COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

A Bold Vision for Our Future

FORWARDBLUE™

A Vision in Blue

for the College of Arts and Sciences

BRIDGET M. KEEGAN, PhD
DEAN, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recent studies show that as many as 85% of the jobs that our students might apply for in 2030 don't even exist yet.

At the College of Arts and Sciences, this isn't cause for worry. It's cause for excitement. We are providing the values, skills, and opportunities that will make our students irreplaceable.

A foundation in liberal arts has never been more relevant to preparing students for all that is to come. Our students learn how to approach the world around us from many angles: with the creativity fostered in the arts, the critical thinking developed in natural sciences, the ethical probity and strong communications acquired in the humanities, and the commitment to civic engagement and social justice nurtured in the social sciences.

The College of Arts and Sciences aims to be nationally renowned for inventive curricula—demonstrating that the liberal arts are the most practical training ground for personal and professional success. Our vision will be realized through new initiatives dedicated to collaboration across disciplines and across schools and colleges, like the Kingfisher Institute for the Liberal Arts and Professions; through our innovative, outcomes-based pedagogies with more to offer our community; and through our Jesuit, Catholic tradition guiding us every step of the way.

As we remain committed to educating students in this spirit of liberal arts for the real world, we hope you will be **Forward Blue** for Creighton. With your support for the College of Arts and Sciences, we are poised to carry on our tradition of excellence.

Bridget Keegan

Everything old is new again.

The oldest of Creighton's nine colleges and schools, the College of Arts and Sciences prepares for the future by nimbly responding to the present, time and time again.

Nowhere do we see the values, skills, and qualities cultivated by the liberal arts more clearly demonstrated than in the college's signature engaged learning pedagogy: undergraduate research and creative work. Arts and Sciences is renowned nationally for providing unique opportunities for students to collaborate in groundbreaking research and creative projects with faculty in all departments.

Unlike at other universities, where students study knowledge discovered by others, our students are creating new knowledge, side-by-side with their professors—whether in the fields of quantum computing, classical archeology, neuroscience, or medical anthropology.

Jesuit education has always been grounded in the liberal arts. It's our tradition, and the way forward.

By the Numbers

12:1
STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

Undergraduates are responsible for
400+ Research Presentations
AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES EACH YEAR

96% of Recent Graduates are Employed,
ENROLLED IN GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL, OR SERVING IN A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
within 6 months of graduation

84% of Graduates Hold Internships
OR PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

60+ Majors and Minors

7,000+ Hours Served in the Community
by Dean's Service Honor Roll students

56% of Students Participate in Undergraduate Research

30+ Peer-reviewed Science Publications
WITH UNDERGRADUATES AS AUTHORS OR CO-AUTHORS
each year

#1 Producer
OF GOLDWATER SCHOLARS
among Catholic universities

71% of Students Who Applied to Medical School Were Admitted
(compared to the 42% national average)

SING A SONG OF SCIENCE.

MAGGIE BRUECK, BS'20
BURLINGTON, IOWA

Science and art complement each other. Both are born of creativity and imagination. But when the time comes to choose a major, students might feel like they have to choose between them. Scholarships enabled Maggie Brueck to make the most of both of these passions equally.

Maggie's Creighton journey started with a visit to campus with her mom—whom Maggie insists dragged her "just to check it out." She fell in love with campus almost immediately, but deciding on a career path didn't happen quite so instantaneously. After a semester as a pre-med biology major, Maggie found that psychology was a better fit. Through a few major changes, a love for music was the one constant.

Receiving support from the Grace Keenan Endowment to the Department of Fine and Performing Arts became an ever-present reminder to Maggie that her voice is a special gift, to the point where she decided to pursue a minor in music to complement a major in psychological science. The scholarship gave Maggie the support to prioritize this talent, and she continued singing as an active member of the Chamber Choir and the performing arts family at Creighton. "I realized that no matter my path, I can apply my passion for music to whatever I do."

Beyond the music scholarship, Maggie was also honored as a Dean's Fellow, which provided even more opportunity to grow as a musician, a scientist, and a leader.

