Chairside Collaboration

Jesse Varoz  Creighton Dental Student

Brittany Stevens  Creighton Pharmacy Student
Welcome to the newly redesigned Creighton University School of Dentistry newsletter. We hope you like our new look.

We changed the size of the publication and the layout to provide more stories and information in an easy-to-read format. We want to connect with you, our loyal alumni and friends, with a more intentional approach. We look forward to keeping you up to date on the latest news and happenings in our school.

As we position our school for the future, we remain firmly committed to providing our students an excellent education, rooted in Jesuit values. As we position our school for the future, we remain firmly committed to preparing our students for the challenges of the future.

Message from the Dean

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New Faculty Join School

Four new faculty members joined the Creighton School of Dentistry at the start of the fall semester, including three graduates.

**Andrea Hall**

Andrea Hall, DDS’11, has joined the School of Dentistry as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics. She earned her bachelor’s degree in microbiology from Iowa State University in 2007 and DDS degree from Creighton in 2011. After graduation, Hall relocated to California to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received certification in the specialty of prosthodontics in June 2014. Hall has volunteered with such organizations as the St. Francis House homeless shelter, OneWorld Community Health Centers, Loloma Foundation and Macy Outreach in Macy, Neb., providing dental care to underserved and low-income patients. Along with her teaching duties, she will continue her part-time practice in Omaha.

**Kirstin McCarville**

Kirstin McCarville, BS’01, DDS’05, received her B.S. in biology and DDS from Creighton University. After completing a one-year AEGD (Advanced Education in General Dentistry) residency, McCarville practiced in the Oncology Dental Support Clinic at UMKC School of Dentistry. She joined the Creighton School of Dentistry faculty in 2008 and taught for two years prior to specializing in prosthodontics. In June 2013, McCarville completed her certificate in prosthodontics and earned her master’s degree in oral biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She returns to Creighton after completing her final year of training in maxillofacial prosthodontics at UCLA. McCarville is an associate professor in the Department of Prosthodontics.

**Scott Radniecki**

Scott Radniecki, BS’08, DDS’12, earned both his undergraduate and dental degrees from Creighton University. As a dental student, Radniecki received multiple scholarships, including the Dr. David Reinsch Humanitarian Award and the four-year Creighton Dental Alumni Scholarship, and served all four years as class president.

Volunteerism has been a focus for Radniecki. He has provided dental services to underserved populations through the School of Dentistry’s Thursday night clinic, in conjunction with OneWorld Community Health Centers, and the Give Kids a Smile program.

In addition to two years of private practice, Radniecki has taught in the dental school’s Acute Care Clinic and Sophomore Operative Lab since graduating. He joins the Department of General Dentistry.

**Angela Ritchie**

Angela Ritchie, DDS, joins the Department of Diagnostic Sciences as an assistant professor and returns to her Midwestern roots. Ritchie graduated from Indiana University in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor, in 2011. She relocated to New York to complete her residency in oral and maxillofacial pathology at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park. She recently became a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

Ritchie has volunteered with the Jonathan Taft Society, an organization that provides adults with free dental screenings, cleanings and restorative procedures, and has presented at several dental conferences nationwide.

**Gift Establishes Wilwerding-Di Lorenzo Digital Technology Center**

“If I were to conjure up the ideal educational experience, Creighton would exceed the ideal,” says Arne Ness, DDS’77.

So to show his appreciation to his alma mater and to honor two of his classmates integral to the education of Creighton dental students, Ness donated the lead gift to the Wilwerding-Di Lorenzo Digital Technology Center.

The center is named for Terry Wilwerding, DDS’77, MS’00, MS’08, and Scott Di Lorenzo, DDS’77, to “acknowledge their contribution to Creighton’s dental school and, at the same time, to maintain Creighton’s educational standards as progressive, states Ness.

CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) allows dentists to design, produce and insert individual ceramic restorations directly at the point of treatment, in a single appointment, explains Tom Berry, DDS’00, assistant professor of general dentistry, CAD/CAM (computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing) technology converts digital impressions into a 3-D model.

CEREC will be incorporated into all four years of study. “With this exposure, our graduating students will be better prepared to enter the dental profession, which is becoming more technologically integrated and computer-based,” Berry says.

Wilwerding, director of dental history and a professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, calls digital dentistry “the new frontier.” Yet he acknowledges that it is difficult to integrate new technologies into the curriculum, mostly due to significant cost. “This gift from Dr. Ness is a great step forward in our instructional program,” Wilwerding says.

