



May 20, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

First, I want to congratulate everyone involved with our seven commencement ceremonies last week on creating such memorable celebrations. The events, which also included hoodings for the graduate and professional students, topped off a year that presented a myriad of challenges. But just as our Creighton community came together to successfully navigate and complete the academic year, so too did you work as one to bring about commencement ceremonies that reflected the wonderful spirit of this University and its graduates. Well done.

Congratulations also are in order for the Enrollment Management team, as well as everyone across campus who assisted them, for a most successful recruitment of the undergraduate Class of 2025. The effort exceeded every expectation, and in a pandemic year no less. The larger-than-expected freshman class has a median high school GPA of 3.95, typical of recent years, and has a widespread geographic distribution, while also including the largest number of deposits in more than a decade from Nebraska (259). We expect the class to potentially be the third-largest class in University history. Again, well done.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Carol Fassbinder-Orth, PhD, professor of biology, has been named as the new director of the [Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship \(CURAS\)](#). Dr. Fassbinder-Orth has been a College of Arts and Sciences faculty member since 2008, and her research interests include virology, ecological immunology, comparative immunology, physiological ecology and zoonotic diseases. She and her team are currently working on a two-year collaborative research grant funded by the National Science Foundation on establishing immortalized cell lines from the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Fassbinder-Orth on her new leadership role.

Sincerely,

## HS-MACA Releases Spring 2021 Newsletter

The Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) spring 2021 newsletter featured the School of Dentistry's [African American men in dentistry](#) as its cover story. HS-MACA is dedicated to developing culturally aware health care professionals and eliminating health disparities in underserved and diverse communities, by bringing together education, community advocacy and research.

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### Johnson Leads USPATH Committee

**Ronn Johnson**, PhD, ABPP, associate dean for diversity and inclusion, School of Medicine, was selected to serve as the adult mental health lead on the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH) 2021 Scientific Steering Committee. In this position, Johnson and his fellow committee members will plan the virtual USPATH 2021 Scientific Symposium, scheduled for Nov. 4-7.

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## CIPER Finishes Fourth Year of IPE Passport

The Center for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (CIPER) is finishing its fourth year of the IPE Passport. All students, beginning with those entering in 2017, are required to complete a minimum of three IPE Passport activities. Students access IPE 001: IPE Passport through Blueline after successful completion of IPE 500: Introduction to Collaborative Care. During the fall and spring semesters, 77 IPE Passport activities were held and 3,200 Passport stamps were earned. Additionally, 1,073 students enrolled in IPE 500: Introductory to Collaborative Care have successfully completed the course.

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### Kirby Named an ADL Volunteer of Year

**Erika Dakin Kirby**, PhD, professor in the Department of Communication Studies, has been selected as a recipient of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)/Community Relations Committee Volunteer of the Year Award for her work on the Walk Against Hate Committee. Dakin Kirby and other committee members will be formally recognized at the Jewish Federation of Omaha Awards Night and Annual Meeting on June 7. Dakin Kirby and the committee were nominated for

outstanding work and commitment to the ADL-CRC. The Walk Against Hate Committee produced a first-of-its-kind COVID-safe, citywide, interactive guided tour of multiple locations (accessible online or on the ground) across the Omaha Metro that hold significance to the evolution or future of civil rights and civil liberties in our community. The virtual event was held over a week, beginning Nov. 22, 2020.

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## Health Professions Summit to Be Held in June

The [Innovation Summit for Health Professions Education](#) will be held June 17 and 18, as jointly provided by Regis University, Rockhurst University and Creighton University's College of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Office of Continuing Education and CIPER. This conference offers health professions educators and clinicians time to share best practices and innovative education initiatives and outcomes.

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### Miller Selected for EMS Committee

**Michael Miller**, EdD, associate professor and director of Emergency Medical Services Education, has been selected as assistant director of accreditation services for the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP), effective in August.

"Mike is an outstanding choice," says CoAEMSP Executive Director George Hatch, EdD. "He has 'lived' the role first as paramedic practitioner, educator, site visitor, board member and mentor to others. He is knowledgeable, compassionate, forward-thinking and will 'hit the ground running' on day one as an integral member of our team."

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## Dental Students Present at Research Week

Second-year dental students **Leslie Erickson** and **Steve Nikodem** presented at the University Research Week on April 22 with their poster titled "A Review of Special Care Categorization in a Dental School Electronic Health Record: Quality Improvement." **Teryn Sedillo**, DDS, associate professor, Community and Preventive Dentistry, was their faculty mentor and **Terra Zawadski**, BSW, social worker, assisted in the clinical implementation of the project.

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### Teitz Awarded Research Grant

**Tal Teitz**, PhD, Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, School of Medicine, was awarded a two-year \$360,000 Department of Defense – Hearing Restoration Research grant for her project "Tamiflu as a Therapeutic Candidate for Noise-Induced Hearing Loss."

