



The Phi Beta Kappa Society
Beta Chapter of Nebraska

New Member Initiation



APRIL 16, 2021

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences



History of the Phi Beta Kappa Society

On December 5, 1776, a group of young men who were then studying at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, met to create a secret society, at once intellectual and social in purpose. The president’s greeting to new members in 1779 reads in part: “Here...you are to indulge in matters of speculation, that freedom of inquiry that ever dispels the clouds of falsehood by the radiant sunshine of truth. ...” In their clandestine meetings, the members seriously debated a host of questions, such as “Whether a wise state hath any interest nearer at heart than the education of the Youth.” The establishment soon afterward of chapters at Yale and Harvard insured that Phi Beta Kappa would survive the arrival of General Cornwallis’ troops at Williamsburg.

A little over a century later, more than 25 branches of the society were in existence, and it was felt that a national structure was needed to bring together the scattered chapters into some uniformity. In 1883, the organization known as the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa was founded; it has its headquarters today in Washington, D.C. From its offices come most of the ongoing programs and publications described in your Handbook for Members. In 1875, Phi Beta Kappa enlarged its membership to include women. The society now more than 500,000 living members, elected over the years by the 270 chapters at colleges and universities throughout the country. In addition, more than 50 local alumni associations lend the society their support and provide members an opportunity for a lifelong relationship with Phi Beta Kappa and its activities and goals on the community level.

Phi Beta Kappa continues to take great pride in its origins. It retains a number of the symbols that were devised for it at the time when the American Republic was coming into being. The present Phi Beta Kappa key, for example, virtually reproduces the design originated by the young founders of the Society at William and Mary. On the front, it bears the Greek letters ΦΒΚ, the initials of the words *Φιλοσοφία βίου Κυβερνήτης* meaning “Love of learning is the guide of life.” The three stars in the upper left-hand corner on this side symbolize the aims of the society: Friendship, Morality, and Literature (or Scholarship). A pointing hand in

the lower right-hand corner stands for aspiration. On the reverse side are inscribed the letters S and P, which stand for the society's second motto, the Latin words Societas Philosophiae, meaning "philosophical society." Below them appears the date of the founding of the first chapter: December 5, 1776; the member's name and electing chapter are engraved above.

Although Phi Beta Kappa ceased to be a secret society over 150 years ago, tradition has preserved two "secret" signs, which are shared with initiates. When members met, they greeted each other by drawing the backs of the index and middle fingers of the right hand across the lips from left to right; thus, apparently, affirming that their lips were sealed. They followed this sign with a handshake, one of the traditional forms of which will be revealed to you at the end of this ceremony of initiation. The society's symbols and purposes are now well known across the land. These purposes were eloquently summarized in the following statement by one of the society's most eminent members, Charles Evans Hughes, the late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court:

The particular interest of Phi Beta Kappa is in liberal education. ... Intensive critical study of educational aims and methods has found nothing to take its place. It means the development by careful training of the capacity to appreciate what has been done and thought, the ability to make worthwhile appraisals of achievements, doctrines, theories, proposals. It is liberal because it emancipates; it signifies freedom from the tyranny of ignorance, and, from what is worse, the dominion of folly... [Phi Beta Kappa] holds aloft the old banner of scholarship, and to the students who have turned aside from the easier paths and by their talent and fidelity have proved themselves to be worthy, it gives the fitting recognition of a special distinction.

Creighton's application to shelter a chapter was approved at the 43rd Triennial Council meeting in August 2012 in Palm Beach, Florida. The chapter, Beta of Nebraska, was installed November 29, 2012.

Proposed Members-in-Course

Kayley Anderson

Kayley is a senior from Omaha, Nebraska, majoring in neuroscience, biology and English. She is active in research on the genetics of sex-determination in black flies with Charles Brockhouse, PhD, and the cognition of spelling with Maya Khanna, PhD. Kayley also volunteers in a refugee mentoring program through the American Muslim Institute and works in the adaptive therapy program at University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Munroe-Meyer Institute. She is a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu and Nu Rho Psi honor societies and is the Joseph Sr. and Sundina Miniace Scholarship recipient for 2020. On campus, Kayley is an active member of Fraternity and Sorority Life and as a teaching assistant for the Biology Department. She plans to graduate in 2021 and attend medical school in the fall.

