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# Creighton's nest is getting bigger



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Big changes are coming to Creighton's campus; the new sophomore residence hall is set to open in the fall of 2026, and will include two bedroom, one bathroom apartment-style dorm rooms.

## ELIZABETH JONES Editor in Chief

The makeup of Creighton University's Omaha campus is continuing to change, with big projects like a new green space and a new sophomore residence hall currently underway. These projects follow on the heels of other recent changes, including updates to the Skutt Student Center, opening Graves Hall and redoing the fountain in front of St. John's Church.

"[University President] Father [Hendrickson] has some terrific plans in terms of ... how we activate our campus," University Provost Mardell Wilson, Ed.D., said. "There's been sort of a master plan all along of thinking about the more west end [of campus] is the academic side of things, the more central part [of campus] is the residential and the more eastern part [of campus] is athletics or recreation. And I think with some of the changes

that we're seeing, we're seeing that migrate in that direction ... I think all of the connection points still keep us a very small, walkable campus, but in a way that provides sort of that ... larger campus feel."

The new fully donor-funded green space, called the Creighton Quad, will be located near Burt Street and 22nd Street, next to the Mike and Josie Harper Center. It's currently under construction and, according to Wilson, is set to open in the spring of 2027.

The Creighton Quad will include over five acres of green space, with areas to study, play games like frisbee and a small amphitheater, Wilson said.

"I can only imagine the traffic that it will receive, and something we've been hearing from students is [they want] the opportunity to have more green space on campus," Wilson said. "Father [Hendrickson] really sees it as an opportunity and place for us to potentially hold ... commencements ... and

then other programming, so possibly orientation as we think about Welcome Week [and] some of that programming that we do with parents and new students. That would be a great space for that area."

Another big construction project on campus is the new sophomore residence hall, which is set to open in the fall of 2026. It will add 400 beds to campus. Currently, 2,288 students live on campus, according to Adam Stafford, the director of housing and auxiliary services. An additional 100 students, Stafford said, live in The Atlas or The Highline apartments, but they pay for these apartments through a Creighton-managed lease.

"That's a little bit higher than what we would consider our as-built capacity, which would be 2,239," Stafford said. "The difference in that number is accomplished through the triples that we've set up in Swanson, McGloin and Kenefick."

He clarified that about six rooms on cam-

pus are open for emergency spaces in case anyone needs to be relocated for medical needs, roommate conflicts or facilities issues.

This semester, freshmen are living Graves Hall, Deglman Hall, Swanson Hall and McGloin Hall; sophomores are in McGloin Hall, Kenefick Hall, Heider Hall, Davis Square and Opus Hall; and upperclassmen who choose to continue living on campus are in Opus Hall or were moved by Creighton into an off-campus apartment. Most students in these apartments are living in The Atlas, but about 20 students are in The Highline.

Stafford said that the university isn't planning to have students in apartments after this academic year.

"We will respond to whatever set of circumstances and factors we have to try and

**TURN TO "Campus" PAGE 3**

# Public Safety gets body cameras

## PARKER LUND News Reporter

Creighton's Department of Public Safety will begin wearing body cameras starting this year, according to Public Safety Associate Director Kathy Gonzalez.

Creighton students know the Department of Public Safety simply as Pub Safe, a uniformed, constant campus presence that patrols the roads and parking lots around campus. The department's purpose at Creighton is titular: to keep campus safe. With the introduction of body-worn cameras (BWCs), the department hopes campus will become even

safer.

BWCs were brought into consideration as part of the department's commitment to continually review and adopt new practices. Gonzalez explained that new procedures surrounding BWCs will help improve Public Safety's transparency and enhance safety.

It may be strange to associate BWCs with a department like Campus Safety, when these cameras are mostly associated with police. Nationally, BWCs have become widely adopted, although a recent executive order from the Trump Administration has rescinded a 2022 requirement for federal law enforcement to use them.

In Nebraska, body-worn cameras have been required by law since 2017, falling in accordance with the Revised Statute 81-1453. The idea behind body-worn cameras — how they'll improve campus safety, that is — is that they tap into the psychological tendency of people to behave better when they're being watched. Research referenced by the Omaha Police Department has shown that use of force by police has been cut in half since the introduction of BWCs.

Gonzalez said she expected that the introduction of body cameras to the campus will help improve accountability and the behavior of Pub Safe officers. But besides that, the oth-

er application of BWCs is documentation. Through a constant video feed, review of campus interactions between officers, faculty and students can be better understood and learned from. Altogether, trust between campus safety and students is expected to improve.

When asked where the footage will be stored, Gonzalez said that all footage will be kept in a secure server, where it will stay for a minimum of 60 days. If footage contains a particular incident or other pertinent information, it will be kept longer, for the sake of investigations and other considerations.

# Backpack journalism returns to CSDJ

SHELBY SEU  
Assisant News Editor

After being on a seven-year hiatus, the Creighton Backpack Journalism Program is officially returning in the summer of 2026. This traveling undergraduate student program, centered around the creation of a student-faculty collaborated documentary, is currently in the process of planning with a few alterations and a brand-new destination.

“It’ll definitely be different...But what we hope is similar is that we’re able to tell a story that’s unique and powerful, if we’re lucky, and informative about an issue that hasn’t really gotten enough attention or maybe is getting attention that way,” Tim Guthrie, MFA, a professor in design and film and the Joella Cohen Endowed Chair, said.

Prior to the pandemic, the original faculty team was comprised of three professors. Guthrie was joined by John O’Keefe, Ph.D., who served as the Chair of Creighton University’s Theology Department and Carol Zuegner, Ph.D., who served as the associate professor of journalism and the previous Joella Cohen Endowed Chair. However, with O’Keefe joining Xavier University’s faculty in 2023 and Zuegner retiring in 2024, Guthrie aimed to restructure the team in a manner that would no longer become dependent on a select few but become adaptable with a larger group of educators. Associate Professor of History Adam Sundberg, Ph.D., is one of the newest Creighton professors that have joined the team.

