovascular system, the lungs and the gastrointestinal tract.

Each peptide is uniquely shaped and each fits with a complementary receptor located on the surface of cells, much as a key fits into a lock. These configurations are highly specific and allow signals to be transmitted only between the appropriate peptides and receptor sites.

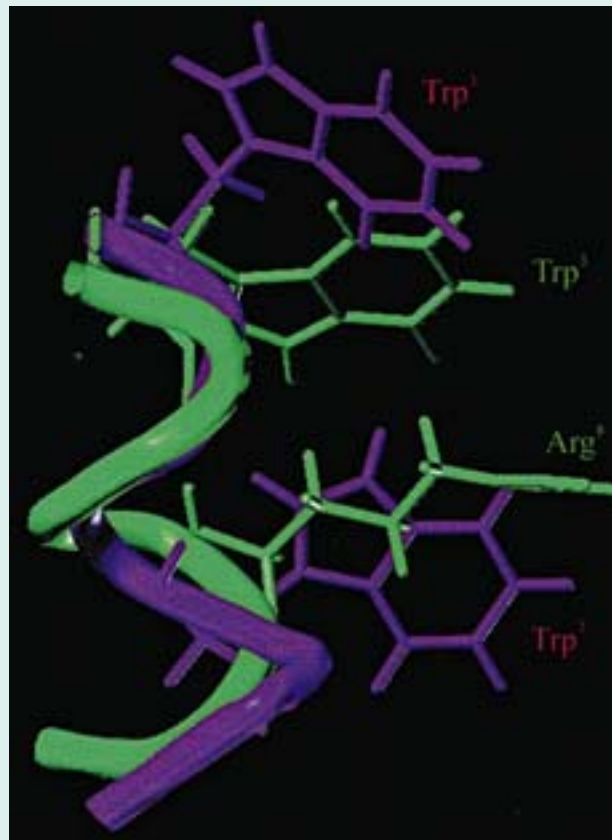
This specificity is one of the reasons Creighton researchers are so excited about their findings with the GnRH-III-based drug's action on cancer. In studies of mice with breast cancer, researchers found that the drug

did not accumulate in organs such as the liver and kidneys. The drug was specific to the receptors present in the breast

peptide hormone was identified in 1902 by scientists William Bayliss and Ernest Starling. The peptide, called secretin, is produced by the gut and causes the pancreas to release bicarbonate into the gut to neutralize acid from the stomach. It is used now in tests to diagnose endocrine tumors and is being investigated as a possible treatment for autism.

Peptides have been used therapeutically since Frederick Banting and Charles Best in 1922 discovered that insulin, a peptide hormone, could be extracted from animal tissue and injected into humans to control diabetes. Production and distribution of insulin followed shortly thereafter.

Today, peptide-based drugs are used in the treatment of diabetes, cancer and high blood pressure. Monitoring peptide levels can assist in managing diabetes and diagnosing diseases such as prostate cancer.



The difference between the GnRH-III peptide, shown above in purple, and the GnRH peptide, shown in green, is the shape of the “backbones.” Researchers attribute the conformation of GnRH-III to its superior anti-cancer activity.

did not accumulate in organs such as the liver and kidneys. The drug was specific to the receptors present in the breast cancer tumors. This specificity means that the drug is less likely to be toxic to tissues other than the cancerous tumor.

The activity of the first

as a senior scientist and administrator who could coordinate the international research and ownership agreements.

The research focused on two areas: to identify the structures and features of the peptide that contributed to its superior suppression of cancer cell growth so they could retain those properties in designing a drug; and to join the GnRH-III peptide with a synthetic polymer to protect it from enzymes in the bloodstream that can break down drugs before they reach their intended destination in the body.

After synthesizing and examining various derivatives of GnRH-III, researchers learned they couldn't improve upon the original natural design. "The synthetic analogs shared characteristics of the original peptide, but none was more active than GnRH-III in cancer cell culture," Lovas said. He attributed the superior anti-cancer activity of GnRH-III over GnRH to the differences he revealed in the molecules' conformation.

"The differences between the two molecules lie particularly in the shapes of the 'backbones,'" he explained.

The researchers also found that, in mice, GnRH-III couldn't reach the cancerous breast tumor without protection from attacking enzymes in the bloodstream.

So scientists coupled the hormone with a polymer that had been used in previous experiments to carry cancer drugs. "The polymer is a synthetic nonnatural polymer

which is nontoxic," Murphy said. "It has multiple functional groups to which we are able to attach several molecules of peptide hormone

acids — histamine release and subsequent fluid build-up and swelling.

Originally, the scientists designed the drug so the polymer would carry the peptide to the tumor and tumble off. Then the peptide would bind with its receptor. Instead, there was a stroke of scientific serendipity. The peptide, while still attached to the polymer, binds to its receptor and then the whole complex, receptor and peptide-polymer conjugate, enters the cells. Thus, there is a dual effect. The occupied receptor first sends a signal to suppress cell growth, and, once inside the cell, the polymer causes the cell to die.

Nine weeks after receiving the new compound, some mice were tumor free.

Study results were published in the prestigious *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in March. Their research showed that the compound specifically killed cancer cells rather than just halting their growth, and that it acted directly upon the tumor rather than by interacting with the pituitary gland to disrupt production of other hormones.

