



Feb. 18, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

While frigid temperatures and the ongoing pandemic are trying their best to put a damper on things, it is obvious to me that Creighton University is extraordinarily resilient. We have only been back in session for a few weeks, and the good news is extensive.

I experienced my first Founders Week Convocation and Awards at the start of the month, and while I know it was not typical this year, I greatly enjoyed it. It was inspiring to take an active role in the naming of new endowed chair holders and presenting the awards given to faculty, staff and administrators for their distinguished service to our University.

In addition, I echo Fr. Hendrickson's words that day, that if the past year "... has taught me anything, it is that the world needs more of what Creighton does." And, of course, his announcement of the CL Werner Center for Health Sciences Education on our Omaha campus was especially exciting.

Along with the many highlights featured in today's *Provost Digest*, I would like to also acknowledge Black History Month events, our anti-racism efforts, upcoming Lenten offerings and our Wellness Wednesday programming as additional examples that illustrate Creighton's active and supportive community.

Additionally, the very successful COVID-19 community vaccine clinic being held on our campus in the Rasmussen Center is a tribute to the hard work of so many. Lastly, I also want to mention that seven of our online programs earned top rankings from [U.S. News & World Report](#). Congratulations and thanks to all those involved.

Sincerely,

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN
Provost

Creighton and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) have prioritized anti-racism and racial justice at our institutions and in our communities. Join “Antiracism in Our Ignatian Context,” a virtual seminar series, on March 2, 16 and 30, from 3-4 p.m. The series will facilitate sustained discussions on identifying systems of oppression, self-examination and calls to action that advance the ongoing work of anti-racism at Creighton. The seminar series is sponsored by Inclusive Excellence Faculty and Staff Development Collaborative; Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion; Creighton Intercultural Center; Global Engagement Office; Human Resources; Kingfisher Institute; Division of Mission and Ministry; Office of Equity and Inclusion; and Teaching and Learning Center. [Read program objectives](#) and session descriptions, and [register for the entire series or a specific session](#).

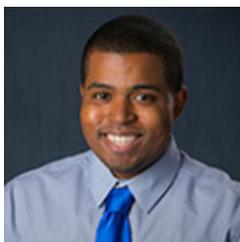


Fleegal First Creighton MD/PhD Student to Receive NIH Fellowship Award

School of Medicine MD/PhD fellow **Jonathan Fleegal** has received an F30 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Predoctoral Fellowship Award. His research, “Repurposing momelotinib for the prevention of aminoglycoside-induced ototoxicity,” is related to deafness and communication disorders. Fleegal is the first MD/PhD student from Creighton to receive this award.

Simkins Publishes on Bible and Environment

Ronald Simkins, PhD, professor in the Department of Theology, recently published [Creation and Ecology: The Political Economy of Ancient Israel and the Environmental Crisis](#). His book addresses the current environmental crisis and what the Bible might contribute in response.



Durham Elected to Regional Post

Greg Durham, RCRSP, director of recreation and wellness, was elected regional representative for Region V (serving Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa) by the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). He will assist NIRSA in its work to offer professional development and networking opportunities and resources to the collegiate recreation profession.

Research and Scholarship Announcements

The associate vice provost for Research and Scholarship has begun a strategic planning process. Faculty will soon be asked to engage in this process through an online survey on research and scholarly activities. Faculty input will be the basis of discussions that will result in Creighton's Strategic Research Map. Please also watch for information on how to apply for the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) director position.



Jaffri Named Group Research Chair

Abbis Jaffri, PT, PhD, PT, assistant professor of physical therapy, along with colleagues, published in the *Journal of Athletic Training*, "[Quadriceps Oxygenation During Exercise in Patients With Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction](#)," and was appointed as a research chair in the foot and ankle special interest group (FASIG) for the Academy of Orthopedic

Physical Therapy.

Powers Publishes on Practices in Schools

Jan Powers, PhD, assistant professor of school counseling and preventive mental health, had two recent publications: A collaborative book chapter, "Schoolwide trauma informed professional development: We Can! Building Relationships and Resilience," in *Alleviating the educational impact of adverse childhood experiences: School-university-community collaboration: Volume 5 Current Perspectives on School/University/Community Research*; and she was the lead author on "Toward trauma-informed career counseling," in *Career Development Quarterly*.



Snyder's Work Featured in Journal, Blog

Kailey Snyder, PhD, assistant professor of physical therapy, published in *Breastfeeding Medicine* on "Social Support During COVID-19: Perspectives of Breastfeeding Mothers," and was featured in a blog sponsored by the Healthy Children Project Center for Breastfeeding titled, "Finding Missing Pieces in Maternal Support." The blog discusses Snyder's research findings that will be published this spring.

Destino Receives NSF Award

Joel Destino, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has received a National Science Foundation EPSCoR FIRST Award for his project, "A Fundamental



Lenz Discusses Healthiest Cities

Tom Lenz, PharmD, FACLM, professor and program director, Healthy Lifestyle Management (BA) and Integrative Health and Wellness (MS), Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, was recently interviewed by *WalletHub.com* regarding the healthiest cities in America, and is included in “2021’s Healthiest and Unhealthiest Cities in America.”

Dag and Colleagues Present on New AI Algorithm

Ali Dag, PhD, associate professor in business intelligence and analytics, and his colleagues have been presenting their work on a new AI algorithm at conferences and receiving significant special recognition.



Cook Recognized by Students

Shawn Cook, assistant dean of student affairs in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, received the Fr. Lukaszewicz, SJ, Staff or Administrator Award. The award allows students to recognize and publicly acknowledge staff and administrators who have positively impacted their lives by going above and beyond the call of duty.

