

NEWS	SCENE	OPINION	SPORTS
College of Business recreates Shark Tank 2	Hawai'i club shares culture through lū'au 4	Lū'au food brings slice of Hawai'i to Omaha 6	Men's basketball seniors leave lasting mark 7
Primary election results for city of Omaha mayor 3	Annual chem show sparks entertainment 5	Magis Core curriculum needs restructuring 6	Rowing sweeps Drake in weekend outing 8

# President announces campus updates



COURTESY OF JEFF FELDHAUS

These mockups model what Creighton University's Omaha campus could look like in the future, and they highlight plans for more greenspace and the addition of a new sophomore residence hall.

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE  
Assistant News Editor

The Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., the university president, addressed the Creighton Students Union House of Delegates and Cabinet to announce updates to the university's campus plan.

Monday evening, student representatives heard Hendrickson give a summation of university announcements; some of them had already been released individually in previous months. Associate Vice President for Integrated Wellness Michele Bogard, Ph.D., said this meeting was called to get this information out to students in one motion, because some of these updates may have been missed when they were released individually.

Topics discussed Monday evening included enrollment numbers, donation and funding updates, and changes to Creighton's Omaha campus.

Hendrickson began by briefing the House on points of pride for university leadership. He mentioned that last year's freshman class reached a retention high of 94%, while the graduation rate sits at 83%. Both numbers are well above the national average.

Enrollment for next year looks to be above average as well, which is a positive step for the university, considering an expected drop in national enrollment beginning in 2026 due

to a decreased birth rate beginning in 2007 during the Great Recession.

To combat this issue, Creighton University has begun investing in Faculty Endowed Chairs, premier-level club sports and adult learning programs.

Hendrickson hopes that the addition of the Premier Sports league will be a draw for prospective students who are looking to be involved in athletics at a lower level than Division 1 sports. The league features hired coaches and inter-university competition, which gives students a Division III athletic experience at a Division I school like Creighton.

"Students in high school that aren't quite D1 athletes—they still have [the] experience to use our athletic facilities, wear a Creighton Jersey, do team building and have those...big experiences. ... Some of those students are actually choosing other schools to have that opportunity. We want to create that opportunity [here]," Hendrickson said.

Another update Hendrickson discussed is the increased scholarship money available to Creighton students. Forward Blue is a scholarship campaign that has raised \$220 million from donors since it was launched in 2021. So far, 468 different scholarship programs have been created in the campaign with the goal of making Creighton more accessible to prospective students.

Hendrickson reflected on Creighton's growth over the last decade.

"The last 10 years have been really important with all the new buildings and new kinds of opportunities, [i.e.] joining the Big East [and] building a new campus in Phoenix, Arizona. So, we also get so much more national visibility. ... Many more people know what we're doing," Hendrickson said.

These last 10 years have seen half a billion dollars of construction done on Creighton's campus, including the renovation of the Atlas Apartments and pedestrian bridge, the building of the Dental School, Werner Health Sciences Building, Graves Hall, Jesuit Residence Hall and the Ruth, a women's athletics practice facility, as well as the creation of scholarship and athletic programs.

Other topics discussed included the acquisition of new land and the anticipation of a new "global classroom" at Creighton's campus in the Dominican Republic. Hendrickson also addressed new funding from both private and public relationships, which is helping to pay for campus updates.

"The local community and the state of Nebraska is just a-buzz with excitement about Creighton's growth and expansion," Hendrickson said.

In particular, a \$30 million state grant is funding a new softball field bordering Florence Blvd. and 20th St. The project is expect-

ed to be completed this summer.

On the next block, a new baseball practice field will be completed in 2026. Hendrickson said the goal of these projects is to improve Creighton's relationship with the College World Series, which takes place in Omaha every summer and has a \$120 million impact on the city.

On the west side of the Harper Center, a new 5.5-acre Quad is expected to be constructed where the softball and baseball fields currently sit, made possible by a \$20 million donation. The green space, complete with a grand stage, will fit about 8,000 chairs for graduations and concerts.

Currently, a new sophomore residence hall is under construction at Burt and 21st St. and expected to be welcome students in the Fall 2026 semester. The dorm has yet to be named but is styled similarly to Graves Hall and will include solar panels and 183 geothermal wells. The wells are expected to reduce 2.3% of greenhouse gas emissions, solidifying the university's commitment to sustainable energy.

Recently, Creighton garnered ownership of Burt Street from 17th to 20th Street, which will be turned into a greenway with a bike path integrated with North Omaha and downtown Omaha.

TURN TO "Campus" PAGE 3

# African studies department holds forum

GRACE UPDIKE  
News Editor

Members of the Creighton community gathered in the Skutt Ballroom for the fourth annual AfroForum, titled Perceptions of Africa. Hosted by the African Studies Program, the forum discussed science and technology in pre-colonial Africa.

The event on March 27 began with a catered dinner followed by a keynote speech by the Rev. Andrew Ekpenyong, Ph.D., an associate professor of physics at Creighton. The event concluded with a panel discussion including Ekpenyong, Creighton economics, finance and African studies professor Tirimba Obanyo, Ph.D., Creighton cultural social studies and African studies professor Cynthia Schmidt, Ph.D., and Creighton theology and

African studies professor Jay Carney, Ph.D.

"[The] event today, I think, calls us to an intellectual engagement with the continent to see Africa [not] just as a place of charity, or a place of warfare, or a place to be forgotten or to be unknown, but a place of learning, a place of ancient science and technological advancement and a place that remains [a] vibrant heart and the fastest growing continent in the world," Carney said in his opening remarks.

The focus of the keynote presentation, according to Ekpenyong, was the decolonization of the mind.

"My main aim is to use science and technology in pre-colonial Africa to decolonize myself," Ekpenyong said regarding the common misconceptions about African culture and citizens. "...The colonization did not end

with political independence."

Throughout his speech, Ekpenyong highlighted evidence supporting the existence of advanced technology and scientific discovery in pre-colonial Africa. The speech also included an interactive element, where audience members were given clickers to quiz their knowledge of these discoveries. This element further proved Ekpenyong's point that many people do not know the true history of Africa.

One of the historical discoveries Ekpenyong discussed was the nearly 20,000-year-old Ishango Bone, the oldest mathematical artifact known to date, which was discovered in southern Africa. Ekpenyong also spoke about the advanced metallurgy that took place in ancient Tanzania, where they used thermal physics to create furnaces that reached tem-

peratures 200-400 degrees above those of the Romans. Another feat Ekpenyong mentioned was a Cesarean section recorded in Uganda in the late 1800s, which successfully used anesthesia and sterilizers.

During the panel discussion, along with other topics, the panelists spoke about the reason for the misconceptions and misinformation regarding African history.