Dean's Fellows Program

The Dean's Fellows Program offers a four-year, integrated approach to Ignatian leadership development and supports students who actively seek additional high-impact learning experiences, such as international immersions and undergraduate research. You can help endow this prestigious program to ensure the best ongoing leadership programming and personal and professional development support are offered, including:

- Four-year leadership curriculum
- Access to the Alumni Advisory Council
- Admission to Creighton's graduate programs and a $1,000 scholarship toward enrollment in College of Arts and Sciences graduate programs
- Special academic advising from the dean and associate deans
- Study-abroad stipends
- Support for conference travel and undergraduate research

WHY ARE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPORTANT?

The opportunities available within the College of Arts and Sciences are the secret to training "robot-proof" graduates—whose expertise and adaptability make their work irreplaceable by new technologies—in the Jesuit tradition of liberal arts. Access to excellence comes at a cost, however, whether for supplies for undergraduate research projects or new technologies to teach design thinking across disciplines.

Scholarships connect bright students with the programs and learning opportunities that make Creighton one of the best places to become a scientist, an artist, or a leader. The funds that go toward these experiences are repaid several times over in expert thinking that will lead us into the next generation.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON RESEARCH.

Perhaps one of the most unique characteristics of the Creighton culture of scholarship and research is that everyone plays a part, including undergraduates. It creates an atmosphere where researchers have access to all the resources of a larger institution without sacrificing rewarding one-on-one student interactions. This could not happen without the support of researchers like Annemarie Shibata, PhD, who played an integral role in the establishment of the interdisciplinary neuroscience undergraduate major in 2015.

Among the 270 neuroscience programs across the country—the first one started in 1970—Creighton's stands apart.

The program was borne out of a vision by Creighton's former provost, Tom Murray, PhD, for a research center meant to bring more people together to have interactions in neuroscience. From there, an educational component went hand-in-hand.

"Courses span the entire spectrum of the College of Arts and Sciences, ranging from biology, physics, and chemistry to philosophy and even computer science," Shibata says. "But we draw upon the professional school faculty members to participate as well. We have people from pharmacology and biomedical sciences who teach within our programs, giving our students exposure not only to the College of Arts and Sciences faculty and their experiences, but also to the professors in the health professions schools. The program is unique in that way."

For the program's first year, the goal was to recruit about 10 students to major in neuroscience. Now, there are more than 100 interested students and counting.

"Creighton provides a unique environment in which serious scientists can perform research while also interacting with students."

– ANNEMARIE SHIBATA, PhD, BS'92
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, DIRECTOR,
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NEUROSCIENCE

WHY ARE ENDOWED FACULTY POSITIONS IMPORTANT?

To attract these enterprising faculty members to Creighton and provide them with the resources they require to truly make a difference in the lives of their students and the fields in which they work, we rely on financial investments from donors like you.

The best faculty with high levels of research activity require and expect substantial startup funds—money for lab resources, including equipment, technology, and materials for their students. (Did you know it costs $400 for one antibody for an experiment?) Additionally, since it is rare for a lab to have every piece of necessary technology, researchers use Creighton's core facilities (imaging, sequencing, or histology, for example); but these, too, cost money.

The College of Arts and Sciences seeks endowed chairs and professorships to maintain our excellence in teaching and research. Support is needed to establish new positions to help recruit and retain the best faculty, especially in STEM fields and computer science.

ALEX MYERS, MFA

WE SPECIALIZE IN ROBOT-PROOFING.

You can thank the liberal arts for that.

As artificial intelligence improves, and task automation becomes more prevalent, it's important to teach people to think in ways robots cannot. For Alex Myers, MFA, that means approaching design with an understanding of the technology of the future.

Myers is an associate professor of graphic design, specializing in interactive design, which he describes as "a mashup of journalism, computer science, and design." An artist himself, he views virtual reality as both an art form and a media outlet—not to mention an innovative teaching method.

