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Walk focuses on suicide prevention



SHELBY SEU /THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students participated in a march down the mall in order to spread awareness regarding depression and mental health. The event successfully raised over \$3,000 for suicide prevention efforts.

SHELBY SEU
News Reporter

Creighton University students, faculty and members of the Omaha community gathered in the Mike and Josie Harper Center to participate in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk on April 5. For its third consecutive year, Creighton's Active Minds student organization and Student Counseling Services partnered with AFSP to host the march, which was completed along the campus's main walk, the California Street Pedestrian Mall, to show support for those struggling with mental health and bring awareness to the issue.

"It's a very deep and very real thing to struggle with, and so I think that when we think about this large march that's going on—that we're doing today—it is encompassing all of that," College of Arts and Sciences senior Aaliyah Grafe said. "It is encompassing those who are still standing today, those who are still walking today, those who may be sitting down but that we're walking for them in honor of...[them or] even those who aren't still with us today. We are honoring and we are walking, and we are remembering their faces, their names, their stories—and that's what's important."

Grafe, who serves as the Out of Darkness Walk chair, was one of those responsible for the emergence of this event on Creighton's campus, as she was inspired by the AFSP's Out of the Darkness march that took place in her hometown of Columbus, NE. With a passion for this march building since her high school career and the aid of Creighton Associate Director for Student Care and Outreach Sangeetha Kumar and 2022 Active Minds President Charlie McNellis, Grafe was able to make this opportunity of suicide victim remembrance and awareness accessible directly on Creighton's campus.

"I look at this event as dropping a pebble in a pond. ... It was a...tiny pebble...and then slowly that ripple affected more people. ... This year, I think that rock has just become even bigger. We are now [making a] 'splash.' ... But our ripple affects much more than just Creighton. ... It affects...anybody that you

can think of...[and this] ripple has just really reached so much more than we thought that it really could have," Grafe said.

From small children being pushed in strollers to elders within the community, over 130 individuals dawned brightly colored necklaces, shirts and smiles of support as they honored those who had suffered. According to Creighton's Senior Director of Student Counseling Services and Violence Intervention and Prevention Center Jennifer Peter, Ph.D., having such a diverse participation is crucial to spreading awareness regarding the effects of suicide.

"Suicide doesn't discriminate. ... I think it's important because we have a lot of students that come from cultures where they weren't allowed to talk about those things before. Mental health was 'just get over it,' 'that's not real' or 'pray about it.' ... All those things can be valid, but they also may not work," Peter said. "And feeling some of those things actually stops students from asking for help because...they're afraid maybe their parent will find out, or they don't know how to do it because they've never been able to before. So, that's why I think it's important to know that this isn't just a certain population."

The event also served as a fundraiser to aid suicide prevention efforts. Numerous groups of participants were able to register at fundraiser hubs and compete against one another to raise the largest amount. During the opening ceremony, it was unveiled that participants raised a total of \$3,015. College of Nursing freshman Hayden Doyle's group was deemed as the highest fundraising group.

"We were so surprised. I had no idea we were going to raise the most money. It was... kind of an accident. We just sent it around to our families, and all our families care a lot about it, and we were just happy that we could help," Doyle said.

Doyle, after viewing an ad for the event on Instagram, encouraged her friends to walk and fundraise with her. According to Grafe, it is the unifying experiences like Doyle and her friends' that aid in the value of the Out of Darkness Walk.

"I've had people from previous events

[that] were like, 'I didn't even know my roommate was showing up today. And I found her 30 minutes after we both left.' [I said], 'That's insane. The fact that you two literally live five feet away from each other in the same bedroom, and neither of you realized how important this was to you.' ... that is life [changing.] That is truly [what] this out of the darkness that we are talking about [is], and we are trying to see the change being done," Grafe said.

"We are honoring and we are walking, and we are remembering their faces, their names, their stories — and that's what's important."

-Aaliyah Grafe
College of Arts and Sciences Senior

In addition to social participation, participants were also given the opportunity to connect with many different resources and organizations that aim to provide counseling and help to those struggling with suicidal thoughts or mental health. Organizations such as the Charles Drew Health Center, the Kim Foundation and Creighton's own counseling services were among those that hosted informational tables during the event. According to Peter, the tabling aspect of this event helps remove the scary feelings that are associated with seeking help.

"And that's why we try to get out, because sometimes people are scared of us. And I hope you can see we're not scary people. We're just people. So, I think that's why we try to get out more and do things. And then if somebody's not comfortable on campus, there are so many things around us that can help you," Peter said.

Among the many accessible contact and service information flyers, along with spirit merchandise, the Kim Foundation made available tools to aid in the at-home pre-

vention of suicide that included gun trigger locks and Deterra drug deactivation kits.

As this event does take place on a college campus, Grafe and Peter emphasized the importance for college students to recognize that help is available to them, regardless of the intensity of those suicidal thoughts or effects. While Peter states that this age group is prone to such struggles due to the ever-changing nature of college and adulthood, Grafe further establishes the idea that these thoughts and sufferings can arise from the external discouragement of peers as well.

"It is very easy for students like myself to 'slip through the cracks' at Creighton. ... When I tell people I came to Creighton for criminal justice and then all of a sudden, I switched to social work...people are like 'Oh you're getting your 'MRS. degree?' like, 'You're looking for a ring before spring' kind of thing? And I'm like, 'Excuse me?' Just because I am not pre-law, pre-dent or pre-med does not mean I don't have an active place here. ... I have seen that culture at Creighton since my freshman year. [It has] started to shift, thankfully," Grafe said.

With the countless resources that are provided on Creighton's campus, from in-person counseling services to online support videos via Therapy Assistance Online, Grafe and Peter believe that the Out of the Darkness Walk sheds light not only on the issue of suicide itself but also on the many individuals and organizations that are available to those who would like to seek help.

"You can talk all day about cardiovascular disease, dental problems—everything that our medical school and our dental school [does]. But suicide is the one preventable disease that is out there," Grafe said. "And we are doing that prevention work, and I've seen that prevention work in action. And so, I think that is the core of this event and the core of why March is so important."

Visiting professor speaks on ‘crime control theater’

JOSSY FETTE
News Reporter

Last Thursday, Creighton University hosted Professor Daniel Krauss, J.D., Ph.D., from Claremont McKenna College in the Harper Auditorium. At the event titled “Crime Control Theater: What Does the Public Think and Can Their Attitudes Be Changed,” Krauss discussed various crime control laws and their effects on society.

Krauss focuses on forensic psychology and is fundamentally fascinated by the “disconnects” in modern society. He said “the law makes lots of assumptions about human behavior,” and referenced eyewitness accounts as being inaccurate at times, despite the justice system’s trust in their accuracy.

He defined “crime control theater” by referencing other research conducted by Timothy Griffin and Monica K. Miller in 2008. In their study, they refer to crime control theater as “a socially constructed ‘solution’ to a socially constructed problem.”