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## Faculty, Student Publish on Bishops and Biden

Two College of Arts and Sciences faculty and one undergraduate student recently published the lead essay on the website of *National Catholic Reporter*. **Daniel DiLeo**, PhD, associate professor and director of the Justice and Peace Studies Program, **Sabrina Daniels**, PhD, assistant professor of sociology, and **Emily Burke**, senior double major in justice and society and sociology, co-authored "[Predicting how US bishops' conference will treat Biden, based on their criticism of Obama and Trump.](#)"

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## Borchers Interviewed by Bloomberg

**Patrick Borchers**, JD, Endowed Lillis Family Professor at Creighton Law, was [interviewed by Bloomberg](#) about his research on property rights in Cuba as it pertains to the \$280 million Exxon Mobil lawsuit. The story has generated more than 9 million views worldwide.

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## 2021 HIPE Conference Opens Call for Abstracts

The virtual 2021 [Heartland Interprofessional Education Conference](#) (HIPE) on July 29-30 has opened a [call for abstracts](#). The conference provides an opportunity for learners, scholars and practitioners in the field of interprofessional education and health care to share their knowledge, build skills, experience professional development and form collaborative relationships.

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## Mollison Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

College of Arts and Sciences junior **Abbie Mollison**, double majoring in neuroscience and French, has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship for work this summer (virtually) with Simon Fraser University Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience Institute in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Her work will involve an advanced research project dedicated to categorizing and cataloging electroencephalograms, more commonly known as EEGs. [Read more.](#)

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## Manz, Kunes-Connell Receive Nursing Award

The College of Nursing's **Julie Manz**, PhD, assistant dean and associate professor, and **Mary Kunes-Connell**, PhD, associate dean and professor, received the Nebraska Nurses

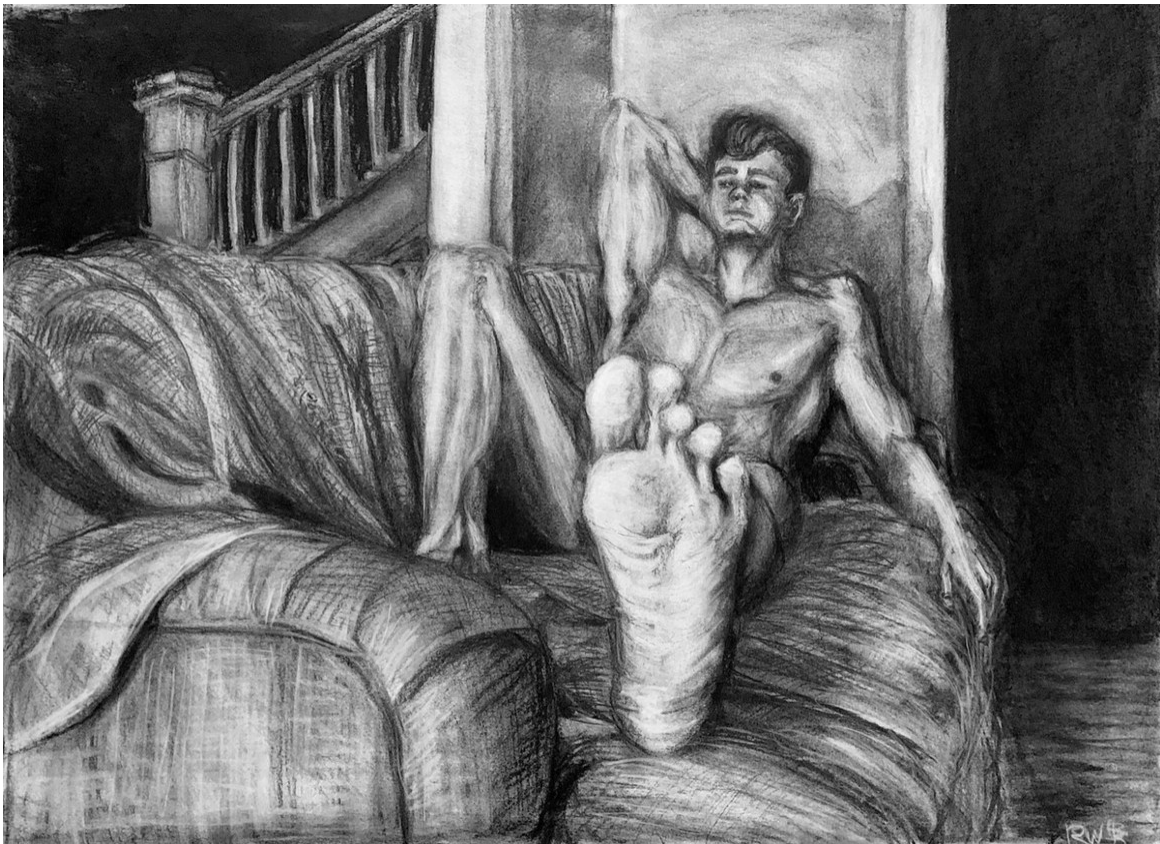




## Haneman Featured on PBS News Hour

PBS News Hour featured **Victoria Haneman**, JD, LLM, Endowed Frank J. Kellegher Professor at Creighton Law, on COVID-19 death benefits. The federal government is now offering to pay for all or most of every funeral for those who have died from COVID-19. Haneman says, "a subsidy-for-all program kind of exacerbates inequities and unfairness." The segment, "Why Experts Think the Recent COVID-19 Death Benefit is a 'Deeply Flawed' Relief Plan," can be accessed [here](#).