"In my opinion, the factor that has contributed to persisting, denigrating opinions and perceptions of Africa tend to actually come from science, but actually from Pseudo-science, from science wrongly applied," Ekpenyong said.

To end the discussion, members of the audience shared their personal experiences to highlight Africa's rich history.



# Creighton’s own version of Shark Tank

JOSSY FETTE  
News Reporter

The Heider College of Business’s Entrepreneurship Club hosted its second annual JayTank in the Harper Ballroom on March 29.

JayTank is Creighton University’s non-affiliated adaptation of Shark Tank, where Creighton students who have created their own companies pitch their ideas and ask for assistance in the next steps of their business aspirations. Five companies pitched their products to compete for the first-place prize of \$3,000.

This year’s winner was Rian Jacobs and her company, BioBobbers. Jacobs is a freshman in the Heider College of Business. BioBobbers’ goal is to reduce waste in waterways by producing biodegradable fishing bobbers and is “hooked on sustainability.”

Jacobs founded BioBobbers because of her love of fishing.

“Fishing wasn’t just a hobby, it was a way of life,” Jacobs said.

After noticing that she was losing a large amount of fishing bobbers per year, she had a vision during her senior year of high school to reduce the amount of plastic being left in waterways. After initially pitching it at her high school, she continued her mission at Creighton University with the Entrepreneurship Club. Her mission is to preserve the water she grew up with.

“Only one month ago today did sustainable bobbers hit the market, and those were BioBobbers,” Jacobs said.

Second place went to Automation Rabbit, founded by Anush Samiev, a junior in the Heider College of Business. Automation Rabbit offers AI-driven solutions that reduce processes that businesses and workers spend



SAM GIANFRANCISCO /THE CREIGHTONIAN

The winner of Creighton’s 2025 JayTank was Rian Jacobs, who was awarded a 3,000\$ investment to continue her business called BioBobbers.

time on.

“Our goal is to eliminate inefficiencies, allowing teams to focus on high-value work while automation handles the rest,” Anush said.

The panelists at JayTank included John Blazek; a Creighton University pharmacy graduate of JMB Capital, LLC; Scott and Cindy Heider of the Heider Family Foundation; Gabi Keaton, a Creighton graduate of Proven Ventures; and Taylor Stormberg, a Creighton graduate of Pando Peo.

Rian Jacobs won \$3,000 to assist with growth in the production of BioBobbers, and Anush Samiev won \$1,500 to grow Automation Rabbit.

“I was shocked; I’m still in shock. It finally felt like my hard work had paid off,” Jacobs said.

“This team stood out for their creativity, clarity and potential to create real impact. Their pitch hit all of the marks and left us all fired up for what’s next,” the judges said when announcing BioBobbers as the first-place winner.

The other companies pitching included Apex Drinks, Roll Call and TAPin.

Apex Drinks was founded by Jack O’Neill, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences. Apex Drinks is an energy drink focused on the health of the consumer by providing long-term, sustainable energy.

Brendan Bouchie and Grayson Rockenbach, seniors in the Heider College of Business, pitched their app Roll Call, designed to allow customers to find martial arts gyms in their area. It tailors the consumer’s preferences to find the perfect fit.

TAPin, founded by Heider College of Business seniors Jonny Wall and Brad Davison, is a portable water filter designed to fit over any faucet.

Prior to hearing the companies’ pitches, JayTank hosted a mixer where the event’s attendees could learn about other student-founded companies and enjoy an assortment of appetizers, allowing the student entrepreneurs to network for their businesses.



## Weekly Campus Safety Report

This is a selection of incidents chosen by the Editor in Chief and is not a comprehensive weekly report. The full report is compiled in the Daily Crime Log which anyone can access in the Public Safety office located at 2222 Burt St.

1 March 27 - 2:08 p.m. (Not Pictured)  
A non-affiliate was issued a Ban and Bar Letter due to his high level of intoxication and verbal harassment of a Creighton University Student.

2 March 28 - 10:25 p.m.  
IT Services employee reported property damage to network fiber from a previously reported burglary.

3 March 30 - 1:55 a.m.  
Public Safety responded to Swanson Hall to assist a student who was intoxicated and unconscious. Student was transported to CHI CUMC University Campus for entry into the TRAAC Program.

4 March 31 - 1:41 a.m.  
A student reported someone broke into his vehicle by breaking a window. Video surveillance revealed the suspects were responsible for gaining access to 3 other unlocked vehicles on campus.



# Omaha primary information, results

JOSSY FETTE  
News Reporter

Omaha’s Douglas County held its primary election on Tuesday, April 1. Elections in Omaha are nonpartisan, so party information is not printed on ballots. Therefore, the two candidates that received the most votes in the primaries will on the ballot for the general election, set for May 13.

The primary election includes the city council races along with the mayoral race. There is one city council seat for each of the seven districts.

The two nominees who will be on the ballot for the Mayoral race are Republican Jean Stothert and Democrat John W. Ewing.

The City Council nominees for district one are Pete Festersen and Mark Brannen. The nominees for the second district are Ben Gray and Lavonya Goodwin. The nominees for the third district are Danny Begley and Michael Pilypaitis. The nominees for the fourth district are Ron Hug and Andrew Adams. The nominee for the fifth district is Don Rowe. The nominee for the sixth district is Brinker Harding. Finally, the nominees for the seventh district are Aimee Melton and Tim Carter.

The most highly contested district for the city council is District 2. The candidates are LaVonya Goodwin, Juanita Johnson, William King, Tyrone Eure, Ben Gray, Maurice Jones, Michael A. Lee, Jr., Anthony K. Rogers-Wright and Cheryl Weston.

LaVonya Goodwin’s platform centered around reducing gun violence and increasing public safety and youth engagement. She has done work with founding grassroots organizations that enhance neighbor-

hoods and improve street conditions. In addition, she raised \$15 million to support North Omaha businesses.

The next candidate is Juanita Johnson, the current District 2 representative for City Council. Johnson focuses on increasing access to jobs and tackling gaps in education. She has helped manage the progress of a COVID-19 resource guide.

William King is the CEO of Omaha Community Broadcasting. His nonprofit media company manages internet radio stations in the Omaha area. King focuses on addressing poverty in District 2 by working with local businesses to eventually encourage more hiring in the district.

Tyrone Eure emphasizes opportunity, community and unity. He hopes to build relationships between city officials and the general community. He also wants to create institutions that will tackle areas of need in the community. Finally, he wants to increase job opportunities for young people.

Ben Gray has focused his campaign on creating safe homes for the Omaha community, creating new job opportunities, keeping landlords accountable in their care for their properties, building mentorship programs for young people, focusing on mental health support to grow public safety and expanding transit routes.

Michael A. Lee Jr. worked on the creation of LB1024, the North and South Omaha Recovery Act, and helped the advancement of the Hair Discrimination Act. His priorities lie in affordable housing, economic opportunity, youth empowerment and community solutions, and police accountability.