Maria Arroyo

Maria is a senior from Lenexa, Kansas, studying neuroscience with a minor in music. She is very thankful for the encouragement she has received at Creighton to pursue and develop all aspects of herself—from a passion for medicine and science to a love of singing. She is devoted to service and particularly loves working with children and young adults. She was a Girl Scouts Troop Leader at a local elementary school. She volunteers weekly at the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Munroe-Meyer Institute recreational therapy program where she works with teenagers with disabilities. On Creighton’s campus, she is the philanthropy chair for her sorority Gamma Phi Beta, a member of the Candlelight Choir at St. John’s Church and a member of the neuroscience honor society Nu Rho Psi. Maria will attend medical school in the fall and would like to thank her family, friends and teachers for their continuous support.

Margaret E. Atkinson

Maggie is a senior chemistry major and a classical and near eastern civilizations minor from St. Louis, Missouri. She has greatly enjoyed her four years at Creighton where she has been a part of the new student orientation program as a guide, an executive team member, and now as a decurion. She also is a member of the Honors Program, went to the Dominican Republic as part of the ILAC Water Quality Project, and has worked as a teaching assistant for general chemistry and organic chemistry labs. Maggie also enjoys being actively involved in undergraduate biochemistry research in Lynne Dieckman, PhD’s lab. Additionally, she enjoys volunteering in the Omaha community with University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Munroe-Meyer Institute and with the service and justice trips program through the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice. After graduation, Maggie plans to attend medical school and use the scientific knowledge and Jesuit values she has learned through her time at Creighton to serve others in the medical field.

Sydney Ball

Sydney is a biology major and French and medical anthropology minor from Stillwater, Minnesota. She enjoys volunteering at the Nebraska AIDS Project, Learning for All as an ESL tutor, and at the Siena Francis House, both through the Magis Clinic and the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice. On campus, Sydney is a teaching assistant for general biology lab and is involved in undergraduate research with Ann Cavanaugh, PhD, in the Biology Department. She is also involved with MEDLIFE, which has led to her interest in health equity and social justice. After graduation, Sydney plans to apply to medical school and become a primary care physician.

Meredith J. Benson

Meredith is a junior from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is double majoring in chemistry and Spanish and plans to pursue a career in medicine following graduation. She is a member of the Creighton women's tennis team as well as the student athletic leadership committee (SAAC). Outside of athletics, Meredith is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Senate and interned for the majority whip of the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C. Also, Meredith embraces her time as a chemistry major in Eric Villa, PhD's research lab and volunteering at the local Magis Clinic assisting those experiencing homelessness. She hopes to utilize her Spanish fluency in the future to serve underrepresented groups, particularly immigrants, and potentially take a role in the political world.

Olivia L. Burleigh

Olivia is from Woodbury, Minnesota, majoring in biology and minoring in studio art and environmental science. For the past three years, she has been involved in research with Annemarie Shibata, PhD, studying the role of long non-coding RNAs in the microglial inflammatory response. She has served as the director of programming for the Green Jays during her senior year and is working to improve sustainability and environmental awareness on campus. She is also a member of Phi Sigma, MEDLIFE and the Trailblazers Outdoors Club on campus. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Olivia worked at the James R. Russell Child Development Center and volunteered at the Nebraska AIDS Project. While studying abroad in the Galapagos Islands, she deepened her passion for the environment and climate justice. After graduation, Olivia is planning to serve in the Peace Corps as a health and environmental education volunteer before applying to medical school.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

Alyssa Bursott

Alyssa is a senior from Pine City, Minnesota, majoring in neuroscience with a biology minor. She is a member of the Honors Program, and she also presides over Creighton's undergraduate Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA). She has been recognized for her work in advancing the mission and presence of GSA on Creighton's campus by receiving the David Black Diversity Scholarship twice. Alyssa has worked closely with Joel Destino, Ph.D, in the Chemistry Department investigating the origins and mechanics of luminescent silica nanoparticle synthesis, and she was awarded a 2021 NASA Nebraska Space Grant to pursue her research. After graduation, Alyssa will attend University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine. She has been selected for the U.S. Army Health Professional Scholarship Program and will commission this summer to begin her career as a military physician.

