

## Mark Your Calendars

# Creighton Sponsors Walesa Lecture

## Lech Walesa

Former President of  
Poland & 1983 Nobel  
Peace Prize Recipient

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006, 7 p.m.*

*Omaha Civic Auditorium  
Music Hall*



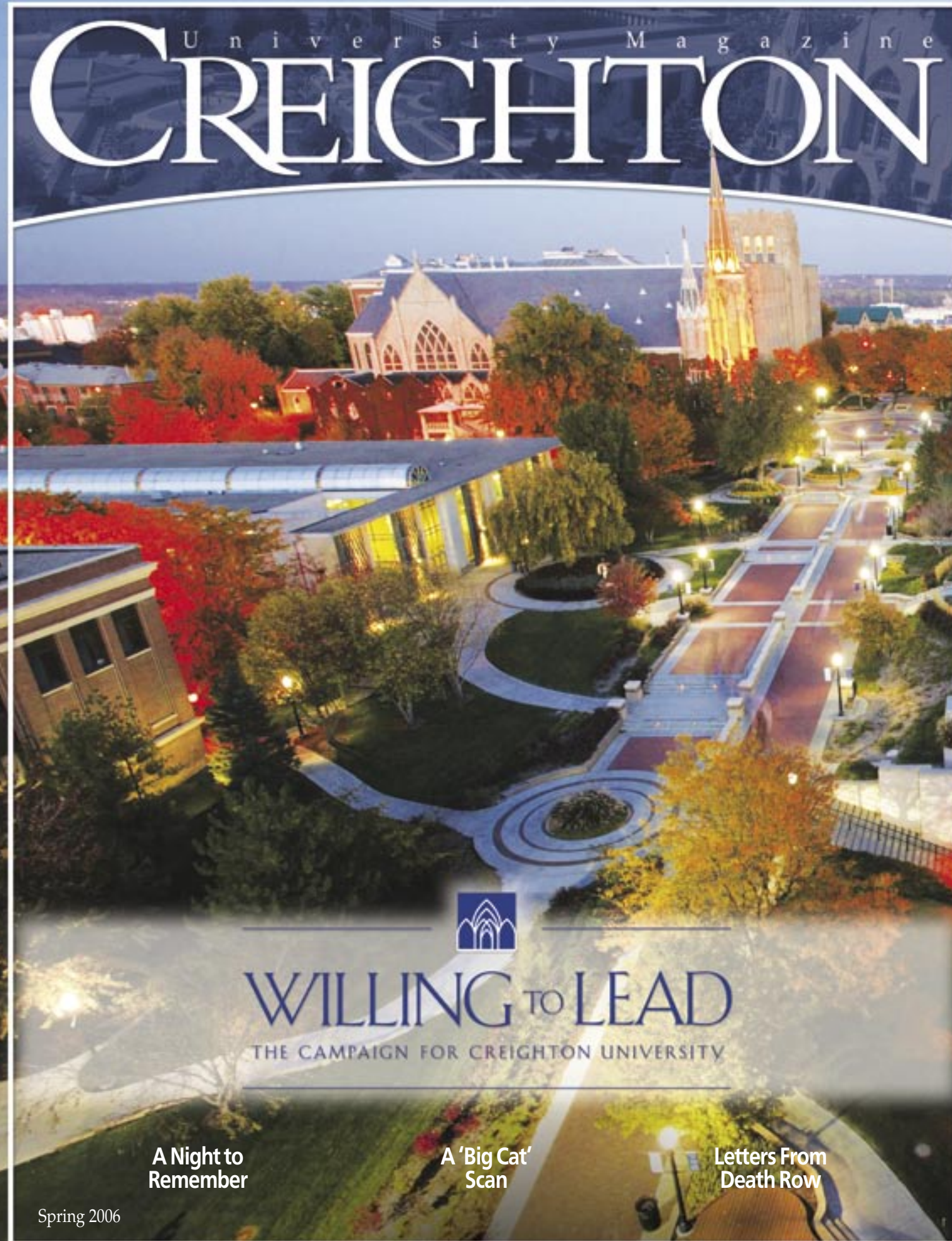
AP Photo

Creighton University is proud to sponsor a lecture by Lech Walesa, the former president of Poland and 1983 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, on March 28. The 7 p.m. lecture, "Democracy: The Never-Ending Battle," will be presented at the Omaha Civic Auditorium Music Hall.

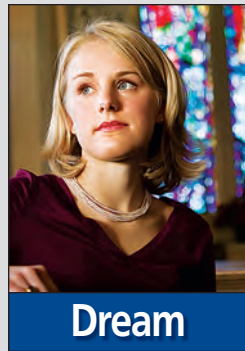
Walesa helped to shape the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as leader of the Solidarity movement in Poland. *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people of the past century, noting that, "It is one of history's great ironies that the nearest thing we have ever seen to a genuine workers' revolution was directed against a so-called workers' state." Walesa's courage helped bring about the disintegration of the Eastern Bloc and the end of the Cold War.

For ticket information, visit  
<http://puffin.creighton.edu/ccas/lechwalesa.htm>.

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Believe



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## Are You Willing ...

To join Creighton University in its most ambitious private fundraising campaign ever?  
To invest in our students (both now and for generations to come), in life-saving research initiatives,  
in our expanding campus, in our Jesuit, Catholic values, and in our vision for the future?

A successful \$350 million campaign will signify that we're  
willing to believe ... to innovate ... to grow ... to excel ... to serve ... to dream.

And, above all, that we're ... *Willing to Lead.*



**WILLING TO LEAD**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Learn more about *WILLING TO LEAD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY*  
in this issue and online at [www.creighton.edu/development](http://www.creighton.edu/development).

View the magazine online at:  
[www.creightonmagazine.org](http://www.creightonmagazine.org)

SPRING 2006

# Creighton University Magazine



## A Night to Remember ..... 12

With alumna and former CNN anchor Mary Alice Williams serving as mistress of ceremonies and video tributes that included comedic legend Bob Newhart and alumnus and NBA star Kyle Korver, Creighton's Campaign Inaugural Celebration Dinner was truly a night to remember.



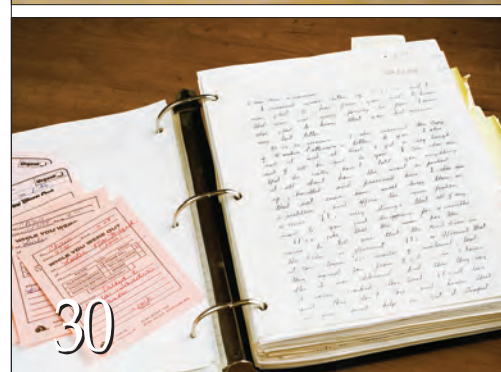
## The Campaign for Creighton ..... 16

Creighton publicly announces its next capital campaign. The \$350 million fundraising campaign — the largest in Creighton's history — looks to reshape the University and secure Creighton's place as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States.



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Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Creighton University Medical Center join together to perform a CAT scan on a Malayan tiger. A New York photojournalist plans to use the images in a tiger exhibit that would travel to zoos worldwide.



## Letters from Death Row ..... 30

For seven years, beginning in the late 1980s, Creighton's vice president for Academic Affairs, Christine Wiseman, defended Texas death row inmate Billy Conn Gardner. She now shares their letters — a riveting, sometimes emotional, account of an attorney and a client she believes was wrongly accused.

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Publisher: Creighton University; Rev. John P. Schlegel, SJ., President; Lisa Calvert, Vice President for University Relations. *Creighton University Magazine* staff: Kim Barnes Manning, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations; Rick Davis, Editor; Sheila Swanson, Associate Editor; Pamela A. Vaughn, Features Editor. Editorial Advisers: Cam Enarson, M.D., M.B.A.; Christine Wiseman, J.D.; Richard O'Brien, M.D.; Diane Dougherty; Rev. Donald A. Doll, SJ.; Tamara Buffalohead-McGill; and Jayne Schram.

*Creighton University Magazine* (USPS728-070) is published quarterly in February, May, August and November by Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178-0001. Periodicals postage paid at Omaha, Nebraska, and additional entry points. Address all mail to Public Relations and Information, Omaha, NE 68178. Postmaster: Send change of address to *Creighton University Magazine*, P.O. Box 3266, Omaha, NE 68103-0078.

For more enrollment information, contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office at 1-800-282-5835, [admissions@creighton.edu](mailto:admissions@creighton.edu).

To make a gift to the University, contact the Development Office at 1-800-334-8794.

For the latest on alumni gatherings, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 1-800-CU-ALUMS (800-282-5867) or check online at [www.creighton.edu/alumni](http://www.creighton.edu/alumni).

Send letters to the editor to Rick Davis at [rdc@creighton.edu](mailto:rdc@creighton.edu); fax, (402) 280-2549; Creighton University, Marketing and Public Relations, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

Update your mailing address or send alumni news (births, weddings, promotions, etc.) electronically through [www.creighton.edu/alumni](http://www.creighton.edu/alumni), call 1-800-334-8794 or mail to Development Office, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

View the magazine online at [www.creightonmagazine.org](http://www.creightonmagazine.org)

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***Creighton University Magazine's Purpose***

*Creighton University Magazine*, like the University itself, is committed to excellence and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms. The magazine will be comprehensive in nature. It will support the University's mission of education through thoughtful and compelling feature articles on a variety of topics. It will feature the brightest, the most stimulating, the most inspirational thinking that Creighton offers. The magazine also will promote Creighton, and its Jesuit Catholic identity, to a broad public and serve as a vital link between the University and its constituents. The magazine will be guided by the core values of Creighton: the inalienable worth of each individual, respect for all of God's creation, a special concern for the poor, and the promotion of justice.



# Letters to the Editor

## Economic System Amoral

I read with interest your article about social justice, “Challenging the Corporate Paradigm,” presented by Marjorie Kelly (Winter 2005). My observations and studies in this regard leave me disagreeing with her conclusion that the business community will really deal with issues of morality in the capitalistic sector. Capitalism and free markets provide the world's best economies. However this economic system is, by its very nature, amoral and unfair. A careful study shows the reality of this statement. The business community can perhaps help deal with the issue by instituting a governmental body of its own, but capitalism itself does not deal with ethics. We must recognize that a basic function of government is to require morality of the capitalistic sector and to empower the people in their quest for fairness. Government, as the voice of the people, provides the checks and balances that can civilize capitalism and make it responsive to the needs of the country and the people. I see the current efforts of Congress and the free marketers to make our government an arm of capitalism as wrong. Our government of, by and for the people must maintain its strength and focus in providing the checks and balances required for the proper functioning of our capitalistic economy. People are not commodities to be subjected to and impoverished by the vagaries of the free market system.

Ward R. Anthony, MD'54  
Boulder, Colo.

## Happy Memories

I was very happy to see the article in the Fall 2005 issue of the *Creighton University Magazine* on Sebastian Basilico, BS'54 (“Gift Honors Late Husband”). When I came to Creighton as a freshman in 1952, Subby was a junior and very much in the forefront of student activity. I knew he was a veteran, but didn't realize that he was so much older than the rest of us. If he was 91 when he died in 1991, he must have been pushing 50. But he fit in wonderfully with the other students, and was very friendly and welcoming to the newcomers to campus like me. Seeing the picture of him and his wife, Catherine, brings back happy memories of those days, and I for one am very grateful to her for her gift in Subby's honor.  
Andy Kelly, ARTS'56  
Los Angeles

## A Great Loss

This December, the Creighton Education Department suffered a great loss. Karin Levine's passing was devastating to me and to the entire community. Karin was the embodiment of Creighton's Jesuit values and ideals. She battled cancer for 10 years, but never gave up hope. She was courageous, positive and challenged her students to find ways to reach every student. Karin was about living life to the fullest inside and outside of the classroom. She was like a mother to me and many others. She taught me not only how to teach, but to love my students like they were my own. Her guidance and friendship continued even after I graduated from Creighton.

I came to Creighton with hopes of being a lawyer, like many CU freshmen. After my first education class with Karin, I knew I was being called to teach. So many articles in your magazine have been written on research or books by Creighton professors. Karin, and many other CU education professors, write their books and research on the hearts of their students. Karin's legacy lives on in my daily life and classroom. Whenever I am standing in front of my first-graders, I remember Karin's words, “Have fun, inspire and teach your heart out!” Thank you to Mike and Arielle Levine for sharing your wife and mother with us. Her love lives on in classrooms across the United States.

Katie (Sullivan) Mason, BS'99  
Omaha, first-grade teacher,  
Oakdale Elementary

## Message from the University President

## Willing to Lead

With renewed enthusiasm and hope, we enter this new year with great challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Change is not only on the horizon, but it is at our doorstep.

I spoke of this change to our graduates during December commencement. For during their years at Creighton, major events have shaped a world that no one could have imagined previously. The tragedy of Sept. 11, the wars on terrorism and in Iraq and natural disasters of epic proportions, both at home and abroad, have forever changed the world in which we all live.

This upheaval can seem daunting, even intimidating. However, as I told our graduates, my experience says that a Jesuit-inspired education prepares women and men not only to confront change but, indeed, to provide leadership for change.

It is this Jesuit, Catholic identity that sets Creighton apart. As I have said before, without it, Creighton is just another good, or even excellent, comprehensive university.

Sustained and inspired by our faith tradition, Creighton seeks to educate women and men who are not only proficient in their particular professions but who are enlivened with a spirit of service and emboldened to create a more just world. We call on our graduates to be leaders — to be “agents of change” at home in their communities, as well as nationally and globally.