Gifts like Ness’ speak volumes of the “Creighton spirit,” Di Lorenzo, associate professor of prosthodontics, believes. “The involvement of our dental community to both help educate the students and donate resources to our school for cutting-edge technology gives current and future students the knowledge and experience to continue to provide the best care for their patients.”

The Wilwerding-Di Lorenzo Digital Technology Center will also allow the School of Dentistry to provide continuing education opportunities for alumni interested in CAD/CAM dentistry. R. Scott Shaddy, DDS’88, chair of the Department of General Dentistry, is currently developing a curriculum with Berry designed for alumni in computerized restorative dentistry.

Ness’ gift affects current, future and past students. “Dr. Ness is a perfect example of the Jesuit principle of caring for the whole person through his practice of ‘service to others,’” Shaddy says. “Because of his commitment and most valuable donation, Creighton students and alumni will continue to excel in the field of dentistry and bring new-found expertise to the care of their patients.”
ILAC Participants Make a Difference

Six dental students and nine professionals volunteered over the summer at the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) in the Dominican Republic. The Creighton group set up clinics in six rural campos and treated approximately 600 dental patients during the four-week session.

Alumni are asked to consider assisting with the ILAC summer 2015 program as dental professionals. Two-week commitments are preferred, but one-week assignments are available. The only cost involved is airfare. The first session is June 26 to July 12, and the second session is July 10-25. Please call or email if you have any questions. Contact Jim O’Meara, BA’82, DDS’86 (402.280.3420, JamesOmeara@creighton.edu) or Terry Wilwerding, DDS’77, MS’00, MS’08 (402.280.5081, tmwj@creighton.edu) for more information or to receive the ILAC e-newsletter.

Shaddy, Blaha Named Department Chairs

R. Scott Shaddy, DDS’88, and David Blaha, DDS, have been named chairs of the Department of General Dentistry and the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, respectively.

R. Scott Shaddy, DDS’88: Chair of General Dentistry

For more than 25 years, R. Scott Shaddy, DDS’88, has been a member of the Creighton School of Dentistry faculty. He began in the Department of Operative Dentistry and then joined the Department of General Dentistry in 2004 as an associate professor. Shaddy is now chair of the Department of General Dentistry. He has a long history of service to Creighton, the School of Dentistry and the community at large. He has served as ILAC’s dental director, has volunteered with the Special Olympics and Project Homeless Connect, has taken leadership roles in dental associations both locally and nationally and sat on numerous academic committees within the University.

Shaddy is an award-winning instructor who has presented extensively with the School of Dentistry’s continuing education program and has reviewed numerous articles for the Journal of Dental Education.

“Dr. Shaddy is uniquely qualified to head the Department of General Dentistry. He has a long history of success as a faculty member, bringing innovation to his teaching and promoting the advancement of modern clinical techniques in our clinical arena,” says Dean Mark Latta, DDS. “As a distinguished member of the Air National Guard, he has developed leadership skills that will benefit our students and faculty in his role as chair.”

David Blaha, DDS: Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery David Blaha, DDS, has assumed new roles with the Creighton School of Dentistry as chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Blaha joined Creighton in 2012 as a part-time faculty member, assuming full-time duties in July 2013. Previously, he was in private practice in Lincoln, Neb., and was a clinical instructor in surgical specialties with the UNMC College of Dentistry, where he was named Outstanding Teacher in 2010.

Blaha was admitted into the Nebraska Dental Association Hall of Fame in 2005 and also earned the Distinguished Service Award from the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association in 2010. He received his DDS from the University of Nebraska.

“Dr. Blaha brings a wealth of oral surgery practice experience and a long legacy of service to the profession to the chair’s role,” says Latta. “He cares deeply about students and learning. While relatively new to his role as a full-time academic, he is fully committed to the values informed by our Jesuit, Catholic heritage.”