Emma H. Curran

Emma is a senior from Colorado Springs, Colorado, majoring in biology with an English minor on a pre-medicine track and is a member of the Jesuit honor society, Alpha Sigma Nu. While she pursues her academic interests researching RNA riboswitches in Julie Soukup, Ph.D's biochemistry laboratory and serving as a CURAS Undergraduate Research Ambassador, Emma enjoys volunteering as an RSP decurion, a Girls Inc. mentor, and a lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. John's Church. Emma has worked as the Pre-Medical Society's shadowing co-coordinator executive for the last two years and has participated in several Schlegel Center for Service and Justice service and justice trips to gain new world perspectives and work in diverse communities. Emma likes to spend her spare time reading, writing, listening to music or running trails (and Omaha sidewalk walks). After graduation, Emma will attend medical school as an MD or MD/PhD student to pursue her interests in becoming a physician-scientist.

Sophia S. Daley

Sophia is a senior psychology and Spanish double major from Hudson, Wisconsin. After graduation, she intends to enroll in a graduate program in counseling psychology to pursue her passion for improving mental health care. She has been an active member of Alicia Earl, Ph.D's research team in the Psychology Department, focusing specifically on the interaction between Greek Life membership, religiosity and binge drinking. During her time at Creighton, she has enjoyed singing in Candlelight Choir, serving as the education executive for Active Minds and learning about leadership as a member of Freshman Leadership Program. In the community, she has discovered a passion for local nonprofit work, including volunteering in an ESL classroom at the Learning Community Center of South Omaha and interning with Heartland Family Service. Some day after graduation, she plans on combining her interests in Spanish and psychology to offer bilingual counseling services for members of the Latinx community. She is grateful for the unique opportunities and learning experiences she has had while at Creighton.

Annette Davis

Annette is a senior economics major and theology minor from Northbrook, Illinois. During her time at Creighton, she has been involved with many different clubs and organizations on campus. Annette has worked in the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice for the last few years, participating in a variety of service and advocacy opportunities. Additionally, as a Gail Werner Robertson Research Fellow, Annette worked with Christina McRorie, PhD, to conduct research on the intersections between development economics and liberation theology. Annette also loved her time as president of Community Kitchen, study abroad experience in Belgium, and involvement in the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. She also had several internship opportunities, such as at EY, TD Ameritrade and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. After graduation, Annette plans to spend a year serving as a Jesuit Volunteer working at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Boston, Massachusetts.

Anni Moira Dineen

Anni is a senior from St. Louis, Missouri, studying social work with minors in French and women and gender studies. Throughout her time at Creighton, she has worked with the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice (SCSJ) as a student team leader on their Ignatian advocacy team and as a social ministry intern and Omaha Together One Community intern. She's also been involved in the Student Organization of Social Workers, Phi Alpha and Alpha Sigma Nu. She currently spends time serving on the NASW-NE board as the Bachelor of Social Work representative and chair of the Anti-Oppressive Working Group. She currently is doing her practicum as a case manager at the Stephen Center and works at the SCSJ and Sheelytown Market. In her free time, Anni enjoys spending time with her family, kickboxing and doing all plant-related activities. Her favorite Creighton memory is attending the Ignatian Family Teach-in for Justice her freshman year. After graduation, she's planning to pursue a dual Master of Social Work/Master of Social Policy degree at Washington University.

Ethan Elumba

Ethan is a senior nursing student with a minor in Spanish. On campus he was part of Creighton Students Union, the College of Nursing Senate, the Honors Program, Campus Music Ministry, served as vice president of public relations for Interfraternity Council and as a decurion for nursing RSP, and worked as a tour guide. He studied abroad in Spain, Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. This winter, he became a trained and qualified Spanish medical interpreter. He is actively doing research with Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance Project Air. He currently works as a student nurse technician in the medical ICU at Immanuel Medical Center and is completing his preceptorship in the trauma ICU at Bergan. He is thankful for the support from his family, faculty, clinical instructors and friends along the way. After graduation, he plans to continue a career in critical care nursing and to obtain his CCRN certification.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

Diego Alan Gomez

Diego is a neuroscience major and economics minor from Madrid, Spain. At Creighton, he has worked in a biochemistry lab studying riboswitches and served as an organic chemistry tutor. Since his sophomore year, he has conducted research in clinical genetics, obtaining five first-author publications in the topics of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and Angelman syndrome. He currently volunteers in the neonatal intensive care unit holding newborns and serves as a hotline assistant at the Women’s Center for Advancement. He has also assisted in a diabetes education class at OneWorld Community Health Centers. After graduation, Diego plans to attend Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine in Arizona and continue to work to improve the health of underserved populations through research and clinical care.

