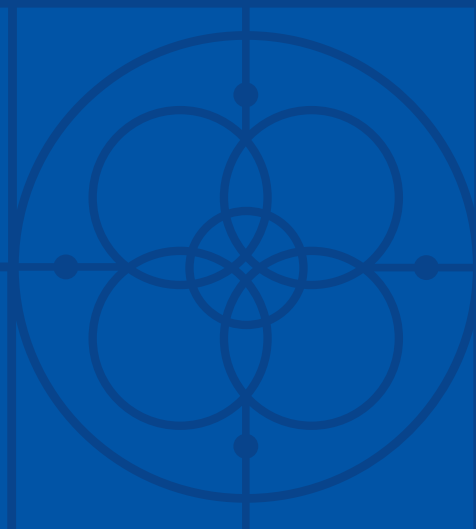


EST. 1905



# SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



A Bold Vision for Our Future

# A Vision in Blue

for the School of Dentistry



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

JILLIAN A.  
WALLEN, BDS, MS  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



When I arrived at the School of Dentistry in 2021, I quickly realized I had joined a community extending far beyond our classrooms and clinic floor. People here support you before you even know you need it. That's true if you are a patient seeking care, a freshman in anatomy lab, or even if you're the new dean trying to fill the shoes of your trailblazing predecessor.

I have been fortunate to already feel that support from many alumni and friends like you. Currently, more than 4,000 Creighton-educated dentists work all around the world—advancing our reputation for excellence and improving quality of life for thousands upon thousands. A Creighton dentist is a dentist who lives for and with others. Creighton dentists see beyond a patient's oral health. They embody *cura personalis* and care for the whole person.

In 2021, we welcomed 115 students into our freshman class, increasing total enrollment to 459. As we start this new chapter together, the School of Dentistry is poised for continued growth both locally and nationally. Our dedicated faculty will continue to educate the next generation of dental professionals, supported by our talented staff.

Our state-of-the-art clinics have allowed us to grow our annual patient population. Through projects like our OneWorld Clinic and other service initiatives, we care for more than 14,000 patients annually. Through these opportunities and experiences with our valued community partners, Creighton dentists continue to be some of the most practice-ready in the nation. The School of Dentistry community is truly committed to excellence in education, service and patient care. With your investment in **Forward Blue**, you will help us prepare a new generation of dentists—the leaders formed and anchored in the core values of our Jesuit tradition.

As Creighton strives to make a difference in the Omaha community and the world, we take great pride in knowing that our legacy grows stronger because of your support.

*Jillian A. Wallen*





# *The Practice of* Compassion

At Creighton, we are not satisfied with training students to be experts in the field of dentistry. In addition to teaching practice-ready techniques and the latest technology, we instill strong values to help our students build meaningful careers.

Our Jesuit, Catholic traditions are as significant to us—and to each of our students—as our expert faculty and facilities. That is why we work with charitable programs, such as the Special Olympics and the Institute for Latin American Concern; why we've expanded our "school dental adoption" program, in which our third- and fourth-year students provide screenings, education, and

treatment for elementary students; and why we partner with Project Homeless Connect and "Give Kids a Smile"—so we can practice oral disease prevention and intervention while sharing our services with those who need them most.

Serving others is an integral tenet of our University mission, and we ask that you join us on our journey to expand our vision of what a dental school can be. Your support makes it possible to hire expert faculty, invest in innovative technology, and offer service-oriented programs that foster empathy in our students.



# By the Numbers

## OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS



**4,000+ Alumni**

PRACTICING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



**203 Faculty Members**

82 FULL-TIME FACULTY  
121 PART-TIME FACULTY



**2018**

NEW DENTAL EDUCATION AND CLINICAL BUILDING OPENED



**2,000 Students**

COMPETE ANNUALLY FOR ADMISSION



**34% of Creighton Dental Students**

COME FROM STATES WITHOUT DENTAL SCHOOLS



**1905**

YEAR ESTABLISHED

## OUR SERVICE



**4,800 Dental Sealants**

PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN IN LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
(2019–2020)



**44,000+ Patient Visits**

TO THE DENTAL CLINIC EACH YEAR  
(Including more than 2,100 children)



