



June 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

What a difference a year makes. And what a year it was! As we look back to this date in 2020, with the great uncertainty and the many constraints surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we can't help but acknowledge the stark comparison to where we are today.

I add my appreciation to the gratitude expressed by Fr. Hendrickson for the admirable way so many in the Creighton community went above and beyond to keep our campuses as safe as possible. Now, thanks to the availability of the vaccines and the corresponding low levels of cases, we look forward to full usage of our classrooms, labs and residence halls in the upcoming academic year. We, of course, remain flexible and continue to monitor national and local public health directives, but we are filled with optimism as we look toward the fall semester.

Summer may have a somewhat slower pace, but our faculty and staff are as busy as ever, as you will read below. Meanwhile, the good news continues from Enrollment Management, with Vice Provost Mary Chase's June 15 report showing we will likely enroll our second largest undergraduate class in Creighton's history. Parents and students alike have been very receptive to our Summer Previews, and I thank everyone who has helped in the many efforts to bring the Class of 2025 to Creighton.

Lastly, I want to call your attention to the [fact book and interactive dashboard platform](#) created by the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research (AIR). Please become familiar with these valuable tools and reach out to the AIR team if you have any questions.

I hope all of you are able to enjoy some summer fun and travel with family and/or friends.

Sincerely,

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN
Provost

Summer Preview Hosts Students, Families

Summer Preview, held the weeks of June 7 and June 14, hosted more than 1,100 students (97.5% of the incoming class) both in person and virtually. During each of the four two-day events, students and guests attended educational sessions and could meet with faculty and staff. Students also met with a faculty advisor and completed their course registration. We look forward to welcoming our new undergraduate students and families back on Aug. 13 and 14 for first-year student move-in. For more information, please visit the [Welcome Week website](#).



Article Explores Value of Storytelling

LaShaune Johnson, PhD, associate professor, Master of Public Health, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, was senior author for a journal article, "[What Anansi Did for Us: Storytelling's Value in Equitably Exploring Public Health](#)." The article was published in a special issue of *Health Education & Behavior*.

Nursing Receives Loan Program Award

The College of Nursing has been awarded \$43,313 for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The NFLP's goal is to increase qualified nursing faculty in the U.S. by providing partial loan forgiveness to those who secure full-time employment in a nursing faculty role. Combined with last year's award of \$169,969 and additional contributions from the College of Nursing, Creighton can provide financial assistance to students in the Master of Science in Nursing Education program or the Post Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education. **Anne Schoening**, PhD, RN, CNE, is project director for the NFLP and author of the grant submissions. **Linda Bendorf**, manager of financial services, and **Janet Solberg**, director of financial aid, also serve on the NFLP Project Team.



International Congress Invites Svolos

Thomas Svolos, MD, professor of psychiatry and associate dean for strategy and accreditation in the School of Medicine, gave an invited talk on "The Body in the Virtual Analytic Experience" at the 19th International Congress of the New Lacanian School on "Bodily Effects of Language," hosted from Ghent, Belgium, on May 23.

Johnson Article Explores 401(k)s

Heider finance professor **Robert Johnson**, PhD, was interviewed for a *Bankrate* article on determining if a person's 401(k) is too aggressive and steps to fix it. The article was picked up by other media outlets including the [Chicago Tribune](#). Johnson also has been named to the [Bankrate Editorial Review Board](#).



Mindrup Installed as Endowed Chair

Rachel Mindrup, MFA, assistant professor of drawing and painting in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, was installed as the inaugural Richard L. Deming, MD, Endowed Chair of Medical Humanities on June 2. Fr. Hendrickson presented Mindrup with the ceremonial medallion for Creighton's 43rd endowed chair. [Watch a video](#) of Mindrup discussing the School of Medicine's new Department of Medical Humanities and the latest project, "Can You Make Hair for Me?", an exhibit in the Lied Art Gallery.

Ebner Publishes, Lectures in China

Noam Ebner, professor, Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, gave an invited lecture at the School of Economics and Management at Northwest University in Xi'an, China. Also, Ebner's chapter, "Integrative Negotiation: Paying the Price of Popularity" has appeared in a new book, *Discussions in Dispute Resolution: The Formative Articles*, published by Oxford University Press.



Kurtyka Named Journal Co-Editor

Faith Kurtyka, PhD, associate professor in the Department of English, has been named managing co-editor of *Composition Forum*, a journal for teachers and scholars interested in the investigation of composition theory and its relation to the teaching of writing at the post-secondary level. The journal is indexed in the Directory of Open-Access Journals, EBSCOhost International Humanities Complete, and ERIC.