Kara Grossman

Kara is from Des Moines, Iowa, and is majoring in studio art with a minor in biology. She plans to attend Creighton University’s physician assistant program in the fall and looks forward to being a Bluejay for two more years. During her time at Creighton, Kara has been involved with Campus Ministry, the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice, research in the Chemistry Department, and other various clubs and activities. She is also a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society. Kara is grateful to her professors who have expanded her mind, to her friends who have expanded her heart, and most of all to her parents who made her incredible experience at Creighton possible.

Elizabeth Marie Hall

Ellie is a senior from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, majoring in neuroscience with minors in biology and Spanish and Hispanic studies. During her time at Creighton, she has enjoyed volunteering at the Omaha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Hillcrest Health Services, the Dreamweaver Foundation, and Completely Kids. She also served as a New Student Orientation peer leader and participated in a medical mission trip with MEDLIFE to Lima, Peru. This past summer, Ellie gained valuable health care experience working at a COVID-19 antibody screening center. She currently works as a certified nursing assistant at CountryHouse Residence for Memory Care and is passionate about caring for those who suffer from Alzheimer’s and related dementias. She plans to attend physician assistant school next year.

Satori R. Heuer

Satori is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in management and a minor in dance. Throughout her time at Creighton, she has enjoyed being part of the Creighton Dance Company, participating in dance classes and performances. In the sorority Delta Delta Delta, she held the leadership position of service chair, acting as a liaison between the sorority and its local service partner, Families in Action. She enjoys the relationships she formed at Families in Action and continues to support their mission to empower

Latino women and families through her volunteer engagement with this community. One of her favorite experiences in college was studying abroad in Spain and meeting new people from all over the world. Currently, she is expanding on her passion for international business and project management through her work at Integrated Trade Finance, where she is heading an international marketing project. She is excited to pursue her career in business after graduation and see what new adventures await her.

Charlotte M. Higgins

Charlotte is a senior journalism and political science major with a German minor from Rochester, Minnesota. She is a member of the Honors Program and the news editor of *The Creightonian*. In 2019, she studied abroad in Glasgow, Scotland. Charlotte has participated in undergraduate research through the Political Science Department and is presenting her research at the Midwest Political Science Association conference this April. She plans to attend law school after graduation.

Mary Hoover

Mary is a senior environmental science major with minors in sustainability studies and Spanish and Hispanic studies. She is a new member of the Jesuit honor society, Alpha Sigma Nu. During her time at Creighton, Mary has worked for Creighton Athletics as a tutor in biology, chemistry, and microeconomics, and has been a teaching assistant for atmospheric science lab. Mary has recently become an advocate for sustainable agriculture and food security, spending her free time volunteering for Tri-Faith Initiative's donation garden and orchard, as well as The Big Garden and other small gardens in the Omaha community. She participated in an environmental sustainability study abroad program in Uppsala, Sweden, where she learned about environmental policy and climate change negotiations from Sweden's former Minister for the Environment. After graduation, she plans to take time off from school and contribute to the sustainable agriculture movement by working on an organic farm before eventually pursuing a graduate school degree.

Sarah Huber

Sarah is a senior psychology and philosophy double major from Davenport, Iowa. During her time at Creighton, she has enjoyed serving as the Christian Life Community program coordinator, Cortina Community resident advisor and advisory board member, and Encounter Retreat Coordinator. She is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society and Psi Chi psychology honor society. Her research in the Department of Psychological Science and experience interning in a clinical forensic setting has fostered her passion for working with vulnerable populations and advocacy. Sarah hopes to pursue a career in academia and plans to gain further research experience in the coming year before attending a graduate program in forensic psychology.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

Rachel Anne Kain

Rachel is a senior from Ormond Beach, Florida, majoring in psychology. She is a College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fellow, Psi Chi member, past Cortina Community member, and Encuentro Dominicano alumna. Rachel has been involved in the Creighton Dance company, taught group fitness classes, served as an undergraduate research assistant in a lab studying traumatic childhood experiences, and worked at a local behavioral treatment center for youth. After graduation, Rachel will attend the University of Denver's Master of Social Work program to become a pediatric clinical social worker.