“The main change will be that it’s not so tied to a few people that it will grow in a way that more departments, more faculty members, more areas of expertise will be involved in it,” Guthrie said. “So, it’ll be one or two people that are kind of the backbone of it. And then other people that are rotating in and out of it. That’s a very different structure

than what we were doing before.”

Another prospected change to the program is the angle of the documentary. According to Creighton University’s Department of Computer Science, Design and Journalism (CSDJ), the goal of the program was to create documentaries that showcased communities that were living on the margins in other countries with some also connecting their topics to theological concepts. However, according to Guthrie, the program will now be looking at the possibility of exploring other topics of justice as well.

“Now we don’t have somebody in theology there, so...we’re still going to think environmental justice and social justice and all of those things. But the stories might be slightly more varied, because we’ll be using so many different...professors and their expertise,” Guthrie said.

Additionally, topics are not solidified prior to meeting prospective students during the planning process due to the importance of student collaboration and input highlighted within the program.

“We’re trying to make sure we’ve got a good location, a good story and everything for the students. But once we start meeting with students, we want to make sure they have input on what the story is. So, we’re not going to just hand a story to them and say, ‘Here’s what we’re doing.’ We’re going to say, ‘Here’s our options,’” Guthrie said.

Faculty members project the documentary to be conducted in Hawaii. There were many factors that made the 50th state the ideal destination to conduct the documentary for the return of the program, from the ease of travel and its unique culture and history, to the connections Creighton has cultivated with the community of Hawaii.

“As a Creighton community we have so many connections to Hawaii. And that can, in my view, only be a benefit because there’s

plenty of faculty and lots and lots of students who we might be able to turn to. Also, there’s so much familiarity that might aid with logistics,” Sundberg said.

Participants of the program have traveled domestically to Alaska and Arizona and internationally to Uganda and the Dominican Republic with each reporting on a different topic unique to their location. However, according to Scott Prewitt, who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2016 and participated in the Backpack Journalism Program in the summer of 2014, his experience with traveling domestically rather than internationally did not pose a disadvantage towards his experiences in the program.

“I think no matter where you go, I trust the faculty to find good stories and find meaningful stories. And that’s really the more impactful thing than the destination, I think, is the experience and the storytelling and the community and all of that stuff,” Prewitt said.

Prewitt traveled with other students and faculty to Bethel Alaska where they documented the effects of climate change on the indigenous community that inhabited the area and how that traversed into a theological component.

“Out in far rural Alaska, especially out in western Alaska, it’s about 70% Indigenous population out there, and they still lead a very subsistence-based lifestyle. But at the time, the state of Alaska was enforcing pretty strict limits on salmon fishing. And salmon fishing was an integral part of their society and their culture and their subsistence lifestyle, going back generations and generations. And we wanted to kind of cover that story...and see what happened. But what we ended up really exploring...the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations and indigenous populations and how that intersects with faith-based worldviews and kind of cosmic universal ideology,” Prewitt said.

In tangent, according to Guthrie, one of the greatest takeaways from the program is the students experience, specifically the changed perspectives they may acquire when indulging in the documentary’s topic. For Prewitt, his participation in the program changed his perspective on climate change compared to when he left the continental United States.

“I was raised in a household that told me that climate change was a hoax made up to destroy the American economy...And so [it was important] breaking out of that bubble and seeing it firsthand and seeing what was happening,” Prewitt said. “And even part of the trip was we hiked up to a glacier and on the drive into the National Park, you would see markers where the glacier was every year... And as you got closer and closer, the shrinking of the glacier you could see by each signpost got faster and faster and faster. So, we had to hike up and got up to see where the glacier actually was. And it looked like a dying organism. It didn’t look like just a hunk of ice. It looked like a living thing that was dying. And that really, really kind of sent it home for me how important this issue is.”

So, with the program projected to be officially announced in the coming months, Prewitt recommends for undergraduate students to take advantage of this opportunity.

“I did so many cool things. And I can say confidently, without question, that backpack journalism was my favorite and the most impactful thing that I did in my entire four years there,” Prewitt said. “So, no matter your degree program interest, whatever you’re doing, I think it’s just a very meaningful and profound experience that anybody can get something out of. And I cannot recommend it enough. It’s amazing.”



## 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

September 2 - 2:19 p.m.

Public Safety responded to a call of an individual “preaching” in Deglman Square. Public Safety and OPD advised them to leave.
- 2

September 4 - 11:52 p.m.

PubSafe observed a student urinating near Criss dock and notified the resident director, who met with the student in their residence hall and determined no TRAAC was needed.
- 3

September 6 - 1:57 p.m.

Two students reported being harassed by two non-affiliates while walking near the Skutt Student Center.
- 4

September 6 - 8:00 p.m.

Student reported losing or misplacing her AirPods and room key. The AirPods were later located; however, the room key is still missing.

# Campus changes coming to CU



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

From new green space to expanded housing, Creighton University’s campus is evolving to meet students’ needs, and plans will accomodate a growing student body and enhance campus life.

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support students and their success,” he said. “But the hope is that we’ll make the adjustments necessary. That might mean that we’re not able to temporarily house as many juniors and seniors, because our commitment, first and foremost, is to freshmen and sophomores who are required to live on campus. ... We communicated that to everybody with Opus [and off-campus apartments] that we weren’t able to provide an assurance that [they can re-contract]. ... Normally, in the past, students who contracted at Opus knew that they could re-contract the next year in the first round. We’re not able to make that guarantee at this point.”

The university is still unsure if opening the new residence hall will free up more space for upperclassmen in Opus Hall.

“The thing about the biggest freshman

class in Creighton’s history is it becomes the biggest sophomore class in Creighton’s history,” Stafford said. “So, we’re keeping an eye on the numbers, and we’re about a month out from really sitting down and looking at our models and saying, ‘Okay, here’s what we’re going to need to plan for.’”

Regardless, the university hopes that the 400 beds the new hall adds to campus will be a welcome addition.