As we ask our graduates to lead in an ever-evolving world, we, too, as a university, must be willing to lead. We must be willing to reinvent ourselves in core areas to provide the best learning environment for our students. We must accept the challenge to move Creighton forward, to meet higher expectations, to truly live our mission and to give life to our expanding dreams and aspirations.

That is the driving force behind **WILLING TO LEAD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON**.

Change, for certain, is afoot at Creighton. It is evident in the physical changes on campus and the activities in our classrooms and laboratories. We are on the cusp of new beginnings; we are forging a “second founding.” As I told those gathered at our campaign inaugural event: This is our moment of possibility!

I am bullish about our future. Creighton is poised to be one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic institutions of higher education in the United States. This \$350 million campaign — the largest in the University's history — will set the course for a bold tomorrow.

Our mission states that “Creighton exists for students and learning,” and this campaign fully supports that credo.

A major initiative of this campaign is to increase our endowment, which will support student scholarships, academic and research programs and faculty excellence. This is the heart

of our campaign — accounting for more than half of the goal. This campaign also seeks to strengthen our Jesuit, Catholic identity, provide for major science and technology initiatives, and finance our historic growth to the east. This, of course, is just a brief overview.

More information about the campaign can be found inside this issue, and we will keep you updated about our progress in future correspondence.

Building on the accomplishments of past decades, we fully embrace our future. As I shared with those at the inaugural campaign launch, the mantle of leadership has been passed. Now the privilege and responsibility to nurture Creighton rests with us. This campaign is an invitation to each of you to assist in leading Creighton forward. I am confident in our success because I am confident in *you*.

This is a monumental effort we are undertaking, but one that can be truly transformational for Creighton.

In this time of great global uncertainty, I exhorted our December graduates to heed Jesus' directive: “Do not hide your light under a bushel basket, but let it shine forth to give light. Be bearers of light to make this a better world.”

That is the heart of a Creighton education.

As Jesuit poet and scientist Teilhard de Chardin wrote: “Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire.”

As this campaign unfolds, we move forward with passion in our souls and confidence in our hearts that, for the second time in history, we will rediscover, redefine and re-found Creighton University.

Please enjoy this issue of the magazine. May God bless you and your family in this new year.

John P. Schlegel, S.J.







Photos by Mark Romesser

Creighton's Patrick Swanson, Ph.D., associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology, works with the new BD FACSARIA flow cytometer, which can sort cells 10 times faster than any previous instrument.

## New Cell Sorter Offers Great Promise

Through new cutting-edge technology recently installed at Creighton, scientists can identify, quantify, analyze and isolate the myriad cells in blood, organs and other tissues faster than ever before — which promises to accelerate the pace of valuable research.

"The ability to sort cells is essential for analyzing the ones that cause disease and how they react to different treatments," said Creighton's Patrick Swanson, Ph.D., associate professor of medical microbiology and immunology. "When we have millions of cells to identify and sort, the speed at which we can do that definitely moves our research forward much more quickly."

These sophisticated cell-sorting devices, known as flow cytometers, use fluorescent-colored dyes and lasers to sort and identify the different cell types.

Creighton's new cell sorter, among the first of its kind, uses recent improvements in technology that were integrated into the machine based on Creighton's specifications.

The end result? Creighton's new BD FACSARIA flow cytometer can sort cells at a rate of 30,000 per second — or 10 times faster than any previous instrument.

Swanson, who directs Creighton's flow cytometry facility, compared cell sorting to making soup.

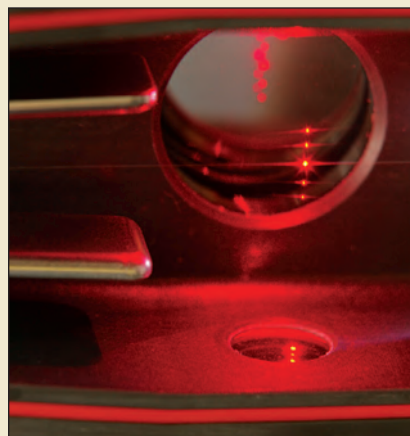
"Suppose you want to make potato soup but your grocery bag is full of all sorts of food," he

said. "This technology helps us pull out only the potatoes for our soup."

The process of cell sorting uses antibodies that are attached to specific cell types. The antibodies are tagged by fluorescent-colored dyes, which allow the researcher to distinguish the different cell types by their color tag.

The cell sorter takes cells that have been stained with the colored antibodies and forces them through tiny tubes, arranging them in "single file" formation. Lasers then read and provide information on each cell as it passes through the sorter.

While previous technology only allowed analysis of four colors, Creighton's new flow cytometer can simultaneously analyze 12 colors — making the process of identifying cell types extremely accurate and precise.



Creighton's new flow cytometer uses three different lasers to sort and identify the millions of cells in the human body.

## Flow Cytometry One of Core Research Facilities

Creighton's flow cytometry laboratory, which includes the sophisticated new BD FACSARIA flow cytometer, is one of five core biomedical research facilities in the School of Medicine.

Each facility is designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and is made available to faculty, graduate and undergraduate investigators from Creighton, as well as other institutions. In addition to flow cytometry, the core facilities are:

**Confocal microscopy** — Provides high-resolution imaging of labeled cell components in three-dimensional space through a multi-photon confocal microscope.

**Genomics** — Provides assistance and shared instrumentation for investigators using gene-based research tools to study cellular structure and function.

**Morphology** — Provides instrumentation and expert assistance for research programs needing high-resolution imaging and identification of tissue structures.

**Proteomics** — Provides researchers with the capability to analyze and identify proteins that play a role in certain biological functions, and that may have potential significance to disease processes.

"Creighton's core research facilities are designed to allow the free flow of information and a collaborative work environment so that more 'accidents of discovery' can occur," said Barbara McLaughlin, Ph.D., associate dean for research in Creighton's School of Medicine.

The facilities are funded by grants from Creighton's Health Futures Foundation, the Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Biomedical Research Development Grant and the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

## Colloquium of Bishops May Bring Pastoral Push

The American Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family took a major step in its work to develop a pastoral letter on marriage when it sponsored a unique, two-day colloquium this past fall at Creighton.

The Center for Marriage and Family at Creighton hosted the colloquium, with Michael Lawler, Ph.D., director of the center, facilitating. The theme, "Promoting and Sustaining Marriage as a Community of Life and Love," drew approximately 30 social scientists, theologians, lay advisers and experts to campus for a common purpose: finding effective ways to present church teaching and to pursue pastoral ministries, all in the spirit of dialogue, listening and learning.

Creighton's Center for Marriage and Family has long cooperated with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, with the colloquium a further example of this ongoing collaborative effort, event organizers say.

Directed to the current and incoming members and advisers of the American Bishops' Marriage and Family Committee, the fall event brought together the following experts:

John S. Grabowski, Ph.D., theologian, Catholic University of America, "Marriage as a Unitive and Procreative Partnership"; Sr. Barbara Markey, ND, Ph.D., social scientist, Family Life Office, Archdiocese of Omaha, "The Lifecycle Stages of a Marriage"; Julie Hanlon Rubio, Ph.D., theologian, St. Louis University, "Marriage as a Covenant and Sacrament"; Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, Ph.D., social scientist, National Marriage Project, Rutgers University, "Patterns and Predictors of Success and Failure in Marriage"; W. Bradford Wilcox,

Ph.D., social scientist, Institute for American Values, "Seeking a Soulmate: A Social Scientific View of the Relationship between Commitment and Authentic Intimacy"; and Wendy M. Wright, Ph.D., theologian, Creighton University, "Marriage as a 'School of Love.'"

The U.S. Bishops launched their National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage in 2004 as a multi-year collaborative effort "to promote, preserve

*"The colloquium will play a key role in our pastoral initiative by bringing together Catholic teaching on marriage with the latest research from the social sciences."*

— Bishop J. Kevin Boland  
Chairman, American Bishops'  
Committee on Marriage and Family

and protect marriage, understood as both a sacramental reality and a human institution."

In presenting the initiative, Bishop J. Kevin Boland, chairman of the Marriage and Family Committee, urged the bishops to "create a positive climate that places healthy marriages at the heart of strong families, a strong nation and a strong and holy church."

A resulting pastoral letter will be the centerpiece of the initiative, which is also expected to promote parish-based resources to improve ministries to the married.

Bishop Boland welcomed the colloquium as an opportunity for bishops "to understand the situations in which marriage is lived out today."

"The colloquium will play a key role in our pastoral initiative by bringing together Catholic teaching on marriage with the latest research from the social sciences," he said.

Papers and dialogue from the colloquium will be published in the near future.

The Center for Marriage and Family was founded at Creighton in 1994 with the charge "to build and enhance healthy marriages and families." It is dedicated to the promotion of healthy Christian marriages and families in a contemporary culture of divorce and family dissolution. It seeks to achieve this goal by researching marriage and family with the best available interdisciplinary tools, by publishing the results of its research and by developing and disseminating pastoral strategies on behalf of marriage and family as prescribed by its research.

The Center for Marriage and Family was formally established as an interdisciplinary center. Lawler, professor *emeritus* in the Department of Theology, has been director of the center since its founding. To learn more about the center's research and publications, go to: [www.creighton.edu/marriageandfamily](http://www.creighton.edu/marriageandfamily).



Photo by Mark Romesser

The Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland, bishop of Savannah, Ga., says Mass at Creighton's St. John's Church during a two-day colloquium on marriage and family at the University this past fall.



Mahern

## Mahern Receives Spire Award

Catherine Mahern, Connie Kearney Endowed Chair in Clinical Legal Education and associate professor of law at the Creighton University School of Law, was awarded the Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award from the Nebraska State Bar Association on Nov. 10.

Mahern is the founder and director of the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic at Creighton University's School of Law. The clinic gives Creighton law students a chance to aid low-income citizens with a wide array of civil legal needs under the supervision of attorneys.

She has published articles on legal problems of the elderly in the

*Texas Bar Journal*. In 2002, she received the Nebraska State Bar Association's Public Service Award.

In addition, Mahern helped to establish the Community Economic Development (CED) Legal Clinic. The program, which joined the Abrahams Legal Clinic last January, operates as a full-service public interest law firm and provides Creighton law students with roll-up-your-sleeves, hands-on experience in transactional law. The CED clinic is funded by a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and is directed by Steven Virgil.

The Robert M. Spire Pro Bono Award honors outstanding contributions by volunteer lawyers providing services to the poor. In 1982, the award was named for the founder of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Robert M. Spire. The honor is bestowed upon lawyers who are dedicated to public service — the trademark of Spire's career.



## Creighton Debuts Ceremonial Mace

Fashioned from a cherry wood baluster taken from an abandoned staircase in the attic of the Administration Building, Creighton's first ceremonial mace made its debut at winter commencement in December.

At academic institutions, the mace is a symbol of authority and leadership, and its use is reserved for occasions of outstanding importance.

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., commissioned the creation of the mace to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University in 2003.

The mace was designed and created by Brian Besack of the University's carpenter shop, with partial assistance from Bradley Walters, a research technician in the physics department.

The head of the mace features gold-plated medallions bearing the names and founding dates of the University's nine schools and colleges. The top is adorned with the symbol of the Society of Jesus, and the Creighton seal is set in the mace's shaft.



Photo by Mike Klaveter

## Soccer Teams Crowned Conference Champions

Both the Creighton men's and women's soccer teams advanced to NCAA post-season action again this past season after winning their respective conference tournaments.

Led by tournament MVP Matt Wieland, the Creighton men won their ninth Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Tournament title to advance to their 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.



Gans

An assist by tournament MVP Marcy Gans set up the game-winning shot that gave the Creighton women their second straight MVC

Tournament title and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

The Creighton men reached the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament, knocking off Lafayette, Duke and Penn

State before falling 1-0 to Clemson. Creighton is one of only two schools to advance to the quarterfinals three of the last four seasons. The Jays finished the year 15-5-3 and ranked No. 6 in the final NSCAA/Adidas top-25 poll.

The Creighton women lost a tough 1-0 decision to Nebraska in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to finish the year 12-6-3.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) named Creighton men's coach Bob Warming the Midwest Region Coach of the Year. It is the third time Warming has received the award.

Wieland, a senior midfielder, received a host of honors. He was named a second-team All-American by *CollegeSoccerNews.com* and a third-team



Wieland

All-American by NSCAA. A first-team all-Missouri Valley Conference selection, he was also tabbed by *Soccer America* as one of 11 team MVPs

nationwide. Wieland and teammate Brian Biggerstaff were named MVC first-team scholar athletes and earned first-team academic all-district honors. Rookie Byron Dacy was named a second-team freshman All-American.

The Creighton women earned the NSCAA Team Academic Award, posting a 3.29 cumulative GPA. Seven team members received all-Missouri Valley Conference honors, while seniors Ivonne Valentin and Lissa Waid received regional recognition. Junior Katie Brennan was named second-team academic all-district.

### Volleyball Accolades

The Creighton volleyball team, which finished the season 16-14, placed a league-high three players on the conference's scholar-athlete team: Emily Greisch, Leah Ratzlaff and Abby Baumann. Ratzlaff also was named to the MVC all-tournament team and joined teammate Kelly Goc on the all-conference squad. Korie Lebeda and Jessica Houts were named to the conference's all-freshman team.

## Commencement Honorees



Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., middle, with Alumni Achievement honorees Joan (Jaksich) Cimpl, BSMT'55, and her husband, Donald Cimpl, BSC'54.