Cole Klassen

Cole is a senior studying classical civilizations and philosophy. He is currently one of the student supervisors at the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library, where he has worked for the past three years. He is currently applying to graduate schools to pursue a PhD in either classics or philosophy. In his spare time, Cole enjoys writing, cooking nice meals for his friends and family, and playing video games. After school, Cole intends to go into teaching, preferably at the secondary level.

Cassady Jay Katherine Lage

Cassady is a senior from Des Moines, Iowa, majoring in sociology and medical anthropology. During her time at Creighton, she has been involved in Alpha Kappa Delta sociological honor society, Blue Crew, Pi Beta Phi, and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fellows Program. She has served on executive councils for both Pi Beta Phi and the Dean's Fellows Program as the service and advocacy chair. Additionally, she has been a participant and leader in Encounter Retreats through Campus Ministry. Cassady works at the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice as a team leader at Jackson Elementary School in Omaha and has loved getting more involved in service and justice while at Creighton. She also studied abroad in the Dominican Republic and Cuba during her junior year. Following graduation, Cassady will take a gap year to do service before enrolling in law school in 2022.

Renee Lau

Renee is a senior from Naperville, Illinois, studying biology with a minor in women's and gender studies. She works in Ann Cavanaugh, PhD's lab at Creighton researching yeast spindle pole bodies. She was involved in the Cortina Community and has volunteered for nonprofit organizations, health care facilities, and schools including Omaha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Ambassador Health, R.M. Mars Magnet Center, and Open Door Mission. She served as a peer consent educator for Creighton's Violence Intervention and Prevention Center. She is currently a member of Alpha Phi Omega and volunteers for the Women's Center for Advancement, a nonprofit organization in Omaha that provides support and resources for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Renee will attend medical school in the fall.

Allison A. Libeer

Allie is from Prairie Village, Kansas, studying international relations, Spanish, and business intelligence and analytics. Allie participated in the Capital Hill Internship Program in Washington, D.C., where she had an internship at the Department of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. On campus, she is an active member of the Alpha Phi sorority and has been involved in the Model United Nations club, in which she served as president. After graduation, she will work at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Kathleen C. Magee

Kathleen is a senior from St. Louis, Missouri. Her majors are American studies and English and she has a minor in digital humanities. At Creighton, Kathleen has enjoyed being a part of the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fellows Program and her sorority Delta Delta Delta, holding leadership roles in both organizations. She has also done service with the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice, including a service and justice trip, and she studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland. After college, Kathleen will attend graduate school to pursue a career in urban development.

Marika Schoen Marklin

Marika, a junior psychology and Spanish double major with a Latin American studies minor, hails from everyone's favorite cheese state, Wisconsin! She has been actively involved in the Department of Psychological Sciences as a teaching assistant and member of Amy Badura-Brack, PhD's lab since her freshman year, studying trauma and non-pathological dissociation among youth. With this research, she authored a poster presented at the American Psychological Society's annual conference in 2020 and won Creighton's undergraduate student presenter award at the inaugural Neuroscience Fair. With her dual interest in both psychology and Spanish, Marika spent a semester abroad in the Dominican Republic and hopes to incorporate her Spanish skills into her desired career as a pediatric clinical psychologist. While Marika has greatly enjoyed her past three years at Creighton with her involvement in Psi Chi, tutoring in the PARC, Freshman Leadership Program, and Best Buddies, she is looking forward to applying and (hopefully!) entering a PhD clinical psychology program.

Maya Mathews

Maya is a senior from Omaha, Nebraska, studying Spanish and Hispanic studies and psychology. During her time at Creighton, she has assisted with new student orientation as a decurion, conducted research through the Psychology and Spanish departments, and served as president for the Desi Cultural Society. Maya has been heavily involved in community service at the Healing Gift Clinic in Omaha, as well as service trips to Anthony, New Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. She also worked as tour guide in the Admissions Office. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, traveling and working out. After graduation, Maya plans to attend Creighton's School of Medicine.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

Ellie McCreary

Ellie is a philosophy and psychology double major with a minor in women's and gender studies. She was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is a member of the Honors Program, the secretary of the Phi Sigma Tau philosophy honor society, a representative on the University Committee for the Status of Women, and has served in various leadership roles in her sorority, Alpha Phi. On campus she has worked at the Lieben Center for Women as a programming intern, in the Department of Psychological Sciences as a teaching assistant, and at the Creighton Russell Child Development Center as a student teacher. Ellie has participated in research with both philosophy and psychology faculty on the metaphysics of gender and language transparency across languages, respectively. After graduation she plans on taking a few gap years to discern what she wants to do before pursuing an advanced degree.