"The specificity for the cancer cells is a highly desirable feature of



Photo by Kent Sievers

Nine weeks after receiving the new compound, some mice were tumor free.

to form the final conjugate. The polymer is well understood and its toxicity has been well studied."

The new conjugate had powerful effects: When tested in mice it acted directly upon the tumor site, without affecting the pituitary gland. Direct action is preferred, because some hormone-based drugs damage the reproductive system by stimulating overproduction of hormones. The new compound's desirable direct activity occurred without some typical side effects of drugs composed of synthetic amino



Researchers identified and characterized GnRH-III from the sea lamprey. This primitive, jawless fish is of interest to peptide researchers because of its place in the evolutionary chain.

the compound,” said Murphy. “Also, the finding that the polymer itself, once brought into the cancer cells by the hormone, is toxic inside and kills the cells, is a further significant advantage.

“The compound gains entry to the cancer cells by binding to hormone receptors on the surface and being carried through the membrane,” Murphy continued. “Thus the drug has the combined anti-cancer effects of hormone and polymer. This design feature leads us to expect promising results when the drug is tested in humans.”

Additional reasons for optimism are that in the animal tests, the drug did not accumulate unacceptably in organs such as the kidneys and liver; and researchers have found that nearly 60 percent of breast cancer patients had receptors for GnRH in their tumors, indicating good potential for this therapy.

It’s a big leap between effective therapy in animals and effective therapy in humans, and many people are trying to do it. A recent survey conducted by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America found that more than 350 new medicines are in the pipeline to fight cancer. All of these medicines, including 63 for breast cancer, are either in human clinical trials or awaiting approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Many of the medicines use novel approaches such as vaccines, drugs that strangle the blood vessels that feed tumors, and drugs

that scramble the signal that tells cancer cells to grow.

Murphy and Lovas hope their compound will be among those new medicines of the future. They have explored the possibility of extending their research, especially the work on prostate cancer, with support from the National Cancer Institute. They also are seeking a commercial partner to assist with



Additional reasons for optimism are that in the animal tests, the drug did not accumulate unacceptably in organs such as the kidneys and liver.

further development of the drug. Future studies will expand upon the animal studies to optimize dosages and formulations. There also will be further research to measure the distribution of the drug throughout the body. So far, no toxic side effects have been observed.

“We have explored possible collaborations and hope to develop a relationship that would allow us to take this technology through the next steps,” Murphy said. “This

compound performs much better in the laboratory than its nearest rival, so we hope to develop it into a treatment that could be used in combination with other drugs, radiation and immunotherapy.

“Many of the problems one anticipates as a scientist haven’t been encountered in this work,” Murphy said. “There were never alarming gross toxicology results in

animals that would tell us not to use this compound in humans. We thought there might be antibodies developed to the compound during therapy that would counteract its effects, but there weren’t.

“It’s not often that basic scientists can see their work lead so quickly to a possible therapeutic agent,” Murphy said. “This potential is what has us so excited. I believe the rapid pace of this discovery and its development epitomizes the synergy of collaboration among researchers who offer a broad range of expertise.”

“This is very strong research done by a team that has had national and international recognition,” said Georgetown’s Clarke. “The work has been published in good journals. Now they’ll do what we’re all trying to do — to get compounds from the labs into clinical use. But based on the strength of the science I wouldn’t think they’d have much difficulty getting there.”

— *About the author: Lori Elliott-Bartle is media relations coordinator at Creighton. She can be reached via e-mail at lelliott@creighton.edu.*

Medical Student Assists in Research

Third-year medical student Charles Watts, Ph.D., has worked on aspects of the GnRH-III research with Sandor Lovas, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical sciences. Before enrolling in Creighton's School of Medicine, Watts earned a doctorate in biophysical chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Watts has investigated the structure of the GnRH-III peptide to determine why the variant found in a fish is more effective in suppressing cancer growth than the human form of the peptide. He focused on the shape differences in the two forms of the hormone and showed that they differ in the way their "backbones" twist.

"The value in that finding was that by indicating the structural features of the peptides, we can design therapeutic analogs based on those features," said Lovas.

Watts recently received a grant from the Nebraska Medical Foundation to continue research on peptide hormones.

In addition to his work on GnRH-III, Watts has described the precise shapes of the hormones EGF and TGF α , which control functions in health and disease, including the enhancement of cancer growth.

"Charles' unique contribution has been to provide crucial information on the precise shape of growth factors required for interaction with

receptors on cancer cells," Lovas said. "He has helped to reveal and explain how the molecule opens and closes like a hand. He even has identified precisely the structure that is the hinge."

Peptides and their receptors are commonly compared to keys and locks. "In addition to

describing the behavior of the key," Watts said, "we're describing what the key looks like."

A report of this work was published last year in the journal *Proteins*.

Watts looks forward to building upon his investigative skills as he becomes a physician.

Watts was attracted to Creighton for two reasons — he could complete his doctoral thesis data analysis in a place where faculty members were doing

computational chemistry and he would be treated as a valuable member of an intellectual community.

Watts met Lovas while working in the computer lab polishing off his dissertation and then asked to work with him in his research. Lovas agreed.