“Everything [with the new residence hall] is still on track [and] looking good. I’ve been in a couple of times now to look at mock-ups. We’re really excited about it,” Stafford said.

According to Stafford, the new hall’s exterior will likely be finished this fall; work on the inside of the building, such as putting up drywall and setting up rooms, will start in the spring.

Creighton Hall is also currently under construction; renovations to the oldest building on campus began last semester. Wilson

said the plan is to fully reopen the building after commencement in the spring.

As the Creightonian reported in February, these renovations are the largest update the building has seen in over 90 years and include adding family restrooms and restrooms that meet the current American with Disabilities Act standards, new mechanical systems throughout the entire building, a space for the university’s alumni and friends and consolidating some administrative offices on the building’s south end. According to Wilson, several administrative offices, including the executive vice president’s office and university communications, will get new spaces within Creighton Hall. Some of these spaces will be where the Jesuit residence was in the building, prior to the Jesuits on campus moving into the Jérôme Nadal, S.J., Jesuit Residence.

While Wilson said there is no timeline for this yet, another part of the university’s plan is to convert Burt Street into another pedestrian mall.

“We’ll need some city support regarding that process, but we have received the city’s permission to go ahead and vacation Burt Street,” Wilson said. “I don’t have a specific timeline, but that is the plan, that it will become a pedestrian [mall].”

Along Burt Street and 20th Street, Creighton recently tore down the Murphy Building, which formerly housed Creighton’s Army ROTC program, and the university has yet to announce what will be constructed in its place. According to Wilson, the Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., the university president, will announce that plan next week.

“I think it [these campus projects] just shows the progress that Creighton is making. ... I couldn’t be more proud of the beauty of our campus and the opportunities it affords our students,” Wilson said.

# Mission Week shares on friendship

Grace Updike  
News Reporter

Creighton community members gathered to hear a panel discussion on love, friendship and joy at the conclusion of the fall 2025 Mission Week.

The event began at 7 p.m. on Sept. 4 in the Reinert Alumni Auditorium of the Mike and Josie Harper Center.

As opposed to the regular Mission Week keynote speaker address, this year’s Mission Week coordinators opted for a conversational panel discussion including recent Creighton graduate Cassidy Nipp, Creighton Associate Vice Provost for Integrated Wellness Michele Bogard, Ph.D., and the Revs. Larry Gillick, S.J., and Greg Carlson, S.J. The discussion was aimed at exploring the panelists’ experiences of finding love, joy and community at Creighton.

The panel started with a question by Nipp,

where she asked Gillick and Carlson to reflect on their long history together at Creighton. Carlson notably said that even after many years of friendship he continues to learn things from Gillick regarding spirituality. Carlson referenced a sermon that Gillick had preached earlier that morning.

“I had prayed that gospel in Luke about Jesus inviting Peter many times in my life. I had never seen it in that light, and that’s what keeps happening for me with Larry ever since we showed up on 19th in California Street,” Carlson said.

Carlson then turned the floor over to Nipp, inviting her to share an experience that shaped her at Creighton. Nipp told the story of her friendship with the Rev. Jeff Sullivan, S.J., which started her freshman year when she approached him in a moment of sadness.

“From that day on, Father Sullivan started to meet with me and [go] on walks with me ... we ended up eating hot dogs together at

Costco and building this beautiful relationship.” Nipp said. “[It] all started from immense vulnerability.”

Shortly after, Bogard shared a complimentary sentiment about being on the receiving end of vulnerability. She stressed the importance of “those moments where we just accompany one another when we don’t know what’s happening next and we are Christ for one another.”

Bogard then connected this idea to the mission of Ignatian spirituality, stating that Ignatian values such as that one have shaped her as a person.

“It [has] nurtured my soul as a human and it makes me a better mom, kid, daughter, sibling, coworker, colleague [and] hopefully friend,” Bogard said.

Finally, Gillick and Nipp shared related messages on finding joy.

“Joy seems to come when we let go of the heaviness of expectations,” Gillick said, re-

garding gratefulness and approaching situations as God presents them.

Nipp expanded on this idea with a reference to something Gillick had said to her in the past.

“He always tells me and always says to others that we need to let life create us,” Nipp said. “He talked about this openness to let life go through you, to let the people you meet shape you, to let the people you meet teach you lessons and show you parts of themselves that then become parts of you.”

The discussion concluded with a short question and answer portion, which prompted messages from the panelists to freshmen, encouraging them to be open to new experiences and to embrace their newfound community at Creighton.

Following the discussion, all attendees were invited to share snacks at a small reception.

# Speaking the king's language

## Round dance promotes healing, unity

CAMERON ELIAS  
Scene Editor

Creighton's third Native American Round Dance took place in the Skutt Student Center Ballroom to join friends and family together for unity and healing. Healing Ribbons, the Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC) and Creighton University's Native American Association (NAA) hosted the event where people sang and danced in remembrance of relatives.

People gathered for the first memorial song, in which the Omaha Whitetail Singers sang while pounding a drum.

The mission of Healing Ribbons, a non-profit organization, centers around uplifting Native American women's voices, saving traditions and educating.

Lisa Prue Spellman is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, member of the Healing Ribbons board and the program manager of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Indigenous and Rural Health Program.

"So, we want to remind our people that we have a spirituality," Prue Spellman said. "We have our own traditions, our own culture and we need to relearn those things, to strengthen our families, to heal historic trauma and to reclaim what was lost through boarding schools, assimilation, those kinds of things. That is our number one goal."

There were several songs and round dances that people took part in. Round dances are a way for "the community or friends, or family" to "come together, and they'll just dance to the drum," Tanya Heart-Olsen, a Healing Ribbons participant, said.

"The drum they like to refer to as the heartbeat, you know?" Heart-Olsen said. "So, when you hear the beats, it's just like a good feeling to dance to that."

Healing Ribbons performed a welcome speech, and people wore orange to the event to remember and honor relatives who were forced into U.S. and Canadian boarding schools. The pain of unlearning one's cultural traditions trickles down from generation to generation.