Creighton University honored Creighton alumni Donald and Joan Cimpl, SCOLA (Satellite Communications for Learning) founder the Rev. Leland Lubbers, S.J., the *Omaha World-Herald* and Marian High School during Creighton's winter commencement ceremony on Dec 17.

### Alumni Achievement Citation

Creighton presented its highest alumni award, the Alumni Achievement Citation, to advocates for Catholic education, Donald Cimpl, BSC'54, and his wife, Joan (Jaksich) Cimpl, BSMT'55. The couple, who celebrated

50 years of marriage this year, first met as students on Creighton's campus where they excelled academically as well as in their individual pursuits.

Over the years, the Cimpls have volunteered with various organizations in the Omaha community. They have dedicated their time to various Catholic, civic, social, health, education and non-profit organizations, such as the Omaha Children's Hospital, Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha, Archdiocesan Campaign for Educational Development, Omaha Zoological Society and the American Cancer Society. Donald was awarded the College of Business Administration's Alumni Merit Award in 1984. He retired as a partner of the accounting firm Coopers and Lybrand in 1989.

### Honorary Degree

SCOLA founder the Rev. Leland Lubbers, S.J., received an honorary Doctor of Science at commencement. The leading provider of foreign language television programming in North America, SCOLA's mission is to help the people of the world learn more about each other, their languages, their cultures and their ideologies. This organization has given Creighton University a global perspective and assisted with language instruction.

The creative and spiritual force behind SCOLA, Fr. Lubbers joined the Jesuit order in

1946 and was ordained a priest in 1959. He holds degrees from St. Louis University in Latin and Greek, and a Doctor of Aesthetics, with highest honors, from the University of Paris-Sorbonne. An artist in numerous media, Fr. Lubbers taught fine arts at Creighton from 1964-89. But his most influential creation blazed a trail in science. In promoting worldwide communication, Fr. Lubbers has achieved linguistic and cultural as well as technological advancement.

### Presidential Medallion

#### *Omaha World-Herald*

For 120 years, the *Omaha World-Herald* has been an integral part of the Omaha community and during that time has enriched the lives of many people throughout Nebraska. The largest employee-owned newspaper in the United States, the newspaper has received numerous national, state and local awards, including three Pulitzers. Two years ago, *World-Herald* columnist Michael Kelly earned the National Society of Newspaper Editors award for commentary and column writing. John Gottschalk, chairman and chief executive officer of the Omaha World-Herald Company and a member of the University's Board of Directors, accepted the Presidential Medallion.

### Marian High School

Marian High School, a Catholic college preparatory school for girls in Omaha, also received the Presidential Medallion. For 50 years, Marian has been equipping young women with the knowledge, skills and values necessary for academic success in college and faith-filled service in life.

The institution espouses Creighton University's mission statement in its commitment to educational and community ideals. Throughout its history, Marian has prepared more than 6,500 young women for college and beyond. Renowned for its academic caliber, the high school is a two-time, back-to-back winner of the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award for Academic Excellence. Marian is also one of only four Catholic high schools in Nebraska to be a North Central Accredited college preparatory high school. Sr. Virginia Silvestri, O.S.M., provincial of the American Province of the Servants of Mary and sponsor of Marian High School, accepted the award.



## Purcell Receives Public Service Award

Creighton University Accounting and Law Professor Thomas J. Purcell III, Ph.D., BSBA'72, JD'77, received the 2005 Public Service Award during the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants Annual Meeting last fall.

Purcell was recognized for his many years of public service. For more than 20 years, he has helped the Buford Foundation provide deserving youth with no-cost summer wilderness experiences in Jackson Hole, Wyo. He is on the board of the St. Augustine Indian Mission School, the New Cassel Retirement Center, and was president of the board of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Omaha. A volunteer for Operation Others, Purcell assists in organizing and delivering food to more than 1,400 needy families at Christmas and in managing cash assets and fundraising for the organization. He is a member and former chair of Creighton University's Habitat for Humanity Steering Committee and serves as faculty moderator for the Creighton Student Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Purcell has been a member of the Nebraska Society of CPAs since 1978. Because of his dedication to accounting education and his students, he was the recipient of the Nebraska Society's 1995 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award as well as many other awards for excellence in teaching.

## Creighton's 'Miracle Workers'

Creighton's Peter Townley, BS'81, MD'86, assistant clinical professor of medicine, and the Creighton School of Dentistry received OneWorld Community Health Center's Milagro Award in November for their work at the South Omaha clinic.

OneWorld, which provides affordable health care to immigrant and low-income patients, presents the award annually to those "miracle workers" who devote their time and talents to serving the clinic's uninsured patients. Milagro is Spanish for "miracle."

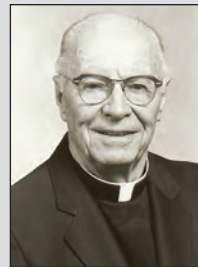
In addition, OneWorld, which celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, honored Creighton's Jim Phalen, BAClas'61, MD'65, associate professor of radiology and medicine, as one of the clinic's founding board members.

## Creighton Remembers Fr. Kramper

Creighton University mourns the loss of the Rev. James P. Kramper, S.J., who died peacefully Dec. 9 at St. Camillus Health Center in Milwaukee, at the age of 93.

Fr. Kramper served the Creighton community for 41 years. He taught math and theology, was director of the alumni library, assistant in the development office and pastoral minister. He spent six years in Council Bluffs, Iowa, as associate pastor of Queen of Apostles Church. Fr. Kramper moved to the St. Camillus Jesuit community in Milwaukee for nursing care in 2003.

The funeral Mass was held Dec. 14 at St. John's Church; he was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.



Fr. Kramper

## Schlegel Leads Local Boy Scout Council, Honored as Omaha Leader

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., was named chairman of the board of trustees for the Mid-America Council of Boy Scouts of America. He was officially inducted during the council's annual board meeting on Dec. 4.

"I am deeply honored to be asked to be the next chair of the Mid-America Council of the Boy Scouts of America," Fr. Schlegel said. "Scouting was a formative part of my own experience, giving me self-confidence and focus. I value the lessons I learned some 50 years ago in Scouting, and I am convinced those same lessons and experiences can form and change and enrich the lives of today's Scouts."

Fr. Schlegel earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth, was a member of the camping honorary society "Order of the Arrow," and received the Ad Altari Dei award (the highest Boy Scout religious emblem) for studying the Catholic faith as a young adult.

The Creighton president also was honored with Leadership Omaha's 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award on Dec. 1. Now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year, Leadership Omaha is a community leadership training program sponsored by the Greater Omaha Chamber Foundation. Fr. Schlegel was a member of Leadership Omaha's second graduating class. The award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the Greater Omaha community.

## Creighton Physician Authors Second Edition of Landmark Textbook

Roger A. Brumback, M.D., professor of pathology and psychiatry at Creighton University, has just published *Pediatric*

*Neuropsychiatry*, the second edition of his textbook detailing the development of the human brain, mind and personality in children.

The first edition of this book was described as a "landmark" text in a 1999 *New England Journal of Medicine* review.

Co-authored by C. Edward Coffey, M.D., professor of neurology and chair of psychiatry at Henry Ford Health System, the book is devoted to the study of the relationship of the nervous system and mental disease in childhood behavior and behavioral development.

"Since publication of the first edition, there have been many advances in the field, and this book helps pediatricians, neurologists and child psychiatrists and psychologists understand and treat nervous system, mental and behavioral disorders of children," said Brumback, who also serves as chair in the Department of Pathology at Creighton University Medical Center and as editor in chief of the *Journal of Child Neurology*.

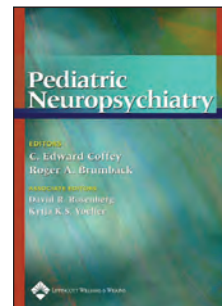


Photo by Bob Ervin

Adolfo Franco, JD'83, assistant administrator of USAID for Latin America, joined Law School Dean Patrick Borchers, and Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., at a public award signing ceremony at Creighton University School of Law on Nov. 16.

## Law School Receives \$750,000 Grant for Cuba Study

When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, he transformed Cuba into the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere. All property in Cuba became community property controlled by the state. This generated thousands of dispossessed claimants including U.S. businesses and Cuban exiles. As Castro nears 80, studies are under way to examine what will happen in a post-Castro Cuba.

The Creighton University School of Law has been awarded a two-year \$750,000 federal grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to create a model to establish a bilateral U.S.-Cuba property claims tribunal.

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. The agency's work supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting: economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance.

Adolfo Franco, JD'83, assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID, said the grant and subsequent research will help determine how to assist in Cuba's post-Castro transition to democracy.

"When the transition happens, we will be better prepared to give Cuba whatever its government needs," Franco said at a grant-signing ceremony on Nov. 16 at the Creighton School of Law.

There was intense competition for the grant with hundreds of applications submitted. The top two schools were chosen through a blind selection process scored by various procurement experts within USAID, with Creighton's proposal scoring the highest.

"... Our goal is to promote justice and to bring a much-needed sense of hope and faith to Cubans whether they live in that country or in the United States."

— The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.  
Creighton President

Law School Dean Patrick J. Borchers, an international expert in conflict of laws, will lead a cross-disciplinary team to develop a model. Other team members include: Erika Moreno, Ph.D., a Latin America specialist from the University of Iowa; James Wunsch, Ph.D., chair of Creighton University's Political Science Department and a specialist in

comparative politics, public administration and Third World development, who has also served as a frequent consultant to USAID; Richard Witmer, Ph.D., also of Creighton's Political Science Department, who brings experience in advanced statistical methods; Arthur Pearlstein, director of the law school's Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution; and Michael J. Kelly, the law school's international law specialist who also wrote the grant proposal.

"One of the advantages that Creighton University has is our size and unusual range of expertise," said Borchers.

Supported by USAID's Cuban Transition to Democracy Program, the grant calls for a two-year factual/claims investigation, extensive multi-level legal analysis, significant field work in the U.S., Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and legitimacy modeling on sophisticated social science computer software.

"This is going to be a complicated process. Part of the trick is to create a computer model that will work effectively and produce the best benefit for the largest number of claimants from the United States and Cuba," Borchers said. "We will study property confiscation/restitution issues in other transition countries to develop lessons learned for the Cuba transition."

Creighton University, along with other Jesuit institutions, has long had a presence in — and a concern for — the people and governments in Latin American countries. Through the University's partnership with the Institute for Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic, service learning and research trips have brought Creighton faculty, staff and students into contact with Latin American and Caribbean social, economic and cultural challenges.

The grant is "a clear indication that Creighton is a major player on the national and international scene in the area of foreign policy considerations," said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., president of Creighton University. "As always, our goal is to promote justice and to bring a much-needed sense of hope and faith to Cubans whether they live in that country or in the United States."

Borchers agreed, noting that the team will approach the process of developing the model without any preset political agenda.

"We will create a justice-based system — one that will provide justice for all involved," Borchers said. "The research will allow us to explore how post-Castro Cuba could re-enter the world economy and in the long run improve the lives of Cubans."



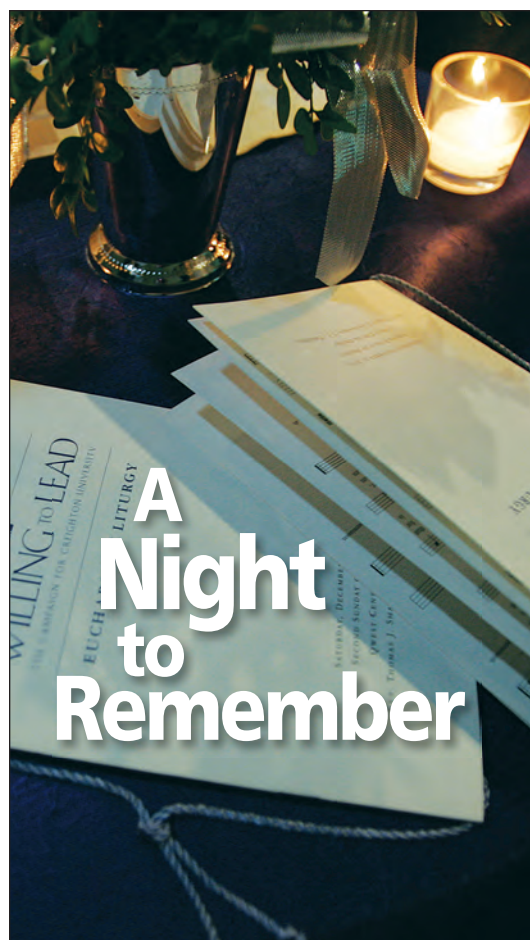


Photo by Kent Sievers

# A Night to Remember



Photo by Bob Ervin



**WILLING TO LEAD**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

A regal affair, Creighton University's Campaign Inaugural Celebration on Dec. 3 at the Qwest Center Omaha launched the public phase of **WILLING TO LEAD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY**. Above, Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., outlines his vision for the future of the University. Below, the Creighton University logo is set in a block of ice.