Essentially, crime control theater refers to the illusion of reducing crime but not actually fixing the problem. Crime control theater is rooted in four elements: it is created in moral panic, has unquestioned acceptance and promotion, is based up on mythic narratives and has unanticipated consequences.

Some examples of “crime control theater” include AMBER Alerts, sex offender registration and notification laws, sex offender housing restriction laws, safe-haven laws and three-strike laws. In his talk, Krauss focused on sex offender registration and notification laws as well as sex offender housing restriction laws.

When speaking of sex offender registration and notification laws, Krauss referenced the kidnapping and murder of Megan Kanka



JOSSY FETTE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Claremont McKenna College’s Daniel Krauss, J.D., Ph.D., discusses crime control law effects.

in 1994 and the moral panic that stemmed from her case. In this case, the two-time convicted sex offender, Jesse Timmendquas, lived next door to Megan Kanka, who he killed. The parents of Megan then sponsored a bill to require the knowledge of a sex offender living in a neighborhood.

Laws like the 1994 Jacob Wetterling Act, the 1996 Megan’s Law and the 2006 Adam Walsh Protection and Safety Act, all focus on having sex offender information available to the public.

Krauss discussed how, while this may seem like a good idea in theory, many violent sex offenders attack children they know. From this mythic narrative, there are empirical failures and consequences. The laws further isolate offenders, which makes it difficult for them to be active members of society.

Krauss then discussed the experiments he has conducted on the support of crime control theater laws and their effectiveness while comparing them to non-crime control theater laws. From his experiments, he found

that “crime control theater” laws often have a higher support and higher predicted effectiveness than non-crime control theater laws.

Another point Kraus discussed is how AMBER Alerts are a classic example of crime control theater. They almost are never used to capture a stranger abduction, while the intention of their creation was to prevent stranger abductions. AMBER Alerts are more commonly used for child custody issues.

College of Arts and Sciences freshman Fiona Dobie shared that she was surprised by Kraus’s comments about AMBER Alerts.

“I thought it was interesting how he was talking about the AMBER Alerts and how they are for domestic cases and less from kidnapping from strangers. I hear a lot about AMBER Alerts, but they’re all domestic,” Dobie said.

The event gave Dobie and other students the chance to learn something new and widen their perspective regarding crime control laws.

CU student organization helps fight medical debt

GRACE UPDIKE
News Editor

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, Creighton’s Students for a National Health Program (SNaHP) chapter has worked to advocate and raise money for individuals struggling with medical debt. The organization recently reached their fundraising goal, raising over \$10,000 for the non-profit Undue Medical Debt.

SNaHP is a single-issue organization that advocates for single-payer universal healthcare through legislative advocacy and education.

According to Allison Benjamin, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences and the outgoing president of Creighton’s SNaHP chapter, their mission is to achieve affordable, accessible and quality healthcare for all.

“We believe [that] healthcare should be given out according to who needs healthcare, not who can pay for it,” Benjamin said.

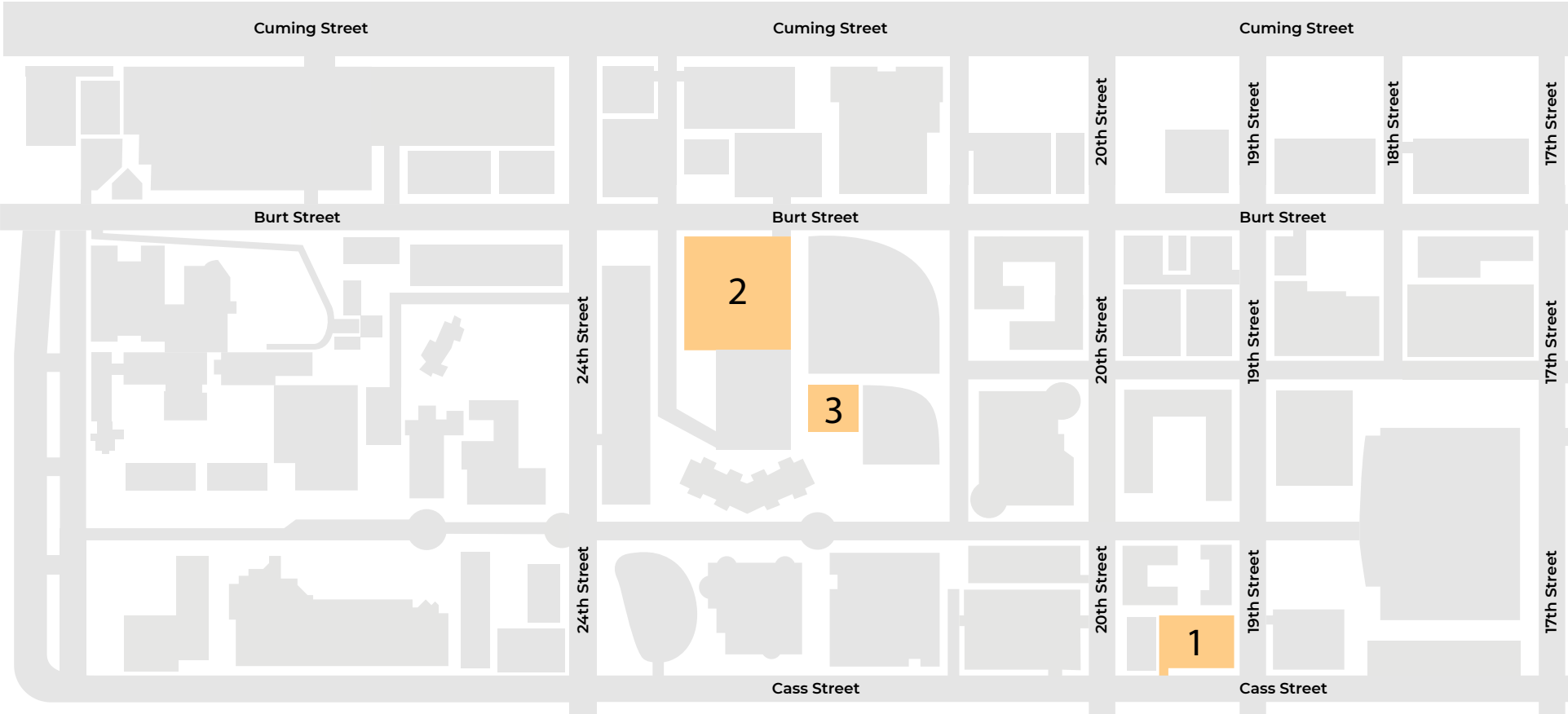
This year the organization expanded their efforts to include fundraising. Since the fall, they have held various events to raise money for Undue Medical Debt.

Undue Medical Debt is a non-profit organization that works to erase medical debt by negotiating with hospitals to buy the debt for pennies on the dollar.

Benjamin hopes that this partnership can provide short-term solutions to the larger issue.