"I came to Creighton because I was impressed during my interview about the way I was treated by faculty and administrators," Watts said. "My input is considered valuable and important, and that's not the case at all medical schools." ■



Photos by Kent Stevers

Charles Watts, Ph.D., has worked on aspects of Creighton's GnRH-III research as a third-year medical student.



The **Millennium**, the **Months** and the **Moon**

by Fr. John Scott, S.J.





As we approach the year 2000, did you ever ask, “When did our calendars start counting from the time of Christ?”

How many centuries crept by before the words *anno Domini* “A.D.” and *before Christ* “B.C.” came into use?



Fr. John Scott, S.J.

Who made the switch from the calendar of Julius Caesar to the one we use today?

The story begins with the task of keeping time. For many people throughout history the moon was a natural clock. In its lunar month, the moon takes approximately 29.5 days to orbit our planet. The ancient Egyptians and others reckoned time by the moon. Today, Jews and Muslims still refer to the moon in tracking time.

Not only does our month belong to the moon, but, derivatively, the week; for in every quarter of the month, the moon changes phase (new, first quarter, full, last quarter), and in each of these quarters we still keep its feast as “Moon-day.”

The ancient Hebrew look-out sounded his trumpet at first sight of the moon’s tiny sliver to signify that the month had begun. Even today, from the tall and stately minarets of Islam, the watch is kept for the moon’s first streak of gold that will release the faithful from the month-long austerities of Ramadan.

The Native Americans kept a similar watch over time by using the moon to name their months. To the Sioux of South Dakota, for example, January was the “Moon of Frost in the Tipi”; February, the “Moon of the Dark Red Calves”; March, the “Moon of Snowblindness,” with each moon’s commemoration continuing through the year.

Because the moon rotates around the earth once in approximately 29.5 days, 12 lunar months give a lunar year of approximately 354 days. This is 11 days shorter

than the solar year, the period in which the earth revolves around the sun. The Jews use a traditional calendar to mark holidays and the seasons. They reconcile their lunar year with the 365-day solar year by periodically slipping a 13-month leap year into their calendar. That’s seven leap months every 19 years.

Did you ever reflect on the fact that the most important day in the Christian calendar is controlled by the moon?

Most of the great feast days of the church take place on fixed dates. The annunciation of the Lord is March 25; the assumption of Mary into heaven, Aug. 15. The birth of Christ is Dec. 25.

But Easter is celebrated by the moon, on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. (Spring or vernal equinox is the date the sun moves north across the equator, signaling the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, on about March 21.)

Why do we mark Easter in this way?

The gospels mention that the resurrection took place on a Sunday during the Jewish Passover. This method of keeping track of Easter was established by the Council of Nicea in 325.

Roman citizens used a calendar based on the founding of Rome. But in 1278 of this Roman calendar, Pope John I wanted a calendar that would show the dates of Easter in years to come. This complicated task was given to an abbot by the name of Dennis the Little. After some seven years of work, Dennis came up with his new calendar in “*anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi DXXXII*,” the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 532. It was A.D. 532.

Dennis calculated his calendar based on the birth of Christ, adding that he “preferred to count and

denote the years from the incarnation of our Lord in order to make the foundation of our hope better known.”

Despite his best efforts, Dennis came up short on two counts: Modern biblical historians believe that Christ was born around 5 or 6 B.C., and the calendar



In 1579, Fr. Christopher Clavius, a Jesuit, was given the task of correcting a calendar that had become out of step with the seasons. The accuracy of Clavius’ calculations earned him historical fame, but the new calendar was not an immediate success.



of Dennis failed to keep correct time.

The main culprit for the timekeeping error is planet Earth itself. Our planet is a sluggard and does not complete its trip around the sun in 365 days. There are about six hours left over. By the 16th century, these “leftover days” had amounted to such a staggering total that the calendars were even getting out of step with the seasons! (This is why we have leap year today, as approximately every four years, we absorb the leftover hours into a full extra day in February.)

In 1579, Pope Gregory XIII decided to replace the out-of-date calendar with an accurate one. But an accurate calendar demands accurate astronomical observations.

Upon the highest point of the Vatican grounds inside the city of Rome, Pope Gregory built the Tower of the Winds, where the first Vatican Observatory was mounted. The Jesuits under the leadership of Fr. Christopher Clavius were called upon to make the observations which would serve as groundwork for the new calendar.

Christopher Clavius (1538-1612) has been called by the historian Sarton “the most influential teacher of the Renaissance.” As geometer he won the title “Euclid of the 16th century.” As physicist he won the respect and friendship of Vieta, Kepler, Galileo, Tycho Brahe and others.

Clavius’ task of calculating the time of the vernal equinox and correcting the shift was enormous, considering the meager astronomical and mathematical resources available at the time. This was long before

the invention of most of the mathematical tools we take for granted today. It was a time that preceded the common use of a decimal point, when long division was considered a college course.

The accuracy of Clavius’ calculations has earned him historical fame. Clavius found the correct date for Easter and also realized that 97 days had to be added to the calendar every 400 years (or nearly one day every four years) to absorb the fraction of a day left after the 365 days of the year.