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## Brausch's Drawing on Display at St. Joseph Museum

This charcoal piece by Creighton junior **Russell Brausch**, a BFA in studio art candidate in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts, was accepted into the Fifth Annual National Undergraduate Juried Exhibition at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Missouri. Out of more than 200 submissions, 56 pieces of art were chosen from 38 artists. The annual event is a juried exhibition open to currently enrolled students from undergraduate programs across the United States. Brausch's 22-by-30-inch drawing will be on display at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art until June 6.



## Christensen Receives Lifesaving Award

**Keith Christensen**, PharmD, BCPS, associate professor of pharmacy practice, received the Treynor Fire and Rescue Lifesaving Award for his volunteer role as an EMS/firefighter for Treynor, Iowa. He received the award after responding to an early-morning call recently at which a person was coding. Christensen and the team took over CPR, administered a defibrillator and successfully transported the patient to the ER, where the individual recovered with no complications.

## TLC Welcomes Associates for 2021-2023

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) welcomes awarded faculty as TLC Associates for 2021-2023 from the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Nursing:

- **Ronald Fussell**, EdD, Department of Education
- **Maya Khanna**, PhD, Department of Psychological Science
- **Brian Kokensparger**, PhD, MCS, MFA, Department of Computer Science, Design, & Journalism
- **Faith Kurtyka**, PhD, Department of English
- **Mark Reedy**, PhD, Department of Biology
- **Shelly Luger**, DNP, RN, NEA, BC, College of Nursing

These individuals will design and facilitate faculty programming throughout 2021-2023 in focus areas related to: high-impact instructional strategies, experiential learning pedagogies and impact on student learning and achievement, curricular innovation and/or development, collaborative practices and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.



## Dineen Co-Chairs ABA Opioid Summit

**Kelly Dineen**, PhD, RN, JD, associate professor and director of the Health Law Program in the School of Law, co-chaired the [American Bar Association \(ABA\) Opioid Summit](#), May 13 and 14. The summit addressed the legal barriers to addiction care and treatment, and, for the first time, was co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. The three organizations intend to use their collective voice to create resolutions for advocacy efforts at the federal and state levels.

## PT Faculty Publish on Breastfeeding, Physical Health

Physical therapy faculty members **Kailey Snyder**, PhD, **Julie Peterson**, DPT, PT, WCS, and **Kari Bargstadt-Wilson**, PT, MPT, WCS, CSCS, were recently published in the *Journal of Women's Health Physical Therapy*, with their article ["No One Told Me about This Part: What Breastfeeding Women Want and Need to Support Their Physical Health."](#)

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## Radniecki Speaks on Job Market

**Scott Radniecki**, DDS, assistant professor, School of Dentistry, provided perspective on job market trends for aspiring graduates, what they might encounter and how young graduates entering the workforce can be adequately prepared, as part of this [article from Zippia](#).

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## Faculty, Alumnus Publish Research on Bail

**Leah Georges**, PhD, associate professor, and **Jim Martin**, PhD, associate professor, assistant director, EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Graduate School, along with former student **Brian Brittain**, EdD'18, recently learned an article they co-authored, titled "Examining the Predictive Validity of the Public Safety Assessment," a statistical analysis of pretrial assessments used to decide whether individuals are granted bail, will soon be published in the journal *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

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## Weikel to Serve on Practice Committee

**Crystal Weikel**, PhD, assistant professor of nursing, Phoenix Campus, was appointed to the Arizona State Board of Nursing Scope of Practice Committee. With this prestigious, highly competitive appointment, Weikel will be making a significant impact on nursing practice in Arizona. Weikel is a community health nurse expert and teaches throughout all care management courses for populations didactic and clinical practicum. She is also highly published and well-regarded within the Arizona community for her passion for patients and her profession.

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## Jensen Presents on Stroke Rehab Planning Guide

**Lou Jensen**, OTD, OTR/L, associate professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, is part of a team involved in a project that is grant funded by Mission: Lifeline Stroke as part of her role on the Nebraska Stroke Advisory Council. The team created a [Discharge Planning Guide for Stroke Rehabilitation](#) to assist health care professionals in determining the appropriate level of stroke rehabilitation care. Jensen presented on this tool at

the Nebraska Brain Injury Association Conference and at the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association conference in April.

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