Continuing Education Events

Modern Management of the Special Needs Patient
Jan. 23, 2015
Presenter: Christopher Stanosheck, DDS, M.S.
Radiology for Dental Assistants
Feb. 20-21, 2015
Presenters: Timothy Walker, DDS’85, Jody Walker, RDH, and Cathy Van Winkle, RDH
Morning Session: Dental Implant Therapy: Why, When and How – A Hands-on with Takanari Miyamoto, DDS, Ph.D., MSD, MBA
Afternoon Session: Hard and Soft Tissue Regeneration for Ideal Implant Placement with Michael Sonick, DMD
Practice Transition: A Guide for Buyers and Sellers
April 10, 2015
Presenter: Tim Giroux, DDS
Note: CE credit not guaranteed

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Radiology for Dental Assistants
May 29-30, 2015
Presenters: Timothy Walker, DDS’85, Jody Walker, RDH, and Cathy Van Winkle, RDH
1st Annual Golf and Learn
More information to come
OSHA and Infection Control
Annual Review | Online Course
Presenter: James Howard, DDS, M.S.
For more information, updates or to register, visit creighton.edu/CDE
Farewell to Colleagues

The School of Dentistry recently said goodbye to longtime colleagues who retired: Gary Wedel, supervisor and lab technician in the Department of Prosthodontics, 23 years of service; Debbie Anderson, manager, patient services, 25 years of service; Debbie Franks, patient care coordinator, 19 years of service; Mary Jo Duggan, dental assistant in radiology, 27 years of service; Ron Adrian, maintenance engineer, 41 years of service; and Stephen Moore, DDS, assistant professor, Department of General Dentistry, 10 years of service. We thank them for their service to Creighton and wish them well in retirement.

The dental school also bid farewell to Nici Kimmes, DDS’01, associate professor of general dentistry, and congratulates her on her appointment as assistant dean for faculty development and technology at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) School of Dentistry.

Former Dean Barkmeier Honored

Wayne W. Barkmeier, DDS, M.S., professor and dean emeritus at Creighton University School of Dentistry, received the Alumni Achievement Award at the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Homecoming Reunion in September. He is a 1969 graduate. The Alumni Achievement Award is presented annually to a graduate with a record of outstanding achievement in his or her dental career. Barkmeier and his classmates were this year’s 45-year honor class and recognized at the UNMC College of Dentistry Homecoming Reunion Banquet.

Hermesen Receives Volunteer Award, Grant

Kenneth Hermesen, DDS, professor of endodontics, received the Citizen Corps Volunteer of the Year Award from Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman in September. The award is part of Nebraska’s “Be Prepared” awards program. Now in its seventh year, the program honors Nebraskans who volunteer their time and energy to support preparedness in Nebraska communities.

Hermesen was recognized for his outstanding commitment and contribution to the Medical Reserve Corps, one of the partner programs of the Citizen Corps. A member of the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps, Hermesen serves on the decontamination team as one of its co-leaders. He is a founding member of the Nebraska Forensic Dental Identification Team, and has been deployed as a forensic dentist to numerous disasters, including the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina. He also helped found the Nebraska Mission of Mercy, an annual free dental clinic for underserved communities throughout the state. At Creighton, Hermesen is working with dental students to encourage a spirit of giving back by developing a disaster response elective for those who wish to become involved in their communities’ disaster response efforts.

Hermesen also received a $15,000 research grant from the Dr. George F. Haddix President’s Faculty Research Fund. The Haddix Fund was developed to support and enhance the research and scholarly productivity of full-time faculty at Creighton. His grant is centered on “Dental Cementum Incremental Analysis.” Along with Vicki Wedel, Ph.D., Hermesen has studied how to determine the age and season of death of skeletonized remains by researching the dental cementum of the remains. They have presented their studies twice at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

National Research Award

Shikha Tarang, left, a postdoctoral student working in the lab of Sonia Rocha-Sanchez, Ph.D., right, associate professor of oral biology and biomedical sciences, placed first in a nationwide research competition supported by the Hearing Health Foundation. Tarang was one of only 17 students nationwide to receive the first-place award. She will use the award money to investigate a novel transgenic technology to reprogram adult neurosensory cells to regenerate lostauditory hair cells.
Adult Clinic Makes Improvements

Several operational changes in the adult clinic are having a significant impact.

> The new patient management system—a team approach consisting of five teams of 35 junior and senior students, eight faculty members and a patient care coordinator—is resulting in increased oversight, coordination and service to students and patients.

> NOMAD technology, a mobile hand-held unit for taking radiographs at the chair, provides more efficient use of patient and student time.

> Improved access for new patients and better coordination of patient needs with student needs through an improved initial entry treatment timeline are benefiting both students and patients.

Faculty: Abstracts and Publications

Abstracts presented at the American Association for Dental Research meeting in Charlotte, N.C., in March 2014.