The wonder is that Clavius was able to measure the year length so accurately. To this day no one knows how he accomplished this task, an effort that took 800 pages to explain and to justify.

In order to align the calendar with the seasons, Clavius had to omit 10 whole days and nights. Thursday, Oct. 4, 1582, was followed by Friday, Oct. 15, 1582.

The new calendar was not an immediate and universal success. The populace became disoriented. Windows were broken in the houses of European Jesuits who were

blamed for the change. The Orthodox Church saw the change as a Roman intrusion. Protestant countries were reluctant to accept any decree from a pope.

Europe was a patchwork of dates, as people struggled with different calendars. This resulted in an interesting array of travel adventures. If you left Catholic Regensburg in Germany on April 8, you would arrive in

Lutheran Nuremberg 60 miles away on March 29. England did not accept

Clavius’ calendar until 1751,

while Orthodox Russia would require the

Bolshevik Revolution before it

finally adopted the calendar.

The American colonies did not accept the calendar until 1752,



In order to align the calendar with the seasons, Clavius had to omit 10 whole days and nights. Thursday, Oct. 4, 1582, was followed by Friday, Oct. 15, 1582.





when 11 days were then skipped from the calendar with the result that we celebrate George Washington's birthday on Feb. 22, even though he was born on Feb. 11, 1732. When Alaska was annexed, its calendar had to be changed over.

Many citizens of that time objected to the supposed loss of the time from their lives. Does one pay a full month's rent for the month from which the days were omitted, for example? "Give us back our fortnight," protesters cried.

Today, Clavius' calendar is virtually universal. With-

out it our calendar would be about 13 days slow. Since the calendar we use was introduced to the world in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, it is called the Gregorian calendar. With equal truth it could be called "the Jesuit calendar" or "the calendar of Fr. Clavius, S.J."

Remember, as you turn your calendar to the year 2000 in just a few months, its concept is a gift of a Jesuit! — *About the author: Fr. John Scott, S.J., is a former high school physics teacher living in the Jesuit community at Creighton and the author of numerous books.*

Jan. 1, 2000, Just Another Day on Some Calendars

by Pamela Adams Vaughn

In a few months, when the Gregorian calendar turns to Jan. 1, 2000, it will be just another day for some folks around the world.

In Israel, for example, which employs the Jewish calendar for civic as well as religious purposes, the date will simply be the 23rd day of the month of Tevet in the year 5760.

"No one knows just how old the Jewish calendar is," says Creighton's Leonard Greenspoon, Ph.D., who holds the Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization. "But it's at least 2,000 years old."

The calendar is predicated on the date Jews have traditionally marked as that of creation, 3760 B.C.E. (before the common era or B.C. in the Christian calendar). Each new year — and there have been 5,759 of them, to date — begins in the fall, at the traditional harvest of an agrarian people. For 1999, the Jewish new year, or Rosh Hashanah, begins at sunset on Friday, Sept. 10. This coincides with

the Hebrew date of 1 Tishrei 5760.

Yet, the biblical Book of Exodus sets Passover, a spring holiday, in the first month. How to resolve these two markers for the new year? To make sense of them, Jewish tradition has understood the fall new



Creighton's Dr. Greenspoon said the Jewish calendar is "at least 2,000 years old."

year as the "birth of the universe," Greenspoon says, and Passover, in the spring, as the "birth of the people Israel."

The names of the months are

Babylonian, "probably dating from the time that Jews were captives there," Greenspoon believes. But before that, the months were simply numbered.

The new moon is the calculated reference for the month's start. By the fourth century C.E. (or A.D.), Greenspoon says, one of the leading rabbis made new calculations, whereby one wouldn't have to actually observe the moon's first sliver to know when the month began.

The Jewish calendar — and the millennium — will be among many topics for discussion at the 12th Annual Klutznick Symposium, set for Oct. 10 at the Jewish Community Center in Omaha and Oct. 11 at Creighton University. The conference, co-sponsored by Creighton and the Jewish Federation of Omaha, is titled, "The End of Days?: Millennialism from the Hebrew Bible to the Present."

— *About the author: Pamela Adams Vaughn is associate editor of Creighton University Magazine. She can be reached via e-mail at oneearth7@aol.com. ©*

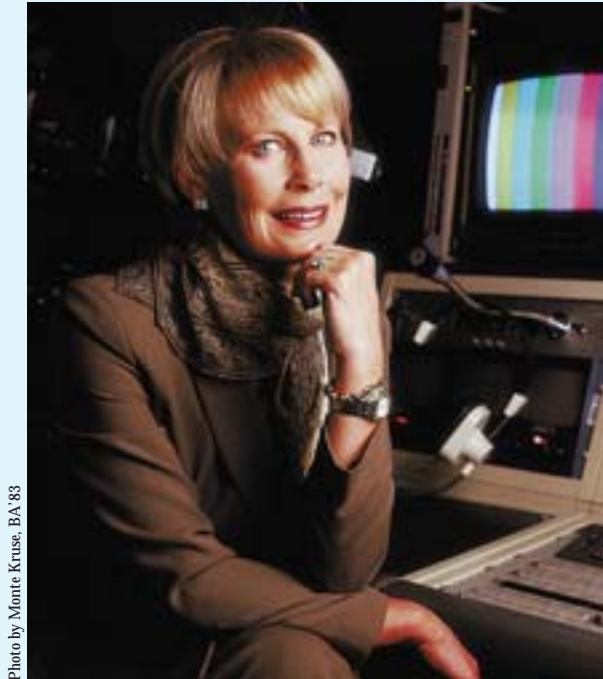


Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

Grateful Williams Tells of Her Personal Struggle

By Rick Davis

Williams is the author of a new book, Quiet Triumphs, and heads Ice Blue Productions, a media and consulting company. Williams and her husband, Mark Haefeli, and their three children reside in Montclair, N.J.

