



*April 16, 2021*

Dear Colleagues,

I am glad that so many of you attended Tuesday's town hall on our financial position and outlook that Executive Vice President Jan Madsen and I hosted, and that so many others viewed the recording. Thank you, also, for submitting insightful and thoughtful questions. Although we face several challenges, this is an exciting time for Creighton as we collaboratively find ways to strengthen and invest in our core to position ourselves to grow. You can read a summary of the town hall [here](#) and access the recording as well. Stay tuned for forthcoming answers to additional questions faculty and staff proposed.

The next edition of the *Provost Digest* will follow our May commencement and hooding ceremonies, so I do want to mention here how much I am looking forward to those in-person events. The academic year 2020-2021 has been unprecedented in the scope of adaptations by students, faculty and staff, so it is very fitting to celebrate our students' many accomplishments with ceremonies that will be as "normal" as safely possible. Congratulations to our graduates – and to faculty and staff who have helped them on their academic journey, my thanks and appreciation.

Our University's role in fighting COVID-19 is significant, as recent developments attest. The community vaccination clinic we host at the Rasmussen Center has now administered more than 30,000 doses of the vaccine, thanks to hundreds of Creighton student, faculty and staff volunteers. And the recent news that Creighton and our partner CHI Health are assisting the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services with COVID [variant testing](#) is a notable endeavor that will have a tangible effect on the health of Nebraskans.

In addition to the prodigious news items below, I want to call your attention to the fact that I recently gave final approval to the faculty-proposed revisions to the Magis Core Curriculum. More information will be detailed soon, but I do want to say that I am extremely pleased with how the process worked.

Many thanks to faculty who have offered to teach [Summer Sessions](#) courses, which will be both online and in-person this

year. I encourage you to remind students of the opportunities of summer terms, and to provide guidance with academic schedules. Lastly, I recognize the next few weeks as we finish the term will be extremely busy with final classes, exams and grading, as well as commencement. Keep up the great work as we celebrate the end of another semester and an unforgettable year.

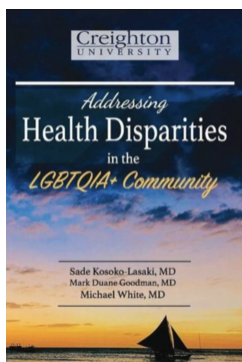
Sincerely,

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN  
Provost

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## Graduate School Offers Scholarship to All Alumni

The Graduate School is offering ALL Creighton alumni a scholarship for 25% off tuition for a variety of graduate and certificate programs. Students who begin a program in fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022 are eligible for the scholarship. No scholarship application is required. Eligibility will automatically be verified when a student applies to one of the select graduate programs. [Learn more](#) about the scholarship and share the news with your alumni network.



## Creighton Students, Faculty Reflect on Health Disparities in Book

*Addressing Health Disparities in the LGBTQIA+ Community* is a comprehensive compilation of articles submitted in an elective course by Creighton medical students through their research, reflections and discussions of health disparities experienced by the LGBTQIA+ community in health care. The book is informative for health care providers as well as

the general public.

The book is authored by **Sade Kosoko-Lasaki**, MD, MSPH, MBA, associate vice provost for Health Sciences; **Mark Goodman**, MD, professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine; and **Michael White**, MD, executive vice president and chief clinical officer for Valleywise Health. A chapter contribution was written by **Michael Green**, MD, director of the residency program in the Department of Family Medicine.

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## Magis Core Curriculum Revisions Approved

Acting on the recommendations of the faculty of Creighton's undergraduate colleges, Provost Wilson recently gave final approval to a revised version of the Magis Core Curriculum. Revisions to the core were proposed based on the findings of the core assessment process and feedback from faculty teaching in the core. The revised plan clarifies language across core objectives and eliminates redundant objectives. In the coming weeks, faculty teaching in the core will receive information about the impact of these revisions on their courses. Find here the [revised core curriculum plan](#), a table [illustrating the original and revised core objectives](#), and the current [core assessment rubrics](#).

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## Singh Receives Humanitarian Award

**Sanjay Singh**, MD, professor and chair, School of Medicine Department of Neurology, and director, CHI Health Neurological Institute, has been awarded the 2021 Mridha Spirit of Neurology Award from the American Academy of Neurology and the American Brain Foundation. The Mridha is a humanitarian award for a neurologist or neuroscientist who is dedicated to improving the lives of others. Singh will receive the award at the Annual AAN Meeting in April.

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## Three Students Are 2021 Goldwater Scholars

Three juniors in the College of Arts and Sciences were named recipients of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship Award: **Eli Blaney**, **Rebecca Powers** and **Madeleine Urbanek**. The federally funded Goldwater Scholarship highlights undergraduate research incubators such as Creighton, where the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) is giving students opportunities to engage in top-flight research with internationally recognized faculty. [Continue reading](#).

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## Faulkner to Present on Cannabis at Annual Pharmacy Meeting

**Michele Faulkner**, PharmD, FASHP, professor in pharmacy practice in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and neurology in the School of Medicine, will presented a live virtual session at the Annual Meeting of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) on "The Cannabis Connection: Exploring New Treatments for Neurological Disorders."