Photo by Bob Ervin

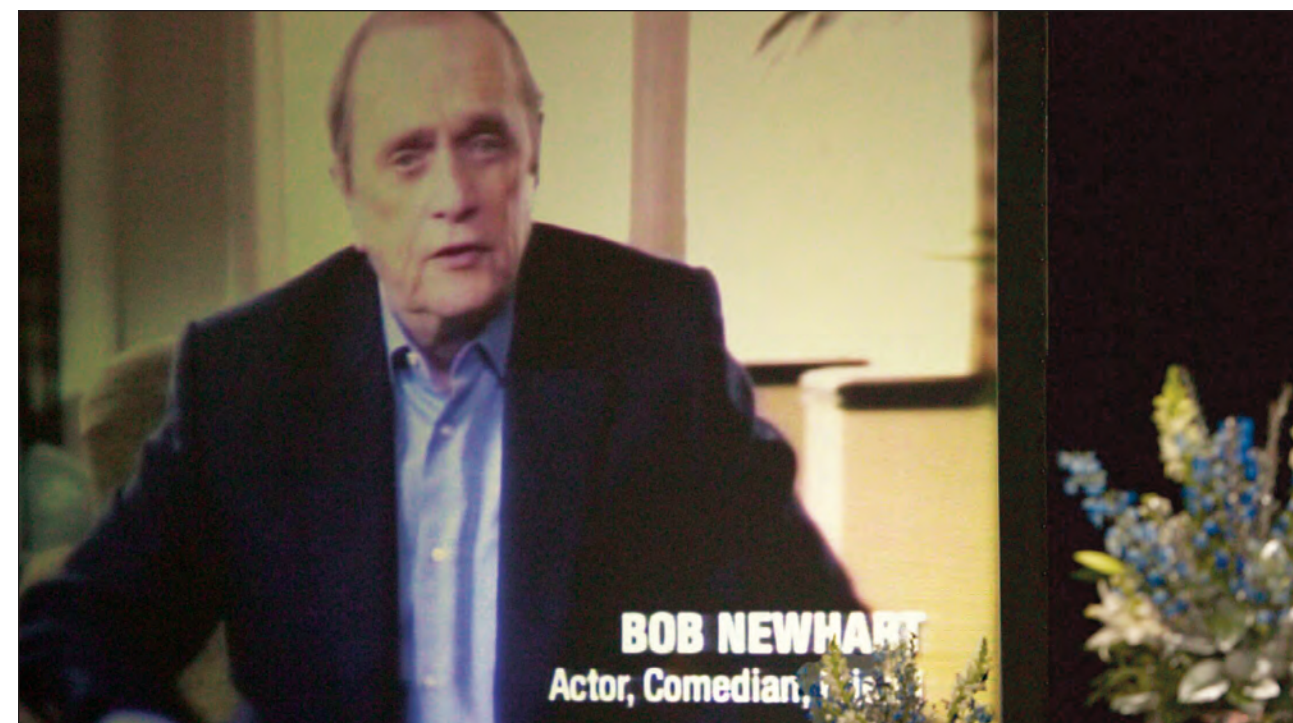


Photo by Bob Ervin

Television icon Bob Newhart headlined a video salute that included notable Creighton alumni and friends. Newhart and Fr. Schlegel became friends while both served on the board of trustees of Loyola University in Chicago. Himself a product of a Jesuit education, Newhart joked: "I have always credited the Jesuits for my somewhat distorted way of looking at life."

Emmy Award-winning journalist, veteran broadcaster and Creighton alumna Mary Alice Williams, BA'71, served as the mistress of ceremonies for the evening.



Photo by Bob Ervin

Creighton alumnus and NBA star Kyle Korver, BA'03, in a video greeting, encouraged Creighton to dream big and, in reference to the campaign goal being raised from \$250 million to \$350 million, quipped: "Just remember, Father, twos are good. But threes, they're even better." He then turned and swished his trademark three-point shot.



Photo by Kent Sievers





Photo by Bob Ervin

Creighton's vice president for University Relations, Lisa Calvert, applauded the generosity of the University's alumni and friends "who have displayed their passion for Creighton and their desire to see it flourish for decades to come."



Photo by Kent Sievers

Bill Fitzgerald, BSBA'59, a member of the Campaign Steering Committee, chairman of Creighton's Board of Directors and adviser to the chairman for Bank of the West, told those gathered: "We are being asked to transform our most ambitious dreams for Creighton into reality." He added, "We are embracing this challenge in the essence of our Jesuit mission ... empowered to examine, engage in and change the world."



Photo by Bob Ervin

Bruce Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, campaign chair, vice chairman of Creighton's Board of Directors and chairman and CEO *emeritus* of ConAgra Foods, Inc., said, "We have a clear goal in mind ... (to) secure Creighton University's position at the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States."



Photo by Bob Ervin

Billy Bluejay, decked out in a top hat and cane, strolls the entryway, which was made to look like Creighton's campus mall — complete with floor-to-ceiling photos of campus lining each wall and students sitting on benches and carrying backpacks.



Photo by Bob Ervin



Photo by Bob Ervin

Enjoying the evening's festivities are (top) alumnus Ray McCaugh, BA'76, JD'84, of Chicago; (above) Mimi Feller, BA'70, a member of Creighton's Board of Directors, a retired senior vice president with Gannett Co., Inc., and chair of the National Leadership Gifts Committee; and (right) Patrick Borchers, dean of Creighton's School of Law.



Photo by Kent Sievers



Photo by Bob Ervin

Ken Stinson, chair of the Omaha Leadership Gifts Committee, chairman and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc., and a member of the University's Board of Directors, attends the inaugural celebration with his wife, Ann.



Photo by Bob Ervin

Creighton sophomore John Sutko (background) and December graduate Michael Noonan, BSBA'05, (foreground) were part of a student contingent recognized at the dinner by Fr. Schlegel. "We remain committed to Creighton students in all of their giftedness, ambition and generosity of spirit," Fr. Schlegel said.





Photo by Kent Sievers

Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., announces the \$350 million campaign goal at the Campaign Inaugural Celebration Dinner in December.

# Creighton Willing to Lead with \$350 Million Campaign

**By Janis Johnson**

In what is described as a “second founding,” Creighton has launched the public phase of a \$350 million capital campaign — the University’s largest ever.

Reaching this funding goal will strengthen the institution’s national profile and achieve expanded horizons for new generations of students. The unprecedented fund-raising effort is designed to secure Creighton’s place at the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States.

“Creighton is on the cusp of new beginnings, we are on the threshold of a bold tomorrow,” said the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., Creighton president, during the Campaign Inaugural Celebration Dinner in December at Omaha’s Qwest Center. Building on the legacy of the past and the promise of the future, he said, “our opportunity has never been greater; indeed, this is our moment of possibility!”

With the theme “Willing to Lead,” the campaign will focus on advancing the

University’s strategic priorities through gifts of all sizes. A critical goal is to at least double Creighton’s endowment, which currently at \$250 million ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities. Through endowed funds and direct gifts, a successful campaign will support the Jesuit mission and Catholic identity, east campus expansion, endowment, scholarship and faculty programming, science education, research and technology.

“As today’s students stare in the face of advancing technology and scientific advancement, social disconnect and moral confusion, Creighton offers the intellectual, ethical, social and religious integration they seek to apply their knowledge and talents with compassion,” said Creighton Board Chair William Fitzgerald, BSBA’59.

University leaders have been

building support for the fund-raising effort among alumni and friends of the institution during the campaign’s quiet phase over the past three years. As the enthusiasm for the University’s strategic vision has grown, early supporters have pledged \$226 million in endowment and direct gifts. These include a \$50 million anonymous gift announced in December 2004 and two major gifts revealed at the inaugural dinner — \$17 million from the Peter Kiewit Foundation and \$25 million from the estates of Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne. (See box, Page 20.)

But the task is far from over, and the challenge of raising the remaining funds will require a substantial commitment from the extended University community, campaign leaders emphasized.

“Those of us with big dreams have the opportunity to wed our imaginations to our resources and make choices that will





Photo by Mike Kleveter

Through this campaign, Creighton will strengthen its commitment to attracting a diverse student body. Pictured above, from left, are (front) students Princella Parker, Aisha Lomax and Jocelyn Frey; (middle) recent graduates Rahul Sualy, BSBA'05, and Jamie Wewel, BSBA'05; and (back) students Joe Janus and Jon Aquino.

bring Creighton to a place of national pre-eminence and impact," said Bruce Rohde, BSBA'71, JD'73, chairman of the Campaign Steering Committee and chairman and CEO *emeritus* of ConAgra Foods, Inc. "Philanthropy is the catalyst that makes our vision come to light."

### Today's Educational Landscape

When he returned to Creighton in 2001 as president, Fr. Schlegel believed that the University was "ready to fully consider its potential and strategically determine what it could become." That led to a strategic planning process, which Fr. Schlegel has called "our willed future."

"We are on the path to move into national prominence, not because of how we shake up the numbers, but because of who we are," he said. "Creighton is the ideal-size, comprehensive university in an ideal-size city. By 'ideal,' I mean the right size to support a rich and broad spectrum of academic, social, recreational and spiritual programs, yet not too large to lose our very real sense of family and community."

"No other institution of our size has the full range of undergraduate programs, as well as a medical center, a law school and a school of pharmacy and health professions. And few are located on a defined downtown campus, in a community in which our future and the city's are inextricably tied."

Creighton has been a leader along a planning path that many colleges and

universities are just beginning to take — one that strategically aligns an ambitious vision for the future with financial realities and enrollment trends.

Traditionally, private higher educational institutions have typically received 75 to 85 percent of their income from tuition. But soaring tuition costs and higher numbers of students requiring financial aid, coupled with public resistance to tuition increases, have forced colleges and universities to investigate alternative financial models

to maintain dependable revenue streams to sustain and build programs.

Creighton now receives about 78 percent of revenues from tuition, and the goal is to decrease that dependency to less than 60 percent over time. This will require significant new financial resources. While public universities are moving quickly in that direction, Creighton is one of a small number of private universities to adopt this model.

Meanwhile, many other factors also affect a university's ability to fulfill the expectations of students and parents today. Importantly, the demographics of the college population are changing rapidly. The baby boomer "boomlet" that for years produced record enrollments in colleges and universities will end in 2014. For Creighton, that means expanding its national enrollment strategy.

With a firm commitment to a diverse student body, Creighton has been successful in attracting students from more socioeconomic and culturally diverse backgrounds than most elite colleges.

"We are convinced this is preparing our students to understand the changing demographics in the United States and also to be leaders who are more in tune with the middle and lower middle income families as part of our mission," said Don Bishop, associate vice president for Enrollment Management.



Photo by Kent Sievers

Bill Fitzgerald, BSBA'59, chairman of Creighton's Board of Directors, and his wife, Barb, meet with Fr. Schlegel at the Campaign Inaugural Celebration. Fitzgerald said Creighton offers the "intellectual, ethical, social and religious integration" that today's students seek.

In this context, scholarships become increasingly important — especially as federal grant funds are being reduced — to draw underrepresented minorities and international students. Yet opportunities for scholarship packages and merit awards among top students remain decisive factors for college selection across the socioeconomic spectrum. In a recent survey, one-third of all students who were admitted to Creighton — but who chose to go elsewhere — cited merit awards or need-based aid at other institutions as more important in their decisions than academic quality, reputation or location.

**Creighton now receives about 78 percent of revenues from tuition, and the goal is to decrease that dependency to less than 60 percent over time.**

Student enrollment and the University's business model are two of the four critical strategic issues the campaign addresses. The other two are enhancing the infrastructure and support systems, including technology, and increasing the University's capacity for research to improve national stature and enhance student learning.

"The Campaign for Creighton is absolutely essential to realizing each of these goals," said Fr. Schlegel. "Its major initiatives are aligned with private funding for immediate University priorities — through endowments, capital investments and ongoing operating support. While our endowment has historically been relatively low compared to other peer institutions, our needs are even greater as we look ahead over the next 10 to 15 years."

### A 'New Culture of Philanthropy'

"We started to formulate this campaign in 2001 with a goal that fit where Creighton was then," said Lisa Calvert, vice president for University Relations. "It has evolved into a



# WILLING TO LEAD

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

**Total Goal: \$350 million**  
**Public Kickoff: Dec. 3, 2005**

### Areas of Support:

#### Willing to Believe ... support for Jesuit mission and Catholic identity

- Jesuit mission
  - Endowed Jesuit chair
  - Endowed research chair for Jesuit mission
- Catholic Identity
  - Endowment for the Center for the Study of Catholic Thought
  - Endowment for Collaborative Ministry
- Endowment for the Creighton Center for Service and Justice
- St. John's Church renovations

#### Willing to Grow ... support for east campus expansion

- Land acquisition and junior-senior townhomes
- Living-Learning Center
- Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Stadium

#### Willing to Innovate ... support for science education and technology

- Integrated Science Center: Hixson-Lied, Rigge, Criss

#### Willing to Excel ... support for endowments for people and programs

- Students
  - Undergraduate scholarships and research
  - Health sciences and graduate scholarships and fellowships
  - Student support services and athletic scholarships
- Faculty
  - Endowed chairs, deanships and visiting professorships
  - Faculty research and scholarship grants
- Libraries

#### Willing to Serve ... support for Sustaining Gifts

#### Willing to Dream ... support for transformational gifts

- Biomedical research
- College of Business Administration
- Honors program



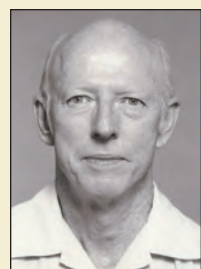
## Creighton Announces Two Major Gifts

Creighton University announced the receipt of two new leadership gifts at the Campaign Inaugural Celebration on Dec. 3.

"These key gifts reflect the confidence that friends of Creighton have in the institution and the direction we have charted for the future," said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

### Beirne Estates

Gilbert Beirne, MD'45, was a humble man who valued loyalty. Now, thanks



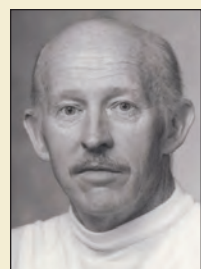
Gilbert Beirne

to his generosity, Creighton University has received its largest bequest ever. His \$25 million gift for unrestricted support in the School of Medicine and

for the general University strongly positions the University as it embarks upon its most ambitious capital campaign to date.