T. Berry, T. Takamizawa, W. Barkmeier, M. Nunn. The Effects of Toothbrush Abrasion on Resin Composite Materials.

W. Naughton, W. Barkmeier, M. Latta. Shear Bond Strength of Newer Generation Self-adhesive Resin Cements.


D. Schoedel, T. Takamizawa, W. Barkmeier, R. Erickson. Effect of Frequency on Fatigue Limits of Dentin Bonds.


To be presented at the International Association of Dental Research in March 2015.


Published in the Journal of Health Informatics in Developing Countries; Volume 8, Number 2; L. Parish, A. Diy, N.R. Kenning, K. Tempelton, R. Sagun, N. Kimmes, G. Gaspard, S. Huss. Dental Informatics and Intra-oral Photography in Communicating with Dental Students in the Dominican Republic.


Published in Mosby’s Review for the National Board Dental Exam; Volumes 1 and 2, Second Edition; 2014: F. Dowd, Editor.

Published in Mosby’s Dental Dictionary; Edition 3; 2014: F. Dowd, Co-editor.


“When health care professionals work in a team environment, outcomes for patients improve,” says John Shaner, DMD, diagnostic sciences department chair and associate professor at the Creighton School of Dentistry.

In general, Shaner speaks of the University-wide initiative for increased interprofessional collaboration between all health care students. Specifically, he references the joint clinical experience between dental and pharmacy students.

Established in 2012, Creighton’s Interprofessional Education Steering Committee is composed of representatives from all the health sciences programs and the Health Sciences Library, says Margaret Jergenson, DDS ’82, oral biology department chair and associate professor and chair of the curriculum committee. “All accrediting bodies of the various health science schools now require some participation in IPE (Interprofessional Education). The schools must provide opportunities for students to learn about the other professions, and the students must learn how to interact in a multidisciplinary team,” Jergenson explains.

Collaboration between dental and Pharm.D. students is currently underway, with the hands-on application phase to be implemented in January 2015. Pharmacy students will have the option of completing one of the required five-week ambulatory care rotations in the School of Dentistry clinic. They will interact with dental students in the clinic, underscoring what strengths pharmacists can bring to a dental practice.

“Oral health and disease state go hand-in-hand,” says Kalin Johnson, PharmD ’12, BSHS ’12, assistant professor of pharmacy practice/diagnostic sciences. Patients visiting the dental clinic often have complex medical histories or chronic disease states, Johnson says. Pharm.D. and dental students working in tandem, identifying patient concerns and reviewing their medications, results in better overall health care.

Such collaboration already exists between the Schools of Dentistry and Medicine, Shaner says. Dentists can play a significant role in the early detection of head and neck cancer, in addition to oral cancer, during the recommended twice-yearly dental exams. Thus, professors from the School of Medicine have worked with dental students to help them identify signs of neck and head cancer.

Similar cooperation between dentistry and pharmacy is “the ideal next step,” Shaner says. Many of the patients who visit Creighton’s dental clinic are on fixed incomes. They are often retirees who are on multiple medications prescribed by multiple specialists to treat multiple chronic diseases, and these specialists may be unaware of what prescriptions their patients are taking. Pharmacological overlaps or incompatibilities can result. Having a pharmacy student available when complete medical histories are taken helps address these oversights.

It’s another layer of checks and balances. Pharmacists can remind patients taking antidepressants, for instance, that they will have increased dry mouth, which, in turn, will increase the risk of cavities. Or, having had a pharmacy student available to discuss the impact of anticoagulant medication will remind dental students of the importance of calling their patients’ pharmacies to verify the dosage and risk for bleeding during procedures.

Developing a relationship with a pharmacist during the clinical experience will hopefully translate into continued communication when in practice, Johnson says.
Creighton University dental students not only excel in the classroom but passionately pursue opportunities for research and service. Whether it’s volunteering at OneWorld Community Health Centers in Omaha, participating in student table clinics or helping to organize a local health fair, Creighton students are eager to get involved.

They say travel is illuminating. Case in point: John Kum, BSCHM’12, discovered his career plans while visiting the Dominican Republic as an undergraduate student at Creighton. He describes his month in the Caribbean country as “exciting.” Though he only served as a helper, or ayudante, to Creighton dental students, the experience was life-changing.

“The service they provided to the community was inspiring. It was because of that trip that I really wanted to do dentistry, and specifically go to Creighton,” says Kum.

Service is an activity Kum has continued, rather extensively, as a dental student. He volunteers at OneWorld Community Health Centers. Twice a month, low-income patients receive services such as extractions, X-rays, dental exams, restoratives and cleanings for a $20 donation. It is a student-run endeavor, with faculty providing supervision.