Anthony K. Rogers-Wright has a focus on climate disruption and is an advocate

for Environmental Justice.

Cheryl Weston is extremely vocal in community engagement. She has advocated for increasing voter turnout and community engagement outside of election season. She also has a focus on affordable public and private housing.

There are five candidates running for Omaha Mayor: John W. Ewing, Jr, Jean Stothert, Terry Brewer, Mike McDonnell and Jasmine L. Harris.

John W. Ewing Jr. is the current Douglas County Treasurer and served in the Omaha Police Department where he was the Deputy Chief. Ewing Jr. is focused on revamping the Omaha Police Department by improving officer training, attracting new businesses to Omaha, targeting the housing crisis, enhancing government transparency to Omaha residents and retaining young professionals.

“I have the vision to propel the city forward,” Ewing Jr. said on his campaign website.

Jean Stothert is the incumbent candidate. Stothert has a focus on continuing to invest in public safety. During her time as mayor, violent crime plummeted 21% in 2024. Stothert also has a focus on economic development and job growth. She has partnered with Front Porch Investments that creates and preserves affordable housing.

“With our robust growth, thriving job market, safer streets, solid finances and dynamic development, we stand as a beacon of excellence,” Stothert said on her campaign website.

Terry Brewer has his Ph.D. in public administration and served as a pastor and a Union Steward for Local 554. As mayor, Brewer hopes to launch “One Omaha” town halls and create a mayor’s council on



GRACE UPDIKE/THE CREIGHTONIAN  
Omaha’s primary election was held on April 1.

unity which would address systemic inequities. He hopes to raise wages for college graduates. “Our vision for Omaha is rooted in unity, community and prosperity. It’s not just a political goal; it’s a spiritual one,” Brewer said in his campaign.

Mike McDonnell served as the Omaha Fire Chief for six years, currently represents District 5 in Nebraska Legislature and is the President of the Omaha Federation of Labor. He has a focus on reducing crime, repairing streets, prioritizing critical infrastructure to lower taxes and cleaning up communities. “Mike has consistently stood up for working families and fought for safer, stronger neighborhoods,” his campaign site said.

Finally, Jasmine L. Harris is the director of Public Policy and Advocacy at RISE. Harris hopes to create jobs and support small businesses, increase transparency in development projects, increase funding for after-school programs and focus on affordable housing. “There has been no better time for change in our city, and we need a mayor with a vision that includes all of us,” Harris said in her campaign.

KIEWIT  
LUMINARIUM

18+

NIGHT  
LIGHT

THURSDAY  
APRIL 24  
7-10PM

grow

Play and explore at adults-only Night Light with exhibits and provocative programs that will expand your brain and spark joy.

TICKETS

KiewitLuminarium.org

345 Riverfront Drive

## Campus to continue expanding as plans for future are realized



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

University President the rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., addresses the CSU House of Delegates.

*Continued from Page 1*

Hendrickson reassured students that although some parking spots will disappear in the near future, more will be added. Administration expects to have the same number of spaces or slightly more throughout the next few years, with the addition of a lot next to Morrison stadium and one at the new sophomore residence hall.

“The campus continues to evolve to meet the needs of students, you know, in their Creighton experience,” Hendrickson said.

He is excited about these upcoming changes and hopes that students are as well.

“I hope you see that Creighton is investing in the students’ dreams, the infrastructure of campus, your faculty [and] scholarship dollars. There’s a lot of work as Creighton

continues to evolve. ... One of the reasons for me coming in tonight is because there [were] some...misconceptions. ... You’re seeing construction happen everywhere,” Hendrickson said.

Hendrickson said that students can also look forward to a new library on campus and new development in downtown Omaha, called Civic Square, bordering Chicago Street. He said the development is trying to include a Trader Joe’s or similar grocery store.

“We’re fighting for Trader Joe’s,” Hendrickson said.

The university president is proud of Creighton’s continued growth.

“All of these, you know, collectively are helping...Creighton continue to grow and evolve,” he said.



# LŪ'AU

## Bringing home & Hawai'i to campus



NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

### ELIZABETH JONES Editor in Chief

Hui 'O Hawai'i, Creighton University's Hawai'i club, brought a taste of Hawai'i to the Kiewit Fitness Center during their annual lū'au, which was attended by about 1,000 people, in addition to approximately 200 performers and 50 volunteers.

About 40 to 70 students from Hawai'i attend Creighton every year, and the lū'au is the university's largest sanctioned student-led event annually, according to the lū'au's emcees.

"I think it's really important that we do this, and it felt really nice to have the opportunity to do it mainly because, for a lot of people, this is the closest they will get to home before they go home for breaks or summers," Lama Medeiros, the lū'au chair and a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, said. "And so, we really want to give our Hawai'i students, and anybody from Hawai'i, that experience [of home]. Home is wherever your community is, so even though you're roughly 4,000 miles away, we hope that we could bring the lū'au to you and your home to you, even if it's just for two hours."

The sold-out event on March 29 included food, dance performances, a lei stand and a country store selling Hawai'i goods such as jewelry from Simply Crystal's Hawai'i and food including pancake mix and other snacks.

"I think that it's bringing a little bit of Hawai'i to somewhere where it's very much not

Hawai'i. It's like our home away from home, a sense of community at Creighton and being able to share a little bit of our culture from home [with] Nebraska," a volunteer for the event, Karina Quan of the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Throughout the night, joy was contagious. The attendees—which included Creighton students, families of students from Hawai'i, Creighton faculty and their families, and other Omaha community members with ties to Hawai'i—could be seen smiling during the entire event. During the dances performed by students, the performers' joy was also palpable; this was especially evident during the song "Kāua I Hilo One" by Mark Yamanaka, which the Hui 'O Hawai'i and lū'au executive team danced to.

This year's lū'au, "202.5 FM," was themed like a radio show. The hosts, Kaydence Lilio and Trevor Gray, bantered between dances and interacted with the crowd. They described the radio show as "Omaha's home for Hawai'i's greatest hits."

"For the next hour or two, we invite you to join us on a journey of song, love and fun," Lilio said at the start of the show. "Tonight is a night of culture. Lū'au is our way of presenting our culture to Omaha and all beyond the islands. Music and hula are two major parts of who we are. We've compiled some of our favorite songs and are excited to share them with you tonight."

Gray echoed her sentiment.

"By the end of our broadcast tonight, we hope that you're able to get an authentic glimpse of our culture through our performances," he said.

The performances opened with a song from Creighton's co-ed a capella group JayBeats. Then, the crowd got to see multiple cultural dances. Each dance told a beautiful story. For example, before one dance, Gray said, "The song paints a picture of love in its most tender form, where every word and gesture is filled with meaning. The lyrics tell a story of two souls drawn together under

the cover of night, sharing whispers and gentle touches like the lei of pearls strung together in perfect harmony."