“...It’s not going to solve all the problems with healthcare financing and how

TURN TO “SNaHP” PAGE 3



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

April 1 - 12:00 p.m.
A Creighton University student reported that a note with vulgar language about the student’s parking ability was left on their car’s windshield.
- 2

April 3 - 10:43 p.m.
Public Safety was called to investigate a possible dating violence incident in Graves Hall.
- 3

April 6 - 12:48 p.m.
Public Safety responded to a report of a naked individual who was vandalizing the women’s restroom at the Kitty Gaughan Pavilion. OPD responded and arrested the individual for indecent exposure.
- 4

April 6 - 3:35 p.m.
(Not pictured.)
Public Safety responded to Heider Hall on reports of a hit and run involving two vehicles. After investigation, a non affiliate was arrested for a DUI by OPD.

Women’s march fosters unity



COURTESY OF VANESSA WHITE

During the march on Friday, April 4, participants made their way down the California Street Pedestrian Mall with signs before gathering for a reception in the Mike and Josie Harper Center.

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

The theme for this year’s annual Women’s Empowerment March, hosted by Creighton University’s Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women, was “Women Educating and Inspiring Generations.”

“I look forward to this event every year,” College of Arts and Sciences junior Vanessa White, a co-coordinator for the Lieben Center, said in an email. “Seeing events like the march on Creighton’s campus makes me feel supported and motivated to be the best person I can be. I get the opportunity to meet so many women and create new friendships.”

Participants were given shirts that were representative of the march’s theme and then heard speeches from Sangeetha Kumar, the associate director for student care and outreach, and College of Arts and Sciences senior Cleo Zagurski. Zagurski currently works at OutNebraska, an organization that advocates for the LGBTQIA+ community in Nebraska; she has also interned for State Sen. Megan Hunt, of Omaha, and engaged with the Women’s Fund of Omaha. Additionally, she researches gendered health policies in Nebraska’s Unicameral Legislature and is a founding member of the New Voices Youth Engagement Cohort, which is an organization that focuses on supporting young Ne-

braskan candidates.

“As a student, researcher and advocate, I’ve seen firsthand how inclusion makes the difference between barriers that hold us back and opportunities that propel us forward,” Zagurski said in her speech. “Today, I want to share how mentorship, education and resilience—when rooted in inclusion—can change lives and better our community... But inclusion is rarely given freely—it is fought for. And that takes resilience... Inclusion is not just about one person. It’s about all of us. Imagine a world where every woman – regardless of background, race, ability or identity – has a seat at the table, a voice in decision-making and the confidence to lead. A world where young women don’t have to ask, ‘do I belong here?’ because they already know they do. That world is not a dream. It’s a choice. It’s a choice we make every time we mentor, every time we advocate for access, every time we refuse to accept exclusion as the norm. It is built by our voices, our connections and our resilience.”

Both speeches, which also discussed what it’s like to be a woman in leadership, inspired participants.

“Sangeetha and Cleo shared powerful testimonials about their journey as women in leadership. ... Both Sangeetha’s and Cleo’s speeches were impactful. What was most memorable to me was hearing about how far they’ve come in their journeys, which in-

spired me to achieve my goals and [not] accept failure. They both spoke about the ways in which they had to be resilient and persevere through the rejections and hardships, but nonetheless, their unwavering efforts led them to where they are today—strong, powerful women,” White said.

“The Women’s Empowerment March is a celebration of how far Creighton has come to support the female members of our community, and is a reflection on the work that still needs to be done.”

-Cleo Zagurski
College of Arts and Sciences Senior

Zagurski wanted to honor the women in her life who have made safe, welcoming spaces for her.

“My speech focused on how we create inclusive spaces through mentorship, education and resilience,” she said in an email. “I was struck by how much the people in my life

have created spaces that welcomed me with open arms, and I wanted to talk about that.”

Following the speeches, marchers walked down the California Street Pedestrian Mall to the Mike and Josie Harper Center while carrying signs with handwritten messages like “women’s rights are human rights” and “empowered women empower women.”

The march was followed by a reception in Harper.

Participants like White found the march enjoyable and meaningful.

“We walked together to Harper, holding the signs with pride as many students and faculty passed by, showing their support through claps and cheers. ... [During the reception,] we all came together to bond and learn more about one another,” White said.

The purpose of the march was to bring women together as a community on campus and spread empowerment to other women at Creighton.

“The Women’s Empowerment March is a celebration of how far Creighton has come to support the female members of our community and is a reflection on the work that still needs to be done,” Zagurski said. “The march was a safe and fun event to connect with fellow members of our campus community. I appreciate that Creighton supports all members of our community and provides this space each year.”

SNaHP raises \$10K for medical debt relief

Continued from Page 2

unaffordable healthcare is in in the United States, but it [is] something that definitely provides relief to people and we think that’s important,” Benjamin said.

She explained further the need for their participation in the cause.

“Having medical debt and specifically having past-due medical debt has a lot of negative consequences for people,” Benjamin said.

“We believe [that] healthcare should be given out according to who needs healthcare, not who can pay for it.”

-Allison Benjamin
College of Arts and Sciences Senior

Some of the consequences she mentioned included food and housing insecurity, as well as health complications due to stress.

Over the course of the year, fundraising efforts included the Dance Off Debt event in October, tabling events, bake sales and simply calling friends, family and potential donors on the phone.

Their most recent bake sale, held on April 1, made over \$1,000 alone.

“Who would have thought that you could make \$1,000 on muffins and cookies?” said Autumn Woolpert, a senior in the Heider College of Business and vice president of Political Advocacy for SNaHP.

With the conclusion of the recent bake sale, the club officially reached their goal of raising \$10,000 for the year.

This accomplishment means a great deal to those in SNaHP, as some of the students, such as Woolpert, share a deep connection with the cause. Woolpert shared that she has family members who have struggled with medical debt.

“It was something that was like really personal to me and I understand the fact that medical debt isn’t a result of poor financial decisions, but it’s a result of the way that the current healthcare system works,” Woolpert said.

Woolpert reflected on the impact that their



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON BENJAMIN

Creighton’s SNaHP chapter raises over \$1,000 in a bake sale fundraiser event hosted in April.

student organization’s efforts can have on families.

“[Anyone] can make a difference and it’s definitely possible for [a] group of students to do something that is really impactful,” Woolpert said.

Woolpert noted that, although they have

reached their goal, SNaHP’s work is not finished. On April 28, they will be holding another fundraising event on the mall where students can make flower bouquets.

Celebrating Greek heritage



CAMERON ELIAS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Greek Night Glendi celebrated Greece’s 400 years of independence from the Ottomans. Creighton University’s Hellenic Society (above) led attendees in Greek dances and shared their traditions.

CAMERON ELIAS Scene Editor

Nestled within Castle Barrett, Creighton University’s Hellenic Society hosted their third “Greek Night Glendi” this past weekend to commemorate Greece’s independence.

