



SIMPSON FAMILY COURTYARD

Students gather at the Simpson Family Courtyard during Welcome Week in August. The Simpson Family Courtyard serves as an active social space with a bevy of features — artificial turf (part of which can easily be converted to a volleyball court), two fire pits, multiple areas for lounge seating, a small stage for events, two ping pong tables, a bocce ball court and more.

A New Hall to Call Home

Welcome to Graves Hall! At the start of the fall semester, 400 students moved into Creighton's first residence hall built since the 1960s dedicated exclusively for first-year students. This is a hall that offers its residents a whole new kind of Creighton experience.



The four-story Graves Hall is a living and gathering space unlike any the University has seen before, a home for thousands of students and a backdrop for countless Creighton experiences.

Photo right: Students gather to study in the first-floor lobby. Pictured, from left, are Macy Davis, Eliza Loecke and Marin Conrad.

Photo below: The upper floors of Graves Hall feature study and socialization areas. Pictured, from left, are Katie Carlson, Remi Marealle, Maddie Barger, Maia Fassbind, Parker Crouch and Anderson Kelly.



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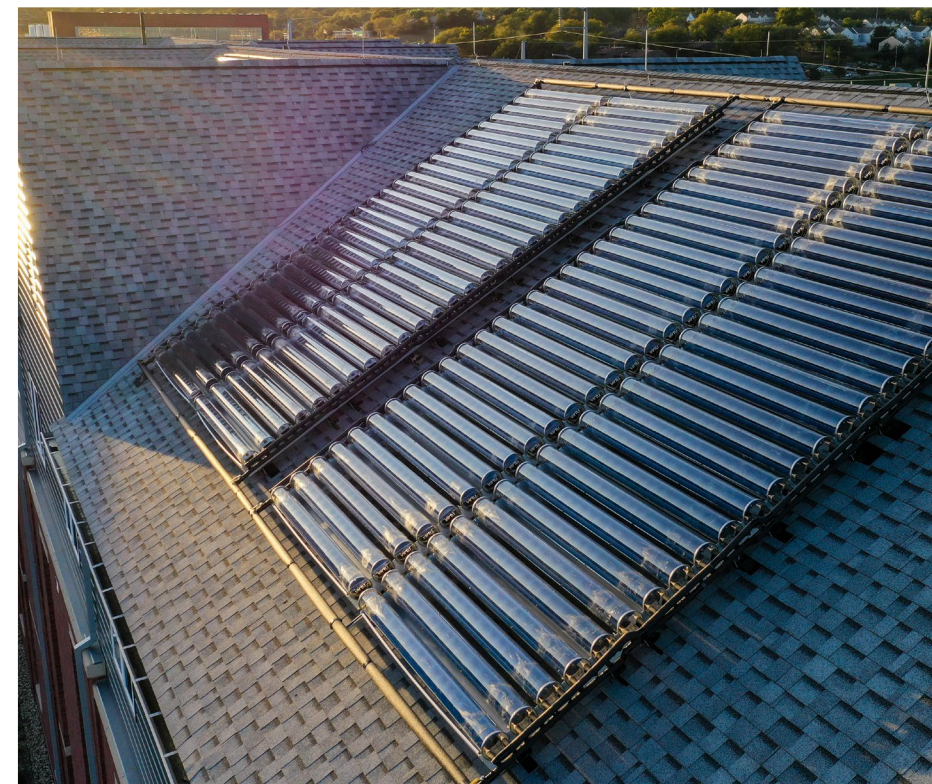
COLIN CONCES

Graves Hall is comprised of mostly four-person suites, each with two living spaces, two bedrooms and a shared bathroom. Each floor has kitchenettes and spaces dedicated to study, socialization and recreation, while the hall's lower level provides spaces for interfaith programming, student development, wellness, academics and more.

Photo left: Creighton students Abigail Stanosheck, left, Avery Kitzmiller, middle, and Ashlyn McDaniel, right, in one of the suite-style residence rooms.



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Graves Hall is also innovating in the area of sustainability technology. Graves Hall is the first building in North America to use Virtu^{HOT HD}, a solar-powered system produced by Naked Energy and implemented by ELM Companies that will heat all water used in the residence hall.



“You build these lifelong relationships that grow out of the nucleus of the people you live with on campus. With this new building, Creighton can give students an even greater opportunity to create the connections they’ll carry with them for the rest of their lives.”

LEE GRAVES, BSBA’80, JD’83

“When you have the opportunity to do something good, you have to take it. You just never know all the amazing things it might lead to and all the lives you might change.”

JIM SIMPSON, BA’80

A Foundation of Friendship

The names behind Graves Hall and the Simpson Family Courtyard are donors Lee C. Graves, BSBA’80, JD’83, and his wife, Judy Graves, and their close friends Kathy and Jim Simpson, BA’80.

Jim and Lee have known each other since they were Creighton students (and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity brothers) themselves. For them, this day was more than 40 years in the making, a tribute to a Creighton friendship that will now create countless more friendships.

A few days before the fall semester started, the Graves and Simpson families joined a few hundred alumni, faculty, staff and friends for a grand opening and ribbon-cutting celebration. During the event, Lee spoke about the day his parents dropped him off at his first residence hall: Swanson Hall.

“When it came time to go, mom cried, we hugged, and they took off and left me with my Creighton family. I’m sure they’re up in heaven now looking down upon us. I envision with Graves Hall a future of family drop-offs with tears and hugs, and a great future in the new beginnings based in this fabulous hall and courtyard.”

© Pictured above from left are Lee Graves, BSBA’80, JD’83, Judy Graves, the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD, Kathy Simpson and Jim Simpson, BA’80.

Meet the Residents

During Graves Hall move-in in August, a few new Creighton students shared their thoughts about the new residence hall.

Top: Aimee Vierra and her father, John Vierra. John is a Creighton student himself, working on his Master of Education degree remotely from the family’s home in O’ahu, Hawaii. Aimee is a Heider College of Business freshman planning to attend the School of Law after.

“I want to eventually be a lawyer specializing in adoption law, because I’m adopted myself,” Aimee says. Aimee was looking forward to being one of the first students to live in Graves Hall. “Just being part of a new space to live in and explore, and to gather and socialize ... it’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Middle: Freshmen Kate Tax (from Phoenix), left, and Maia Fassbind (from Santa Barbara, California) are part of the Freshman Leadership Program, members of which live on Graves Hall’s fourth floor.

The roommates said that “being some of the first students to live in this hall is weird, it’s exciting, it’s all the feelings. The hall still has that new smell to it, and everyone has been so welcoming. It’s going to be a great community space for students who live here and for students who visit.”

Bottom: Graves Hall roommates Max Hafner (from Green Bay, Wisconsin), left, and Dylan Hinson (from O’ahu, Hawaii) are eager to make use of the hall’s many amenities — fire pits, pool tables, a volleyball court. But just as impressive as the building itself is the community that’s greeted them.

“When I came to Creighton for my campus visit, I felt like I was a priority,” Dylan says. “I felt that way moving onto campus, too. You guys put me first. Some of the other schools I visited treated me like a number. Creighton treats me like a person.”