"Everybody has some form of trauma in their lives, but in particular for Native communities, we have historic trauma that's passed down from generation to generation," Prue Spellman said. "So, my father went to boarding school. My grandfather went to boarding school, and my great-grandfather went to boarding school."

Even though Native Americans, a colonial term, have dual United States citizenship and



SAM GIANFRANCISCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

To promote healing and unity, the Omaha Whitetail Singers (center) bang the drum and sing songs as friends and relatives perform round dances.

tribal citizenship, non-Natives may neglect the distinction.

"But because we're so few, we're the minority of the minority ... our voices are kind of drowned out," Prue Spellman said. "We don't get seen, we don't get heard, we don't get counted. If you look at research studies, there's not enough of us to count, you know, to do a study."

"Well, we're a nation within a nation," Prue Spellman said. "We're just like Canada, France, Mexico or [a] new place. But we live here in the United States."

After a few round dances, there was a truth and reconciliation recognition of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Marshalls and Omaha law enforcement that helped return a missing person back to their loved ones. The process of finding Native Americans who have gone missing either on or off reservations can be complicated by historical inequalities, jurisdictions, funding and the absence of law enforcement involvement, among other factors.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of Native Americans still missing in the United

States and Canada, Renee Sans Souci, member of the UmoNhoN (Omaha) Tribe of Nebraska and program coordinator of Healing Ribbons, said. For more information, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) details stories about those missing.

"So, when you're educating yourself again, you're looking at Native history and colonial history, the violence that occurred and the genocide that occurred to Native people," Sans Souci said. "All these things that happened, this is what we're still healing from. And when I do my presentations, I always let people know there's a reason why I speak fluent English."

"We're all speaking this language. We've all been assimilated, no matter where you came from or where your ancestors ... originated from. You're still speaking the king's English," Sans Souci said. "So, it's good, you know? When I'm teaching, I want my students to know [why I speak fluent English], but they have to understand their own stories in order to understand us."

For people interested in merchandise, several vendors, such as Alisia Quevedo, a

member of the Oglala Lakota, remained just outside of the dance floor. Medallions, apparel and jewelry were some items sold at the round dance.

"I hope that people come a little more often to experience our cultures and how beautiful it is for our people and just get the experience and also learn our history because that's not out," Quevedo said. "That's the truth about history. It's not spoken of much. And so, it's coming out more, and I'm glad that everybody's coming together in a good way."

It takes courage to examine what's happening, Sans Souci said. The one thing she recommends for non-Natives to do is "not only self-examination, but [to have] the willingness to be open."

"Be courageous," Sans Souci said. "Speak, understand, learn, because we're speaking our truths all the time. We're targeted. We're endangered, but we want to live, too."

## Giorgio Armani's legacy

CHLOE CARRILLO  
Assistant Scene Editor

Giorgio Armani, Italian designer and fashion icon, passed away on Sept. 4, 2025.

Armani, a world-renowned name in the fashion world, actually began his career after taking leave from the Italian military, according to Martin Roll. His fashion career began with a job in retail.

In 1975, Giorgio Armani and Sergio Galeotti founded Giorgio Armani S.p.A., and introduced their first ready-to-wear line, according to Armani's website.

Armani went on to become a great success. He dressed actors like Diane Keaton and Jodie Foster, launched countless lines and opened stores around the globe.

However, what set Armani apart from other designers was his change to the red carpet scene, as well as his compassion and love for his clients and his craft, according to BBC.

Armani was not only a contributor to feminist fashion in terms of creating ground-breaking suits, but was also an all-around philanthropist. He has received awards from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) and was committed to using faux fur and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, according to the Armani values website.

Throughout his fashion career, Armani had many achievements and iconic moments that solidified his name in the pop culture realm. He was the honorary chair of the Met Gala in 2008, styled countless actors and pop culture leaders (Zendaya, Leonardo DiCaprio and Cate Blanchett) and created a space where tradition could be changed, and stereotypes were shattered, according to Vogue.

When considering Armani's life and legacy, one may simply see another designer brand. However, with careful consideration and evaluation of his lifetime achievements and accomplishments, Giorgio Armani and the Armani brand have solidified their names amongst the most cutting-edge fashion designers and brands.

As you remember Armani, remember he once said, "There are three very simple rules. The first one is to know yourself well enough and therefore not disguise yourself; the second is to know what to wear and when; the third is to never let the clothes wear you — you're the one who's wearing them."

## VMAS infuse nostalgia

TERRY FABIANSKI  
Scene Reporter

Dubbed music's "most iconic night," the Video Music Awards were back stronger than ever this year, delivering iconic performances from music's hottest stars and recognizing the past year's most impactful moments in music. Known for moments like the Lady Gaga meat dress, the Beyonce pregnancy announcement and the beginning of the Kanye West and Taylor Swift feud, the VMAs are nothing without their iconic moments.

Gathered in the UBS Arena, located in Elmont, New York, the 2025 VMAs honored icons and celebrated iconic moments with performances, awards and tributes. With a stellar lineup of tenured stars and hot-off-the-press rookie performers, this year's VMAs were an introduction to a new era of pop stars. Performers like Doja Cat, Sabrina Carpenter, Tate McRae and Alex Warren came in hungry to prove themselves as music icons.

Of course everyone takes inspiration from somewhere, and the VMAs are ready to honor their veteran performers. To honor music's most impactful vocalist, the VMA

Vanguard Award was accepted by none other than music's biggest diva, Mariah Carey. Debuting in 1990, the "Songbird Supreme" has proven herself to be an international superstar. As the best-selling female artist of all time, Carey's impact on music and music videos is more than deserving of this lifetime achievement award. Alongside a performance literally dripping in diamonds, the vocal powerhouse accepted her award encouraging the changing music scene. "Music evolves, videos evolve — but the fun, that is eternal," she said.