Dental students are encouraged to volunteer their time, and Kum says several of his classmates consistently attend the clinics. In addition to the learning opportunity and service OneWorld provides, there is a great sense of fun and camaraderie among participating students.

In conjunction with students from other health professions, dental students hosted a health fair to address the medical and dental needs of refugee populations. Kum coordinated the dental section of the Bridge to Care Health Fair, held at a local high school during Omaha’s World Refugee Day. Dental students provided oral hygiene lessons and conducted oral exams and cancer screenings under the supervision of faculty. Each visitor to the fair received a toothbrush and dental floss. More than 300 refugees were screened.

Children are also on his service radar. Interacting with young patients is what draws Kum to such events as Give Kids a Smile and the children identification program the Omaha Police Department conducted at the Omaha Salute to Safety Expo. More than 100 dental students and faculty donated their time to Give Kids a Smile, offering free exams, X-rays, cleaning and fluoride treatments. Kum, as a second-year student, was able to volunteer in the dental radiology clinic. With the latter event, he swabbed children’s cheeks and took bite registrations.

Despite all the service work, he still says it is “eye-opening” to learn the number of people who don’t visit a dentist regularly. “To be able to share my knowledge and skills reaffirms my decision in dentistry and motivates me to continually learn and grow as a student,” says Kum.

“Creighton provides plenty of opportunities to experience dentistry outside of the classroom and provides a means for students to excel beyond the classroom. These events bring together the values of caring for the person and being for and with others.”
Meet Theresa Greving

Greving, who joined fellow dental students in a study on throat lozenges, describes herself as “a Creighton Bluejay through and through.”

From ‘Ew’ to True Blue

Second-year dental student Theresa Greving didn’t always want to be a dentist. In fact, when a high school teacher first suggested that she consider dentistry as a career, her response was less than enthusiastic. Recalls Greving, “All I could think was, ‘Ew, spit.’” Not exactly a ringing endorsement for what is now her vocation.

Then, on a complete whim, the Olathe, Kan., native shadowed a dental student at the Creighton Clinic. She spent several hours in the clinic, but the time passed in a flash. She was hooked.

“The patient interaction, the direct benefit that the work of a dentist’s hands can provide and the attention to detail were the most appealing aspects to me,” Greving says. Greving earned her undergraduate degree, a B.S. in chemistry, from Creighton in 2012. At first she thought she wanted to pursue her dental degree on the East Coast and focus on clinical research to earn a combined DDS/Ph.D. Then she decided that clinical dentistry was her passion. Returning to Creighton was academic. “I trust in the quality of dentists that Creighton creates, especially since my own dentist is a Creighton grad. Moreover, I knew how renowned Creighton graduates were for their clinical experience, and that’s where I want to excel,” says Greving.

But research still has its appeal. First-year dentistry students are required to participate in Student Table Clinics. Groups conduct scientific studies related to dentistry. Greving’s group studied the effect throat lozenges have on the micro hardness of enamel. Lozenges tend to be highly acidic, like lemons and soda pop. At first, her group hypothesized it was the level of acid in the lozenges that caused erosion. But they discovered it was the amount of time the lozenges were in contact with the teeth that mattered, not the acid level.

Says Greving, “It’s not an earth-shattering conclusion, but I believe the purpose of Student Table Clinics is ultimately to gain an appreciation for the scientific method and for the hard work that goes into truly innovative dental research.”

When Greving isn’t attending class or completing research, she is volunteering at OneWorld Community Health Center’s dental clinic, and at community outreach events, like oral cancer screenings and the Special Olympics. She feels it is a necessary part of her education: “Service work helps me to avoid apathy by opening my eyes to people in need. I believe that it’s the small moments where your heart aches out of concern for another human being when you really come face-to-face with the reason we’re here — to care for one another.”

Meet Wilson Yip

Yip helped organize a Smile Mile walk/run to assist patients who needed dentures but couldn’t afford them.

Going the Extra (Smile) Mile

Wilson Yip had two primary considerations when choosing his career path: He wanted his chosen profession to be hands-on, and he wanted it to be autonomous. Dentistry fit the bill on both counts.

Yip’s older brother, Matthew Yip, DDS’13, attended Creighton School of Dentistry, so he was familiar with the school and its curriculum. But he ultimately decided to enroll at Creighton (after earning a B.S. in biology at the University of Kansas) because, he says, “The clinical experience offered here is unlike any other.”