While most of the dancers were from Hawai'i, not all of them were. Being a member of Hui 'O Hawai'i is not a requirement to be a dancer in the lū'au and, according to Medeiros, about 20 of the dancers this year were from the contiguous U.S.

"I'm here just to share the aloha spirit [and] serve some food to the people... I get to experience the culture and, after three years of being here, I've learned to grow and love the culture," Jacob Woolf, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences from Minnesota who participated in the event, said.

When the lū'au attendees weren't enjoying the performances, they were eating the delicious food. A chef from Hawai'i flew to Omaha with a couple of sous-chefs, and they worked with student volunteers to prepare the evening's meal, according to Medeiros. They started cooking on Wednesday, March 26 for Saturday's event and had 50 to 60 volunteers helping each day. While some ingredients were flown in from Hawai'i, others were locally sourced from Omaha.

The food included lomi salmon, chicken long rice, kalua pig, haupia and li hing pineapple among other Hawai'i dishes. Everyone in attendance seemed to love it, and several people went up for seconds during the intermission.

"[My favorite food at the lū'au was] the rice," one little girl named Grace, who attended the event with her parents because her dad is a Creighton alum, said.

The lū'au means a lot to the students from Hawai'i and their families.

"I think it's amazing... I think that the Creighton community is very welcoming and very open to different experiences, because everybody is willing to give it a shot and be in here together," the sister of Chris Kaho'oilimoku, a Creighton student who performed during the lū'au, said.

For many, like Sienna Fujiwara, a freshman in the College of Nursing from O'ahu who helped with the country store, the lū'au conjures up feelings of home.

"It [the lū'au] means so much more than just a performance... It reminded me of how much I miss being back home, and seeing everyone with their family just reminded me that I'm happy to be here but I also love home," Fujiwara said.

Hui 'O Hawai'i has been preparing for this

lū'au since last March when the 2024 lū'au ended. Medeiros said that a lot of the hard work and planning, including securing reservations, writing the script for the emcees, choreographing the dances and scheduling meetings, occurs over the summer.

"[We've been] booked and blessed," Medeiros said. "A lot of the heavy lifting is in the beginning, and though it dies down, the key to running a program like this is consistency and also dedication. I think that instilling a good routine in not just us execs, but also our dancers, is what allowed us to put on such an amazing show. And I could also tell that they had fun, and that's the really important part... I think a lot of people make it be like, 'Well, we have to represent Hawai'i to the best of its ability,' and... 'We can't disappoint our ancestors'... But what's really important is that you just have fun, because when you do, that's when you ultimately get to share the culture."

The funding for the lū'au comes from the Creighton Students Union, ticket sales, Hui 'O Hawai'i fundraisers such as their bake sale, the country store and lei stand at the event and their silent auction, according to Medeiros.

Now that this year's lū'au is over and has proven to be a success, this year's vice chair and next year's chair for the event, College of Arts and Sciences junior Kawena Kekauoha, is beginning to prepare for the next one so that Hui 'O Hawai'i can keep bringing a piece of Hawai'i and—for students from the islands, a piece of home—to Creighton's campus.

"My experience as a Creighton University student is very different from the typical narrative of what a Creighton student should be, because being from Hawai'i has added so much more to that... What it means to be a Creighton student from Hawai'i [is] to lead with aloha and to build community, because no matter how far we are, no matter what happens—whatever circumstances, even if you are on the islands or off—you will always be Hawai'i," Medeiros said through tears of happiness and gratitude during his closing remarks at the lū'au. Speaking directly to the audience, he added, "We have shared our gift with you, the gift of aloha. We share our culture, we share our mo'olelo, our stories, and all I ask in return is that you continue our aloha... As you share our aloha and love... it means a lot."



NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Hui 'O Hawai'i had a country store of Hawai'i goods for lū'au guests.



# Fire ignites minds at Rigge

CHLOE CARRILLO  
Assistant Scene Editor

The Creighton University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry put on its annual Chem Show on Saturday, March 29. The “Melodious Musichemical Manifestation” of chemistry included a lively show of all kinds of different chemistry experiments and even more fun music to go along with them.

The night consisted of everything from Disney songs to Taylor Swift and some throwbacks like “Hustle” by Van McCoy. Each song went perfectly with the experiment done, and the students paired with the acting in the production left the audience engaged and entertained.

At the very beginning of the event, two students projected two blurry petri dishes onto the Rigge 120 walls. Then, as the lights dimmed and suspenseful music played, two students mixed chemicals together in the petri dishes to reveal words saying that the Creighton chemists were presenting their “Musichemical Manifestation.”

The show consisted of many different experiments and optics, involving changing colors, glowing tubes and lots of fire—to the audience’s surprise. The “A Whole New World” number featured two students dancing around with golden flasks. The performers then opened the flasks, revealing evaporation and giving a nod to the magic from the extremely popular “genie” character in “Aladdin.”

Another fun experiment that happened a couple of times throughout the show was color-changing flowers, gaining lots of oohs and ahs from the crowd. They changed a couple of times, each time a surprising new color from chemicals in a watering pail in contrast to the all-white original flowers.

One of the most shocking experiments of the night was the “Heat Wave” experiment, where students set up balloons in the dark and then popped them using torches, causing



CHLOE CARRILLO /THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Chem Show exhibited spectral colors, glowing tubes, and lots of fire. Attendants listened to music as flashing lights danced across the room.

huge bursts of flames to light up the entirety of the room.

Overall, the amount of work that went into creating this show was clear, as well as the amount of knowledge and preparation that had to go into the marvelous experiments.

Ivy Williams, a senior biochemistry student, talked about how she experienced the fun side of science at a young age and how the show exhibits that fun for parents and professors who bring their kids to it.

“Kids are getting to come and see a show where they get to see lots of fire and...cool chemistry demos, and that’s really, really special,” Williams said. “It’s also really special because...we have several professors that brought their kids, and it’s fun to see...the excitement for science trickle downwards.”

The excitement was evident; the number of younger audience members sitting in awe of the science happening in front of them was

very inspiring.

Gabrielle Pohlad, another senior biochemistry student, also recalled her favorite part of this chemistry tradition.

She remarked that her favorite aspect of the show was, “Seeing it all come together. ... A lot of the chemistry you see in the chem show isn’t stuff you would see in a lab. ... [It’s] fun to see chemistry in a setting outside of a lab—outside of a classroom—and...show people that it’s actually really fun.”

Williams went on to talk about her experiences with the Department of Chemistry at Creighton.

“It’s really special how invested Creighton faculty and staff are in their students’ success,” Williams said. “[In college,] I never would have expected that every professor would know my name and would be really invested in my success.”

Pohlad had a similar testament.