As a growing industry, music often loses some of its most groundbreaking artists. The 2025 VMAs closed with a tribute to the "Prince of Darkness," Ozzy Osbourne. Performed by Yungblud, Steven Tyler, Joe Perry and Nuno Bettencourt, the late rock star was honored in true heavy metal fashion with Osbourne's genre-bending songs "Crazy Train," "Changes" and "Mama, I'm Coming Home."

In a world that grows darker by the day, it is important to remember how entertaining music can be. Sometimes it's best to dance it out, sing at the top of your lungs and let your body be consumed by the beat.

# Scrollathon spins stories across nation



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton students partake in Scrollathon event to exchange life stories and foster growth.

## PARKER LUND Scene Reporter

In preparation for the United States’ semi quincentennial – 250th – birthday in 2026, brothers Steven and William Ladd brought Scrollathon to Omaha, and Creighton students joined them at the Joslyn Art Museum.

Across the nation, each Scrollathon event operates in sessions for a collaborative art-making experience. Eight of these sessions were held in the Joslyn, with Creighton students attending their session in the evening on Thursday, Sept. 4. At the event, each student created their own scroll, which consisted of two strips of fabric that were spun together and pinned. Each student gave their scroll a name and a story.

“I named my scroll ‘A River Into Light.’ My scroll is about how I struggled through life, but even through all of that, I still try to move towards goodness,” Nate Clayton, a student who participated in the Scrollathon, said. “I want to help other people overcome their struggles and move toward goodness as well.”

Clayton wasn’t alone in his discussion of hardships. Participants discussed their challenges, uncertainties, what they were looking forward to and what they were proud of. The collaborative part of the collaborative art-making experience was more than just the art itself.

“When I learned about the Scrollathon project, and how it was really used to create a sense of solidarity and visibility between communities, it was just a beautiful and visual representation of different walks of life coming together to do something that reflected them but is a part of something bigger,” Mario Alejandre, the director of the Creighton Intercultural Center, said. “I think that it aligns with our Jesuit values, the Creighton DNA of ‘with and for others,’ of being a part of something that’s more than just ourselves.”

Eventually, the community gathered in a room in the Joslyn that would culminate in the form of a community art piece. In addition to their personal scrolls, participants also created a scroll that will become part of the Collaborative Masterwork. This includes the

Nebraska mural, worked on by Creighton students. Eventually, it will become part of the greater United States mural.

The Ladd brothers have been organizing National Scrollathon sessions for the last five years.

“We got a call from the Kennedy Center in 2017 to talk about our dreams, and they asked how we would feel about taking our program on a national level,” Steven said. Before that, they had been working in local communities for 18 years.

“For us, it was really about connecting with communities,” William said. “When we first started, it was really about working with underserved communities, because they were so in need of art programming. The project just kept growing and growing.”

The brothers have traeled through 30 states so far – although, because the Scrollathon includes the U.S. territories and DC, as well as the 50 states, they’re only a little more than halfway done.

“We really started diving deep into the project over the last year,” William said. “It will be four states a month until the end ... we’ll be finished with the last Scrollathon in April, and we’ll drive it down to the Kennedy Center, and it will be there from Memorial Day until Labor Day 2026.”

Between March and August of 2025, there’s going to be an exhibit happening at the Joslyn in the Joslyn Connect Gallery.

Once the semi quincentennial has passed and the project is finished, the Ladd brothers will start the process over again.

“One of our big dreams is to deepen the impact of this project,” Steven said.

Steven and William Ladd certainly made an impact on Omaha during their time here.

“The people in charge — the organizers — they brought a really good atmosphere to it. It made me feel like I belonged here and that my voice mattered,” Clayton said.

At the end of the night, after all the scrolls were made and the stories had been shared, everyone who took part in the event had their photo taken to be shown alongside the final product. Through this, Steven and William Ladd make sure that the core of their message is not forgotten — that America’s strength is in her diversity.

# Omaha spot has best ramen, poke in town



FARRAH VELASCO/THE CREIGHTONIAN

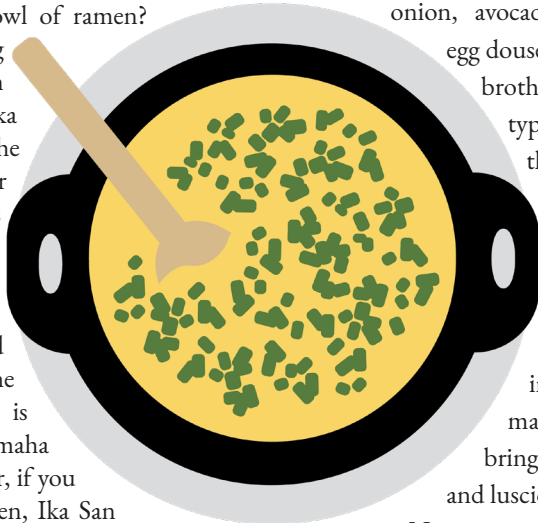
Ika San Ramen, located in the Old Market, features steam buns and a poke ceviche bowl.

## FARRAH VELASCO Scene Reporter

It’s officially soup season, and what better way to honor that than with a nice, comforting, steamy bowl of ramen?

If you are looking for a good ramen place in the area, Ika San Ramen is the place to go. Their ramen selection is so vast, it ranges from classic miso ramen to specialty dishes they created themselves like the “68104,” which is named after an Omaha ZIP code. However, if you aren’t craving ramen, Ika San serves other exquisite dishes, putting a western twist on traditional Japanese cuisine.

As a starter, Ika San offers various appetizers and side dishes you can share with the whole table. Their most popular appetizer is the steam buns, with your choice of filling. They are bao buns filled with daikon, cilantro and spicy mayo. The steam buns are birria-filled and have a burst of multiple different flavors throughout. The richness of the birria is complimented well by the spiciness of the mayo and balanced with the bao bun



wrapped around.