“There are no graduate programs, so we get to perform a variety and number of clinical procedures. I know that I am definitely getting the most bang for my buck here. I know the experiences and educational opportunities offered [at Creighton] are one of a kind, something that will follow me wherever I go and be a foundation that I can only expand on.”

The curriculum is challenging and time-consuming, he says. But in addition to teaching pedagogical knowledge, Creighton instills a strong work ethic. “It may sound cliché,” says Yip, “but the experiences here truly do teach one the importance of [Vince Lombardi’s statement]. ’It’s not whether you get knocked down; it’s whether you get up.’”

Despite the rigors of his studies, Yip finds time to serve as the philanthropy chair of Creighton’s chapter of the American Student Dental Association. As such, he is involved with Smile Mile. Smile Mile is a 5k walk/run, with all proceeds going toward providing dentures to patients who are unable to afford the treatment. He planned the entire event, from securing sponsors, to designing T-shirts to ensuring smooth execution the day of the event. Smile Mile “is a great way for the dental and Omaha community to participate in an event for a great cause,” Yip says.

Through his service work, Yip says, he has observed that “there are many people who struggle financially and are unable to afford basic dental care. As a health care provider with a certain skill set, it has made me realize that doing charity work is a duty.”

So the Wichita, Kan., native will continue his studies and continue his philanthropic work. And when he graduates, he says he knows he will be prepared for a career in dentistry and “for whatever life throws at me.”
Halbur Honored with Alumni Merit Award

Martin Halbur, DDS’76, received the Alumni Merit Award from the School of Dentistry at the Alumni Homecoming Weekend President’s Alumni Dinner on Sept. 19.

The Alumni Merit Award is given annually to alumni who have given distinguished service to the University and to their own community. Guided by the Jesuit ideal of being men and women for and with others, recipients demonstrate high moral principles and exemplify the Creighton Credo that acknowledges God as the Creator, the intrinsic value of human beings created in God’s image and the striving for a community of justice.

Halbur’s dedication to the dental profession rivals his commitment to his home community of Carroll, Iowa, where he has lived and practiced for nearly 40 years; the land he farms; and Creighton. As a Fellow in both the International and American Colleges of Dentists, Halbur has held multiple leadership positions and garnered distinguished service recognition.

He has guided future generations of dentists by mentoring dental students and providing internships for high school students interested in the profession. Recently, with fellow dentists in Carroll, he built a new 20-chair dental facility in order to better serve his community.

His connection to the land runs equally deep. Halbur heads a farming operation, raising cattle and hogs and growing corn and soybeans. The Carroll County Soil Conservation District has recognized his preservation efforts, which include re-establishing more than 100 acres of native prairie grasses and wild flowers and planting more than 13,000 trees of 38 different species. Currently, Halbur is working to improve the habitat of the endangered Blandig turtle.

Halbur has kept close ties to Creighton as a member of the School of Dentistry’s Alumni Advisory Board and a father of Creighton graduates. He epitomizes the Creighton spirit.

Halbur credits his Creighton experience, in part, for the trajectory his life has taken.

“I feel very honored to be recognized by my peers,” Halbur says. “I thank the University for providing me with an outstanding academic and clinical experience and instilling in me the Jesuit principle of service to community and others. These principles have guided me throughout my career. I have had tremendous support from my wife, Dee, and four daughters, Marie, Katherine, Elizabeth and Anna. My mentors in the dental community and current associates have been a wonderful benefit. I have been lucky to have had the Creighton experience and to have dentistry as my profession.”

“Dr. Halbur represents in his professional and personal life the very best of the values of Creighton. As an outstanding clinician, he has served the oral health needs of his community for decades, but his community engagement extends far beyond his dental practice. His service both in and out of his dental office is truly a manifestation of the charism of ‘being with and for others.’”

— Mark Latta, Dean of the School of Dentistry
**Alumni Notes**

**1956**
George Blue Spruce, DDS, Surprise, Ariz., recently received lifetime achievement awards from the Henry Schein (Shills Memorial Fund) in Philadelphia and the Society of Federal Health Professionals, also known as the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, in Seattle. Blue Spruce is recognized as the nation’s first American Indian dentist, served as assistant U.S. surgeon general and founded the Society of American Indian Dentists.

**1980**
Randy K. Newby, DDS, Wichita, Kan., has successfully completed a one-year Master Clinical Program Curriculum in implant dentistry. Newby received his certificate from the gide (Global Institute for Dental Education) and the UCLA School of Dentistry in Los Angeles in September.

**1983**
Kenneth R. Ronzo, DDS, Rochester, N.Y., received a Master of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Ronzo currently serves on the board of directors for the New York State Dental Association (seventh district).