“This event gives us the opportunity to share our culture with the Creighton community and celebrate Greek Independence Day together,” Susie Papadopoulos, Co-President of Creighton’s Hellenic Society and College of Arts and Sciences senior, said in an email. “This is such an important holiday in our culture, as it celebrates the freedom from 400 years of Ottoman rule.”

For Maria Piperis, a law student at Creighton University who joined Creighton’s Hellenic Society after undergraduate school, celebrating Greek’s independence comes with many traditions.

“There are a few traditional Greek dances associated with the [independence] day,” Piperis said. “And when we celebrate each year, we do these dances sometimes. I did one at our local church last Sunday, but one of those dances is [from a time when Greece was] under Ottoman occupation. Greek women in certain areas danced off of cliffs to their death to escape occupation, so people do a commemorative dance for that.”

When asked what his favorite Greek tradition is, George Goulinopoulos, a Heider College of Business junior, said, “We always celebrate your name’s day. ... and you celebrate your name’s day pretty much the same [way] you celebrate your birthday.”

Your name’s day is the feast day of the saint you are named after.

The buffet was full of Greek cuisine, offering attendees the opportunity to customize their gyros, try tzatziki sauce and fill up on

baklava.

“I’ll eat it all. ... Try everything once, you know what I mean?” Michael Ramcharan, a Heider College of Business junior, said.

At one point during the night, the co-presidents of Creighton’s Hellenic Society took to the dance floor to deliver a speech to the crowd. Co-President and College of Arts and Sciences senior Petrina Arvanitakis said, “My mom always put on Greek Independence Day events in Kansas, so it means so much to do this here with you guys.”

Arvanitakis mentioned in the speech how she is a senior and this was her last time participating in Creighton’s Greek Night Glendi. When asked what she will miss the most about Creighton’s Hellenic Society, Arvanitakis said over text, “Hellenic Society was my first home at Creighton, and I have made so many memories. I will miss so many members, but I know we will stay close. I will miss Greek Night and teaching everyone how to Greek dance!”

During the speech, Papadopoulos said, “Culture events like this from Creighton are so important to help students from different backgrounds feel a sense of community and belonging, which is why this is so important to me.”

The night moved forward with people flooding the dance floor. Greek music, as well as the occasional “Mamma Mia!” song, filled the venue. When these songs began to play, people were pulled onto the dance floor—voluntarily or not.

“To say my Greek heritage is important to me is an understatement,” Arvanitakis said in a text. “It shaped my childhood and who I am. My parents raised me with a deep pride of our homeland, taking me there to visit family as often as we could, teaching me the language and teaching me how many important



CAMERON ELIAS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

From gyros to baklava, attendees were able to experience signature Greek food and culture.

contributions this beautiful country made. Being Greek is a part of my identity.”

There were endless smiles throughout Greek Night Glendi. Bystanders kept surrounding the dance floor to cheer on the dancers. At one point, members of Creighton’s Hellenic Society gathered to take group pictures on the dance floor.

“I am very proud of my heritage and culture, and seeing everyone who I have gotten to share it with is very special,” Papadopoulos said via email. “It has been a ton of work, especially planning this event, and the entire exec[utive] team has worked so hard, but it’s always so rewarding to see the results and outcome of the event and enjoy it.”

Star-studded rapper shines

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL more minimalistic approach in this album, opting to cater more to an 808-heavy Ken Carson sound. However, he keeps all of his signature trademarks: bouncy bass, clicky mechanical percussion, synth arpeggios and breathy vocals, sounding like a mix of 2021 digicore rappers and weirdly early 2010s Justin Bieber.

Speaking of which, 2hollis has pretty much become a new, revamped Justin Bieber for internet hip-hop/Drain Gang/Opi-um fans. He opened for Ken Carson’s Chaos tour, which catapulted him into fame.

This new album is all about 2hollis grappling with his new heightened popularity. The first song, “flash,” is literally referring to the flash of paparazzi cameras.

Despite all the moody and angsty lyrics, 2hollis doesn’t let it tamper the mood of his beats. His track “flash” speeds up into the climax with an explosive hardstyle bass, “burn” has a glitchy 2014 EDM festival sounding breakdown and “you” has bouncing bass and a chiptune synth solo at the end, which is sure to get crowds jumping at shows.

The two-track bass-driven treat of “ego” and “sidekick” gets the listener hyped up

and ready to mosh. Speaking of “ego” and “sidekick,” the seamless transition between them is satisfying, with “ego” acting as a hyper buildup to the drop of “sidekick,” a distorted yet groovy bass-boosted trap song.

Even though I prefer his previous album, “star” is a moody, edgy and extremely moshable collection of bass-driven, snappy, glitchy and heavily processed electroclash/digicore dance. Its tracks are perfect for huge world tour stadium shows, which 2hollis will surely perform after this release.

VIP Center enlightens Jays

CHLOE CARRILLO
Assistant Scene Editor

Creighton’s Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center hosted its annual Take Back the Night event on Thursday, April 3. The theme for this year’s event was “Be the Light” and encouraged students, faculty and community members to speak out against and bring awareness to violence.

The evening began with a performance by Destruction Drill Team, following those who participated in the march from Morrison Stadium into Skutt to raise awareness throughout Creighton’s campus. The drill team performed a series of cadences accompanied by dancers.

After the evening’s lively introduction by the drill team, there was tabling from numerous clubs and organizations on campus, including the Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women, the VIP Center, the Student Counseling Center and others.

The event’s conclusion began with the announcement of the recipients of the Dr. Tanya Winegard Exemplary Advocate of the Year Award. The award was named for the late Tanya Winegard, Ph.D., who was extremely influential on Creighton’s campus through her work involving Title IX and relationship violence awareness. Her memorial award recognizes students and faculty who have demonstrated exemplary advocacy.

This year’s award recipients were Sangeetha Kumar, the assistant director of student care and outreach in Student Counseling Services and Cleo Zagurski, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences and the relationship violence team manager in the VIP Center.

When asked about their awards, Zagurski and Kumar expressed gratitude and just how much this award meant to them.



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center hosted their annual take back the night event where speakers delivered personal stories.

“[Receiving this award] is so humbling. Dr. Tanya Winegard was truly a change maker, not only on Creighton’s campus but [in] Omaha at large. ... I really look up to the work that she did. ... It is just so exciting and humbling and wonderful,” Zagurski said.

Kumar shared a similar sentiment. “Oh my gosh. How much time do you have? Everything. This is everything. This means so much to me,” Kumar said. “Knowing Dr. Winegard and all that she did ... I mean, she helped get Title IX on our campus. So, just having an award in her honor goes straight to my heart. ... It’s not just a name; she was a friend. ... It really is about the survivors and the people, and it means a lot to me, because not only does it acknowledge my work that I do...but it’s the students’ bravery [that won this award]. I wouldn’t have a job without them coming forward and telling

me their stories, whether it’s about mental health, whether it’s about assault or violence or...anything that they’re facing.”