"A gift of this size is transformational. It will allow the University and the School of Medicine to address current needs as well as to shore up endowments for each. It was always a pleasure to spend time with Gil and to earn his trust and confidence that Creighton would use his magnanimous gift wisely," said Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.

Gil and his brother Clinton, MD'48, came to Omaha from California in search of their medical degrees at



Clinton Beirne

Creighton — one of a few private Catholic medical schools west of the Mississippi. After graduation, both Gil and Clinton returned to the San Francisco Bay area where they practiced dermatology. In retirement, they devoted more of their time and

energies to Creighton alumni activities, hosting events at their home, located along the first hole of the famed Pebble Beach Golf Course.

Cam Enarson, M.D., vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the School of Medicine, visited with Gil Beirne to share news of recent developments and plans for the school's future.

"It was clear that Gil truly had a thirst for knowledge, and that he cared very deeply about the education of our students and the strength of our programs. I am extremely grateful for his generosity and commitment to the future of Creighton," Enarson said.

The Beirnes also developed a keen interest in the role of alumni at the University and were instrumental in the early campaigns led by Frs. Reinert, Linn and Morrison. But their support did not end there.

"The Beirnes always wanted to make sure that others were involved and did their part for the University and were particularly pleased to read about their contemporaries who, like them, were willing to invest in Creighton," recalled Steve Scholer, JD'79, Creighton's director of Estate and Trust Services.

Upon Clinton's death in 1990, his estate was distributed to his brother and to Creighton. Gil died in April 2005, having designated most of his estate to Creighton for unrestricted support in the School of Medicine and for the general University.

For someone of great wealth, Gil Beirne was a modest man who was particularly proud of the "rare" art that he would uncover at local yard sales. In that same spirit, he was intent on maximizing his legacy.

"Because of Creighton's smaller size and mission," Scholer said, "Dr. Beirne believed that investing in the future of the University represented a tremendous value. He knew the immediate impact his philanthropy would make and knew his gifts would be transformational in improving the quality and stature of the University, as well as the medical school."



Peter Kiewit and Creighton President the Rev. Carl Reinert, S.J., were named the *Omaha World-Herald's* Midlanders of the Year in 1980.

### Kiewit Foundation

Creighton also announced a \$17 million gift from The Peter Kiewit Foundation, the personal foundation of Peter Kiewit, founder of the Omaha-based national and international construction and engineering company that bears his name.

Kiewit was instrumental in a construction boom that marked a renaissance for Omaha in the 1950s at the same time fellow visionary, the Rev. Carl Reinert, S.J., oversaw a similar renaissance at Creighton as president. Together, the two men made a significant impact on Omaha's urban core and on Creighton University.

Charles Heider, BSC'49, an *emeritus* member of Creighton's Board of Directors and a member of the Campaign Steering Committee, sees a similar leader in Fr. Schlegel.

"Fr. Schlegel has quite a vision for the school," Heider said. "Creighton has made great progress, and there is a lot more the University wants to do.

"We have this opportunity to expand now, and Fr. Schlegel was smart to take advantage of it. There is a strong interest in what Creighton is doing for the downtown area by moving the campus east."

Of the \$17 million gift, \$2 million is directed toward the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Stadium. Keeping in the spirit of the vision of both Peter Kiewit and Fr. Reinert, \$15 million will be used for acquisition of property for University purposes in and near the Omaha business district.



Photo by Scott Dobry

This campaign seeks to enhance Creighton's Jesuit mission and Catholic identity. Creighton is a place, Fr. Schlegel emphasized, where "the Gospel is in dialogue with culture." Above, theology professor the Rev. Richard Hauser, S.J., leads students in prayer at his popular candlelight Mass.

campaign that fits where we believe the University can be, and where the University believes it needs to be."

A transformational gift of \$50 million during the quiet phase of the campaign has leveraged additional seven- and eight-figure gifts, and that was instrumental in the raising of sights to the \$350 million goal, she said.

Rather than providing a one-time infusion of private support, a "new culture of philanthropy will enhance the possibility of enlarging and sustaining the gift flow required to continually fund Creighton's loftiest aspirations for the future."

The campaign targets a variety of strategic goals:

**Belief:** Creighton is a place where "the Gospel is in dialogue with culture" and where "faith meets reason," Fr. Schlegel emphasized. Without this identity, "Creighton is just another very good or excellent, comprehensive university." For these reasons, identifying resources to support campus ministry and online ministry programs, the Center for Service and Justice and the renovation of St. John's Church are specific campaign initiatives.

**Innovation:** Creighton renews its commitment to science education by integrating science and technology in innovative ways. The Hixson-Lied Science Building and the newly renovated Criss/Rigge laboratories

## On the Move ...

Creighton University has announced several major gifts over the last few years that have reshaped the University and provided momentum for the current campaign. Here are a few:



Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., announced a \$50 million gift to the University from an anonymous donor in December 2004. About half the gift is going toward the new student living-learning center that will be constructed just northeast of the law school.



Charles Heider, BSC'49, and his wife, Mary, contributed \$2 million to establish the Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research in the School of Medicine — held by pioneer researcher and world-renowned hereditary cancer expert Henry Lynch, M.D. Mr. Heider is a member of the Campaign Steering Committee.



Creighton's School of Law announced three major gifts during its centennial celebration in 2004: A \$4 million gift from C.L. Werner and his daughter Gail Werner-Robertson, BA'84, JD'88, (above) to create the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution; a \$1 million gift from George Venteicher, JD'62, and his wife, Susan, to establish an endowed scholarship fund; and a \$1 million gift from a foundation established by the Omaha-based law firm of McGrath North Mullin & Kratz to create the McGrath North Endowed Chair in Business Law.



A \$10 million gift from Omaha philanthropists Walter and Suzanne Scott for capital projects at the University. Their gift helped make the University's dream of a soccer stadium come to life, with the opening of the state-of-the-art Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J. Stadium in 2003.



A \$3.5 million gift from the Davis and Lauritzen families and First National Bank of Omaha to assist Creighton with its historic eastward campus expansion. In honor of this gift and their generous past support, Creighton named its first junior/senior town homes Davis Square. Above, the Davis Square moniker is unveiled at the official dedication on Sept. 2, 2004.



A gift from the Lied Foundation Trust helped construct the Hixson-Lied Science Building, which opened in 2003.





Photo by Mark Romesser

Chemistry professor Bruce Mattson works with students Sehr Haroon, left, and Jenny Gross. Creighton is a national leader in undergraduate and graduate science education and research. The campaign seeks funding for key science initiatives such as the Hixson-Lied Science Building and renovations to Criss and Rigge laboratories.

stand as a \$56 million architectural and educational model of the future of science education. These facilities integrate undergraduate and graduate education and research environments in a shared goal to learn about and find cures for osteoporosis, hereditary and solid mass cancers, as well as cardiovascular diseases.

Completing the funding and the construction for this new state-of-the-art facility is a major initiative in the Campaign for Creighton.

**Excellence:** In addition to significant needs for new student scholarships, additional resources are also critical for faculty who engage and interact with other scholars to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society and to discover knowledge. Endowed chairs — across all colleges and schools — are critical to retaining leading faculty and attracting other scholars. To attract and advance scholars requires endowed chairs, professorships and programs so that Creighton can compete with other institutions in terms of salary and research support, explained Professor Christine Wiseman, vice president for Academic Affairs.

**Growth:** Despite a strong student profile, excellent faculty and an outstanding reputation, the University leadership recognized a few years ago that a significantly enhanced infrastructure was essential to providing the high-level academic, life-changing

experience for undergraduate and professional students and research opportunities for faculty.

Again buoyed by the anonymous \$50 million gift, the board moved ahead with several critical facilities at the same time that downtown Omaha redevelopment plans were under way. As part of this ongoing effort, Creighton must secure more than \$40 million in land to the east and west of campus to prevent the University from becoming irreversibly landlocked and subject to developments that do not blend with the educational environment.

In 2001, University leadership created a dynamic and nationally recognized campus master plan. With the Board of Directors' support and endorsement of corporate Omaha, Creighton has maximized this historical opportunity to acquire properties, growing our campus and rebuilding north downtown.

"Ours was a conscious decision to be a partner in Omaha's urban renaissance," said Fr. Schlegel. "Much has been accomplished in the past five years, but much remains to be done in fulfilling our vision for our east campus expansion, which complements north downtown's development."

**Service:** The University's pledge is to continue a century-old pattern of community service and outreach to Omaha's needy populations, as well as serving populations across the United States and beyond.


"Creighton will continue to instill in its students and graduates the courage, conscience and conviction to serve their communities and the wider world," Fr. Schlegel said. "They are educated to be competent, committed and compassionate women and men for others."

But Creighton's spirit of service does not stop at graduation. Beyond service to their own communities, Creighton alumni have served the University generously through Sustaining Gifts, the annual giving program that provides support for immediate priorities and yearly budgetary challenges. Because these annual gifts that sustain the University's growth must continue to grow as the University does, the campaign seeks a goal of \$33 million in Sustaining Gifts. By contributing to this goal, donors can participate in what cumulatively will be one of the largest gifts ever to the University.

**Dreams:** A capital campaign also is an opportunity to dream. While careful planning resulted in the \$350 million goal as a target that is achievable by 2008, many other needs and opportunities remain on the "wish list" developed by administrators and faculty.

For that reason, with additional gifts "that have transformational potential," said Fr. Schlegel, "we could exceed our goal and make a lasting contribution in areas such as biomedical and cancer research or business education, invest in nationally recognized undergraduate honors and research programs or construct an ambulatory out-patient clinical facility or a women's sports arena."

"This campaign is about the heart of this university," said Fr. Schlegel. "It is about the love and the faith that our alumni and friends have for Creighton and about the faith and the love she has for you."

For more details and updates on **WILLING TO LEAD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY**, see [www.creighton.edu](http://www.creighton.edu). 

*About the author: Johnson is a communications consultant and writer specializing in higher education, health care and non-profit organizations.*



Photo by Mark Romesser

The Creighton campus and Omaha's downtown skyline are all aglow at dusk. Through this campaign, Creighton has a historic opportunity to reshape its campus boundaries and participate in Omaha's urban renaissance.

## Did You Know?

- *U.S. News & World Report* ranks Creighton No. 1 in the Midwest among master's universities and among the top 66 universities nationwide for quality research opportunities for undergraduates to work with faculty.
- The academic profile of this year's freshman class places Creighton among the top 5 private universities in the Midwest and among the top 10 Catholic universities in the nation.
- Creighton offers its students faculty-led and independent study abroad programs in nearly 40 countries.
- Creighton's undergraduate chemistry program ranks in the top 2 percent of the nation's universities that produce American Chemical Society-certified bachelor's chemists.
- Creighton's biology department ranks in the top 4 percent, and the departments of physics and of environmental and atmospheric sciences are in the top 12 percent.
- Creighton ranks 7<sup>th</sup> nationally among Division I schools in the NCAA's Academic Progress Report and has appeared in more than 35 postseason tournaments in the past 12 years.
- Creighton University Medical Center is the busiest trauma center in the state, is home to a top-ranked program in cardiology and is internationally recognized for research in hereditary cancers and osteoporosis.
- Creighton University faculty members have won Fulbrights and fellowships in many different areas, including scholars-in-residence at the Securities and Exchange Commission and Congressional Budget Office.
- Research awards to Creighton University for the 2004-2005 academic year totaled more than \$42 million, \$10 million more than the previous year.
- All 50 states and more than 40 countries are represented in Creighton's student body.
- Creighton students are engaged in a wide variety of research, scholarly and creative projects. They have been selected to the national academic honor societies and have received such prestigious awards as the Fulbright, as well as fellowships from Goldwater, the James Madison Foundation and the National Science Foundation.
- There are more than 56,000 current Creighton alumni living in 89 countries and throughout the U.S.
- More than 94 percent of Creighton graduates are employed, involved in volunteer work or attending graduate/professional school within six months of graduation.



Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night;  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

William Blake, 1757 – 1827



Dr. Tom Curro, right, with Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, checks the status of an anesthetized Liku, as Creighton University Medical Center's Ann Brizendine and Harry Lahs ready the scan. The tiger was immobilized at the zoo with injectable drugs that were loaded in darts; his surgical sleep state was maintained with gas anesthesia.

# Cat Scan

By Pamela A. Vaughn  
Photography by Don Doll, S.J.

He was only two years old, but the arms that lifted him from the gurney to the scanning equipment felt all of his sleeping, 237-pound weight.

It was a cold and snowy mid-November day at Creighton, but no one was paying much attention to the weather with this special patient waiting just outside Radiology.

Liku, a healthy Malayan tiger born in Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, had been brought to the Creighton University Medical Center for study only — and, at that, a quick study.

But the images of Liku that would result from this brief — and quite literal — CAT-scan will offer a lifetime of learning possibilities for scientists bent on understanding anything from the structure of the middle and inner ear to lung and brain anatomy.

For though our two species diverged long ago on life's family tree, our DNA builds some pretty similar structures — and that's what Creighton experts and

those around the world will understand better, thanks to Liku and his images.

But that's not all.

Liku's images will be a key part of photojournalist Carol Amore's 5,000 square foot traveling exhibit on tigers that will visit zoos worldwide, starting in January 2007. In the interactive exhibit, Liku's CAT-scans will be used to take visitors on virtual journeys of discovery "inside" this beautiful, rare animal.