“Every single professor is so approachable and so willing to work with you and help you succeed. ... Really, I couldn’t have asked for a better group of professors,” Rohland said

Eric Haas, BA, PhD, is a biochemist in the Department of Chemistry and was involved with the show.

“I have to give a shout out to Dr. Eric Hoss. He’s...behind the scenes orchestrating everything, and he’s just an absolute gem. ... He’s all about making science fun, you know, even at the collegiate level,” Williams said.

The annual Chem Show is something Creighton students should not miss, even if they have no intention of ever taking a chemistry course. The fun and somewhat astonishing experiments on display are sure to interest anyone who decides to attend the show, and the comedic and musical aspects of the show are sure to appeal to a wide variety of audiences.

# Where savory meets cloud nine

FARRAH VELASCO  
Scene Reporter

Located in the heart of downtown Omaha, the Old Market holds some special gems, one of them being the glorious Blue Sushi Sake Grill. You would think that Omaha would not have any good sushi, but this place sure does. The combinations of sushi rolls are endless, and the variety they offer ensures that you will find something to your liking.

The Cabo roll is one of the special but simple rolls Blue offers, which consists of a crab mix and cucumber inside bigeye tuna, glazed with spicy mayo and garnished with scallions. This luscious roll is a burst of flavors in your mouth and gets better with every bite. It also holds an amount of spice that won’t be overpowering, burn your mouth off or hinder your taste of the fish. It does, however, have a little kick to it.

If raw fish is not your favorite, Blue Sushi also offers a variety of cooked rolls such as “Cloud Nine 2.0,” which includes imita-

tion crab mix along with crispy fried tempura shrimp and baked sea bass, seasoned with cilantro and serrano and topped off with ponzu sauce. This roll is sweet and salty and has that perfect, delectable balance of flavors.

Blue Sushi also has amazing appetizers to pair with its rolls. From the classic miso soup to the delicacy of ceviche, there is so much to try. Its charred edamame is one of its appetizers that is very simple yet so powerful. It makes you want to order it over and over. You can choose the traditional sea salt seasoning, or, if you are feeling up to it, spicy garlic, tamari or togarashi. The chefs at Blue Sushi char the soybeans on the grill for that extra flavor and barbeque effect. These appetizers are also very shareable amongst your party and would be great side dishes for the sushi main event.

Blue Sushi Sake Grill is not too far from Creighton University, as it lies in the Old Market. If you have not tried out Blue Sushi Sake Grill yet and are looking for a fantastic restaurant, this is the place to go.



FARRAH VELASCO /THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Blue Sushi Sake Grill inside the Old Market serves a luscious dish to diners, the Cabo roll.

April 5 Saturday	April 6 Sunday	April 7 Monday	April 8 Tuesday	April 9 Wednesday	April 10 Thursday	April 11 Friday
<b>Out of the Darkness Walk</b>   10:00 a.m.   Harper Auditorium	<b>Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House</b>   3:00 p.m.   Ronald McDonald House	<b>Coffee with Commuters</b>   8:00 a.m.   Skutt 209  <b>Energy Madness</b>   12:00 p.m.	<b>Open Mic Poetry Reading</b>   11:00 a.m.   Library Commons  <b>Blender Bike</b>   3:00 p.m.   KFC Spine	<b>Drop-In Spanish Tutoring</b>   5:00 p.m.   Kingfisher Room	<b>Survivors Circle</b>   1:00 p.m.   VIP Center  <b>FSL Unity Pickleball</b>   6:00 p.m.   KFC Courts	



## From one Bluejay to another

LAUREN PACICCO  
Opinion Columnist

Best Magis Core classes to enroll in?

Dear Bluejay,

I absolutely love this question! With class registration starting Wednesday, now is a great time to talk about what classes people have loved and recommended. Here are some of the ones that I have taken and loved myself, but also ones that I think are super interesting and have great ratings.

### 1. Zoology (BIO 149)

If you're fascinated by animals (or just want a lab class that doesn't feel like BIO 202), Zoology is an amazing class. You'll study the animal kingdom, from squishy invertebrates to complex vertebrates, and maybe even dissect a few. It's great for both science majors and animal-lover non-majors. Also, this course has a field trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo.

### 2. Controversies in Science and Medicine (HRS 340)

This class talks about debates that shaped science and medicine, like vaccines, eugenics and stem cells. It has thought-provoking discussions to explore the intersection of ethics, history and health. I absolutely loved this class!

### 3. Literature and Medicine (ENG 326)

Perfect for pre-health students or anyone who loves stories, this course uses literature to examine themes like illness, healing and the doctor-patient relationship. A great ENG class!

### 4. Interpersonal Communication (COM 361)

This class explores how relationships are built, maintained and sometimes broken. You'll learn about identity, conflict and listening. Bluejays love this class for its real-life relevance.

### 5. Public and Non-Profit Administration (HAP 331)

If you're into leadership or service, this one's for you! It covers how public and non-profit sectors operate and, more importantly, how you can make a difference through them.

### 6. Healthcare, Society and Culture (SOC 418)

This is a sociology-based class that breaks down how health outcomes are shaped by race, class, gender and other social factors. It's a must-take for anyone who is entering a health field or just wanting to understand the world better.

### 7. Family Communication About Health and Well-Being (COM 364)

Want to understand how families talk about health, illness, infertility and even death? This class is as deep as it is important, especially for future caregivers, social workers and health professionals.

No matter what classes you choose, make sure they serve what you are interested in!

There are so many classes out there, so just trust your gut—and your advisor, too.

Best,  
Bluejay

Submit a question for advice



## Lū'au: a taste of Hawai'i



NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students and parents alike flock to the Kiewit Fitness Center to enjoy li hing pineapple and other Hawaiian treats at the annual Lū'au event.

LAUREN PACICCO  
Opinion Columnist

The food at the lū'au was not only culturally rich but genuinely delicious. This is coming from someone (me) who has never had Hawaiian food, as well as Creighton students from Hawai'i.

Every dish had its own unique touch, but three stood out to me as absolute favorites—the kalua pig, chicken long rice and Hawaiian guava cake.

First, the kalua pig was the clear standout. It was tender, juicy and packed with a smoky flavor that made it irresistible to me and a lot of the people I talked to.

The seasoning was simple—just pork, rock salt and liquid smoke—but it let the natural flavor of the pork really come through.

It reminded me a bit of pulled pork but

with a deeper, more earthy taste that made it authentically Hawaiian. I loved it!

Second on my list was the chicken long rice.

This dish surprised me in the best way. The glass noodles soaked up the savory chicken broth beautifully, and the green onion added just the right amount of freshness.

It was light yet really satisfying and felt like a warm comfort food you could eat on any day, not just at a special event.

The only thing I would change is a better utensil for it so I could eat it faster. I honestly went back for seconds.