After the awards, there was an open mic session where students, faculty and audience members were invited to share their stories and feel supported and loved by the audience.

After the open mic session, there was a performance of the song “Rise Up” that uplifted the audience and made the experience more comforting for everyone involved.

The evening concluded with Miss Kansas 2024, Alexis Smith, as the keynote speaker. She shared her own story relating to the topics of the night and how it led her to become an advocate against domestic violence.

Junior Bella Hoke, the peer education manager in the VIP Center for the Sexual Violence team, said that the night was important because “it’s important to talk about

things, and if we talk about it, it can become more normalized,” and that “it’s really beautiful how everyone can come together and... share their stories in such a safe space.”

Sarika Griffin, the assistant director of the VIP Center, said that she hopes students gain an “understanding that they’re not alone [and] that they’re able to speak up as people around campus. ... Please come out, share your story [and] talk to us. ... Let us provide you resources and support you through everything that you may need.”

For Zagurski, this event is important, because “for me, as a survivor, a night like this just shows me that I’m not alone—that other people have very similar experiences, and we can all come together to support one another and truly heal.”

Call me when you listen up

CAMERON ELIAS
Scene Editor

Selena Gomez released her fourth album, “I Said I Love You First” on March 21. Gomez’s fiancé, Benny Blanco, collaborated with her on the album.

The album begins with a rather interesting first track, “I Said I Love You First.” The first track is not a song. Rather, the track, “I Said I Love You First,” is a 45 second recording of Gomez thanking and paying tribute to those closest to her. In the recording, Gomez said, “You’ve helped me grow up and watched me grow up, and I really hope that I won’t let you down with everything else that I do. So, thank you for being a part of my life and the beginning of something I hope lasts a long time.”

The first song of the set list is “Younger And Hotter Than Me.” The song has a piano melody in the background and doesn’t seem to have another instrument to buttress the lyrics. The lack of other instrumental chords in the background suggests a rather melancholy, vulnerable tone in the song. Instinctively, listeners pay more attention to this song’s lyrics. The background music is not the point. Rather, the lyrics evoke a sense of grief towards getting older, especially as a woman. In the song, Gomez sings, “All of the girls at this party / Are younger and hotter than me.” Referring to a past romantic partner, Gomez regrets “...thinkin’ you were different / Wish I never loved you / We’re not getting’ any younger / But your girlfriends seem to.” By pointing out the beauty standards projected upon women, the song insinuates there is a

double standard when it comes to men and women as they age.

“Call Me When You Break Up” is another song on the track list and features Gracie Abrams. It is a peppy, light-hearted song about trying to maintain a friendship through life, especially when one friend gets into a romantic relationship that consumes their time. Highlighted in its music video, Abrams’ and Gomez’s voices bring out the bounciness of the song.

The next song is “Ojos Tristes,” which translates to “Sad Eyes” in English. The Marias, a band, also collaborate with Gomez and Blanco in this song, which has a mellow tempo compared to “Call Me When You Break Up.” The music is soft as it describes the lingering effects of love and a breakup.

“Sunset Boulevard,” however, produces a

groovy contrast with mellow songs. The song has received attention from its retro music video. The song’s beat resembles those of 1980s music, which could be good for driving down the road with the windows down. While the beat is a fun remix of groovy music, the pre-chorus offsets the tempo of the song. The lyrics are somewhat puzzling at times, but the beat of the music can put listeners in a good mood.

One final song to consider is the last of the album, “Scared of Loving You.” The title alludes to Gomez’s self-growth over the years. During the chorus, Gomez says, “Cause I’m not scared of lovin’ you / I’m just scared of losin’ you.” The final song reflects the heart of the album—honesty.

| April 12 Saturday | April 13 Sunday | April 14 Monday | April 15 Tuesday | April 16 Wednesday | April 17 Thursday | April 18 Friday |
|--|--|---|--|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Creighton Wellness 5K</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>KFC</i> <i>Spring Jam-Goat Yoga</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Jams Goat Yoga</i> <i>Brandies Kitchen Food Packaging</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Brandeis</i> | <i>FSL Unity Week-Food Trucks</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Creighton Mall</i> <i>Best Buddies Movie Showing</i> 12:00 p.m. <i>Creighton</i> <i>Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House</i> 3:00 p.m. <i>Ronald McDonald House</i> | <i>CU Speaks</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Skutt 105</i> | <i>Blender Bike</i> 3:00 p.m. <i>KFC Spine</i> <i>Earth Month Community Clean-Up</i> 4:00 p.m. <i>Creighton Hall Steps</i> <i>AI Studio Workshops</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>Library</i> | <i>Wednesdays After Class (WAC)</i> 1:30 p.m. <i>Creighton Mall</i> <i>Drop-In Spanish Tutoring</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Kingfisher Room</i> | | |

From one
Bluejay to
another

LAUREN PACICCO
Opinion Columnist

Should Creighton have a theme song
[besides "The White and The Blue?"]

Dear Bluejay,

Yes. Absolutely.
A thousand times, yes.
In fact, I can't believe we've actually gone this long without one.
What have we been doing?
Now, before you panic, I am not proposing we play the "The White and The Blue" on a loop like a haunted carousel soundtrack every time someone opens the doors to the Harper Center.
That would be cruel, unusual and just overall strange.
I'm saying we need an official theme song—something that captures the true nature of Creighton.
Let's brainstorm:
"Don't Stop Believin'"? I think it's a little too cliché.

"Mr. Brightside"? Already Creighton's unofficial anthem every Saturday night.
The "Phineas and Ferb" theme song? Nah...

Honestly, the ideal Creighton theme song should hit the following criteria:

1. Be inspiring but also mildly chaotic (like walking to class uphill in a 10 below zero degree windchill while having a spiritual crisis).
 2. Be catchy enough to unite people across all majors, from nursing students with three hours of sleep to theology majors trying to interpret your existential Tweets.
 3. Include a slow build so the soccer team can walk in dramatically.
- What I'm saying is that this isn't a silly idea; this is a cultural necessity.

Imagine orientation week with a chosen hype song.

Imagine Blue Crew bursting into the student section to a campus remix of "We Will Rock You."

Imagine a finals week playlist that turns "Welcome to the Jungle" into "Welcome to Heider Hall: It's 3 a.m. and the fire alarm went off again."

Until we get an official theme song, I vote we all scream "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay every time we pass the fountain.

If that doesn't build community, I don't know what will.

I hope this helps!

- Bluejay

Submit a question for advice



Ditch GPS, know your way

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Columnist

When I drive with friends around Omaha, I am often surprised by how many of them use a GPS to get almost everywhere.

Even some of my friends who grew up here are unable to place certain streets or navigate to certain places.

I think we have collectively come to rely on GPS apps excessively, and we need to start knowing our surroundings.

After 20 years of living here, I know Omaha.