**11 Low-income Schools**

BENEFIT FROM THE HEALTHY SMILES PREVENTION PROGRAM

## OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY



**\$848M Economic Impact**

BY 2023



**115 Students**

PER CLASS



**22**

CERAMIC RESTORATION (CEREC) LAB MILLING UNITS



**2**

NEEDLEPOINT BIPOLAR IONIZATION SYSTEMS  
(To help eliminate airborne pathogens)



**40**

CERAMIC RESTORATION (CEREC) LAB ACQUISITION UNITS





# HOPE KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Robert Robinson, DDS, grew up in St. Bernard Parish, just four miles from New Orleans' bustling French Quarter. He lived in a one-story home, surrounded by friends, family, and his tightly knit Baptist church community—far removed from the Louisiana known for its tourists and traveling jazz acts.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, St. Bernard Parish again proved a distinctly different world. Ninety percent of Dr. Robinson's humble county, compared to 9 percent of the French Quarter, was destroyed.

"I had to start a new life, in a sense," says Dr. Robinson. The storm forced his family to Houston, where they lived for a year and a half before they could go home—to a new house, a new high school, and a newfound sense of what it means to overcome hardship. "It was a shock," he says. "It made me grow."

Dr. Robinson was no stranger to difficulty. At the age of 6, he was badly burned in a fire set by a neighbor. Through the healing process, however, he found hope. "I had one doctor who stood out to me. I remember him telling me I was progressing really well. He was so encouraging," he says of the oral surgeon who helped him recover—and inspired him to pursue the field of dentistry.

Dr. Robinson had an unshakeable foundation, and nothing could destroy that.

"Something that always motivated me was knowing where I came from," Dr. Robinson says. Today, the 2018 Creighton graduate is the first male African-American dentist from the St. Bernard Parish region. He plans to use his experiences to grow the field and inspire other students of color to pursue careers in dentistry.

Dr. Robinson credits his Creighton mentors for helping him navigate the initial hurdles of dental school and pushing him to succeed. He is grateful for the multiple scholarships that allowed him to follow his dream of becoming a dentist.

**"I am so thankful for their support. School can be very expensive and challenging, but it's so important to get out and be committed to helping others. Seeing others influence my education has shown me how important it is to give back."**

**— ROBERT ROBINSON, DDS'18**  
ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA



## WHY ARE SCHOLARSHIPS IMPORTANT?

Scholarships allow dental students access to a world of possibilities they may not otherwise attain. The donors who helped Robert Robinson to follow his dream of becoming a dentist went beyond providing one student with the means to obtain a four-year degree. Because of their generosity, Dr. Robinson is inspired to give back to young people just like himself, using his education to treat others and, eventually, offering the same educational gift to minority groups in the field of dentistry.





# GIVING OUR STUDENTS MORE

Laura Brown’s favorite time of year in the School of Dentistry is from June through Halloween. June is the month that the third-year dental students begin to learn their way around the clinic. By Halloween, they’re able to take the theory of what they learned in their first two years and apply it to patient care.

“After two years of intense classroom learning, these students begin, in starts and fits, to use their knowledge to treat our patient population,” says Dr. Brown, assistant professor and chair of the department of periodontics. “It is wonderful to watch a group of young, intelligent professionals as they begin to develop their clinical problem-solving and treatment skills. Few dental schools offer students the kind of clinical experience that Creighton does. They learn a lot more here because they *do a lot more here.*”

Brown came to the School of Dentistry in June of 2018, bringing with her a wealth of experience. She served as a Dental Officer in the United States Navy for four years and was in private practice in the Kansas City area for 15 years. She taught part-time at the University of Missouri – Kansas City before coming to Creighton, where she is one of the many talented instructors striving to give our students a dental education like no other.

Recently, Brown performed a tissue graft on a patient and was assisted/observed by three dental students, one who will begin his Advanced Education in Periodontics residency after graduation this May. “He watched each step and was so interested,” Brown says. “I saw the synapses firing. It was such a joy to watch him absorb the moment.”

“Being at Creighton is a joy. I love working here. The School of Dentistry gives us the time to do our work and focus on our students and patients. And it’s such an exciting time for the school right now. I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.”

