



March 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Midway through the semester, with grass turning green and winter's chill on the way out, planning for in-person May commencement and hooding ceremonies is underway and we are grateful to all those in our Creighton community who are making that possible.

Our University has made so many strides in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, not the least of which is the overwhelming success of the community vaccination clinic we are operating in partnership with the Douglas County Health Department. To date, more than 20,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered at our clinic in the Rasmussen Center, and hundreds of students, faculty and staff have volunteered.

As we said farewell to Christopher Whitt, PhD, this week and wished him all the best at the University of Denver, we are grateful for the many advancements he shepherded at Creighton in diversity and inclusion initiatives. Likewise, I am grateful to Sarah Walker, PhD, associate professor of marketing and management in the Heider College of Business, for serving as our interim vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Dr. Walker brings notable experience to the role, and I know she will be instrumental in moving Creighton forward, especially as we anticipate our upcoming campus climate survey.

We should all be pleased that Creighton received [First-gen Forward](#) designation from the Center for First-generation Student Success. The success of first-generation students at Creighton has been a priority, and this designation will further our efforts. Being included in this prestigious cohort ensures that Creighton can continue our momentum and learn from and collaborate with our peers.

Sincerely,

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN
Provost

Research and Scholarship News

The campus-wide Research and Scholarship survey of faculty is complete. Soon the University Research Council, along with several additional campus faculty stakeholders, will be invited to meet with the Clarion group to analyze the campus data and work to develop our Strategic Map.

Watch for information about the virtual University Research Week (formerly St. Albert's Day), April 20-22. In addition to student posters and oral presentations, University Research Awards and University Research Mentor Awards will be presented during the week. An additional exciting event will be a Three-Minute Thesis competition for faculty.

Applications are being accepted for director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS). Please contact **Juliane Strauss-Soukup**, PhD, or **Meghan Freeman**, PhD, with questions about the position.



Al-khateeb Book Nets Positive Review

Samer Al-khateeb, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, Design and Journalism, received a positive review from the *ACM Computing Reviews Journal* for his book "[Deviance in Social Media and Social Cyber Forensics: Uncovering Hidden Relations](#)

[Using OSINF.](#)"

Jensen Honored with Lectureship Award

Gail Jensen, PT, PhD, FAPTA, FNAP, dean of the Graduate School and College of Professional Studies, has received the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Academy of Education's Pauline Cerasoli Lectureship Award. She will deliver the Cerasoli lecture at the 2022 APTA Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio. The award recognizes an individual who is distinguished as an educator, administrator, practitioner and/or mentor within the physical therapy profession.



Haneman Expertise Sparks Interest

Victoria Haneman, JD, LLM, the Frank J. Kellegher Professor of Trusts and Estates in the School of Law, has seen her work on death and funerals spark much interest from regional news media. Coverage includes the [Omaha World-Herald](#), [KMTV Channel 3 News](#), This Morning in Lincoln on KOLN (CBS), and The Doug Wegner Morning Show on WMT AM600 (Cedar

Rapids, Iowa). The interviews covered funeral poverty, green burial and eco-friendly death-care technologies.

TLC is Seeking Peer Reviewers

Peer reviewers provide feedback on program, college and school annual assessment reports to help enhance programmatic assessment and improvement efforts. Join the Teaching and Learning Center peer review team to assist Creighton degree programs, majors and certificate programs in the collaborative assessment cycle. Training is provided. Please contact [Sarah Oliver](#) for additional information.



Raj Named to Lead Association

Jaya Raj, MD, was elected president of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM) Council as part of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. Raj's term as president-elect begins in July and her term as president begins in July 2022. Raj serves as program director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program for the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance.

MD Program Receives Eight-Year Accreditation

The School of Medicine Doctor of Medicine (MD) program has received full, eight-year accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, responsible for the accreditation of medical schools. This is the maximum accreditation a medical school may receive.



Drake Manuscript to Be Published

A manuscript by **Jonathan Drake**, PhD, "Particularism for Generalists: A Russian Business Ethic" has been accepted for publication in *Business Ethics Quarterly*, one of the top journals in the field of business ethics. Drake is a business ethics post-doctoral teaching fellow in the Heider College of Business.

Jessen Published in International Journal

Jennifer Jessen, EdD, MSN, RN, director of assessment for CIPER and Accelerated Nursing Program faculty chair, was the corresponding author of “Perioperative Nursing Simulation and Its Influence on Student Nurses’ Career Interest,” published in the [International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research](#).



Johnson Interviewed for Black Leadership Web Series

LaShaune Johnson, PhD, associate professor, Master of Public Health, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Graduate School, with David Fakunle, PhD, of Johns Hopkins University, was interviewed for the National Black Leadership Empowerment Project’s “Let’s Talk About It” weekly web series. They discussed the power of narrative in policy change and public health research, parallels to COVID-19 and cancer disparities in the Black community, and their poetic transcription project on African American women’s cancer experiences. The recording can be [seen here](#).