Give me a neighborhood, a street number, a store, a school; I'm getting there.

Part of this may be because of my dad grilling me about directions when I first started driving, or the fact that I get so annoyed with the Apple Maps voice interrupting my drives that I'd rather go without it.

I used to think it was the familiarity that comes from being in a place for so long until I moved to Glasgow for study abroad and knew the city within a month.

All I did for my first few weeks in Scotland was walk around.

I would get to something I wanted to see, pull my phone out, and try to figure out how to get to another thing I wanted to see.

I walked in circles, noting when things looked familiar or when I needed to turn

around.

I had no time limit or places to be, so I was free to go down any odd street or take the long way just because it was the way I knew.

Now, almost three months in, I can confidently say that I know this city well, all because I took the time to get to know it and allowed myself to wander.

One of my friends came to visit a few weeks ago, and I showed her around all of Glasgow without using any navigation.

Knowing your way around and being able to show this skill off feels powerful.

It also helps with being present, as I was able to hold a conversation and catch up with my friend rather than constantly checking my phone for directions.

This is not me acting like Ellen DeGeneres, laughing at teenagers who don't know how to use a paper map.

GPS is a valuable tool, and I use it very often to find new places to visit or restaurants to eat at, see how long it will take me to get somewhere or, of course, to get somewhere new.

The issue arises when we depend on it to get us everywhere, even places that we've been multiple times.

With all the assistance we receive from technology, we have lost the ability to do something integral to our wellbeing: figure it out.

I cannot tell you how many times I have gotten lost—on foot, in my car, in Omaha, in a foreign city, with my friends or on my own—but I am living proof that I have always found my way back to where I needed to be.

When we get lost and figure out our way, we are exercising and expanding our abilities.

When we rely on an app to bail us out, we are depriving ourselves of a chance to learn both our surroundings and what we are capable of.

As a Creighton student, you need to get to know Omaha.

This is a great city, but it's like a new friend: it will not open up for you unless you take time to get to know it.

Once you stop treating Omaha like you're a visitor, you will start noticing how lovely it can be.

Get to know the major street names and neighborhoods.

Visit the local parks on the weekends. Go out to eat somewhere that's not the Old Market or Blackstone for a change.

Talk to an Omaha native about what they like about it.

Wander around and get lost, then find your way back on your own.

Start knowing where you are; you will not regret it.

Lost value of physical media

QUINN COTE
Assistant Opinion Editor

Physical media is better than digital media. I've always held this opinion, and I can never be convinced otherwise.

Physical media gives a clearer idea of ownership and means more to people.

Ownership of media is important to me for several reasons.

Music and video game discs might require physical storage, but you don't need to rely on a third-party company to stream music or games.

The only interaction you'll have with a company is the initial order and any online content that is secondary to the actual game.

I also feel better owning the physical piece of media.

It genuinely feels like mine, and I don't have to worry about having internet access or subscriptions to use the media.

I am always worried that Spotify or Steam will stop providing services one day and I will lose all the digital media that I collected

and enjoy.

With physical media, I only have to worry about breaking it.

The ability to use media is within my control, not the company's control.

I believe that is true ownership. I don't feel like I own digital games and music.

Similarly to music and games, I really enjoy physical photographs.

I use Polaroids and film cameras to capture the important moments in my life.

I feel like I truly own the picture and, therefore, own the moment.

Taking a photo with a phone is very convenient, but it diminishes the importance of photography.

I always worry about iCloud backups and whether my photos will transfer fully to my new phone.

Digital photos are convenient, but again, it doesn't really feel like true ownership when ownership is digital.

Having physical media means more to people.

Instead of a digital library of games, photos and music that have no size or definition,

I like to have binders and physical displays.

Vinyl is incredibly cool to show off and deepens the meaning of listening to music as a hobby.

Having these collections creates a hobby that can help define who you are.

A physical photo album means more than a link to a shared photo drive.

A game disc can truly be a collectible to some people.

A disc or vinyl can sound better and feel more authentic.

I don't dislike digital media.

It is incredibly useful for sharing and is very convenient.

I've taken so many pictures, listened to so much music and played an endless number of games digitally on my phone and computer.

But I will always prefer having physical pieces of media.

Ownership is something that feels necessary for my hobbies, and my hobbies mean more because I truly own media.

To work from home or to not?

BEN POWERS
Opinion Editor

Generation Z sits at a strange point in the workforce.

We as a generation have just emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic fairly recently and are still feeling its long-lasting effects.

Many companies offered remote work options or hybrid layouts at the start of the pandemic to ensure employees could still work while quarantined. Nice.

For some, this meant the start of a new era that allowed more time with family and friends.

For some, in contrast, this also meant the start of a new era that mandated more time with family and friends.

Working from home subtracts a commute from the office, which seems beneficial on the surface — commutes often sacrifice time workers could devote to exercise, sleep or enjoying their mornings.

As a morning person, I relish my morning routine and my brief walk to classes.

Even in my morning bliss, I'm horrified to

see many of my peers who are not morning people forced out of their shelters and into the real world.

It's a shame, really. I don't think that we should not be working in the mornings, but we could definitely revise the way we approach work.

However, the shift to remote work also carries unforeseen repercussions for public services that rely on people.

A 2024 MIT study estimated a 10% decrease in onsite workers (as compared to pre-pandemic levels) would lead to a \$3.7 billion loss in annual transit fare revenues in the contiguous United States.

This would undoubtedly impact tax revenues from such programs that fund various public expenditures and, in turn, pull funding away from services that many riders depend on.

Not everyone has the privilege of simply driving or walking to work, and remote jobs have wedged themselves in between this gap and exacerbated transit inequalities.

Granted, some professions that involve in-person attendance, such as hands-on medical staff and outward-facing public service

jobs like law enforcement, may not be able to ever transition to working from home simply due to their in-person responsibilities.

Yet, I firmly believe many of these jobs can be conducted from home.

I'm not sure whether it's my Generation Z sensibility that prioritizes work-life balance or my need for a good night's sleep, but I would personally love to work from home.

At the same time, work from home or remote options grant workers an opportunity to spend more time with their loved ones.

Furthermore, the removal of commutes allows workers to sleep in and ensure they're well-rested.

Workers are increasingly opting to work from home as they've seen the mental toll commutes take on people.

Now that some structural barriers have been removed that permit workers the freedom that remote jobs afford, it might be time to question the constraints of commuting.

The choice is yours—stay at home and show up to a few meetings in pajamas or trudge through the all-consuming abyss that is American traffic.

Jays open outdoor season in Vermillion

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

Heading into the 2025 outdoor track season, the Bluejays carried strong momentum from a 2024 campaign marked by standout achievements. School records from Marcos Gonzalez in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and Ryan Montera in the 10,000 meters highlighted the men's success, along with a third-place finish in the 4x800-meter relay at the Big East Indoor Championships. On the women's side, a string of impressive middle-distance performances placed several athletes among the program's best. With that foundation, expectations were high for the Bluejays to build on their success in 2025.