– **LAURA BROWN, DDS, MS**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND CHAIR,  
DEPARTMENT OF PERIODONTICS



## OUR FACULTY HELPS ELEVATE TEACHING AND THE PROFESSION TO NEW HEIGHTS.

Building a strong faculty starts with hiring advanced, adaptable professionals. However, to develop leaders who can elevate our curriculum, teach lessons instilled with our Jesuit, Catholic beliefs, and inspire students’ passions for the dental arts, we must provide access to new technology, research methods, and opportunities to evolve.

Your investment helps us hire passionate leaders who inspire our students to question what dentistry can accomplish for the future of health care when human compassion comes into play.



# CUTTING-EDGE CAN'T WAIT

**TOM BERRY, DDS, MBA**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
OF GENERAL DENTISTRY



## TECHNOLOGY NEED: CEREC Machines

Using our 22 Ceramic Reconstruction, or “CEREC” machines, our faculty and students practice real patient care using sophisticated design systems to build high-quality, metal-free dental restorations in a single visit.

## TECHNOLOGY NEED: Cone Beam

Dental Cone Beam Computed Technology, or CT scans, are using diagnostic imaging when traditional dental X-rays are insufficient. A CT scan can discover pathologies in the jaw bones and surrounding structures.



The Jesuit, Catholic beliefs infused in our curriculum encourage us to strive for more in all we do. That includes providing our students with the most modern oral care equipment available.

Through the introduction of our new dental facility, our faculty, students, and researchers work with today's most technologically advanced software and equipment. But unveiling this new technology is only the first step. We must continue to upgrade and expand access to this technology. We must train students and faculty to use it to serve our patients effectively.

Associate Professor Tom Berry, BS, DDS, says the shift toward technology is the biggest trend he's seen across dentistry, from computerized charts to equipment and materials. He sees technology like the CEREC machine becoming more favorable to dentists because it lowers costs and saves time for the patient. “If we can provide that service and give our students access to this technology—that's just invaluable.”

Invaluable in the clinic and the classroom. Laura C. Barritt, BS, PhD, professor and chair of oral biology, says students in her histology course are now able to collaborate better through the addition of virtual microscopy, which allows students to see the same slide on screen at once, instead of taking turns looking at glass slides through light microscopes. Such a change might seem minor, but Dr. Barritt says technological updates like this are a game-changer.

Scott Radniecki, BS'08, DDS'12, assistant professor and director of the dental clinic's emergency services, says about 4 in 5 Creighton dental students will go into private practice, where they will immediately need to know how to use the latest in digital dental technology. To continue graduating the comprehensive and well-rounded dentists Creighton is known for, he said, an investment in technology (and training for faculty to effectively teach that technology) will be essential.



**“The technology of our profession changes so frequently that software and equipment will often be obsolete in just a few years. For our graduates to know how to use the latest technology in everyday practice, they need to learn it as students. They will be practice-ready only if we continue to keep Creighton at the cutting edge.”**

**— SCOTT RADNIECKI, BS'08, DDS'12**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF  
THE DENTAL CLINIC'S EMERGENCY SERVICES



# *To Give is to Receive*



## **FACULTY RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND DEVELOPMENT**

We are committed to producing practice-ready, professional dental students through a values-driven education. To do that, we need expert faculty with a diverse collection of talents and an understanding of our mission. We are as committed to faculty development as we are to dental education—a commitment we show by hiring a diverse group of excellent clinicians, researchers, and educators.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Creighton maintains one of the lowest private school tuition rates in the nation for dental education direct costs because of generous alumni and friends. Despite this low rate, the school requires additional scholarship dollars to recruit a diverse group of deserving students, many of whom are underrepresented in dental professions today.

## **SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Fundamental to Creighton's mission is providing care for those most in need. Through programs like our Dental Clinic Patient Assistance Fund, OneWorld Community Health Center and Charles Drew Health Center, Institute for Latin American Concern, and other community-based support offerings, we can continue to ensure the most vulnerable citizens in Omaha and beyond have access to the finest dental care available, free of charge or for significantly reduced rates.

## **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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