Mihalo Argues Before State Supreme Court

Christopher A. Mihalo, special assistant professor of law at the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic, argued before the Nebraska Supreme Court in [Brown v. Morello](#). The legal clinic prevailed in the lower court, helping its client earn a ruling for adverse possession of a small strip of land and avoid paying damages for unauthorized use. The Supreme Court’s decision on the appeal should be issued in the coming months.



O'Keefe Short Film Featured on NET

John O'Keefe, PhD, professor and interim chair of the Department of Theology, recently had his short film [“Stargazers”](#) featured on Nebraska PBS (NET). Amateur astronomers from across the U.S. converge on the Nebraska Sandhills to view galaxies far, far away and share a lesson on the science of stars.

Johnson and Todd Awarded Medication Grant

Lisa Johnson, DNP, APRN, assistant professor in the College of Nursing, primary investigator, and **Martha Todd**, PhD, APRN-NP, associate professor, were awarded a grant from Good Rx and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics for \$120,000. Their project is

“Implementation of a Medication Assistance Program Targeting Chronic Health Conditions in a Primary Care Safety Net Clinic.” The grant will provide medication funding for patients who cannot afford their needed medications.



Kracher Named Midlands Leader

Beverly Kracher, PhD, holder of the Robert B. Daugherty Endowed Chair in Business Ethics and Society, was named the 2020 Woman of Distinction by the *Midlands Business Journal* in its leadership recognition edition. The award is given annually to a leader who has made a significant impact in the Greater Omaha community.

Call Open for TLC Associates

Creighton benefits-eligible faculty and professional staff with a passion for teaching and scholarly work, and who desire mentorship in academic leadership, are invited to apply to the Teaching and Learning Center Associates Program for 2021-2023. Associates are supported in their efforts to develop and deliver University-wide faculty/professional staff development programming. They receive \$2,000 for each of two years for their professional development activities, and 4-6 applicants annually are accepted into the TLC Associates Program. Learn more and access the application [here](#). The application deadline is March 31 at 4:30 p.m. Questions should be directed to **Mary Emmer** at MaryEmmer@Creighton.edu or 402.280.4779.



Lappe on Commonwealth Club Panel

Joan Lappe, PhD, RN, CNE, associate dean for research in the College of Nursing, was a panelist March 9 on the livestream of the Commonwealth Club of California, the nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum. Lappe and the other three panelists discussed “The Health Benefits of Vitamin D and Solar UVB.”

Hays Awarded for Outstanding Research

The School of Medicine's **Cassandra Hays**, PhD, was named a 2020 Cranefield Awardee for outstanding research. The award was created by the Council of the Society of General Physiologists to honor Paul F. Cranefield, MD, PhD, who for 30 years was editor of the [Journal of General Physiology](#). The award recognizes a graduate student who in the preceding year published an outstanding article in the journal. The award is not necessarily given every year and

is reserved for a truly noteworthy paper. Hays joined Creighton in February as an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Education.



Moody Poem, Essay and Chapbook Earn Recognitions

Trey Moody, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of English, had his poem "The Oriole" and his essay "Good Morning" published in [More in Time: A Tribute to Ted Kooser](#) from the University of Nebraska Press. Additionally, his poetry chapbook *The Trains of San Marcos* was named a semifinalist in *Beloit Poetry Journal's* [Chad Walsh Chapbook Series](#).

Kirkpatrick Co-Investigator on AAMC Grant

Amanda Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN, associate professor of nursing, is a co-investigator on a recently funded grant awarded to Johns Hopkins by the AAMC Fundamental Role of Arts and Humanities in Medical Education Grant Program for Evaluating Outcomes. This is a competitive grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges and partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This interprofessional team includes medicine and pharmacy faculty from Johns Hopkins and NYU and only eight submissions were funded this year. The project is "Simulation to Assess Impact of a Health Equity-Focused Health Humanities Track in GME."



Mental Health App Now Available

Under the direction and guidance of **Sade Kosoko-Lasaki**, MD, MSPH, MBA, associate vice provost for Health Sciences, and in partnership with the Health Sciences – Multicultural and Community Affairs Department (HS-MACA) and the Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity, Creighton has released My Mental Health Risk App. This app provides information on mental health and assists people in locating mental health services in their community. Development was supported in part by the Douglas County Health Department and through unrestricted funds awarded to the University through the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund (LB692). Please spread the word, download and use the My Mental Health Risk App. The app is now live on [iOS](#) and [Android](#) as well as the [website](#).

News from the Department of Neurology

- **Glynnis Zieman**, MD, FAHS, and Ashley Bridwell, traumatic brain injury social worker, delivered the keynote talk at an international conference supporting survivors of abuse and brain injury through research on Feb. 24. Zieman is a neurologist in the Concussion and Brain Injury Center at Barrow Neurological Institute and assistant clinical professor at the School of Medicine, Phoenix Campus.
- The Barrow Neurological Institute at Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix created a registry for patients with spontaneous intracranial hypotension which will be utilized to conduct research to refine diagnostic and treatment algorithms.
- In addition, the Headache Program has inpatient treatment protocols for which Barrow Neurological Institute is actively admitting refractory headache patients.

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