The room fell quiet as Emmy Award-winning journalist and former NBC and CNN anchor Mary Alice Williams, BA'71, trembled slightly at the podium.

"I have always been reluctant to share anything deeply personal about my life in public," said Williams, the guest speaker at Creighton's Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society lecture in April. "Why should anyone care about my experience?"

"Well, I have learned through fire that mine is the only experience I have any right to share, and this is the first time I have shared it."

Williams then stopped.

"Maybe I can't do this. I don't know. I'm going to try."

The Creighton alumna, who was inducted as an honorary member of Creighton's chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, then told of her personal struggle.

"On March 20, 1997, I was face

down," Williams started. "My eyelashes were pinned open by the oak boards of the kitchen floor. My ears had plugged out all sound except the pulse of blood into my brain.

"My only focus was breathing: In hurt, out was harder. But breathing was all I could think of doing, and trying to breathe took all of the strength I had left."

"It was no body blow that got me there," Williams continued. Instead it was feelings "so long buried that in that galvanic moment, it came into focus and the eruption made Mt. St. Helens look like a snow drift."

On the outside Williams was a professional woman who seemed to have it all: wealth, power, fame.

"All my dreams had come true," Williams said. "I had reached the top of my game."

Williams had worked as a prime-time anchor at CNN for a decade. She set up CNN's New York bureau in 1979 and got it on the air in 1980.

In 1982, CNN made her a vice president, making her one of the highest ranking female executives in American television. She earned an Emmy in 1989 for her work as an anchor on the NBC "Nightly News," and received honorary degrees from no fewer than a dozen universities.

"I was omnipotent," Williams said. "I could handle my own problems and yours too. I could run companies, and tell the world how to think. I could make you laugh and make you cry. I could think and write and perform like a champ. The only thing I couldn't do was feel."

Williams said her marriage to former CNN reporter and producer Mark Haefeli "was going south big time." Too busy with work and family, rage and indifference replaced love. "We lived separate lives. We stopped sharing friends," Williams said.

Williams, whose heart's desire was to have children, also struggled with

infertility. She had conceived children and lost them — twice.

In 1990 (thanks to “God and a steady diet of broccoli and tuna fish”), she carried a baby to term, but tiny Alice Ann was born with a hole in her heart. Williams pushed herself to find a solution. She interviewed experts, became a trustee of the March of Dimes and hired the nation’s top pediatric cardiologist. Alice Ann’s heart eventually did heal, Williams said, slowly emphasizing her words, “all ... by ... itself.”

When Williams appeared on the “Murphy Brown” television show in 1992 with fellow NBC anchor Faith Daniels and CBS’ Paula Zahn, she was again pregnant, this time with twins.

After Sara and Laura were born, Williams announced that she was stepping down as a correspondent for the “Nightly News” and as anchor of NBC’s “Sunday Today.” But it didn’t heal her “soul sickness.”

“I had invited in a pervasive sadness without seeing it and lost my self-esteem without realizing it, delivering to my three beautiful daughters a mother who was a monument to self destruction,” Williams said. “I spent so much time paralyzed or focused on what was happening to me that I forgot I had choices about what happens in me.”

In 1997, Williams joined — or, as she says, “limped” to — cable’s faith-themed Odyssey Network and became host of “Quiet Triumphs,” a nightly interview program.

“By the time I arrived at Odyssey,”

Williams said, “I had a poverty of spirit so severe that six months into it I would be brought face to face with the power of hell.”

That’s when Williams’ pent-up feelings boiled over, and she found herself lying on the kitchen floor “next to the dog’s kennel in a ratty bathrobe,” trying hard just to breathe.

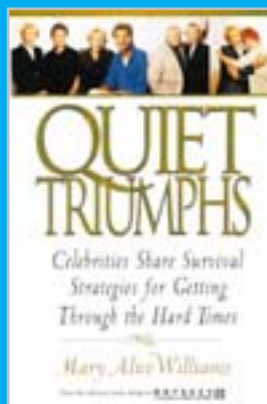
Through “Quiet Triumphs” — in which celebrities share their personal challenges and how they’ve overcome personal obstacles — Williams was able to, literally and figuratively, pick herself up off the floor.

“I have learned ... that when you face a crisis that you can’t work through or fix, sharing the wisdom, strength and experience of those who have been there is the best way out,” Williams said.

Williams has written a book based on her interviews. The book, aptly titled *Quiet Triumphs*, was published this month by Harper Collins.

“They’ve lived it all,” Williams said of her celebrity subjects. “They’ve nursed parents into death and buried children. They’ve watched loved ones murdered. They’ve seen Satan in the carpets of seedy hotel rooms searching for that last stray grain of cocaine. And they’ve seen God.”