Creighton did not disappoint in its outdoor season opener, kicking off the team's campaign in South Dakota in impressive fashion with two victories and a school record at the USD Early Bird meet.

"[It was a] really good season opener," Creighton Head Coach Chris Gannon said. "A slew of PRs, a school record and a handful of all-time marks definitely generates some excitement for the outdoor season."

Marcos Gonzalez hit the ground running for the Bluejays in the 3,000-meter steeplechase competition, racking up a victory for the Bluejays with a time of 9:25.26. Gonzalez crossed the finish line for the win two seconds before runner-up Carson Lauterbach of South Dakota finished the race. The 2025 time was seven seconds better than Gonzalez's performance at the USD Early Bird this time last year.

Other Bluejays also stepped up in the team's outdoor season debut. In the 800-meter race on April 4, Ryan Henrickson finished fourth with a time of 1:51.89, edging out his other teammates by less than a second. Coming up just behind Hendrickson was Evan Kraus, who finished with a time of 1:52.08 and Jake Ziebarth, who clocked in at 1:52.78.

Both Hendrickson and Kraus' times stood out as the fastest times ever posted in one of Creighton's debut races of the outdoor season.

Logan Piper, Henry Slagle and Jack Sorensen also posted noteworthy numbers for the men's team, with Piper finishing sixth in the 400-meter hurdles (56.52), Slagle claiming seventh in the 5,000 meters (15:04.40) and Sorensen securing ninth with a time of 33:14.26 in the 10K.

The women's team also kicked off the outdoor season with momentum on multiple fronts.

First, Anika Nettekoven added her name once again to the record book on the first day of USD Early Bird. The junior eclipsed the previous record for the 800-meter race, clocking a time of 2:14.7 and earning herself both the outdoor and indoor 800-meter program record. The 2:14.7 mark landed her in fourth place in the women's 800.

In the same race, Carly Manchester finished fifth with a time of 2:15.01, and Katie Roche recorded a time of 2:15.81. Both of these times, paired with Nettekoven's school record-setting time, eclipsed the previous school record of 2:16.4 set by Manchester.

Other notable finishes featured junior Katherine Soule's runner-up time of 17:36.03 in the women's 5K, along with Natalee Gehred's eighth place finish in the 200 meters with a time of 26.64.

"It was great to be back competing after a successful indoor season," Assistant Coach Matthew Fayers said. "Our 800 crew kept that momentum going and wasted no time setting some fast times to open the outdoor season. On the women's side, our ladies set the No. 1, 2, 3 and 10 times in school history for the 800 meters; on the men's side, they ran the No. 2, 3 and 5 times. Those top four guys are fit, and I'm excited to see what they can accomplish these next few weeks."

Building on a strong start to the outdoor season, the Bluejays aim to maintain their momentum as they head to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Jim Duncan Invitational.

"We have work to do and will keep progressing towards our goals for later in the season," Gannon said.

Bluejays win in historic series over Connecticut



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

ALLY SEEVERS
Sports Editor

It wasn't the smoothest start, but Creighton baseball found its rhythm when it mattered most. After dropping Friday night's opener to Connecticut, the Bluejays roared back to take the final two games of the weekend series, securing their first-ever series win over the Huskies and starting Big East play at 2-1.

"It was a huge win for us, especially when we started out so slowly on Friday, and to see how the guys responded with the second half of the game on Friday, then yesterday's game," Head Coach Ed Servais said.

Creighton's late push in the series opener nearly turned the tide. After falling behind 8-0 on Friday night, the Bluejays strung together six runs in the eighth and another in the ninth to come within one. With the tying run on second and the winning run on first, Creighton's rally came up just short in an 8-7 loss—but something clicked.

"Those first innings we didn't play how we normally do all season... things weren't going our way, but then we finally clicked and we started to get runs in the eighth inning, I think it was, Friday night, and then we continued into that into Saturday, continued that into Sunday, and just kept the foot on the pedal," senior outfielder Nolan Sailors said.

On Saturday, Creighton took full advantage of that momentum, decisively evening the series with a 14-2 win. The offense erupted early, scoring nine runs in the first three innings. A leadoff walk from junior Tate Gillen and back-to-back doubles from graduate student Dakota Duffalo and Sailors set the tone, as the Bluejays capitalized on mistakes and never looked back.

Sunday's game saw the offense pick up right where it left off on Saturday. Creighton quickly went to work in the second inning, scoring five runs on three hits. With the bases loaded, graduate student Matt Scherrman knocked in an RBI single, and Gillen added another with a walk to put Creighton up 2-0. Duffalo came through with a two-run single, and Nolan Sailors followed with an RBI single to right to cap off the inning.

The Huskies quickly responded in the top of the third, capitalizing on a Creighton error and a pair of walks. Tyler Minick's grand slam to left field brought the game to a 5-4 score, shifting momentum momentarily in favor of the Huskies. However, Creighton didn't flinch.

"This is a mature team. It's an older team. They don't panic," Servais said. "When something bad happens, like the grand slam... all of a sudden they get one hit and they score four runs. We've had teams that might have folded a little bit in that situation and might have allowed the opposing team to have the momentum. And these guys, you know, just kept playing... they just know, 'hey, we have outs left, we have innings left, and we're going to score some more runs.'"

Sure enough, Creighton answered back with a pair of runs

in the fourth. Duffalo and Sailors each singled, with Ben North following up with an RBI double. A pair of walks then extended the lead to 7-4. From there, the Bluejays added four more in the fifth, with Sailors contributing an RBI hit-by-pitch and North adding a two-run double to push the score to 11-5. The Huskies managed two more runs on a two-run blast from Sam Biller, but it wasn't enough.

Reliever Matt Aukerman (6-0) earned the win, allowing just one run in 1.2 innings, while graduate student Garrett Langrell picked up his seventh save of the season, retiring all seven batters he faced.

"The offense has been pretty big all weekend, and even though they're scratching a few here and there, [the] offense always did a really good job of responding to it," Langrell said. "Then it just got to the point late in the game where [we] had the opportunity to come into a big spot and shut it down. It's really easy going out there with a four-run lead and being able to finish the game, so it's a good feeling for sure."

The win was particularly significant for Creighton, marking the program's first-ever series win over the Huskies.

"If you want to play in late May, you've got to take care of business at home. And we knew, 'hey, we're going up against one of the top teams in our league at home.' We had to hold serve. We had to at least get two and we did that," Servais said. "It was very important that we win this series and the guys knew that. We didn't talk about it much. They knew that. And they know the issues we've had with Connecticut over the years and they were looking forward to it."

"It was very important that we win this series and the guys knew that. We didn't talk about it much. They knew that."

**-Ed Servais
Head Coach
Baseball**

As Creighton heads into the rest of the Big East schedule, the series win over Connecticut sets the stage for a crucial stretch. With only 21 conference games, each one becomes even more significant as the Bluejays aim to reach the conference tournament.