A signature dish, “East L.A.,” is Ika San Ramen’s East Los Angeles-inspired dish. The bowl consists of asada beef strips, cilantro, onion, avocado and onsen-style egg doused in a fragrant pork broth. This is not a very typical ramen, yet all the ingredients work well together. The egg yolk also enhances the flavor of the broth completely and soaks into their house-made noodles, just bringing that delicious and luscious taste.

Not into ramen? Ika San also has poke and rice bowls on the menu. The poke ceviche bowl comes with salmon, cucumber, red onion, avocado, cilantro, Thai chili, seaweed and rice. This bowl is refreshing and delightful; each bite is light, and the dish would be great on hot days as it had that colder feel as opposed to hot soup. The kick of the Thai chili really brought out the salmon, and when mixed all together, the flavors harmonized well. This is an exceptional choice if you are in search of poke in Omaha.

# Iconic romance or tired trope?

## Breaking down 'The Summer I Turned Pretty' love triangle

ABBIE GALLANT  
Editor in Chief

It's no longer summer, but the teen show "The Summer I Turned Pretty" is still taking over screens across the world. Since the premiere, chatter about the drama-filled Prime Video exclusive has only grown louder. While it remains to be seen how author Jenny Han closes the book on the fictional Cousins Beach world, one thing is certain: the Team Conrad versus Team Jeremiah debate won't be ending anytime soon. The problem with the love triangle is that when it becomes the heartbeat of a story, it risks glamorizing unhealthy dynamics. On the surface, the beachside nostalgia and binge-worthy drama are harmless, but, beneath the classic teen drama, "The Summer I Turned Pretty" normalizes toxic relationship practices. Take this season's central storyline for example. Team Conrad fans are essentially rooting for Belly to cheat on her fiancé to fulfill what they see as the "right ending." At every turn, Conrad supporters are yelling at their screens for Belly to leave Jeremiah. But, for better or worse, Belly is engaged to Jeremiah, and that storyline should be at the forefront. Instead, though, the show dangles the possibility of Conrad in front of viewers and builds suspense around whether Belly will betray her commitment. In doing so, the series flirts with promoting a double standard: Jeremiah's cheating is treated as a scandal, but the idea of Belly doing the same is framed as romantic wish fulfillment. And this isn't just a one-off problem fos-

tered by the triangle — it's part of a larger pattern. Time and again, "The Summer I Turned Pretty" treats cheating as routine and commonplace. Think for a moment about the baffling moment when Belly accepts Jeremiah's proposal soon after learning he cheated on her. Days before, Belly had a major freakout when she discovered Jeremiah cheated on her, but days later, she's ready to marry him. Since when did cheating become an easily forgivable mistake, like forgetting to take the trash out? Even secondary storylines lean into this message. For example, Steven, Belly's brother, and Taylor, Belly's best friend, are both dating other people while seeing each other. Instead of grappling with this very real issue of unfaithfulness, the show trivializes it, treating cheating as background noise to other plot points. Neither Steven nor Taylor faces any ramifications for cheating on their partners, and instead, this "minor inconvenience" is quickly glossed over to focus on the more entertaining push-and-pull of Steven and Taylor's "will they, won't they" relationship. This downplays the emotional weight of betrayal, reinforcing the show's tendency to romanticize rather than realistically address complex relationship dynamics. Thus, by making cheating seem forgivable and even desire-driven, the show normalizes double standards and dodges accountability, turning unhealthy relationship practices into mainstream entertainment. Summer is officially at its end, and if this is the version of love we're celebrating, maybe it's time for the obsession with "The Summer I Turned Pretty" to end too.

SOPHIA MCCURDY  
Opinion Writer

The Summer I Turned Pretty" is taking over. According to the Hollywood Reporter, 25 million viewers tuned in to the premier of the show's third and final season. Since this season began, viewership has tripled compared to the first season. For the uninitiated, the show follows Belly — yes, that is her name — a young girl caught in a love triangle between two brothers, Conrad and Jeremiah Fisher. Bright summer scenes and lots of drama are set against beautiful beaches and soundtracked by many, many Taylor Swift songs. I think the love triangle is the key to the show's growing success. A huge part of a successful TV shows is discourse. If you can get people talking, writing and Tik-Tok-ing, you have a hit on your hands. The love triangle is a discourse-making machine. They divide audiences into teams and fuel debates. Turned Pretty follows in the

footsteps of "Twilight," "The Vampire Diaries" and "The Hunger Games" in a setup that reaches back in storytelling history to "Wuthering Heights" and "Twelfth Night." Belly's wavering back-and-forth between the two brothers has been the cause of much frustration, just like the iconic triangles of other famous stories. I've found myself literally yelling at the screen sometimes — and that's what is so great about "The Summer I Turned Pretty!" Love triangles sometimes have the reputation of being a cheap and dirty trick. They can get an audience invested in a romance without having to do the legwork of establishing why the characters like each other. And, of course, some love triangle stories are poorly done, but some of them work so well. "The Summer I Turned Pretty" is one of those love triangles that works. The show takes the time to establish all members of the triangle and has a great cast of secondary characters. The widespread popularity of the show illustrates how compelling the triangle is. As you can probably tell, I am a fan of the show. I read the books the show is based on enthusiastically in middle school, and I've watched the show since the start. There is a thread of criticism towards this show for seeming overdone, cheesy or girly. However, this bothers me. I like the show! The love triangle is set up with genuine care. I don't want to ever be embarrassed to like something just because it is associated with "girliness." The love triangle is simply an excellent tool to create tension. It keeps you hooked on the big question: who will she choose?