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## Dental Honor Society Elects New Members

The Epsilon chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society (OKU) honored Creighton dental alumni and students as newly elected members for 2021. They include: **Chase Robert Deiglmeier**, DDS'21; **Taylor Nicole Ensrude**, DDS'21; **ChunWoo Kang**, DDS'21; **Maggie Elisabeth Larsen**, DDS'21; **Mohammad Salem Mohammad**, DDS'21; **Derek Leo O'Connor**, DDS'21; **Samuel R. Smith**, DDS'21; **Emily Jo Snodgrass**, DDS'21; and **Patrick Daniel Zawadski**, DDS'21. A lifetime membership was bestowed upon **Richard Ronk**, DDS'78, and junior dental student **Christopher Philip Pritchard** received the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence.

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## Mindrup Chosen for National Exhibitions

**Rachel Mindrup**, MFA, assistant professor in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts and the Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities, has artwork accepted into two national exhibitions this spring: the 25th Annual Heartland Artist Exhibition in the T. Murphy Gallery in Merriam, Kansas, and Tribute: A National Juried Exhibition of Paintings that Pay Homage to People, Places, and Things, in the D'Art Center in Norfolk, Virginia.

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## Students Compete in Three-Minute Thesis Event

Nine students participated in the Graduate School's annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on Feb. 18. **Lauryn Wuorio**, a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student, won with the presentation "Postpartum Generalized Anxiety Disorder." She went on to represent Creighton at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools virtual 3MT competition March 26.

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## Sidebottom Receives NSF Grant

**David Sidebottom**, PhD, professor in the Department of Physics, has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to study complex dynamics in glass forming liquids using light scattering techniques. The four-year project not only involves graduate and undergraduate students in conducting the research but includes plans to develop a service-learning course on everyday materials for nonscience students.

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## International Interactive Exchange Includes Creighton-Regis Hybrid Pathway

Students and faculty with the Creighton-Regis Hybrid Pathway in the occupational therapy doctorate program participated in the first-ever Virtual Exchange Congress, a collaborative partnership between Teikyo University in Japan and Regis University in Denver, Feb. 28-March 1. Using an interactive platform, faculty, practitioners, researchers and students from Colorado State University, University of Colorado, University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), Parker Adventist Hospital and St. Anthony Hospital also participated, sharing capstone and research projects in virtual reality. The platform allowed presenters to create an avatar that could move and interact in individual private research suites at a conference center, as if they were there in person. [Read more.](#)

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## Creighton to Participate in Carnegie Foundation's Leadership Effort

**Jennifer Moss Breen Kuzelka**, PhD, associate professor and program director of the EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, is leading a University committee in gathering and reviewing data on Creighton's commitment to leader development and leadership education, in collaboration with the Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice University. Creighton has been invited to participate in a new Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification called Leadership for Public Purpose, and is the only Jesuit university among 12 institutions invited by the Doerr Institute.

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## OT Journal Publishes Feldhacker and Hickey

**Diana Feldhacker**, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR, assistant professor, and **Jennifer Hickey**, OTD'20, published "[Primitive Reflex Retention and Attention Among Preschool Children](#)" in the *Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention*. The publication resulted from Hickey's work during her third-year capstone project under Feldhacker's mentorship.

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## CSU Gives Teaching Award to Kramer

**Kenneth Kramer**, PhD, associate professor of biomedical sciences and director of the graduate program in medical sciences, received the [Teaching for Tomorrow Award](#) from the Creighton University Students Union (CSU) in March.

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## A Call for Interprofessional Abstracts

CIPER announces a call for abstracts for the virtual 2021 [Heartland Interprofessional Education Conference](#), July 29-30, which provides an opportunity for learners, scholars and practitioners in the field of interprofessional education and health care to share knowledge, build skills, experience professional development, and form collaborative relationships. Abstracts should represent original work in the areas of interprofessional practice, education or research. Faculty, staff, student and practitioner submissions are welcome. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines interprofessional education (IPE) as an experience that “occurs when students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other.” Please complete abstract submissions [online](#).

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## Mullins Publishes Two Short Stories

**David Mullins**, PhD, associate professor of creative writing in the Department of English, has had two short stories published recently: “Extended Stay America,” published this month in the fall/winter 2020 issue of *Third Coast* (Western Michigan University), and “Reptiles,” published this month in the fall 2020 issue of *Cimarron Review* (Oklahoma State University).

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## Translational Hearing Center Given Five-Year Grant

Creighton’s Translational Hearing Center has been awarded a [\\$10.8 million grant](#), payable over five years and competitively renewable up to 15 years, by the NIH-affiliated Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The award will fund a working partnership between the Translational Hearing Center, Boys Town National Research Center and the University of Nebraska Medical Center as the three institutions seek to translate basic hearing loss research into practical therapies. Led by **Jian Zuo**, PhD, chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and **Peter Steyger**, PhD, professor of biomedical sciences and director of the Translational Hearing Center, the partnership will build a corps of academic researchers dedicated to battling hearing loss resulting from numerous causes.

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## Soukup Receives Grant from State

**Garrett Soukup**, PhD, professor in the School of Medicine Department of Biomedical Sciences, received an award for \$23,193 from the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Biomedical Research Development fund to purchase research equipment to prepare for future federal grant applications.

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# SPAHP Offers Professional Development to All

The **Office of Faculty and Staff Development** in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions is offering all Creighton faculty and staff free access to the Magna Seminar Series, a robust professional development series with tips, advice and encouragement for teaching. All 26 seminars allow for interactive questions and responses with the speakers, two-week access to each seminar, handouts, teaching materials and more. [Register here](#) to receive seminar link and password.

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