In fact, Amore was drawn to the big-cat auditory research of Creighton alumnus Edward Walsh, PhD'83, a scientist at Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) in Omaha, as well as the work of the Omaha Tiger Project team. Walsh and his wife and Boys Town colleague, JoAnn McGee, Ph.D., MS'82, have been studying the hearing of large cats in cooperation with Omaha's Henry Doorly

Zoo for the past five years.

The Omaha Tiger Project includes veterinarians from the zoo, scientists from BTNRH, and physicians from Creighton University Medical Center and Creighton University School of Medicine.

Amore plans to feature images of Liku's hearing apparatus in a "giant ear display," as a special part of her exhibit, "TIGERS: Tracking a Legend."

Why an exhibit on tigers?

Not only are these beautiful animals interesting to the purely scientific, but their toe-hold on the planet is very perilous, Amore explains.

Three of the eight tiger subspecies are extinct, she adds, the Javan, the Caspian and the Bali. The South China tiger is now regarded as extinct in the wild, with the Siberian, Bengal, Sumatran, Indochinese and Malayan tigers

further endangered if poaching and the destruction of habitat and prey continue. Some 6,000 wild tigers remain in the world, and about 2,000 to 3,000 of them are thought to live in India, the focus of Amore's work.

Liku is a member of the Malayan sub-species.

Boys Town's Walsh explains the conservation side of research: "The images will help us understand the hardware that the tiger uses to communicate, and use that knowledge to help the plight of these magnificent animals."

In this photo essay, Creighton's internationally acclaimed photographer Don Doll, S.J., shows us Liku's experience at Creighton, together with those of the Creighton, Boys Town and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo research team who made Liku's journey possible.







▲ Dave Hanson, supervisor of cats for the zoo, unrolls the stretcher that will carry Liku, while photojournalist Carol Amore (background, left) captures the scene. Fully anesthetized, the tiger is unaware of all the preparations going on in his behalf. In fact, Martin Goldman, M.D., chairman of radiology at Creighton, says there were more than 23 individuals from Creighton University Medical Center and the School of Medicine who joined the zoo team to ensure Liku's safety in his visit to Creighton. These included specialists from radiology to housekeeping, infectious diseases to security and anesthesiology.



It takes a team: The zoo's Dave Hanson, ► back, center (in baseball cap), works with physicians and technologists with Creighton University Medical Center and Boys Town to position Liku for the scan. Others include, upper left, Matthew Omojola, M.D., and Julian Lachandro, left; and right, back to front, Marilyn Buchholz, Harry LaHS, Ann Brizendine and Mark Maydew, M.D.

◄ The zoo's cat keepers carry a sleeping Liku to his awaiting transport. They are, clockwise from front, left: Jen Wilson, Kim Kelly, Alexis Christoffer and Dave Hanson, front, right. Because one dart is good for about 20-30 minutes of immobilization, the zoo team is also using gas anesthesia. Thus, they can hold Liku in this manageable state, via endotracheal tube, for as long as they need.



▲ Sarah Dankof, upper right, supervisor of the hospital at the zoo, adjusts Liku's intravenous fluid rate, while Dr. Curro, lower right, administers the tiger's first dose of contrast media, a luminous material to be followed on Liku's scan. Others attending to the tiger are Hanson, lower left, and Christoffer, upper left.



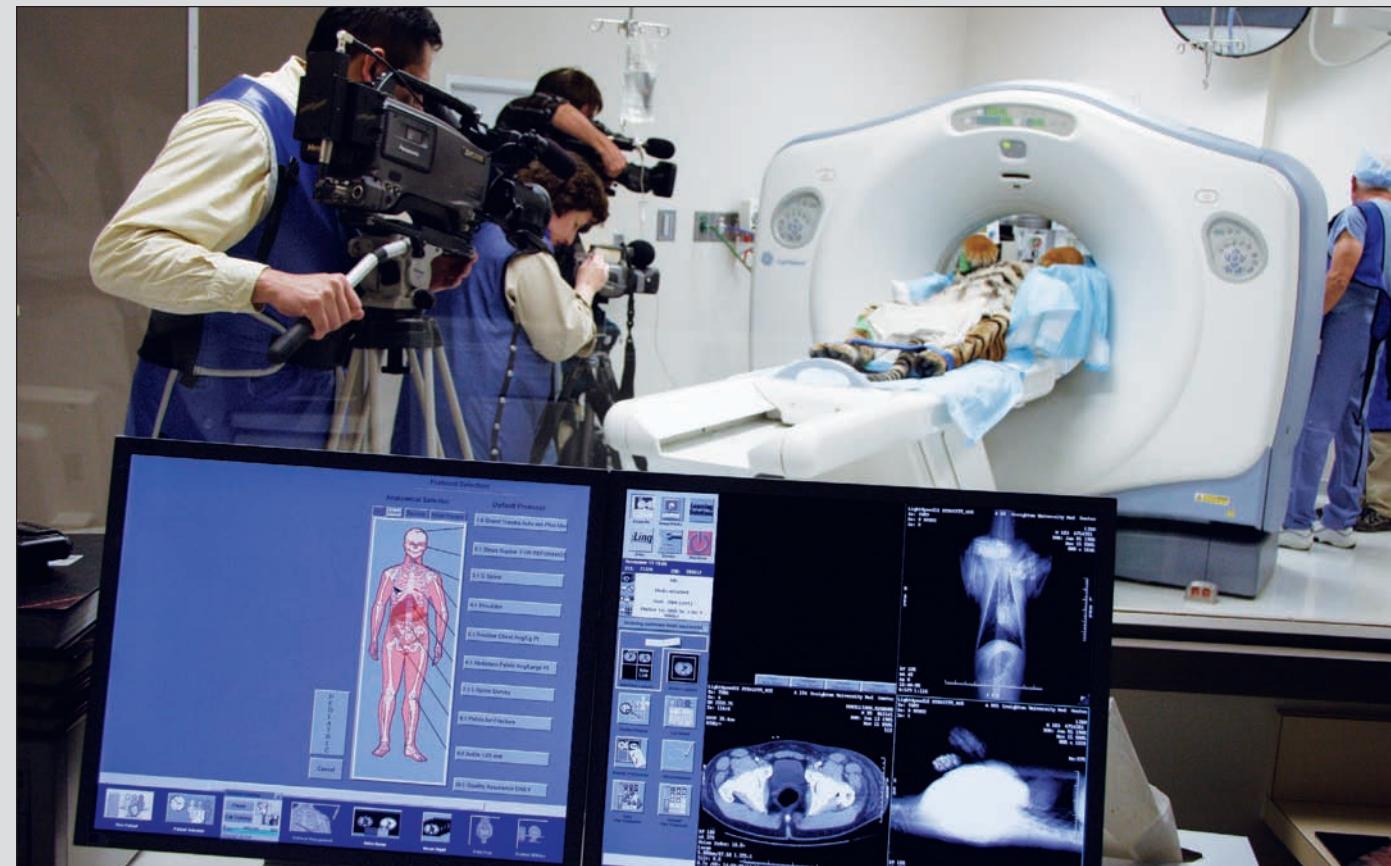




▲ Creighton radiologist Matthew F. Omojola, M.D., checks Liku's positioning for the scan of his head and neck, including his middle and inner ear. Solitary hunters, tigers must communicate over vast distances within their range to avoid intruding in another's territory. Their ability to hear the unique, low-frequency vocalizations of other tigers keeps these animals at a safe distance from one another as they hunt. It also may help them find mates. A possible conservation strategy could mimic these sounds — and keep the tigers on safe turf.

◀ Liku is positioned in CT scanner at Creighton, fully unconscious.

▼ Radiology technologist Ann Brizendine confirms Liku's positioning for the scan of his chest and abdomen.



▲ Liku's scan is in full progress, as photographers, including conservationist Carol Amore, center, capture the event. Meanwhile, the image of human vs. tiger appears incongruously on the screen.



Photographer Amore, in Omaha for the scan, and pictured in the inset with two other tigers, will exhibit Liku's images around the world for conservation and study. "'Cool' is not a word in my vocabulary," said Creighton's Dr. Martin Goldman when asked about their four-legged patient. "But this was the coolest thing I've ever seen, an unbelievably gorgeous animal."





# Letters from Death Row

By Pamela A. Vaughn

Editor's note: In this story, our purpose is not to prove the guilt or innocence of Billy Conn Gardner. Rather, our goal is to describe through their letters the journey taken by someone accused of a capital crime and sentenced to death, and the attorney who tried to save him.



Wiseman represented death row inmate Billy Conn Gardner. Above, she holds some of the letters they shared.

It was February 1988, and Christine Wiseman, then a professor at the Marquette University School of Law and a board member of the Wisconsin ACLU, had just hung up the phone.

Friend and Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals defense advocate Jim Rebholz, who knew of her interest in capital cases, had just asked Wiseman if she would represent a death row inmate in Texas, Billy Conn Gardner. Already a five-year "resident" of death row, Gardner, 44, was facing a writ of execution without benefit of counsel.

Gardner's execution seemed imminent, Rebholz worried, and the murder/robbery case against him was strewn with red flags. For one, Gardner did not match the description of the suspect. Further, he had been identified by associate Melvin Sanders, who, together with Sanders' wife, Paula, had received immunity from the prosecution in the case. What's more, Paula, who was sitting next to the victim at the time of the murder, did not identify Gardner, whom she knew, as the assailant. She wasn't interviewed by Gardner's attorney. In fact, Gardner first met his attorney only 15 minutes before jury selection as his own murder trial began.

Finally, the case was in Texas, where George W. Bush was then governor. Here, during his tenure, Bush had acted as the final hope for 153 men and women, the last person standing between them and death. On 152 of the 153 cases, Bush had chosen the death sentence. Further, Texas does not have a public defender system, leaving some of the least capable to defend those with the most to lose.

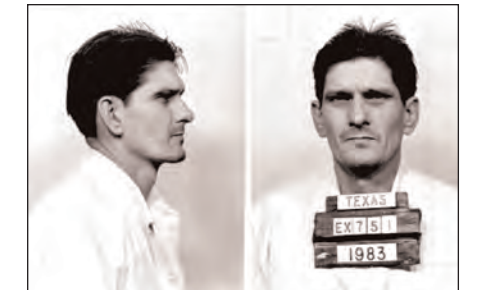
In her office, warmed by the dying winter sun, Wiseman had said "Yes." And so began a journey, an odyssey, Wiseman said, that would irrevocably change her, her students, her

family, and her view of the law as well as of our system of justice.

Billy Conn Gardner was a poor, white male, raised by an abusive father who used him to run heroin at the age of 9. To ensure young Billy's cooperation, his father and cousin purposely and routinely injected the child with heroin to make him a compliant drug-runner. His father also had raped Gardner's younger sister.

With help, children mistreated in this manner can sometimes overcome the violence done to them and forgo criminal lives. But Gardner, like so many others whose poverty marginalizes them, would also become a death statistic of the very system designed to protect us all.

Wiseman knew Billy Conn Gardner's case was a long-shot. "The state's 'star' witness, Sanders ..." Wiseman wrote, "had fingered our client": Sanders would testify that he had waited in the car that May 16, 1983, while Gardner carried out the robbery, ending with a fatal shooting. Owing Gardner \$700 "in a drug deal gone bad," Wiseman



Gardner, shown here in his 1983 prison photo, was executed by lethal injection on Feb. 16, 1995, still maintaining his innocence in the 1983 shooting death of a school cafeteria worker.

wrote, Sanders pointed to Billy Gardner as the murderer. In exchange, Sanders was awarded "testimonial immunity in the capital murder case, probation on the robbery charge and dismissal of (a related) firearm charge."

Wiseman said Sanders, a well-known "snitch" or police informant, would later die in a shoot-out with a bounty hunter, rather than risk heading to prison.

The other "star" witness was Sanders' wife, Paula, who worked at the cafeteria that was the site of the robbery and knew where the day's receipts were kept, Wiseman wrote. At least one



## The Murder of Thelma Row

May 16, 1983: A high school cafeteria in Dallas is robbed, and Thelma Row, 64, a cafeteria worker, is fatally shot.

In the cafeteria at the time of the robbery is Paula Sanders, a co-worker, who has told her husband, Melvin, that several thousand dollars in daily cafeteria receipts are processed in a back room at the school.

Sanders, it is later learned, owes Billy Conn Gardner \$700 in a drug deal gone bad.

Paula, who knows Gardner, says that she can provide no description of the assailant, because her back was turned during the robbery.

Before she dies, however, the victim, Row, has been able to describe an assailant with a “bony face ... and a two-inch goatee.”

Two witnesses to the shooting — Carolyn Sims and the school custodian, Lester Matthews — describe a man with reddish-blond hair.

Matthews, three months later and hospitalized for a sickle-cell crisis, picks out Gardner from a police line-up photo, though he has only seen the assailant for 2 to 4 seconds, 10 feet away, and three months ago described him as red-haired with a goatee. It is his third police interview about the crime.

Gardner has long been identified as clean-shaven with black hair.

Only after prosecutors threaten to bring other charges against Melvin Sanders does he finger Gardner as the murderer.

Sanders, who drives the getaway car, claims that he had persuaded Gardner to participate.