“Each of them has come through a journey to arrive at a peace,” Williams said. “I am learning from



Quiet Triumphs

In Williams’ book, *Quiet Triumphs*, celebrities share their personal challenges and how they have overcome personal obstacles. The book became available in bookstores this month.

them everyday more than I could write in five books.”

“If there is a common thread that connects all of our stories it is faith ... a simple belief that we’re not alone, that we’re unconditionally loved and that a power greater than all of us can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.”

Today, Williams is grateful.

Grateful for “all the maniacs who have allowed me to play in television” and “witness history,” grateful for “my wonderful husband and my three indomitable little girls,” grateful to the Holy Spirit “for guiding me away from network news in the nick of time, so that I would never have to utter the words ‘O.J. Simpson’ or ‘Monica Lewinsky’ on national television,” and grateful to “you for letting me open my heart tonight, and for bestowing on me this very great honor.”

— *About the author: Rick Davis, BA’88, is assistant director of publications at Creighton and editor of Creighton University Magazine. He can be reached via e-mail at rcd@creighton.edu.*

“If there is a common thread that connects all of our stories it is faith ... a simple belief that we’re not alone, that we’re unconditionally loved and that a power greater than all of us can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.”

Ricketts Pioneers Online Investing

By Rick Davis

Automaker Henry Ford revolutionized industry in the early 1900's with the introduction of the first assembly-line produced Model T's. Today, technology advances are again reshaping the business landscape, with the Internet's information superhighway paving the way.

Creighton alumnus Joe Ricketts, BA'68, is one of the more successful entrepreneurs to have traversed this road — having founded Ameritrade, one of the nation's largest online, discount brokerage firms.

Like Ford, who used technology to drop the price of his rugged touring vehicle, Ricketts has used technology to provide financial consumers with low-cost stock trades. Last year, Ameritrade poured \$44 million into an advertising campaign promoting its \$8 Internet trades.

A native of Nebraska City, Ricketts attended St. Bernard's High School (now Lourdes), where the nuns "were quite energetic about keeping the young people in Catholic colleges." Ricketts enrolled at Creighton in 1959, with thoughts of studying medicine or law. A classmate then recommended a course in economics.

"A whole new world opened up to me," Ricketts said. "It was just so fascinating. I had found something that I really enjoyed and wanted to pursue."

Ricketts worked as a janitor in Deglman Hall and a bus boy in the Jesuit kitchen for free room and board, and at Wonder Bread Bakery to pay tuition.

During his junior year, he married Omaha school teacher Marlene Volkmer. As children came along and bills piled up, Ricketts quit school and went to work as a credit report writer for Dunn and Bradstreet, traveling from town to town in southeast Nebraska. He later applied to be a salesman at Merrill Lynch, but was told he needed to complete his degree. Ricketts returned to Creighton and earned his degree a year later, in 1968 — nine years after first enrolling as a freshman.



Photos by Kent Sievers

Creighton alumnus Joe Ricketts, the founder and CEO of Ameritrade, in the company's Omaha office. Ameritrade is one of the nation's largest online, discount brokerages. It can be found on the Internet at <http://www.ameritrade.com>. Ricketts, who worked his way through school, recently was listed among the world's 100 wealthiest people by Forbes magazine. The magazine ranked Ricketts No. 84 with a net worth of \$4.7 billion.

"As I was coming upon graduation ... Dean Witter hired me. So after my last class, I walked out, threw my books and my notebook in the trash can, got in my car and drove to San Francisco (for training), happy to be out of school," Ricketts said.

Ricketts loved his new job, but the recession of the 1970's and the deregulation of the brokerage industry (which allowed individual investors to negotiate for commissions) caused him to re-examine his options.

While in Chicago looking into buying a membership on the Chicago Board of Options Exchange, Ricketts bumped into a former classmate from Dean Witter training. The classmate, a partner in a discount brokerage, invited Ricketts to his office, where "three people in a room ... were answering the phone just as fast as they could. As a commissioned salesman, that was heaven."

Ricketts returned to Omaha and along with three partners — each of whom contributed \$12,500 — opened First Omaha Securities on May 1, 1975. "I was very nervous. That was all I had, and that was borrowed," Ricketts said.

CU ALUMNA PUTS TRADERS IN THE GAME

How did Creighton alumna Cindy Klein, BA'86, learn about options trading? She made it a game.

Klein has worked for Ameritrade for the past three years as the company's computer-game designer. Her first game, "Darwin: Survival of the Fittest," was introduced last August. The CD-ROM "puts you in the center of the nerve-wracking world of pit trading" and is free to those who request it from the company's Web site. (The direct link is <http://darwin.ameritrade.com>.)

Klein majored in history and philosophy at Creighton and then attended film school in San Francisco. She worked for several years in the California computer-game industry before joining Ameritrade.

"I had no financial background," Klein admitted, "so learning about options was more trial by fire.



What I brought to the table was the ability to put a game project together."

"It's been a big success," Ameritrade CEO Joe Ricketts said of "Darwin," which is intended to be educational and entertaining. Klein has evolved beyond "Darwin" and is working on new projects. A new game called "Stockpile" is set to debut in October.