Lomneth Publishes on Anatomical Donations

Carol Lomneth, PhD, Department of Medicine chair and professor, and UNMC colleagues recently published the article ["The state of anatomical donation programs amidst the SARS-CoV-](#)



DiLeo to Join Vatican Working Group

Daniel DiLeo, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Cultural and Social Studies and director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program, has been invited to join the Vatican’s [“Laudato Si’ Action Platform”](#) working group for educational institutions, which is a seven-year Vatican initiative to integrate Pope Francis’s ecological encyclical into the Catholic Church. This summer, Creighton’s co-sponsorship of [“Laudato Si’ and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home”](#) will advance the platform in the U.S. Church. DiLeo’s scholarship focuses on *Laudato Si’* and he serves as a consultant with Catholic Climate Covenant, which is also co-sponsoring the conference series.

Goedken to Serve on State Advisory Council

Rachel Goedken, JD, director of the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Conflict Resolution and assistant professor of law, has been appointed by the Nebraska Supreme Court to serve on the Nebraska Dispute Resolution Advisory Council, which oversees the state’s Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR). The ODR’s mission is to enhance and advance the use of mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in courts and communities by partnering with ODR-approved mediation centers and others involved with ADR.



Mack Article Compares Chauvin Trial to True Crime Television

Raneta Mack, JD, professor of law, published [“The Five Most Common Misconceptions About Criminal Trials,”](#) which compared what was seen in the highly publicized Derek Chauvin trial to what is seen on true crime TV.



COVID Vaccination Clinic Team Awarded

A team from Creighton received the “Spirit of Advocacy Award” from the Metro Immunization Task Force for work with the COVID-19 community vaccine clinics held in the Rasmussen Center. **Julie Manz**, PhD, assistant dean in the College of Nursing; **Tricia Sharrar**, JD, vice president of compliance; **Mike Miller**, EdD, director and assistant professor of emergency medical services (EMS) education; and **Jenny Tilleman**, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy, made up a core group that organized the clinics and reached out to students and colleagues across the University for support. The four were at every Saturday clinic for three and a half months and oversaw the administration of more than 42,000 doses of vaccine.



Dean Fershée Article on Top 10 List

School of Law Dean **Joshua Fershée**, JD, published [“The Benefits and Burdens of Limited Liability”](#) in *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*. The article was based on prior blogs, as well as Dean Fershée’s presentation at the 4th annual Business Law Prof Blog Symposium, *Connecting the Threads*. Additionally, the article was recently listed on SSRN’s Top Ten download list for several topics.

Associated Press Publishes Goss Midwest Report

[“The Midwest Economy Report: May State-by-State Glance”](#) was published June 1 by the Associated Press. The report is overseen by economics professor **Ernie Goss**, PhD.



Lenz Featured on KETV News

Tom Lenz, PhD, professor and program director for Healthy Lifestyle Management (BA) and Integrative Health and Wellness (MS), was interviewed by Julie Cornell from KETV and featured on May 23. The segment, "CHRONICLE: Battling the mental health effects of COVID-19," can be viewed [here](#).

Phoenix Programs Awarded Grants

- **Michael Zgoda**, MD, associate professor and academic chair of medicine, School of Medicine Phoenix Campus, was awarded \$153,000 from the St. Joseph's Foundation for his grant application "Addressing Disparities in Health Care through Point of Care Ultrasound Training."
- **Conrad Ballecer**, MD, Dignity Health Medical Group Surgical Specialty-St. Joseph's General Surgeon and School of Medicine Phoenix Campus assistant professor, along with medical residents **Tiffany Nguyen**, MD, and **Courtney Janowski**, MD, received a \$153,000 grant from Becton, Dickinson and Company to study "Arista in Retromuscular Hernia Repairs."
- St. Joseph's Foundation awarded a \$128,000 grant to support the Women's Health Wellness Center, including the MOMobile. Dignity Health Medical Group and the Women's Health Department are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the MOMobile. A celebration will take place this fall.
- The Dignity Health Medical Group - Quality Team won a St. Joseph's Foundation grant for hypertension outreach to provide blood pressure cuffs to assist in better monitoring at-risk patients through virtual visits.



Harris to Begin Second Term

Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Honor Society, announced that **HollyAnn Harris**, PhD, associate dean for the natural sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, will begin a second term in Sigma Xi's leadership as director of the Northwest Region on July 1. As director, Dr. Harris plays an important part in guiding the society to reach its goals and fulfill its mission to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition.

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