In exchange for this testimony, Sanders receives complete immunity from prosecution for the murder and probation for pending forgery and firearms charges. The state also agrees not to prosecute Paula Sanders.

other witness at the scene would detail Paula’s peculiar behavior the day of the robbery. But Gardner’s defense attorney did not bother to consult these crucial observers. If he had, Wiseman said, Paula’s co-workers would have painted a picture of a nervous, nearly distraught, spouse who knew of the impending robbery and would witness the fatal shooting. Paula also said she could not identify the perpetrator. Add to the list a manufactured “confession” of Gardner, which was later proved not to exist; the identification of Gardner by a sickle-cell patient hospitalized for a health episode three months after the fact; the national political climate and the political climate in Texas — and you have some idea of the near-hopelessness of Gardner’s and Wiseman’s case.

Still, Wiseman had faith. Her first task: Delve through the 4,000-page record of the case that finally came to her — not through the justice system’s channels — but by Greyhound bus — and the dogged work of two Salvation Army death-row advocates. The goal: to stop Gardner’s scheduled execution, which was only a month away.

Below are some of the letters shared between client and attorney over Gardner’s and Wiseman’s seven-year sojourn. They paint a picture of a roller-coaster ride of emotions, from Wiseman’s belief that the system will do right by all concerned to the gradually dawning reality: Nothing will save Billy Gardner.

*March 20, 1988*

Ms. Wiseman,  
I talked to Robert McClasson (sic — McGlasson, a Texas attorney then on the staff of the Texas Resource Center) on the telephone on Friday and he informed me that I had been granted a 60 day Stay of Execution. Mr. McClasson (sic) also informed me that you will be working on my case from this point on.

Ms. Wiseman ... All I know to say is that I thank you for your interest in my case and for any help you can give me. I will assist or aid you in any way possible ...

I won’t lie to you Ms. Wiseman and I have very little faith in our Justice System and I place very little trust and

belief in anyone, and at first it may create a strain on our communication, but maybe in time I can learn to trust and believe in you ...

Respectfully yours,  
Billy Gardner, #751

*March 30, 1988*

Mr. Billy Conn Gardner #751  
Ellis I Unit D.A. H-17  
Huntsville, Texas 77343

Dear Mr. Gardner:  
Thank you for your March 20 letter. I am most interested in communicating with you about the status of your case and your background ...

*April 8, 1988*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:  
... I am not real sure what all you want to know about my background and childhood and drug addiction, but a great deal of it is very personal and private to me and it’s not easy for me to talk to anyone about it ... So please bear with me ...

I had a very bad childhood with very little happiness in it. My father was an alcoholic who was brutal and mean when drinking or drunk. He would beat my mother and my sister and oldest brother and me. I soon turned to the streets seeking an escape from it all. I learnt to steal to survive and to eat and help feed my sister. At that time there was next to no help for anyone like me, and child abuse was unheard of. I would run away from home to escape all the hurt, pain and physical abuse and seeing the ones I loved hurt. I would sleep in empty houses, alleys or anywhere else to keep from returning to all I saw at home. I soon knew all the street people, and they are the only ones who ever showed me that they cared or any type of love except for my sister. They educated me on how to steal and survive. I soon knew about drugs also. At age 8 I took my first shot of dope ... At age 9 I was addicted to morphine and heroin. At age 9 I was sent to Hutchins Boys Home and I really learnt what brutality and physical abuse was all about. I also saw the double standard our society lives

by. I soon lost all respect for any type of authority and I rebelled against society and all its laws completely. I would run away at every opportunity and return to the streets and drugs to escape it all. I became very bitter, hard and cold towards all people and society, except my sister. I saw it all Mrs. Wiseman and I still see it today. I’ve been beaten half to death in the name of justice and law and order. So over the years I became colder and more hardened, I had lost all respect for our laws, because they only apply to the poor. I was then taken in by an older man, a thief and safe burglar, and he taught me how to steal and survive. I’ve been in and out of these places and prison all my life. Then I met and married a very beautiful and loving woman and I tried to change my way of life, but I was arrested every time I was seen, harassed, beaten and framed ... and I really saw our justice system at its worst. A rich man with money and connections is above the laws, he could drink, get drunk and drive a car and kill an innocent and good woman and go free. So once again I returned to a life of crime and drugs. I’ve seen how the police will lie in court on people and break the very laws they have sworn to uphold, the corruption and all else Mrs. Wiseman. I am no angel by any means, but I am not guilty of murder, and I know that my guilt or innocence isn’t the issue at hand ...

I truly hope that you can read my poor handwriting. I apologize for it in advance. I also want to thank you for your help ...

Respectfully yours,  
Billy Gardner, #751

*April 23, 1988*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:  
My knowledge of Melvin Sanders is very limited ... and as far as his involvement in the crime I can’t say one way or another what his involvement, if any, was at all. I met Melvin Sanders at my wife’s apartment in March of 1983. He was coming to her apartment to purchase drugs. I would see him there occasionally but I seldom ever spoke to him or talked to him at all. On several occasions he asked me to sell him drugs

but I refused to do so because I didn’t know him or anything about him ... Oh sure, I heard many rumors about him and I had been told that he wasn’t to be trusted. He was known as a coward and a weakling and a snitch (police informant). He was also known as a liar and that his word meant nothing to him. He was also known as a person who would do anything for drugs. Mrs. Wiseman, when he made the deal with the police and the D.A. to testify against me he had several criminal charges filed on him in Dallas and Ft. Worth and by the Federal people. I can’t tell you his involvement in the case if any at all because I wasn’t involved in the case and I didn’t rob or kill anyone. I do know that Sanders is now out there stealing and making drugs ...

*June 13, 1988*

... Mrs. Wiseman, I’ve been told that my life is unimportant and the phone isn’t to be used to conduct legal matters, so write a letter if you have a stamp. So I doubt I will ever be allowed to call you ...

*June 20, 1988*

Dear Mr. Gardner:  
On Wednesday, June 15, at 11:30 p.m., I returned an emergency telephone call from your sister to find that you were greatly disturbed by information that the trial court had set another execution date for Saturday, June 18. I immediately went to my office where I placed several emergency phone calls to Texas in order to obtain some information. Those telephone calls continued into Thursday and Friday of last week, and by now you know you were misinformed. Neither the Death Penalty Clinic, the Texas Department of Corrections, the warden, the Attorney General’s office, nor the Court of Criminal Appeals had any notice of a further execution date.

However, the Clerk of the Court of Criminal Appeals did call me late Thursday to inform me that the trial court “was working on another date” of July 20 ... I will arrive in Dallas ... on Tuesday, July 5 ...

Sincerely,  
Christine M. Wiseman  
Assistant Professor of Law

## Defending a Death Row Inmate

If you believe without question your client to be innocent, what can an experience like Chris Wiseman’s walk with Gardner along death row possibly teach but bitterness?

We at *Creighton University Magazine* sought the answer.

Wiseman, today vice president for Academic Affairs at Creighton, looked inward.

“Life is pretty fragile,” she said. “Even when there is no hope, people seek reasons to hope. A lot of people say (those on death row) would rather be dead. But I didn’t find that to be true. No. Hope springs eternal.”

Wiseman learned, too, that “the law is only as effective as people’s willingness to administer it fairly.

“And I truly think that there are some people who just don’t matter to the system.”

Wiseman believes these people just get caught up by our system of laws and are not able to get free of it, even when innocent of the crime.

“They’re abused, taken advantage of; they’ve turned to drugs. There are no resources to really free them from their past.”

Gardner had these characteristics, Wiseman said. But, of course, not everyone who has his kind of life will be put to death. Wiseman said that the most they could have hoped for in the Gardner case was a new sentencing hearing. It never came.

She also worries about those, like Gardner, who start lives of crime at such a young age. “My great fear is that people who face prison as young people are more warehoused than rehabilitated.”

Wiseman said having to let Gardner go to his death affected her profoundly. “It stays with you. You never get over it.”



*July 18, 1988*

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By now, you are well aware that we received another stay of execution in your case ... Judge Ovard, at the request of the district attorney, has granted an evidentiary hearing. The execution date has therefore been put back to September 19, 1988 ...

*July 22, 1988*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... Yes, I know that I was granted a sixty (60) day stay of execution ... I found out about the stay on Monday evening about 2:00 p.m. (sic: a.m.) ...

All I can say for sure is that NO-ONE notified me of the stay of execution until Monday evening at about 2:00 p.m. (sic) ... These people here will lie to you and assure you that they will deliver such a message, but they never do, because they enjoy seeing a man waiting to be executed suffer and worry.

*August 31, 1988*

Dear Billy:

After placing a telephone call to your warden and waiting the better part of two days for you to call me collect, I thought it best to write you a letter ...

The evidentiary hearing which had been scheduled for Sept. 1 was postponed late last week ... (and) is now scheduled for October 6 ...

I think this is good news, since your execution date has been postponed as well. I intend to argue on the 6<sup>th</sup> for an indefinite postponement since your case raises many issues that are now pending before the United States Supreme Court.

The second piece of good news is that I have hired a new private investigator in your case ...

*January 21, 1989*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

I am writing this letter for two purposes. The first one being an effort to thank you for all you have done for me and for being so good and kind to my family. I truly appreciate how good you have been to my mother and sister.

Secondly, I guess I am writing you in an attempt to express some of my concerns and worries about what is going on in my case. At the present time I am not even sure what is going on other than I received an amended execution date until March 9, 1989. I was notified of that about 8 hours before I was scheduled to die (on Jan. 16), but I am not concerned about myself. I am concerned about what all this is doing to my sister and mother, but it seems I was the last one to know about the amended execution date.

I finally received a letter from my sister and mother telling me what is going on. I don't want my family to get on their knees and beg anyone for my life, especially any of these people ...

I do worry and I am concerned about all that is going on. I guess it's because of all I've seen since I have been here on death row. I have seen how the system works and what these courts and judges will do to execute a man. They use every trick available to them and if an attorney doesn't stay on top of all of it, and ever relaxes, these people kill these men before an attorney can react. I have seen it too many times. I saw them kill an innocent man last year, who had a stay, just because they couldn't find the judge who signed the stay to verify it. He was off fishing and his lawyer had relaxed and felt confident, so the state used that to kill an innocent man. I just know that a person has to be fully prepared at all times and never relax or these people will kill these men.

Personally, I have done my best to prepare myself to die, because I have lost all faith in our justice system and I see that our laws mean nothing at all ...

*February 2, 1989*

Dear Billy:

I am always amazed at how long it takes for you to receive my correspondence. I am also outraged that I obtained a modification in the January 16 execution date on January 5 and that you were not informed of that modification until seven hours before the scheduled time of execution. I find such conduct incomprehensible and inhumane. In fact, I received a telephone call ... January 13 at approximately 10:00 p.m. telling me that the Texas Department of Corrections was prepared to go ahead with the execution. That prompted a series of phone calls from me to the Texas Department of Corrections. I finally talked to someone in the records office who informed me that the TDC was aware of the modified date and that you had been informed as well. Apparently they just "forgot" to tell you ...



Gardner made this jewelry box for Wiseman out of match sticks.

*March 28, 1989*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

This a.m. I mailed you a jewelry box that I made for you. It's a gift to you, my only way of thanking you and showing gratitude for all your help and all you have done for me ...

*July 22, 1989*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... I was very glad to hear that you ... feel that I should be prepared to consider the option of a new trial. I refuse to even think about accepting a life sentence for something I didn't do Mrs. Wiseman. I would rather be dead than spend the rest of my life in this place for something someone else did.

*May 18, 1990*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... This part of my letter may upset and anger you, and even cause you to withdraw from my case. It's not meant to do so, because I couldn't ever repay you for all you have done for me.

For the past few days, I have been through a lot, and it seems that my will and desire to live have been taken away from me. I have already started to take steps to end my life. I have also started to draft a letter to Judge Sanders asking for my appeal to be abated and an execution date set and carried out. Mrs. Wiseman, I don't expect you to understand all of this ... I am just tired and I can't handle any more hurt, pain and heartaches. I've had enough of that, and lived with it all my life. At times I truly feel I will welcome death.

Mrs. Wiseman, I've also written letters to all of my family asking them to respect my wishes. I also asked all of them to no longer write to me or try to come see me anymore. ...

I guess the only question I have is, what is the best way to get all of it over with. I am not even sure of the proper procedure. I don't expect you to understand Mrs. Wiseman, but if I can't get the answers I need and find some peace of mind, I will do all in my power to see that I am executed as soon as possible.

The fact I am innocent of this murder case is no longer relevant, and has nothing at all to do with what I feel I must do to end all this hurt and pain I feel. I just refuse to let hate and anger consume me and rule me and my life and turn me into an animal ...

*May 24, 1990*

Dear Billy:

I just opened my morning mail and found your letter, dated May 18, 1990 ... You are obviously in a great deal of pain. I read your letter to David (attorney David Bourne, law student and, later, co-counsel) over the telephone, and we are both very concerned about you.

We believe in you, Billy, and we believe in your innocence ... We believe that the federal court has no choice but to grant you a new trial. This is your opportunity for justice, and we do not

want you to give up. We have never given up. My children, ages 14, 12 and 9, are insistent that I continue to fight for you. There is not one day that passes where my youngest child, Patrick, does not ask me how you are and whether he will have an opportunity to meet you. You must not give up hope. You have to stay strong, not only for yourself, but for David and me and for every other person sitting on death row who stands convicted of a crime he did not commit.

*June 1, 1990*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

I received your letter of 5-24-90 today. Your letter touched and stirred me very deeply.

Mrs. Wiseman, you and David restored a lot of faith and belief in me. I felt both of you really cared. I believe there was still a few good people in the world. Mrs. Wiseman, it means more to me than I can ever express with words that you and David believe in me, and that you believe in my innocence. I am innocent of this charge, but at times I wonder if it even matters to anyone but me.