Today, Ameritrade is a multi-billion dollar, publicly traded company. Ricketts is chairman and CEO of Ameritrade Holding Corporation, which has five primary subsidiaries: Ameritrade, Accutrade and AmeriVest, all discount brokerage units; Advanced Clearing, a securities clearing firm; and OnMoney, an online financial services company. In addition to its Internet service (which accounted for more than 70 percent of the company's business in 1998, up from 33 percent in 1997), Ameritrade offers touch-tone telephone trading (which it introduced in 1988) and broker assisted trading.

Ameritrade saw its accounts triple to 306,000 and net revenues reach \$135 million in fiscal year 1998. (It now boasts about a half million accounts.) Since the company went public in February 1997, its stock price has risen dramatically from about \$4 a share in 1997, to \$15 in December 1998, to \$115 this past April. Ameritrade handles about 60,000 trades per day — making it the fifth or sixth largest discount brokerage in the nation.

Like Ford, Ricketts has realized a dream. He credits his Creighton experience not only with preparing him

for the rigors of business but for reawakening his religious faith. "My spiritual life is very important to me," Ricketts said. "It was the priests at Creighton who really helped me to keep my faith."

CREIGHTON ESTABLISHES RICKETTS CENTER

With the establishment of the Joe Ricketts Center in Electronic Commerce and Database Marketing, Creighton has become one of just a handful of universities to offer programs in this rapidly expanding field. The Center, made possible through a \$1.46 million gift by Creighton alumnus Joe Ricketts, will serve as the focal point for a new master's degree in electronic commerce. The Center also will partner with local and national businesses, publish a quarterly journal and organize an annual conference on e-commerce and database marketing.

**HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
CORRECTION**

Creighton University wishes to apologize to its East Coast volunteers who were inadvertently left off the Creighton 2000 Campaign Final Report and



Honor Roll of Donors. Creighton extends its appreciation to the following volunteers whose leadership and service helped make the Creighton 2000 Campaign a resounding success:

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MUCHEMORE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1998, the G. Robert Muchemore Foundation established two full tuition scholarship funds for Creighton's undergraduate and law students. The G. Robert Muchemore Scholarships pay tribute to Bob and Bo Muchemore, an extraordinary couple, whose lives and work capture the spirit of Creighton University. Designed to attract promising yet financially needy students to Creighton's School of Law and undergraduate colleges, the Muchemore Scholarships ensure a rare educational experience for successive generations of students.

The Muchemore Foundation was established by Agnes "Bo" Muchemore in memory of her husband, G. Robert Muchemore, BSC'44, JD'45. Bob Muchemore took away a great deal more than two diplomas from his alma mater. During his long career at Mutual of Omaha, Bob put into practice

those principles he acquired through his Catholic, Jesuit education.

The G. Robert Muchemore Scholarship is an annual, renewable, full tuition scholarship, awarded to Creighton undergraduate and law students. Students with demonstrated financial need and a "B" average or better who are graduates of an accredited Nebraska high school are eligible for the scholarships. According to former School of Law Dean Larry Raful, "The Muchemore Scholarships are uniquely important in that they enable Creighton to educate students from Nebraska in law so that they may later serve our community."

Through the G. Robert Muchemore Foundation, the Muchemores have extended the University's parameters of opportunity for qualified Nebraska students to receive a Creighton education.

YOUR GIFT COULD ACTUALLY INCREASE YOUR INCOME

With money market rates near 3 percent and stock dividends averaging 2 percent, your gift of cash or stock to Creighton's gift annuity program could actually increase your income.

How does it work? A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract. For your gift of \$10,000 or more, Creighton University agrees to pay you a fixed, annual income for life. If established for two people, full payments will continue to the survivor. The amount of your annual income is determined by your age(s) when you make the gift. A substantial portion of your annual income may be tax-free. In addition, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year of your gift.

What can I give? Cash, appreciated securities or mutual fund shares are the most common property used to fund gift annuities.

How does this help Creighton? When lifetime payments stop, the remainder of your annuity passes to the University, leaving a legacy and helping to ensure that a values-centered education is available to future students.

Can I direct my gift? Yes! You may direct your gift to endow a scholarship, chair, book fund, or assist in many other ways. If unrestricted, your gift will help the area of greatest need at the University.

How do I find out more information? Call Steve Scholer or Robert Skrydlak in Creighton's Department of Estate and Trust Services at (402) 280-2740 or (800) 334-8794 for details on how a charitable gift annuity can benefit both you and Creighton University. At no obligation, they will prepare a personalized example of how a charitable gift annuity may work for you.

Age	Annuity Rate (%)	Annual Income*
60	6.6	\$6,600
65	6.9	\$6,900
70	7.5	\$7,500
75	8.2	\$8,200
80	9.2	\$9,200
80+	Call for details	Call for details

* Based upon a \$100,000 gift

Glimpses of Havana

by Richard R. Super, Ph.D.

Years ago, when doing dissertation research in Santiago, a fellow graduate student and I would share our experiences in Allende's Chile over an equally heady bottle of Chilean wine by planning the paper we would write, to be titled "What Latin America Teaches Us About Teaching Latin American History." We never wrote that paper, but I am reminded of its underlying premise every time I travel southward. For any historian, indeed for any serious traveler, the sights of the place visited, even if only glimpses, can bring to understanding what before you thought you knew.