Hearn Featured in Early Childhood Education Event

Creighton, Common Sense Media, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative and Nebraska Department of Education co-sponsored a panel discussion, "[The Role of Media and Technology in Early Childhood Development](#)," which featured **Jean Hearn**, PhD, an assistant professor who specializes in early childhood education in the Department of Education.



Johnson Elected President of Sociological Society

LaShaune Johnson, PhD, associate professor, Master of Public Health, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Graduate School, was elected incoming president of the Midwest Sociological Society, a nonprofit, regional, professional society dedicated to building community among sociologists and advancing sociological knowledge, teaching and practice.

Residents, Fellows and Faculty Honored

The following residents, fellows and faculty were honored during this year's Graduate Medical Education Research Symposium on Feb. 5.

- Faculty Recognition Award – **Subhash Chandra**, MBBS, assistant professor, Department of Medicine
 - Outstanding Research Project of the Year – **Syed Mobashir Alam**, internal medicine resident
 - Best Project of the Year – **Raahat Bansal**, internal medicine resident
 - Innovative Project of the Year – **Changzhao Li**, pathology resident
 - Best COVID-19 Project of the Year – **Jacqueline Chang**, pulmonary fellow
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Crawford Submits Review of Research on Paid Sick Leave to Legislature

Sue Crawford, PhD, professor of political science and international relations, submitted a review of research on paid sick leave to the Nebraska Senate Business and Labor Committee in December. The report was in response to the interim study resolution LR391 that called for a review of research on paid sick leave and pandemic spread. Crawford's research on paid sick leave has been supported by a Kingfisher Institute fellowship. [The report is posted here by the Business and Labor Committee.](#)

Baedke Addresses Mayo, Harvard Medical Professionals on Leadership and Mentorship

Laurie Baedke, instructor in the Heider College of Business, delivered Grand Rounds for the Mayo Clinic Department of Pediatrics on "Resilient Leadership: The Role of Well-Being in Individual and Organizational Performance," followed by a visiting professor roundtable on advancing women in medicine. She also contributed a lecture to the Harvard Medical School –

Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Faculty Development series on mentorship, speaking on “Mentoring, Coaching, Leading for Peak Professional Impact.”



Teaching Award Goes to Radniecki

Scott Radniecki, DDS'12, assistant professor in general dentistry, has received the 2021 Charles Craig Teaching Award, which recognizes young dental educators who have demonstrated innovative techniques in teaching the art, science and literature of dentistry. This award honors individuals who have implemented innovative teaching techniques into dental education.

Phoenix Faculty Publish on Health Disparities

School of Medicine Phoenix Campus faculty **Crista Johnson-Agbakwu**, MD; **Nyima S. Ali**, MD; and **Dean V. Coonrod**, MD-MPH, co-authored [“Racism, COVID-19 and Health Inequity in the USA: A Call to Action”](#) in the *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.



Chapple Participates in AMA Videocast

Helen S. Chapple, PhD, RN, MSN, professor, Master of Science in Bioethics, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, and professor, College of Nursing, recently participated in an American Medical Association videocast, [AMA Covid-19 Video Update: Experts Discuss Moral Distress](#).

Haneman Discusses Funeral Poverty on Podcast

A [Money and the Mind Podcast](#) episode, “Death and Mushroom Suits,” featured **Victoria Haneman**, associate professor of law and the Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates, discussing the funeral and death-care industry. Her discussion was based on her recent article in the *Richmond Law Review*, “Funeral Poverty,” in which she says, “Death is an expensive proposition,” and “[a] grief-stricken consumer is not a rational actor.”

Swanson Earns NIH R21 Grant



Patrick Swanson, PhD, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, has received a National Institutes of Health R21 grant for his project, “A novel form of light chain gene replacement.” Swanson notes, “Preliminary data for this grant was generated in large part by my MD/PhD student **Sasha Worth**, with support from a Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund Award.”

Ebner Presents at International Annual Meeting

Noam Ebner, professor, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, co-presented a session on dispute prevention at the annual meeting of the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR).



Kirkpatrick Receives Multiple Awards

Mandy Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN, associate professor of nursing, is receiving the Excellence in End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Award for her integration of the ELNEC curriculum into her research, simulation development and other course activities. She also was named a March of Dimes Nebraska and Western Iowa Nurse of the Year in Public/Community/Home Health and Hospice/Palliative Care. Kirkpatrick was among the award winners announced during [a Facebook Live ceremony](#) presented by CHI Health.

Dineen Quoted in *Science* on Addiction Issues

Kelly Dineen, associate professor of law and director of the law school’s Health Law Program, was recently quoted in a [Science magazine article](#) that discussed her commentary in the *Journal of Addiction Medicine*.



TLC Reminder: Deadline is Approaching

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) reminds the campus that March 1 is the deadline for assessment reports for academic year 2019-2020. The University’s goal is a 100% completion rate. Given the unique circumstances this year, the TLC is asking for a slightly different approach, and deans/associate deans have the details. The TLC is encouraging programs to identify one or two learning outcomes (versus all outcomes) for which students were not achieving at expected levels for the 2019-2020 academic year. Programs under specialized accreditation

should continue assessment work that fulfills expectations of their accrediting bodies. The TLC has new Taskstream resources and recordings to assist with entering and submitting data on the TLC website [Training Videos and Resources](#). One-on-one consultation is still available. Please contact [Sarah Oliver](#) with questions or concerns.

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[View this email online.](#)

2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178 US

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