Finally, for dessert, the Hawaiian guava cake was truly unforgettable.

Visually, it was so vibrant, topped with a pink guava glaze.

The strawberry cake base was soft and moist, and the whipped topping added a creamy balance that was my favorite dessert

of the night.

It wasn't overly sweet, though, and ended the meal on such a tropical, fruity high note.

Other dishes like the beef lū'au stew, lomi salmon, Okinawan sweet potato, white rice and haupia were solid dishes and amazing parts in my meal.

The dinner would have definitely felt incomplete without them.

The Hawaiian dinner rolls were a nice touch; they were perfect for scooping up any leftovers on the plate!

Overall, the food was a big hit and gave a beautiful introduction to Hawaiian cuisine.

Having tried all the food, I honestly can't wait to go back next year and try them all again.

It was hard to pick just three favorites, but the kalua pig, chicken long rice and guava cake definitely stole the show for me.

## Expand your music horizons

BEN POWERS  
Opinion Editor

Your lack of openness to new music is ruining you.

While we all have our own unique tastes and music profiles, it can be easy to fall into the same listening cycles over and over again.

I tend to always come back into rap, no matter how far I may stray from it.

For a number of years, this habit plagued me. After entering college, I became bored and dissatisfied with rap music and subsequently switched to more genres.

One genre I dove head-first into was jazz piano.

I appreciated the off-the-cuff, sometimes improvisational nature that challenged both my patience and my production-oriented mind.

There's something irreplaceable about Bill Evans and Jim Halls' 1962 album "Undercurrent" and the clashing dance of piano and guitar that I wouldn't have found if I had never explored my music taste.

Yet, at the same time as I was enjoying discovering new music, a large portion of it was flat-out horrible and unpleasant to listen to.

This is a risk that I took on, though, when I set out to discover more new music—if you can't handle being uncomfortable for three to five minutes, you're depriving yourself of the uncertainty that is venturing out of your comfort zone.

Furthermore, exposure to multiple languages and cultures through music grants us a baseline understanding of not only other languages but also other people.

However, in exploring cultures other than our own, we must exercise caution not to misuse harmful symbols or perpetuate untrue or harmful stereotypes. As an example of how not to act, take Australian rapper Iggy Azalea.

Though her speaking voice carries a strong Australian accent, she prefers to use a "blaccent," or "Black accent," when rapping. Her use of the blaccent, though she claims to have grown up in the south, mimics African American Vernacular English (AAVE) conventions.

## Core curriculum conundrum

QUINN COTE  
Assistant Opinion Editor

Several students complain about the existence of the Magis Core Curriculum.

These classes are considered to be outside the scope of most majors, and therefore, students don't deem them useful. I believe that these classes help build a well-rounded student, offering important lessons that most majors traditionally don't offer. That is the idea behind the Magis Core Curriculum—to form a more well-rounded individual. So, how can Creighton University get students excited about these courses? The university should stop separating the Magis Core Curriculum from the major-specific curriculum in order to get students more involved in the classroom.

The separation between Magis Core and major-specific courses allows for students to complain about an entire group of classes. Creighton should automatically integrate these Magis Core classes into major requirements so that each major has specific Magis Core classes. Having classes tailored to your major creates a better classroom environment with students that really care about the

subject of the class.

For example, instead of allowing choices for the "Understanding Social Science" requirement, have all management majors take a psychology class related to management decisions. For "Designated Ethics," have biology majors take a research ethics class that fulfills that requirement. Allowing a variety of choice only creates contempt for certain classes, creating a more disjointed curriculum.

To incentivize students to engage with these classes, Creighton can have the classes count toward the major GPA. By getting rid of the division between Magis Core curriculum and major-specific curriculums, Creighton will have an easier time making the grades students earn in these classes matter more to them.

Another reason to get rid of this division is because the separation of Magis Core Curriculum from major-specific curriculum might be confusing to new students. Keeping track of which courses are available and what technically counts toward a specific credit is a waste of both the student's and advisor's time. Having a major-specific class requirement list that still includes the classes that create a well-rounded individual would

be the ideal situation.

Integrating the current Magis Core Curriculum with major curriculums will also make advisors' jobs easier. Advisors already have a lot on their plates, with their own classes and dozens of students to look after. If advisors only had to look at one or two lists for majors during the registration season, they would be able to have a lighter workload and have more time to focus on their classes.

Merging the Magis Core Curriculum with major-specific curriculums seems like the best way to get students to stop complaining about these required classes and engage more in them. However, there are some downsides to this plan. There would have to be an abrupt change in the curriculum that Creighton offers. This change can take a lot of time and resources to pull off. Plus, Creighton loves the Magis Core label, as it is a valuable marketing tool. It would be more difficult to demonstrate the value that Creighton offers with this well-rounded education without this separation.

However, even with these flaws, I believe it is in the best interest of the students, professors and advisors for the Magis Core Curriculum to be fully integrated into the major-specific curriculum.



# Seniors leave a legacy of unity



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

## ABBIE GALLANT Editor in Chief

As the lights dim in CHI Health Center, anticipation builds. Flames burst above the baskets, and electric blue floods the arena. It's time for Creighton basketball. Then, right on cue, a voice cuts through the roar, as the PA announcer's words ring out—familiar to every Creighton fan:

"A 6' 0" senior from Alpine, Utah... Steven Ashworth!"

A sea of blue surges to its feet, clapping as Ashworth jogs through the tunnel of high fives from his teammates to make his way onto the court. In just two seasons as Creighton's point guard, the Utah State transfer's steady presence and confidence embodied the Creighton culture.

After two standout seasons at Utah State, including First Team All-Mountain West honors and 16.2 points per game on 43.4% shooting from three, Ashworth joined Creighton as a highly anticipated addition to the 2023-24 roster.

But the Creighton faithful were in many ways still mourning the loss of sophomore Ryan Nembhard, who left the Bluejays to play at Gonzaga. Maybe fans were wanting Ashworth to be just like their old point guard. And maybe, early on, Ashworth was hoping to be that too.



"I think early Steven tried to be Ryan," Head Coach Greg McDermott said. "He and I had a talk early in the middle of the season... I said, 'Just be Steven Ashworth.' That's what I recruited you to do and be. Once he did that, he's flourished."

The guard went from averaging 8.2 points per game in the middle of the 2023-24 season to finishing the year averaging 11.1 and receiving the Big East's Sportsmanship Award.

And by the time the 2024-25 campaign began, Ashworth had fully stepped into his own identity. Playing nearly every minute this season, he guided Creighton to its fifth straight NCAA Tournament, averaging 16.6 points per game.

"Everybody [was] worried about 'what are we going to do without Ryan Nembhard' and I think the best compliment I can give Steven is, 'what are we going to do without Steven

Ashworth?' McDermott said. "His fingerprints are all over the last two years."