A recent trip to Havana, though agonizingly brief, provided an excellent case in point. For four days an onslaught of glimpses and images conjured up visions of another mythical paper, this one: "What Havana Teaches Me About Teaching Cuban History." For instance, from the bell tower of a former church, the squat, almost brooding Morro Castle can be seen still guarding the narrow entrance to the city's long and winding bay — just the strategic spot the Spanish Empire would choose in the 16th century for its annual treasure fleet to gather in anticipation of its treacherous voyage home. And there is the National Cathedral, apparently padlocked except for Sundays, dominating with colonial elegance the central plaza in Old Havana, grandiose testimony to the city's historic role as Queen of the Caribbean.

The United States once exerted pervasive economic and political influence over Cuba, but no more. You cannot find a Coca-Cola or a Big Mac anywhere in the city, and loud rap music disturbs nary a neighborhood. But one can marvel at the rows of vintage 1950's U.S.-made autos, Buicks and Oldsmobiles, Chevrolets and Cadillacs, that neatly line tree-shaded thoroughfares. They stand there, saving up critically short gasoline until a tourist or business executive hires the driver-owner for a trip somewhere, tacitly trusting that 40 years of ingeniously homemade spare parts will make the trip. On the way, the visitor may pass by the National Congress building and notice that it's a near but smaller replica of its Washington, D.C.,



**"Yankee,
Back Off.
Nobody
Surrenders
Here."**

model, with its cupola connecting two equal wings, maintained for the tourists in polished brass doors, marble floors and gold-leaf ceilings. More often, it is the facades of buildings, rather than their interiors, that speak both eloquently and poignantly of the past and the present. Stand in front of the Ambos Mundos Hotel, its balconied wall a dusty rose in the afternoon sun, and someone will inevitably stop to point out the window on the top floor behind which Ernest Hemingway began tapping out *For Whom the Bell Tolls* on an old typewriter. At that spot, Havana becomes the storied city of cosmopolitan charm, a dazzling array of color, pulsing to a rumba beat and a cigar hawker's best deal. But walk just a few blocks away and exteriors deteriorate dramatically. Off the tourist's path, today's Cuban families struggle to find comfort behind walls of peeling paint and decades of accumulated urban soot. There you see and understand that the visitor's glamour is only a veneer for the inhabitant's struggle with a failed economic and political system.

The last glimpse of Havana may well be a sign or a poster proclaiming the same message seen on countless billboards throughout the city. One reads, "Yankee, Back Off. Nobody Surrenders Here." Another insists that "There Will Be No Transitional Government." And there is always the defiant "Socialism or Death!" At the airport, as if you needed a final reminder, you read that "We Believe in the Revolution." And so you fly away, your fascination with Havana's past and present tempered a bit by this ominous piece of the city's probable future. You have long agreed with the perspective that 40 years of United States hostility toward Cuba, the threats, the antagonism, the tightening embargo, all constituted in today's world an almost irrational obsession. You now sadly understand that in Castro's Havana the feeling can be mutual.

— About the author: Richard R. Super, Ph.D., is an associate professor of history and director of the Montesinos Center for the Study of the Dominican Republic at Creighton. ©



Photo by Richard Super

Making a Difference

The Honorable Barbara Sage Cubin, BS'69, and Robert C. Della Rocca, MD'67, received Creighton's highest alumni honor — the Alumni Achievement Citation — at Commencement for exemplifying Creighton's mission of service and achievement.

Cubin is the first woman to represent Wyoming in the United States House of Representatives. The third-term congresswoman considers public service a "calling," a "labor of love."

Dr. Della Rocca is an ophthalmologist, surgeon director and chairman of the board for the prestigious New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. His outreach to people in need of medical care around the world has touched thousands.

Rep. Cubin, who sits on the powerful Commerce Committee and the Resources Committee, credits Creighton for instilling in her the idea "that we have a responsibility beyond just ourselves and what we want.

"We have a responsibility not only to our families, but to our communities — whether it's the town we live in, the school we go to, the state we live in, or the country. We have a responsibility for one another."

Dr. Della Rocca said Creighton, through the years, has fostered "a mission of openness and looking for opportunities" to serve.

The Creighton physician has performed free surgeries for those in need in 14 countries (including the Dominican Republic, through Creighton's Institute for Latin American Concern) and trained health care professionals around the

globe. In 1993, Dr. Della Rocca and his wife, Darlene, established the Volunteers Health Program Foundation to provide ophthalmology care in underdeveloped nations.



The Honorable Barbara Sage Cubin, BS'69, and Robert C. Della Rocca, MD'67, received Creighton's highest alumni honor, the Alumni Achievement Citation.

Photo by Monte Kruse, BA '83

After accepting the award, Dr. Della Rocca watched as his son, David, received his medical degree from Creighton.

"It was a very special feeling," Dr. Della Rocca said. Watching the medical students cross the stage, the Creighton alumnus envisioned a class "involved in their communities" and reaching out to others less fortunate "even more than people like myself and my generation."

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