Peyton M. Miller

Peyton is a senior from Portland, Oregon. He is an economics major in the Honors Program with minors in math and data science. Peyton is involved with undergraduate research on the economic impact of sports gambling legalization, and his work with Ernie Goss, PhD, on "Sports Betting's Impact on Casino Gambling: Cannibalization or Expansion?" will be published in the *University of Illinois Law Review* this summer. Peyton has also been the survey manager of Creighton's Mid-American Economy Purchasing Management Index survey, which surveys purchasing managers in the Midwest to create economic indices that are used by economists and government officials to forecast the future state of the economy. His favorite memories include serving as his fraternity's athletic chair for two years and storming the court after Creighton's men's basketball win over Seton Hall in 2020. After graduation, Peyton will return to Portland to work as a financial analyst at Tektronix.

Sam A. Petersen

Sam is a junior English major and computer science minor. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and is bilingual in English and Spanish, and currently studying Japanese. He is interested in creative writing, editing and game development. He is planning on going to the Iowa Writers' Workshop after completing his bachelor's degree to receive an MFA in creative writing after taking a gap year to work on his career. He is currently involved in Creighton's literary magazine, *Shadows*, which he has been a member of for three years. He's also involved in Creighton's anime club and was involved in the rock-climbing club before COVID shut down its activities. He would like to travel, publish a book and work on an independent game development team someday.

Rebekah Anne Shizuko Rapoza

Rebekah is a senior biology major with a dance minor who grew up in Pepe'ekeo, Hawai'i. She is deeply passionate about her research in protein-protein interaction studies as part of Lynne Dieckman, PhD's lab, and she serves as a student research ambassador for the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship and the IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence programs. Rebekah works as a lead tutor with the Creighton EDGE and as a teaching assistant in the Biology Department. She is an active member of Creighton's Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Creighton Dance Company, and the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fellows Program. She also currently serves as the regent for the Creighton chapter of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and as the vice president of academics for the Creighton Honors Program. She was inducted into the Jesuit honor society, Alpha Sigma Nu, last year. During her time at Creighton, Rebekah has regularly volunteered at Conestoga Magnet School and at CHI Bergan Mercy. She plans to pursue a career in pediatric genetics.

Grace E. Recker

Grace is a senior from West Des Moines, Iowa. She is studying health administration and policy and will begin medical school this fall at the Carver College of Medicine. She has participated in inorganic chemistry research with Bruce Mattson, PhD, for three years, studying the mechanism of alkyne hydrogenation. She is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society, and has been involved with Dance Marathon, Campus Ministry, New Student Orientation, and service and justice trips at Creighton. She also had the opportunity to participate in a faculty-led program abroad in Austria and Hungary to learn more about health care in other parts of the world. Grace has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Creighton and plans to carry many of the valuable lessons learned here into her future.

Emily Reeson

Emily is a senior from West Point, Nebraska, majoring in neuroscience with a minor in theology. She participated in undergraduate research with Kayode Oshin, PhD, in Creighton's Department of Chemistry as well as at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the Department of Neurology. She is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society and Nu Rho Psi neuroscience honor society. Emily enjoyed serving as president of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Senate and on the Welcome Week executive team. In addition, she has been actively involved with the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice where she worked on the Ignatian Advocacy Team. Emily was also a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and Creighton's 2020 Homecoming Court. After graduation, Emily will begin medical school in the fall.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

Alyssa Rippe

Alyssa is a senior from Syracuse, Nebraska, who is majoring in health administration and policy and minoring in Spanish and Hispanic studies. In her time at Creighton, she has served on the executive council for her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, became a charter member of the National Health Administration Honor Society, Upsilon Phi Delta, and has participated in research in the Communications Studies Department under Amanda Holman, PhD, focusing on communicative sense making and the dynamics of the sex talk in families. Alyssa had the opportunity to study abroad in Chile where she was able to broaden her knowledge of the Spanish language and the Chilean culture. She is planning on furthering her education after a gap year and then pursue a career in health care to utilize the experience she's accumulated over the past four years.