But in the final moments of his journey, Ashworth spoke not of personal success, but of the moments shared off the court as much as on it, and the privilege of wearing Creighton white and blue.

"I think the first word would have to be gratitude for the experience and the opportunity to put on this uniform and represent a brand and a tradition like this and play for Coach Mac," Ashworth said. "[I] can't do any of this without my teammates and the incredible brothers that they've become and the uncles that they've become to my son Tommy, and all the joy... off the court. It's sad that it's over but at the same time we can be happy that it happened."

Next, the crowd hears that familiar voice again.

"A 6'5" senior from Toledo, Ohio... Jamiya Neal!"

The crowd roars as Neal approaches teammate Sami Osmani, completing the handshake that always ends with his arms stretched out to his sides, Osmani mirroring the gesture. A late addition to the Bluejays, Neal arrived in Omaha ready to prove himself for his final year in college—and he wasted no time doing so.

"You don't see one-year players make the strides that he's made from when we watched him play in those first few games in November to how he's played in March. It's been very rewarding to see that," McDermott said.

Neal transferred to Creighton from Arizona State, where he started all but one game in his final season, making 39 threes and averaging a career-high 11 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

At Creighton, Neal soon became known for his athletic ability and flashy dunks. It may have caused a few grey hairs for McDermott watching the senior wind up for a fast break windmill dunk to ignite the crowd, but these personality plays became part of who he is as a player.

The senior became an offensive threat too, recording three double-doubles and surpassing his previous career high 11 points twice: once with 24 points at UConn and again with 29 points against Louisville in the NCAA Tournament.

But for Neal, the numbers told only part of the story. His time at Creighton was just as much about the relationships he built as the plays he made.

"I feel like I just got here and now it's already over... Just meeting Coach Mac, I was like, I didn't know he was that tall. Now he's been a father figure to me. Somebody that I'll always call on, not just on basketball but advice on being a man," Neal said. "When I become a dad, I will probably call Steven and ask him how he started. Just little things like that. The bonds I've built here, they're going to last forever."

And now, the loudspeaker booms: "At center, a 7'1" senior from Florissant, Missouri, Ryan Kalkbrenner!"

The roar inside CHI Health Center reaches a fever pitch as Kalkbrenner's name echoes throughout the arena. The center jogs toward the referees for a quick fist bump before joining his teammates in a tight huddle. Since stepping on campus five years ago, Kalkbrenner's loyalty to the program has made him the cornerstone of Creighton basketball.

2025 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Defensive Player of the Year. Big East Defensive Player of the Year winner four years in a row. Seventy-five dunks in the 2023-24 season, the most by any Creighton player under McDermott. Winner of more games and NCAA Tournament games than anybody else who has worn a Creighton uniform.

These accomplishments are just a snapshot of the dominance that made Kalkbrenner a national standout.

But for the Missouri native, the decision to return for his final season wasn't just about basketball.

"When I made the decision to come back all the way in the

summer, you think you're making the right decision when you make it, but you don't know for sure," Kalkbrenner said. "Sitting up here today, obviously the season ended a little bit sooner than we wanted it to, but it was definitely the right decision. Mainly for all the things that happened off the court with this team and how we bonded together... [it's] family for life with them."

While his accolades put him on the national stage, Kalkbrenner's legacy at Creighton goes far beyond the stat sheet. It was his leadership in the locker room, his humility in the spotlight and his unwavering commitment to the program that truly defined his time as a Bluejay.

"We live in an era of self-promotion, and that dude has no agenda for himself—zero," McDermott said. "You hear guys talk about building their brand. The only brand he cares about is that name on the front of his jersey. That's all he's ever cared about... His jersey will hang in the rafters someday, and he cares nothing about that—zero. That's what makes him so special."

The conclusion of Ryan Kalkbrenner's career marks the end of a significant chapter for Creighton basketball, one whose influence will be felt well into the future. His dedication and performance have solidified his place as a cornerstone of the program, and his legacy will inspire future generations of Bluejays.

Then, in the final moments of the game, when the Bluejays have nearly secured victory, the announcer comes over the loudspeaker for one final introduction.

"A 6'4" senior from Oak Lawn, Illinois, Sami Osmani!"

The moment he subs into the game, the bench and crowd erupt. His teammates rise, the crowd buzzes with anticipation and all eyes turn to him—willing the ball into his hands, waiting for the shot they all hope will drop.

Since entering Creighton as a freshman five years ago, Osmani knew that his journey with the Bluejays might look a little bit different than his teammates'.

As a walk-on to the Creighton basketball program in the 2020-21 season, the Illinois native made his collegiate debut against North Dakota State in the final minute of the contest and claimed his first two career points came versus Seton Hall on Jan. 6, 2021. Over his career, Osmani recorded 18 points, 18 rebounds and six assists.

But Osmani's crucial contributions came more from behind the scenes, whether that was showing up to practice with a positive attitude, working hard to get his teammates ready for their next matchup or aiding the scout team.

And while his work scouting and on the practice floor may go unnoticed for spectators, McDermott said his final time on the court at CHI against Butler proved the perfect curtain call for all the sacrifices that the now-graduating senior has made for the program and its success.

Osmani's five years with the Bluejays weren't defined by stats, but by the relationships he built and the dedication he brought to the program every day. For him, it was about more than just the minutes—it was about the moments.

"Five years have been extremely special," Osmani said. "Being around these dudes, especially this year, I think this team has been the most special team I've been a part of. It's been a joy to be around these guys every single day in practice."

At the game's conclusion, the crowd erupts in cheers, sending a thrill through every single one of the 18,000 fans crowding the stands of CHI Health Center. The cheers, the moments, the unforgettable plays—each one solidifies their place in Creighton basketball history. Each name is a legacy written in the heartbeat of the Omaha community, a memory sealed into the rafters of this place. These names, these moments, will live on long after the final buzzer.



# Jays battle weather, sweep Drake



NATHAN JOBALIA/THE CREIGHTONIAN

**GRETA WALLER**  
Sports Writer

When the Creighton rowing team took to the water against Drake on March 29, a two-hour delay due to storms left the team feeling cold and restless. As soon as the race began, though, the athletes’ preparation and resilience took over. Fighting through choppy conditions, Creighton swept all three races, with the varsity eight finishing more than four seconds ahead at 7:29.1, the second varsity eight securing a seven second win at 7:54.2 and both varsity four boats comfortably beating Drake by over a minute.

“It was definitely not ideal conditions,” junior Paige Harty, stroke seat for the varsity eight, said. “But I think we did a good job of holding it together and staying together.”

The grueling conditions in Omaha stood in sharp contrast to the warm, sunlit waters of Waco, Texas, where the team had trained just a few weeks earlier over spring break. The Bluejays spent five days on the water in an intensive training regimen that included two practices per day and in which the team rowed over 100,000 meters. This week of training was important preparation for the team’s transition into the spring season, especially because they had not been on the water since November.