"It's always good to start out good in the conference [and] 2-1 is a great place to start, especially [against] a good team [like] UConn," Sailors said.

After a 3-2 loss to North Dakota State at home on Tuesday, Creighton will look to bounce back as they travel to South Orange, New Jersey, for a three-game series against the Seton Hall Pirates. The first game is today at 3 p.m.

A new chapter for Creighton Volleyball

Kirsten Bernthal Booth steps down as head coach after 22 seasons



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

ALLY SEEVERS Sports Editor

After 22 seasons, more than 500 wins and a program built from the ground up into a national contender, Kirsten Bernthal Booth is stepping down as head coach of Creighton volleyball.

Booth’s impact on the program is immeasurable. When she arrived in 2003, the Bluejays were coming off a 3-23 season, playing in a high school gym in front of friends and family. Over the next two decades, she turned Creighton into a powerhouse—culminating in a 32-3 finish last fall and a program-record No. 6 final national ranking. The Jays’ only losses came in five sets to Final Four teams, and the year ended with a historic Elite Eight appearance.

“Kirsten has been a phenomenal coach, mentor to her volleyball student athletes... [and] an outstanding representative of Creighton University and the Omaha community. She leaves a legacy that is amongst the best in college volleyball,” Creighton Athletic Director Marcus Blossom said.

“It’s been my honor to coach them. I’ve made plenty of mistakes, and I want to thank them for allowing me to learn, grow and stay on board with me during this journey.”

**-Kirsten Bernthal Booth
Former Head Coach
Volleyball**

That legacy includes 14 NCAA Tournament appearances, 12 regular-season conference titles and 11 tournament championships. Her teams earned 17 AVCA Team Academic Awards and featured nine student-athletes who combined for 12 Academic All-America honors. Under her guidance, the program reached four Sweet Sixteens, two

Elite Eights and is one of just seven schools to qualify for each of the past 13 NCAA Tournaments.

Booth also helped usher Creighton into the Big East era in 2013, where it then made the conference its own. The Bluejays have claimed 11 straight regular-season conference titles and 10 tournament crowns, compiling a staggering 188-16 record in league play and going 21-2 in conference tournament action. Booth’s 10 Big East Championship titles are the most by any volleyball coach in league history.

Booth finishes her Creighton career with a 502-192 record, the most volleyball wins in school history and fifth most across all Bluejay programs. She is a three-time National Coach of the Year, six-time Conference Coach of the Year and five-time AVCA Region Coach of the Year. Her success helped produce five recent alums playing professional indoor volleyball and Creighton’s first female Olympian, Taryn Kloth, who competed in beach volleyball at the 2024 Paris Games.

Still, when asked what she’s most proud of, Booth didn’t mention her achievements and awards. Instead, she said her proudest moment lies in the relationships.

“For sure, the women... If you haven’t been part of a college team, it truly becomes a family. Just like a family, you spend a lot of time together, you sometimes get on each other’s nerves, you can have candid and honest conversations, you have joy when they have joy, you hurt when they hurt [and] you love each other unconditionally. All of this is true with this team and the teams before it,” Booth said. “I want them to know it’s been my honor to coach them. I’ve made plenty of mistakes, and I want to thank them for allowing me to learn, grow and stay on board with me during this journey. Each of them will always be family.”

Booth’s departure marks the end of an era, but not the end of her involvement with volleyball or Omaha. She will join League One Volleyball in an administrative role, aiming to grow the professional game for future generations.

“I’ll be staying in Omaha and am honored to have this new opportunity; [I] will do ev-

erything in my power to help your daughters and granddaughters have opportunities for professional volleyball, unlike so many who have come before them,” she said.

Reflecting on her career, Booth expressed gratitude to those who helped her along the way—mentors who believed in her, players who bought into the vision and a community that rallied behind the program. Each step, she said, was shaped by the people who trusted her leadership and helped make Creighton volleyball what it is today.

“What I’ve recognized as I’ve thought through things is how many people have played such a role [in] my wonderful experience here at Creighton,” she said. “When I got here, the program was playing in a high school gym in front of mostly family, and the tickets weren’t even sold. We now play in one of the best volleyball venues in the country, and we’ve played in front of sold-out crowds. Thank you to so many who have supported the program with their energy in the stands and many who have supported us with their pocketbooks. As a small private school, we couldn’t do what we do without our incredible donors. Most of all, I want to thank our players, alums and coaching staff.”

With Booth’s departure, the future of Creighton volleyball now rests in the hands of Brian Rosen, who has been promoted from the associate head coach to the fourth head coach since the program’s reinstatement in 1994. While Booth found the decision to step away difficult, she said she knew Rosen was the right person to continue the program’s success.

“I don’t know if there’s ever a right time to step away, but something that’s always weighed on me is...putting the program, and the staff, and the current roster in the best situation to continue to move forward and make the program even better,” Booth said. “Creighton fans can be happy to know this is very much in place. Brian is absolutely the right person to lead Creighton into the future. Brian is a fantastic recruiter [and a] great trainer, motivator, leader and wonderful friend. Most importantly, he’s an outstanding human who will continue to help the young women grow here both on and off the

court. I knew he was special early in his tenure here, and I look forward to our fans to see how outstanding he is. Creighton volleyball is in great hands.”

Rosen arrived at Creighton in 2021 after leading Division II Nova Southeastern to a 25-6 record and its first NCAA Tournament berth since 2009. During his time in Omaha, he’s been instrumental in recruiting, training and developing some of the program’s biggest stars.

“Brian has the breadth of experience at various levels that will help him be successful as our next head women’s volleyball coach,” Blossom said. “He’s been a very integral part of our success over the last three years. For the last three years, Creighton has combined a record of 88-and-13. The 88 victories [rank] third in the country, only trailing Pittsburgh and Nebraska. He has experience with USA Volleyball, and he’s an excellent recruiter and in-game tactical coach, as mentioned by Coach Booth. We believe in Brian. He has the experience, determination and drive to continue the trajectory of our program. ... He’s a confident coach, and we believe he’s going to take us to the next level.”

With Blossom’s endorsement and the bittersweet departure of Booth, Rosen will usher in a new chapter of Creighton volleyball, one where his leadership and confidence will continue to bring great success to the program.

“There’s nowhere on earth that cares about volleyball as much as Creighton University,” Rosen said. “And as a volleyball coach, where else would you want to be? ... It was pretty early on that I knew that this place was going to be special.”

“We want to continue to make sure that every athlete that comes into our program can pursue anything they dream of,” Rosen said. “That has been a big mission of Coach Booth. Whatever you come in here wanting to do—whether it be a nurse, a doctor, a mom or a teacher—you have everything in place to be able to do those things. That is something that we want to continue. I am so proud to be able to call Creighton home, thankful for this opportunity and I hope to see all of you guys in Sokol this fall.”