Ashley Michelle Schutt

Ashley is a senior from Minot, North Dakota, studying political science and philosophy. Throughout her time at Creighton, she has been active in Creighton Students Union, serving three terms as secretary and one term as speaker of the board. During her senior year, she conducted individual research titled "Attack Advertisements and Partisan Ballots in State Supreme Court Elections," which she presented at Creighton's Political Science Senior Research Conference. She currently works at McGrath North law firm as a court runner and receptionist. In the fall, she plans to attend law school and graduate with the Class of 2024. Her favorite place at Creighton is the Skutt Student Center, where she enjoys getting coffee and spending time with friends.

Julie Lynn Srail

Julie is a junior double majoring in biology and history on the pre-medicine track with minors in Spanish and Latin American studies. She is from Johnston, Iowa. Julie joined the Honors Program her freshman year and credits it with allowing her the freedom to study in both the liberal arts and the sciences. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and serves on the standards committee. Julie studied abroad in the Encuentro Dominicano program and is grateful for the life-altering and unique service-learning experience. Music is an important part of Julie's life, and she has performed on the flute in the Creighton orchestra and the pep band. She has had the honor of being a campus health aid since July. Julie plans to spend part of her senior year mentoring freshman Honors students as a decurion.

Gregory Sweetland

Greg is a triple major studying neuroscience, philosophy and biology from Huntsville, Utah. During his time at Creighton, Greg has been a member of the Honors Program, performed three years of biomedical research with Anthony Kincaid, PhD, focusing on prion disease, and was a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Senate. He performed charity work in the Dominican Republic and spent a semester in Glasgow, Scotland, as part of Creighton's study

abroad program. Greg served as a summer preview guide and as a decurion for incoming freshmen, worked as a campus tour guide for three years, and scored the most runs on his freshman intramural kickball team. Greg will attend medical school in the fall with the goals of becoming a pediatric neurosurgeon and using his liberal arts background to serve on a medical ethics committee.

Madeleine Urbanek

Madeleine is a junior from Roland, Iowa, and is majoring in neuroscience. She currently works in the Creighton School of Medicine's Translational Hearing Center, where she has conducted research on developing treatments for chemotherapy-induced hearing loss under the guidance of Jian Zuo, PhD. More recently, she has also completed a study examining the genetic foundations of chronic tinnitus. Outside of her research, she works as a teaching assistant for the general biology lab classes and has discovered that she greatly enjoys working with students to help them develop a strong enthusiasm for science. She has been a mallet percussionist in Creighton's symphony, an editorial columnist for *The Creightonian*, and a member of two science honor societies, Phi Sigma and Nu Rho Psi. She plans to attend graduate school to study molecular neuroscience in order to continue pursuing her research interests. She is also very excited to have the opportunity to continue mentoring students interested in research.

Alexandra Van Cleave

Alexandra is a junior biochemistry and Spanish major from Naperville, Illinois. Throughout her time at Creighton, she has been involved in undergraduate research as a member of Julie Soukup, PhD's lab, along with taking part in the IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence program. Currently, she serves as the vice president of academic excellence for Kappa Kappa Gamma and she also acts as a resident advisor through the Department of Residential Life. She loves mentoring other students and assisting with their transition to college. After graduation, she is hoping to attend medical school in the fall of 2022, and she looks forward to serving others throughout her life.

George J. Varghese

George is a biology major with minors in philosophy and classical civilizations from Omaha, Nebraska. During his time at Creighton, he has founded and led the Creighton Sign Language Learning Club. This club strives to create an environment for students to learn about various sign languages and learn from community members about Deaf culture. He also leads as president of the University's Habitat for Humanity chapter. He is also a member of the Honors Program, Alpha Sigma Nu and the CURAS Ambassadors. Currently performing research in the Biophysical Optics Research Group with Michael Nichols, PhD, George analyzes a novel form of non-invasive optical biopsy for skin cancer application. After graduating, he plans to spend a year continuing research before applying to medical school.

Proposed Members-in-Course continued

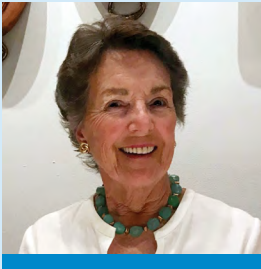
Ethan Wahle

Ethan is a senior studying physics and philosophy from St. Louis, Missouri. He has researched high-energy nuclear physics since the fall of 2018 with Janet Seger, PhD, at Creighton University. Working with the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Ethan presented a research project at the Nebraska Academy of Sciences in 2019. Ethan has also spent the past two summers researching the use of A.I. machine learning in radiation oncology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center with Dandan Zheng, PhD. He has contributed to the publishing of a paper for this research project in the journal *Diagnostics* in January 2021. In addition to research, Ethan enjoys tutoring local children at Sacred Heart Elementary School and traveled to West Virginia for a service trip in the fall of 2019. Next year, Ethan plans on attending medical school.