Christine, please tell Patrick that I said hello and send him my love and best wishes. Also tell him that it would be an honor to meet him and shake his hand and be his friend. I am not sure if you would allow me to meet him and be his friend, but it would be my honor to know such a good young man ...

*March 22, 1991*

Dear Billy:

I have received no written letter from you since October 9, 1990. I responded to that on October 23, and have heard nothing from you since.

In terms of your case, there is still absolutely nothing going on ...

*March 28, 1991*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

I received your letter today, and I was very relieved to hear from you, and to know that you are still working on my case ...

Mrs. Wiseman I asked my family to call you and see if you have been receiving any of my letters, and if you were why you hadn't responded to my letters and questions. I was concerned because I have written you seven (7) letters since November with no response at all. Mrs. Wiseman, I don't doubt you or anything you tell me. My fears are only confirmed. There is no doubt in my mind now that these prison officials are destroying all of my mail to you. I am just glad to know that nothing has occurred to cause you and David to withdraw from my case.

Mrs. Wiseman while on the subject of mail, I received your letter today through the regular mail, and it had been opened and read and probably a copy made ... That is in direct violation of the

## Executions in U.S. Top 1,000



Boyd



Williams

On Dec. 2, 2005, the state of North Carolina executed Kenneth Lee Boyd. He was the 1,000<sup>th</sup> person to be executed in the United States since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.

And, on Dec. 13, 2005, the state of California executed Stanley "Tookie" Williams, co-founder and leader of the Crips gang, who had been on death row since 1981 for the murder of four individuals. In that time, he had published eight children's books and, in December 2000, he was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his Internet work with children against gang violence.

"After all these years," asks Creighton's Wiseman, "what was accomplished by his execution? It tells people that no matter what you do to redeem yourself, there is nothing in this system beyond retribution."



agreement on legal correspondence. I've done all I know to do to stop it, but it seems to do no good at all. They continue to open it and read it ...

I just no longer feel safe in discussing anything in the mail, so I will keep all my questions to myself. When my family comes to see me ... I will try to send word by them.

*January 24, 1992*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... I am not even assured that you will receive this letter. All I can do is write and mail it.

... I want to wish you and your family a Happy New Year and many, many more to come. Yes, it's 1992, and I guess I should be grateful to even see '92. I will give my mother and sister your best wishes, and you must do the same for me, to all of your family. Please tell Patrick that I said hello.

*May 11, 1993*

Dear Billy:

On Monday morning, May 10, I received word that Judge Barefoot Sanders had denied our petition for writ of habeas corpus, effective May 5, 1993 ...

As you can see from his order, Judge Sanders simply adopted the findings of Magistrate Tolle without explanation and attached the "standard" two-page document that I have enclosed ... As you will note, he also lifted the stay of execution, but we have 30 days within which to file a notice of appeal ...

*May 24, 1993*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... A human life is nothing to them (the magistrates) or our society. At times I question if I have any fight left in me. A person's innocence doesn't matter....

*May 27, 1993*

Dear Billy:

I received your May 20 letter on Monday, so your mail is once again getting through to me. David and I have now completed the documents necessary to perfect your appeal to the Fifth Circuit ... You will also see that

we have filed another motion to stay execution for the time it takes us to appeal your case ....

*June 5, 1993*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

I am sorry it has taken me so long to respond to your letter, but I just haven't had a stamp or paper to answer your letter. It's a sad thought, but if saving my own life depended on having a 29-cent stamp, I would be in sad shape ...

*April 20, 1994*

Dear Billy:

I know I have not written in a while, but I now have some information. Unfortunately the news is not good. Last Thursday, a panel of the Fifth Circuit, comprised of Judges Higginbotham, Smith and DeMoss, entered a *per curiam* decision rejecting our arguments and affirming Judge Sanders' dismissal of your petition for writ of habeas corpus. I finally received a copy of that decision yesterday. I know that, ever realistic, you will shake your head as you read this thinking to yourself that I have been foolish to be hopeful.

If need be, we will seek a stay in the United States Supreme Court.

*April 24, 1994*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... I fully expect an execution date at any time now. I also feel it will be carried out this time.

*July 12, 1994*

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Dear Billy:

I received your July 8 letter yesterday morning ... Having now read your letter, let me assure you that I have received nothing from you since April ... Subsequently, I sent you the motion for rehearing by overnight mail. You should have received that on April 26. I am now concerned, however, that you never received it. In fact, in your letter you mention having sent me an additional three letters. None of them arrived at my office. Apparently, the prison is sending me only one in four, which is not very

good odds ...

David and I are already in the process of drafting the petition for *certiorari* (a document asking the U.S. Supreme Court to exercise review) ...

*September 23, 1994*

Dear Billy:

I have not written much of late because, quite frankly, there have been no developments. We are still waiting for the State of Texas to file its responsive brief. Apparently, they were ordered to do so by the Supreme Court, and their brief was due on September 8. However, they are up to their old tricks. On the day before their brief was due, they requested an extension of time until October 11 ... Apparently, as you can see, the Court has acceded to their request ...

Frankly, I am happy to see that at least the State was ordered to respond to our petition and that the Court did not simply dismiss our petition out of hand. I am still hopeful that the Supreme Court will take at least one more of these Texas cases ....

*December 6, 1994*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

... Mrs. Wiseman, as you can see I am responding to your letters, but as far as my thoughts on all of it, I am doing my best to prepare myself to die for something I didn't do....

Please take care Christine .... Once again let me thank you for all you have done to help me. That isn't much but it comes from my heart.

*December 22, 1994*

Dear Billy:

We have finally received a copy of the State's response to our Petition for Writ of Certiorari, and I am enclosing a copy with this letter. As you can see, it is hardly a piece of stellar lawyering ... Repeated delays never seem to hurt the State of Texas.

David, Rob (McGlasson) and I conferred about the prospect of filing a Reply Brief in the United States Supreme Court, and we decided to do so ...

*January 13, 1995*

Dear Billy:

Although I was alerted to the fact that the Supreme Court had denied our petition for *certiorari* on Monday, I did not receive official notification until this morning. I am enclosing a copy of the terse order I received from the Court ...

... David and I are trying to arrange a time when we can travel to Huntsville to meet with you. We are both sorry about the Supreme Court's decision ... Perhaps Paula Sanders can be convinced finally that she must tell the truth ...

*January 20, 1995*

Dear Mrs. Wiseman:

I received your letter early this morning, and I thank you for writing to me and telling me what was going on.

... (I had been) told that the Supreme Court had refused to hear my case, and that an execution date had already been set, for Feb. 16th ...

*February 6, 1995*

Dear Billy:

David and I are planning now to arrive in Houston during the evening of February 14. I am writing to Warden Thaler to make sure that we can spend time together on Wednesday, the 15th. Rob also plans to meet with you on February 14. He is preparing clemency papers for submission to Governor Bush by Friday. He intends to lay out your story once again before the Governor, but none of us holds out much hope.

In any event, Billy, I want you to know that David and I will be there for you and for your Mom and Barbara (Gardner's sister). We care a great deal about them ...

*February 11, 1995*

Dear Christine:

... This won't be an easy letter to write, but it's one I feel I must write. Christine, I will also write David a letter and enclose it in yours and ask you to pass it on to him.

I thank you for calling my family and talking to them, and I also thank you for offering your support to them. I am very

concerned about my mother and Barbara. I know it's not much, but all I can do is thank you for being there for them this next week ....

... I want to thank you and David and E.J. (attorney E.J. Hunt, then a supervising attorney with the Legal Defense Program at the University of Wisconsin Law School) for all you have done on my behalf to try to save me, and it comes from my heart. I am fully aware that isn't much, but it is all I have to offer any of you. Christine although I haven't always agreed with all you have done to try to help me, I do appreciate all you have done. I also feel you have done what you felt was best for me, and all you could do to help me. I sure don't want you to ever take on any guilt behind me, or feel that you have failed me ... My fate was sealed before you, E.J. and David ever became involved in my case. So, I don't and I can't ever put any blame on any of you. I only have a deep respect for you, David and E.J., and I feel God blessed me and my life by letting me meet and know the three of you. I respect all three of you as decent human beings, and I also love all three of you for that. I also love all of you for being so kind to my family, and for treating them with respect ...

There is much I want to say to you Christine, but I am not real sure how to express all I feel. So maybe it is best to leave it all unsaid.

Christine, please tell Patrick goodbye for me, and to be a good boy and make you proud of him. I regret that I couldn't have met and known him. I send him my love and best wishes also.

Well Christine I guess I had better close this letter. But, always know that you and your family are always in my thoughts and prayers. Also know that I only wish for happiness and the best in life for all of you. I send all of you my love also. Goodbye Christine and I thank God for letting me know you.

Love and respect, Billy

\* \* \*

*For the most part, the events and facts as disclosed by these letters were presented or argued to the various courts and are matters of public record. To the extent these letters disclose other confidential information from the decedent, confidentiality has been waived by the decedent's surviving sister.*

— Christine Wiseman

## Death Sentences, Executions on the Decline in U.S.

According to the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, both the number of people sentenced to death and the number executed in the United States declined in 2004.

A total of 12 states executed 59 prisoners in 2004, six fewer than in the previous year.

Further, a total of 125 people received the death sentence in 2004, the report says. The United States reinstated the death penalty in 1976. According to one of the report's authors, Tracy Snell, 2004 is the fourth straight year of such a decline, which she attributes to a falling murder rate.

Some death penalty advocates suggest the falling murder rate can be explained by the use of the death penalty.

But others have long been suspicious of that claim. Some say states with habitual offender laws take the most likely capital offenders off the streets.

Others suggest that juries are more and more reluctant to use the death penalty, largely because of growing DNA evidence for convicting the wrong person.

Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, cited recent cases where death row prisoners have been freed following media or legal investigations; the use of DNA evidence to exonerate those wrongly convicted; and the increased availability of life-without-parole sentences as an alternative to capital punishment.

Amnesty International statistics say that, since 1973, 121 prisoners have been released in the U.S. after evidence emerged of their innocence of the crimes for which they were sentenced to death.



# Addressing the Reality of Violence

By Raymond Bucko, S.J.

*"To bring peace in war conditions is to announce the message of love in a violent world, in the Pascal faith that, in the end, not hate but love will have the last word."*

— The Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.,  
Superior General of the Society of Jesus

This past fall, the Jesuit Curia in Rome hosted a conference titled "Advanced Workshop on Violence and War: Cultural and Economic Interests." It was a perfect match for a Jesuit anthropologist, and I was selected to go.

The experience was profoundly transformative for me. Forty-five Jesuits, religious and lay men and women, literally from all over the world, were represented. There were people who were practitioners of peace initiatives in their own strife-torn communities, as well as a healthy dose of scholars from such diverse disciplines as sociology, economics, peace studies, theology, ethics and anthropology. Some, like me, primarily lead academic lives, and others work almost exclusively in the field. There were men and women, young and mellowing, and individuals from a variety of Christian traditions as well as a Muslim from the Philippines. To my delight, there were three other anthropologists, two from the Philippines and one from India.

The conference was organized according to plenary and small group interactions. My own group, for whom I developed a profound care and deep respect, was from the Philippines, Colombia, India, France, Belgium, Italy, Croatia and the United States. We differed not only nationally, culturally and by gender but also in our basic premises and methodologies. Some in the group insisted on direct action and community organizing; others wanted to look at larger issues of systems of violence; still others, not surprisingly, focused on the embeddedness of violence in cultural systems and the very possibilities of social change.

Through intense conversation and interaction, prayerful reflection, reading, extended analyses of specific examples of violence in Chad, Colombia and India, topical lectures, story telling, common prayer and liturgies, social events, and even an anthropological analysis of identity and inequality provided by this author, we employed a variety of approaches to attempt to answer the basic question we were gathered to address: How do we as members of the Jesuit family and

how should the Society of Jesus as an international apostolic body address the reality of violence and the urgency of peacemaking in the modern world? The results of these deliberations were brought to the Very Rev. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., the worldwide leader of the Jesuit religious order, and our work will be promulgated to the entire Society of Jesus.

Meanwhile, back in Omaha, my Introduction to Native American Studies students carried on their studies online with me. They also, in a virtual way, participated with me in the conference in Rome: viewing photos of the participants, reading accounts of the sessions, and making their own comments and observations on the proceedings. They heard stories of the Rwandan genocide told by Jesuits who had lost relatives in the tragedy, testimony by those personally affected by the violence in Colombia and India,

and observed a very diverse group of people committed to addressing the issues of violence and peace in today's world, the same world they are preparing to enter and whose healing will ultimately be in their hands.

The conference profoundly changed my view of the international Society: not so much in its ability to solve global problems instantly but in its commitment to admit its inability to solve problems alone and willingness to enlist its energy and resources to work collaboratively toward solutions, both within our institution and outside.

Returning to Omaha, my teaching of Native Studies has also changed and has been energized by a new urgency for peacemaking and reconciliation in the historical encounter between Natives and Europeans that was often marked by violence and is still in need of healing and reconciliation. Finally, the encounter also made me very proud of Creighton, a Jesuit institution that was willing to contribute resources as part of this important conference, and the Creighton NAS students, who through their willingness to let their professor teach from far away, themselves were able to participate in the essential work of peacemaking. At Creighton, the last word IS peace.

You can view the conference website, hosted at Creighton and created and maintained by Fr. Bucko, S.J., at: <http://puffin.creighton.edu/jesuit/peace/>



Fr. Bucko (middle, in plaid shirt) in Rome with the Jesuit superior general, Fr. Kolvenbach (in black).