# From dorm room to home base

CHARLEY HECHTL  
Opinion Writer

Moving into college is exciting and overwhelming, and learning how to fit your entire life into a single dorm room can be a challenge. One minute you are unpacking bags; the next, you are taking in the unfamiliar room filled with untouched furniture and bare walls, pondering how to make the space feel like your own. Dorms may seem cramped, bland and far from homey, but by adding a few personal touches, you can transform your room into a cozy, comfortable space — a home where you can make lasting memories far beyond those four walls. Moving to a new place, whether you travel across state lines or just a few miles can evoke a range of emotions, especially homesickness. I suggest placing framed photos of friends, family and pets on your desk, walls or shelves. Seeing the familiar faces of your loved ones can provide comfort in stressful or lonely times. I am not a morning person. I like to snuggle deep into my sheets and comforter while

simultaneously hitting snooze. That is why I think it is so important to make your bed as comfortable as possible by investing in soft sheets, a puffy comforter, fun decorative pillows, or even a couple of stuffed animals to remind you of home. My favorite stuffed animal is one that looks exactly like my dog. Although dorm rooms come with a desk chair and lofted bed already provided, adding extra seating is another fantastic way to make your room feel more like home. A comfortable beanbag or a pullout futon not only provides variety, but creates space for relaxing, studying or just hanging out with friends. During my first year, my roommate and I both lofted our beds, putting a TV under one and a small futon under the other. This setup turned out to be one of my favorite spots on campus, especially for movie nights, which reminded me of when I spent time with my family lounging on the couch at home. My roommate and I hung fairy and Christmas lights all over the room, so we did not have to be blinded by the harsh fluorescent lighting. Adding several types of lighting, such as a desk lamp, a floor lamp or even



JONAH LAGRANGE /THE CREIGHTONIAN

**Adding lamps, comfortable seating and personal photos can soften up a stuffy dorm room.** string lights like we did, made the space feel warm and cozy. It never hurts to add small comforts, such as posters of your favorite musicians, playing songs reminding you of home, or even eating your favorite snacks. Adjusting to college and making your dorm room feel more like a home can take a while, but following these tips above can help!

# Harsh reality of soaring college prices

JACOB ROWE  
Opinion Writer

The cost of college and higher education for Americans is too high, and it is getting worse as time goes on. At this current moment, the average cost for one year of college at a public in-state university is \$9,750, according to the Education Data Initiative.

The average cost of college has more than doubled since 2000, with an increase of nearly 4.0% every single year. This is alarming for a couple of reasons; chiefly, this is a uniquely American problem in comparison to the rest of the western world. Germany, for example, has numerous public universities that are tuition free and accessible for the average student. The only expenses are the cost of living and a stipend to maintain the univer-

sity, which is only a couple hundred euros per year. The cost of higher education in the United States, as it stands now, is too high. The other primary reason this is unacceptable is that the average income for a full time-full-time worker is \$66,662, and the median income is \$61,984. For families, especially those with multiple college- aged children, it is almost impossible to account for an additional \$9,750 of expenses, especially because

the average cost of living in the United States is \$61,334 per year. The average American cannot afford a 15.9% increase on their cost of living. There is, of course, variety between states, but my point still stands: the cost of higher education for Americans is too expensive, and it continues to get even more expensive each year.

# A pair of late goals lifts Jays over Denver

ABBIE GALLANT  
Editor in Chief

“These past five matches, we’ve been building step by step, putting all the right pieces together. Tonight was the most collective [and] the best performance we’ve had,” co-captain and junior midfielder Matthew Reed said after a thrilling 10-minute stretch to end the match left the Bluejays with their first win of the season.

That step-by-step sentiment has echoed across the Creighton men’s soccer locker room in recent weeks. It surfaced after the Bluejays battled Tulsa to a scoreless draw — a clean sheet they called a step forward — and it rang louder on Sept. 5, when 3,673 fans packed Morrison Stadium for the annual Socctoberfest celebration. There, a late 2-0 push past Denver became their clearest example yet.

While the Bluejays ultimately grabbed a decisive win over a Denver squad fresh off a College Cup semifinal appearance, the match began in a gridlock. Both teams executed a relentless defensive organization; the Bluejays employed a strong high press and the Pioneers’ backline moved as one, nearly impossi-

**“It’s the best feeling in the world. The score — the goal — to put us ahead, I couldn’t ask for anything more.”**

**-Matthew Reed  
Defender  
Junior**

ble to break down.

Offensively, Creighton outshot Denver 4-2 in the first half, though the Pioneers’ few opportunities in the attacking third forced redshirt freshman goalkeeper Matthew Hudson to make two critical saves. The match remained scoreless heading into halftime, and Bluejay Head Coach Johnny Torres saw it as two organized sides feeling each other out.

“In the first half, I thought it was a little bit of a stalemate,” he said. “[It] was more like a chess match in the first half, [with] two pretty organized teams, two pretty good teams, going at each other with a bit of caution I think.”

If caution played a role in both teams’ performance in the opening 45 minutes, any of those first half feelings were thrown to the wind in the second half. Feeding off renewed energy and looking for the go-ahead goal, the Bluejays executed what Torres called an “ag-

gressive attitude” in the 18-yard box.

Each new sequence in the attacking third felt like the one that would break the scoring standstill for the Bluejays. Every player on the field fed off this “aggressive attitude” and it showed, Torres said, whether manifesting itself in the fundamentals — like getting low or bending their knees—or the proactive movement that made it difficult for the visiting Pioneers to defend against.

In the 54th minute, Creighton mounted its closest attempt yet to break the stalemate. Sprinting down the right side of the field, redshirt freshman midfielder Brady Bragg sent a crossing pass directly in front of the goal.

There, Denver nearly gave up an own goal as Bragg’s cross forced a sliding defender to redirect the ball where, instead of clearing it, the defender pushed the ball closer to the net. Creighton converged, but a crucial save from the Pioneers’ goalkeeper kept the scoreless tie intact.

Less than a minute later, Creighton’s backline was tested in much the same way, as Denver made a fervent attempt to beat the Bluejays to the go-ahead goal after nearly giving it up themselves.

The attack began on the left side, with midfielder Lucas Cavalcante poised to take on Denver forward Tyler Schommer. But as Schommer looked to take a step toward the goal, he quickly passed to an awaiting Ian Welch, one of Denver’s sophomore forwards. Sensing a gap that looked to be closing fast, Welch sent the shot toward the top right corner of the net.