Mikayla K. Warrick

Mikayla is a senior from Denver, Colorado, majoring in English and Spanish and Hispanic studies with a minor in studio art. She has been part of the Honors Program since freshman year and joined the Cortina Community in her sophomore year, when she volunteered at Micah House and Boy's and Girl's Club. She now serves as Cortina's formation co-chair, inviting speakers and planning informative discussions about social justice. Mikayla participates in NAVs, is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, Dean's Honor Roll, and has been published in the *Quest Journal*. She also studied abroad in Spain and Scotland and does Spanish linguistics research with Aaron Yamada, PhD. For the past two years she has interned with an immigration law firm, which helped develop her passion for service and social justice. After graduation, Mikayla plans to pursue a law degree and work as an immigration lawyer with refugees and immigrants from all over the world.

Alumna Initiate



Mary Patricia (Smola) McCormick, BS'62

Mary Patricia (Smola) McCormick of Denver, Colorado, and Carmel, California, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University in 1962 and a Master of Liberal Arts degree from the University of Denver in 1992. She also earned certification from the Catholic Biblical School from the Archdiocese of Denver.

Throughout her life, McCormick's service to the community has centered on children, education and mental health. She served on the board of Birthright of Fargo; the St. Joseph's Hospital Service League in Omaha; and Mount St. Vincent Children's Home, Third Way Center, the Denver Zoo, Arrupe Jesuit High School, and Regis University, all in Denver. A 1958 graduate of Mercy High School in Omaha, Nebraska, McCormick and her husband, Dick established the Smola-McCormick Scholars Program for graduates of Mercy attending Creighton University. Together, they have also been long-time champions of Creighton University, including the Department of Fine Arts, the Creighton Global Initiative (CGI), and numerous projects to further opportunities for Creighton student-athletes, including the Rasmussen Fitness and Sports Center, the Michael G. Morrison, SJ, Stadium, and the Championship Center. In 2019, they established the McCormick Endowed Athletic Directorship.

McCormick served on Creighton's National Alumni Board from 1989 to 1992, and together with her husband Dick, served as the National Campaign Chair Couple for the Creighton 2000 campaign, raising over \$127 million for the University.

In addition, she is a docent and research editor at the Carmel Mission and has co-authored the book *Art from the Carmel Mission*, a compilation of its art and history. Mary Pat and Dick have four children and eight grandchildren and reside in Denver.

Honorary Initiate



Michael R. McCarthy

An Iowa native, Michael R. McCarthy is a community leader, businessman and philanthropist whose entrepreneurial leadership skills trace back to early days growing up on his family's farm. After graduating with a degree in medieval English from St. John's University in 1973, he returned to his hometown and founded a construction and contracting company that quickly grew to expand into the real estate and development markets. By the mid-eighties, McCarthy was focused primarily on commercial and agricultural property management, while helping farmers and small business owners work through the farm crisis.

Moving to Omaha in 1986 with his wife Nancy and their four children, McCarthy co-founded McCarthy Group, an investment firm that now, with affiliates, manages nearly \$10B in capital. In the more than three decades since moving to Omaha, McCarthy has become a pillar of the community, serving on the organizational boards of Heritage Services, the Joslyn Art Museum, the Omaha Community Foundation, United Way of the Midlands, the Omaha Zoo Foundation, and Creighton Preparatory High School, among others.

He is the current chair of Creighton University's Board of Trustees, where he has served since 2006, and he leads Heritage Services' Community Information Trust, which brought Omaha the community technology library known as Do Space. He has also held numerous professional directorships on company boards, including Kiewit Corporation, Union Pacific, Cabela's, HDR and Election Systems & Software. Frequently recognized for his leadership, philanthropy and commitment to ethics, McCarthy was honored along with his wife as the United Way of the Midlands Citizens of the Year in 2012, and he was inducted into the Omaha Business Hall of Fame in 2006.



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Thank You

Our sincere gratitude to the faculty, staff, administration and students of the Creighton community for dedicating time and talents to this collaborative effort.

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