**1984**
Guy M. Hanson, BS’60, DDS, Boise, Idaho, was elected to the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Board during the AGD 2014 Annual Meeting & Exhibits in June. Hanson has served the AGD in numerous capacities, including Region 11 regional director, Idaho AGD president, Idaho AGD secretary and AGD spokesperson.

**1985**
Leo Cutlinan, DDS, Naples, Fla., was recognized with the Special Recognition Award from the Florida Dental Association at the 2014 Florida National Dental Convention in Orlando.

**1986**
John T. Kalange, DDS, Boise, Idaho, recently completed a validation process and received FDA 510K premarket approval to manufacture, market and distribute a proprietary orthodontic microimplant. Additionally, Kalange has received United States Patent and Trademark provisional patenting on the same device.

**1996**

**2006**
John C. Beal, DDS, and Jennifer Concuelous Beal, DDS, Chesterfield, Mo., welcomed a son, Corban Arnold, on March 22. Dan M. C’Sell, PharmD’06, and Marie Hallbur C’Sell, BS’02, DDS, Carroll, Iowa, welcomed a son, Benjamin Michael, on Aug. 30, 2013. Michael Beau Hamilton, DDS, and Alison Hund Hamilton, BA’02, Dallas, welcomed a daughter, Juliet Louise, on Feb. 24, 2014.

**2010**
Aaron C. Taft, DDS, Laramie, Wyo., is a state dental officer for the Wyoming National Guard and was recently promoted to major. Taft also was elected as president of the Wyoming Dental Association South Central Region.

**2013**
Daniel J. Nicorata, BA’09, DDS, and Erin Crawford Nicorata, BA’09, DDS, Orlando Park, Ill., welcomed a son, Dominic James, on May 15, 2014. Patrick R. Wachtler, BA’09, DDS, and Chelsea N. Kropp, M.D., were married on Feb. 8, 2014, and are living in Omaha.

**2014**

**Submit Your News**

**Do you have alumni news to share? Please send to alumlinews@creighton.edu.**

**OKU Honors Hull, Elects New Members**

The Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), a national dental honor society, presented student Benjamin Hull with the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence for 2014. Hull was chosen for the Kramer Award based on his demonstrated scholarship, character and his potential promise for the advancement of dentistry and service to humanity. In addition to Hull’s award, several recent graduates and faculty were inducted into OKU.

**Alumni Membership (2014 graduates):**
Dustin Cameron, Paul Clawson, Stephen Grandy, Carla Grossklaus, Maurine Heesch, Nicholas Kenning, Eric Lomas, Andrew McDonald, Blair Racker and Paige Schmidt.

**Life Membership:**
Roger Gerster, DDS’69, longtime part-time faculty member; Dennis Higginbotham, DDS’67, associate professor of general dentistry and the Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry; and William Patrick Keisly II, DDS’76, senior associate dean for academic affairs and administration and professor of general dentistry.

**Honorary Membership:**
Scott Morrison, DDS, president of the Nebraska Dental Association.

Two Creighton School of Dentistry graduates have assumed national leadership positions with separate professional organizations. William Nelson, BA’77, DDS’81, was installed as the 2014-2015 president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and Peter Larsen, DDS’83, was named president of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery for 2014-2015.

Nelson has been in group practice in Green Bay, Wis., for 26 years. He is a founding partner of a medical specialty group of 150 physicians. He is an adjunct associate professor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Minnesota and is a fellow of the American and International Colleges of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Nelson graduated from the Creighton School of Dentistry in 1981, receiving the Spirit of Creighton Award, and completed his surgical training at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center in LaCrosse, Wis. Larsen is a 1983 graduate of the Creighton School of Dentistry; he completed his surgical training at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He is the Larry J. Peterson Endowed Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and chair of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Anesthesiology at The Ohio State University. Additionally, he is chief of the dental department at the Wexner Medical Center and chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

Larsen has published extensively, with more than 50 refereed journal articles and numerous book chapters to his credit. He is also co-editor of the 3rd edition of Peterson’s Principles of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery.

**Creighton Graduates Head National Organizations**
Many Options for Charitable Giving

When many donors consider charitable giving, their thoughts invariably turn to putting bills into the weekly collection plate or placing a check into a reply envelope. While cash certainly is a tried-and-true method to help you accomplish your philanthropic objectives, there are many other options to consider that can provide you with greater income and tax benefits while simultaneously supporting the strategic goals of the School of Dentistry.