“A usual good week for us is about 80,000 [meters], so we

really did get those meters in for our preparation,” sophomore Laurel Kieffer said.

That preparation paid off when the team closed out its spring break trip with a dominant performance in Oklahoma City, securing wins against Central Oklahoma and Milwaukee School of Engineering. The varsity eight crossed the line in 7:13.06, nearly 10 seconds ahead of their closest competitor, while the varsity four edged out Central Oklahoma with a time of 7:58.00.

Returning to Omaha, the team’s momentum carried into its matchup against Drake. While the extended weather delay cut into Creighton’s usual warm-up routine, the team adapted quickly.

“Not doing the full warmup was tough, because we were so cold when we started. However, we haven’t been having full warmups the whole week, so I think that helped us get used to it,” freshman Ellie Kearin said.

Beyond their physical preparedness, the Bluejays have built a strong team culture that keeps them focused and motivated. Kearin credited her teammates for staying positive and making the most of Saturday’s weather.

“I think we’re also super close as a team,” she said. “This delay wasn’t the most fun, but there was no one else I’d rather spend it with.”

To make up for lost time and avoid the possibility of storms arriving later, the time in between each race was consolidated.

The boats for the next race were able to start before the previous race was complete, meaning what would normally be an hour-long process only took about 30 minutes.

“We hit a buoy here and there and had a couple girls catch crabs, but we were still able to get across the line and win all three races,” Head Coach Dan Chipps said. “And we put both of our fours ahead of Drake’s four, which is always a good sign.”

With a deep roster and an early string of victories, the Bluejays are optimistic about what lies ahead. Spring racing consists of 2-kilometer sprints, while the fall rowing season involves longer races about three miles in length, called head races. Chipps compares this to the distinction between track and cross country, with the former offering a test of raw power and high-intensity racing, similar to the team’s spring season.

“Spring is so much more fun, because you know where you are [in the race]. You’re lining up boats across and jockeying to see who gets to the finish line first, and that adrenaline gets going,” he said. “That’s why we sat around today to get this race in, because the more I can get them racing early in the season, the better off we’re going to be at conference.”

From Waco’s sun to Omaha’s storms, the Creighton rowing team has proven its ability to perform under any conditions. As the season progresses, the team will look to continue building on their early success, with eyes set firmly on the conference championships in May.

# Bluejays outlast Huskers in I-80 rivalry

**ALLY SEEVERS**  
Sports Editor

LINCOLN, NEB. — Despite winning 11 of the last 13 meetings with Nebraska, the Creighton baseball team always seems to enter the I-80 rivalry matchup as the underdog. The Bluejays are often overshadowed by their in-state counterpart, fueling their competitive fire every time they take the field against the Cornhuskers.

“We are kind of the underdogs coming in here, no matter what the records are,” Head Coach Ed Servais said. “They want to prove [to] people that, ‘Hey, we got a good club.’ So, I think they kind of play with a chip on their shoulder. I’m a huge fan of that. That is the way you should play every game. Play with the biggest chip you can find. If you play baseball that way, you have a better chance to be successful.”

Fueled by that mindset and a strong offensive showing,

The Bluejays wasted no time getting on the board. Junior center fielder Tate Gillen led off with a double in the opening frame, setting the stage for a big inning. After three walks and a hit-by-pitch, sophomore catcher Connor Capece delivered a key single, giving Creighton a 3-0 advantage in the top of the first.

Nebraska quickly responded in the bottom of the second, sparked by a familiar face. Former Bluejay Hogan Helligso drove in the Huskers’ first run with an RBI single to center, ending Creighton junior Ian Koosman’s impressive 15-inning scoreless streak. Later in the inning, Nebraska’s Riley Silva lined a two-run single to right-center, evening the score at 3-3.

After a scoreless third, Creighton reclaimed the lead in the top of the fourth. Senior outfielder Nolan Sailors lined a single up the middle to drive in Gillen to put the Bluejays back on top, 4-3.

But Nebraska kept fighting. In the bottom of the fifth, pinch-hitter Gabe Swanson laced a two-out double to left, scoring Cayden Brumbaugh and tying the game at 4-4.

As the game entered the late innings, Creighton found a breakthrough. In the seventh, graduate student Kyle Hess delivered the go-ahead hit, a two-run single that gave the Bluejays a 6-4 lead. Senior Will MacLean worked a leadoff walk, followed by Capece’s first double of the season, setting the table for Hess’ clutch at-bat.

“They brought in a lefty freshman, so I knew I had to get him in the zone, and I kind of battled with two strikes a little bit on that slider and got a fastball in the zone. I just stuck with my approach and took it the other way,” Hess said.

Nebraska refused to go away, pulling within a run in the eighth when Cael Frost drilled an RBI double. However, Creighton closer Garrett Langrell kept the threat at bay, stranding the tying run with a strikeout and a flyout.

With momentum in their favor, the Bluejays put the game out of reach in the ninth. Graduate student Jack Torosian stepped in for designated hitter Dakota Duffalo and delivered the biggest swing of the night, a two-run triple into right field that all but sealed the victory.

“With two strikes against a really, really tough right-hander, I cannot say enough about that at-bat,” Servais said. “That game is a lot different if it’s only got a one- or two-run difference versus a four-run difference. To hit what I think was a one-two pitch, almost off the ground, and keep it fair—you know, Jack’s a hard worker. He deserves it. I’m happy for him.”



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Torosian later came around to score on an RBI single from junior shortstop Ben North, padding Creighton’s lead to 9-5 entering the bottom of the ninth. The Huskers failed to mount a final rally, going three-up, three-down as Creighton secured its 17th consecutive midweek victory.

“We kind of think of ourselves as the ‘Tues-jays.’ That’s one of the things we kind of pride ourselves on is those midweeks,” Hess said.

Senior Jimmy Burke earned the win (2-1), tossing two innings of scoreless relief. Langrell notched his sixth save, recording the final five outs. Nebraska reliever Collin Nowaczyk took the loss (0-1), surrendering two runs on two hits and a walk without recording an out in the seventh.

The Bluejays improved to 17-7 on the season and will return home to Charles Schwab Field for a three-game home-stand against Big East rival Connecticut this weekend. First pitch for the series opener is scheduled for 6 p.m. tonight.



the Bluejays knocked off Nebraska 9-5 behind 12 hits to earn their fourth-straight victory over the Cornhuskers.

With 20 mph winds and temperatures hovering around 50 degrees, a high-scoring affair seemed unlikely.

“You didn’t know if three or four runs were going to be scored today with the wind blowing in hard [and] the cool weather,” Servais said. “That’s why we tried to scratch off a run in the first inning.”