"Augmented reality is the easiest way for people to get into vision-assisted design," he explains, listing other science-and-art-blending ways in which his students learn about immersive design: voice-activated technology (like Alexa or Siri, for instance), information architecture, data visualization, and architectural theory, to name a few. Even behavioral psychology plays a part, but he stays away from the phrase as it tends to "scare students off."

Myers' students don't learn in a bubble. His own work helps him stay abreast of new technologies coming down the pike in a few years, so he and his students can get a handle on how to design for them. Sometimes they even predict what's next before it hits the market.

He knows career prep for students is important, but how can we prepare them for jobs that don't even exist yet? For Myers, teaching is not about forming cogs that fit into a machine, but forming smart, creative, flexible people who are ready to hit the ground running on a constantly evolving world of work.

CURAS: Undergraduate Research Endowment

Hands-on, high-impact learning prepares well-rounded and forward-thinking students, and undergraduate research is one of the best ways to provide that. A general endowment empowers our student investigators with summer research scholarships, travel funds, and other developmental programming like visiting speakers and ethics workshops. Additionally, an endowed chair or professorship for a visionary faculty member who will promote, innovate, and lead CURAS will help us maintain our current status as a leader in undergraduate research.

The Kingfisher Institute

In order to foster the richness of interdisciplinary research and pedagogy, the Kingfisher Institute offers programs promoting intersections between the liberal arts and the professions. It is helping them develop the dispositions, values, and skills that will enable students and faculty to adapt and lead in work environments being transformed by new technologies.

"We need people who can think both ways—creatively and scientifically. That's how we keep our fingers on the pulse of what's going on at the edges."

– ALEX MYERS, MFA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GRAPHIC DESIGN

To Give is to Receive

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

In the Ignatian tradition, the Department of Fine and Performing Arts provokes thought and inspires the imagination through the creative production and scholarly examination of the arts to benefit the individual, University, and global community. The department is an integral part of the Omaha arts community. Faculty and students collaborate often with professional companies, educational organizations, and nonprofits.

STE(A)M FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

To prepare students for the future, we must provide robust support to maintain and improve the teaching, research, and practice spaces for our STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics*) majors. Top priorities include the Lied Education Center for the Arts, the Rigge Science Building (the college's only wet lab facility), and the Kiewit Fitness Center—all key spaces for fostering creative explorations.

DEAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Several programs on campus enhance Creighton's national standing as a top liberal arts and sciences college and attract the best students from across the nation—including the Honors Program, the Dean's Fellows Program, the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa honor society, and the interdisciplinary immersion experience of Backpack Journalism. Support for these programs is what makes a Creighton education unique, affordable, enriching, and transformational.

FACULTY RESEARCH

As the college's research profile has grown, we have placed an increased emphasis on mentoring undergraduates in research. Our best faculty can benefit from dedicated time to focus on important long-term, large-scale projects that will enhance our reputation and create richer opportunities for student research collaboration.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FUND

Investments in cutting-edge interdisciplinary programs, like data science or digital humanities, and support for creative research and teaching with emerging technologies like VR and AR ensure that graduates are equipped to respond to 21st-century challenges.

TOGETHER AND FOREVER, THROUGH CREIGHTON

Your generosity benefits those who stand for and with others. Every gift to Creighton impacts our students and contributes to a better world.

WAYS TO INVEST

- Cash Gifts
- Appreciated Securities
- Deferred Gifts
  Bequest, Life Insurance, Charitable Remainder Trust, Gift Annuity
- Real Estate
- Life Insurance
- Matching Gifts
- Memorial and Tribute Gifts

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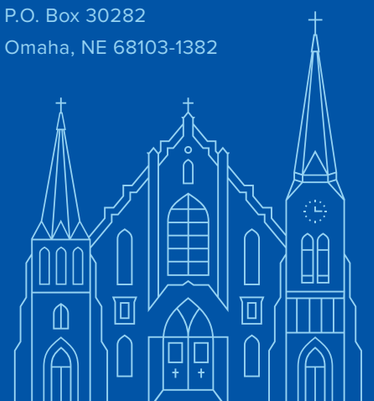

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