Appreciated Securities
Contributions of appreciated securities you have owned for one year or longer are an excellent way to help you fulfill your charitable goals for the School of Dentistry. Contributions of these assets provide you with a charitable income tax deduction for their fair market value while avoiding any capital gains taxes you would have incurred upon their sale.

Real Estate
Similar to appreciated securities, gifts of highly marketable real estate you have owned for one year or longer may be an attractive way to help further the University’s vision for the School of Dentistry and provide you with financial and tax benefits. For example, you may consider contributing undeveloped land, farmland and rental or vacation properties.

Retained Life Estate
You also may consider giving your personal residence, vacation home or farm to Creighton while retaining the right to occupy or use the asset for your lifetime. This arrangement is commonly known as a retained life estate, and it can provide you with an immediate charitable income tax deduction and the flexibility to continue to enjoy your property.

Retirement Plan Account
For many, their most valuable asset is their qualified retirement plan account, such as an IRA or 401(k). Withdrawals are subject to federal and state income tax, and these assets also are subject to federal estate and state death taxes, where applicable, when left to family members and friends. Because Creighton University is tax-exempt, naming the University beneficiary of a portion or all of these plans will result in the full amount going to benefit the School of Dentistry, leaving other less-taxed assets to fulfill your final wishes for your heirs.

If you would like to learn more about any of the aforementioned giving vehicles, please contact Cortney Bauer, senior director of development for the School of Dentistry, or Robert Skrydlak, senior director of estate and gift planning.

Peterson Named Hometown “Man of the Year”

“I just saw a need and am stubborn enough to have wanted to prove the naysayers wrong,” says Ben Peterson, DDS’04, of the volunteer efforts that garnered him Ontario, Ore., “Man of the Year” recognition.

When Peterson returned to his hometown a little over 10 years ago to begin his dental practice, he quickly realized his community was struggling. Ontario is a city of about 11,000 residents located in eastern Oregon, along the border with Idaho. Underperforming schools and run-down physical plants were causing an exodus among Ontario residents for communities just across the Snake River in Idaho.

“For the local public schools as a predominant driver of people leaving the community, I jumped at an opportunity to sit on a task force that was created to evaluate the school’s facilities and make recommendations for improvements,” says Peterson of his initial involvement.

The task force led to the chairing of two bond campaigns, which led to massive renovations of Ontario’s elementary, middle and high schools. On the heels of renewed community pride in its schools, Peterson launched into his next municipal project: renovation of the dilapidated high school baseball facility. Construction on the $750,000 project finished this year, and now Ontario boasts one of the highest quality fields in the region.

Peterson also uses his dental practice as a vehicle for giving back. He and his partner established a children’s clinic for migrants, which has serviced hundreds of children, free of charge, since its inception.

As a dental student, Peterson participated in the Indian/Chicano clinic (now OneWorld Community Health Center) as much as his schedule would allow. But it is his father, Andrew Peterson, MD’69, a Creighton School of Medicine graduate, who predominantly instilled his desire to serve others. “He has faithfully used his profession as a priestly mission to carry out the work of Jesus,” acknowledges Peterson.

Peterson is humbled by his “Man of the Year” honor — which was presented by the Ontario Area Chamber of Commerce — believing the changes in Ontario’s school system was the collective work of many, many people, including his wife, Shawna, who spent a year at Creighton as a visiting law student, and children. And he is proud to be an alumnus of Creighton because of its academic standing but also because a Creighton education is “well-rooted in Catholic social teaching.”

Says Peterson: “I sincerely hope that aspect of a Creighton education remains and even grows so that I can be proud to send my kids there someday.”
You Responded, We Listened

Thank you to those who responded to our alumni communications survey this summer. A robust 22 percent completed the survey. And the results were clear and heartening: You care about the school, and you want to hear more from us.

- Nearly 72 percent reported reading every issue or most issues of this newsletter. So, we beefed it up and spruced up the design to make it easier to read.
- Nearly 82 percent wanted to be communicated with at least quarterly.
- And 71 percent of you were interested or very interested in receiving information about the school via email.

To enhance our communications, we will continue to produce this printed newsletter, delivering it to you in December and June. We will supplement this newsletter with e-newsletters, to be delivered to your inbox in March and September.

As we kick-off this effort, we want to make sure we have your latest email address. Please send your name, phone number, mailing address and current email to alumninews@creighton.edu, with “dental newsletter” in the subject line.

We look forward to continuing the conversation!