Hudson reacted quickly, launching in the air and stretching out to his left to deflect the ball just wide. The deflection put Denver back on the offensive with a corner kick, but the Bluejay defensive unit remained strong, helping Hudson clear the ball.

The Bluejays had avoided yet another one of Denver’s five shots throughout the second half, and with the knowledge that the team had dislodged another well-organized offensive sequence, redshirt freshman defender Brian Edelman let out a victorious yell.

“I feel like celebrating those big plays is important for us because, obviously, we may not be scoring, but I feel like saving a goal should be celebrated the same way,” Edelman said.

Yet, the save meant more than just keeping the Bluejays and Pioneers tied at 0-0; the defensive stand sparked a renewed sense of energy for the offense, whose trust in their defense allowed them to focus on finishing.

“It takes so much stress off my shoulders,” Reed said of the confidence a dependable backline provides. “It just lets me play com-

pletely free and win the game on the other side of the field.”

That trust, combined with the perfect opening in Denver’s defense, gave Reed the chance to take control of the match and finally put the Bluejays on the scoreboard. In position to take a long throw-in delivered by senior defender Ryusei Shimonishi, Reed lined up in the middle of the 18-yard box.

As the throw from Shimonishi arced through the air, freshman midfielder Ayden Kokoszka’s head made contact with the ball first, pushing it the direction of the goal. Then, with no hesitation, Reed located the ball in the air and executed a header that slipped past the hands of the Denver goalkeeper.

The goal, which opened the game’s scoring account, put the Bluejays up 1-0 with 10 minutes left to play. The score was also that much sweeter because it was the first goal of Reed’s college career.

“It’s the best feeling in the world,” the co-captain said of the goal. “The score, the goal to put us ahead, I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

With a 1-0 lead and victory a mere 10 minutes away, the last thing the Bluejays wanted to do was become complacent, especially against a strong Denver squad. Not only was Creighton going to remain energetic, Torres said, but they weren’t going to change any-



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

**Junior defender Matthew Reed celebrates after scoring the go-ahead goal to put the Jays up 1-0 with 10 minutes remaining in the match. The late-game score was Reed’s first goal of his college career.**

thing about the way they played the other 70 minutes of the game. That meant continuing to incorporate the high press and find more offensive opportunities.

This refusal to back down from Creighton-style soccer in crunch time paid off in the 89th minute, as Reed created another opportunity in the 18-yard box. Surrounded by three Denver defenders, Reed pushed toward the goal before threading a pass to an unmarked Miguel Arilla in the box. Arilla connected and slotted the ball into the bottom left corner, giving the Bluejays a 2-0 lead.

Arilla’s insurance goal, his third goal of 2025, put Creighton in the win column for the first time all season. For Torres, the win also demonstrated Creighton’s capacity for discipline against tough opponents.

“That’s probably our biggest takeaway outside of the three points — that’s a darn good team,” Torres said of Denver. “They’re going to get a lot of wins this year, and we showed some discipline today ... being able to hold them to zero goals.”

With one win under their belt, the Bluejays look to extend their win streak. After taking on the crosstown rival University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) for the annual Kicks for a Cure event, the Jays return to Morrison Stadium tomorrow for a contest with Oral Roberts. Kickoff tomorrow is set for 7 p.m.

## XC displays strong start in 2025 debut



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN



THOMAS HELM/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton cross country opened its 2025 season at the Platte River Rumble in Ashland, where the women placed fifth and the men finished seventh. Junior Taylor Rorick (right) led the women with a ninth-place finish in 17:44.796, while freshmen Reyna Heisserer and Atlee Wallman impressed in their debuts. On the men’s side, freshmen Owen Marett (left) clocked 18:31.654 for 23rd place and Andrew Sauer ran 18:41.712 for 29th in their first collegiate races. The Jays return to the track for the Dirksen Cross-Country Invitational in Lincoln on Sept. 20.

# Bluejays rally to tie No. 13 Arkansas



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Senior midfielder Tori Gillis (middle left) and freshman forward Jalen Chaney (middle right) celebrate with teammates after Chaney scored the second goal of the afternoon, assisted by Gillis.

### AIDAN FLAIRTY Sports Reporter

Coming off an effort in which the Bluejays went toe-to-toe with the No. 3 Duke Blue Devils on the road and lost 1-0, Creighton women’s soccer had reason to believe they could hang in with the top-ranked teams in the country despite the fact the team had a record of 1-4. This confidence was necessary when they battled against the No. 13 Arkansas Razorbacks on Sept. 5 at Morrison Stadium in the 13th annual Socctoberfest.

Arkansas came into Omaha with a record of 2-2-1, including a road victory over No. 11 BYU and a 2-2 draw against No. 2 Notre Dame. However, the Razorbacks were slightly shorthanded against Creighton as junior forward Bella Field was out with an injury. This didn’t stop Arkansas from making a strong first impression as senior forward Zoe Susi found the back of the net for the Razorbacks within the first two minutes, giving Arkansas an early 1-0 lead.

In the 12th minute, graduate student forward Ariana Mondiri attempted to tie things

up for Creighton with two shots of her own, but her first shot was saved by the Razorback goalkeeper, and her second shot went over the goal. The Bluejays continued to put pressure on Arkansas’s defense, with a shot from junior forward Mallory Connealy in the 30th minute that went left, and a shot from junior defender Savanna Solomon in the 32nd minute. However, the Bluejays were unable to answer.

In the 44th minute, the Razorbacks extended their lead with a goal from freshman forward/midfielder Natalie Wagner; Wagner rebounded her own shot after a save by senior goalkeeper Alyssa Zalac, making the score 2-0 at the half.

“In the first 43 minutes, there wasn’t a lot between the two teams other than the first and last minute. I talked to them at halftime about making sure we don’t cave,” Head Coach Jimmy Walker said. “Can we get an early goal back? And come on out and just compete.”

When down 2-0 to a highly-ranked team, it would be easy to give up on the match, but the Bluejays kept fighting.

“We weren’t giving up this time,” junior midfielder Clara Kulik said. “I feel like we’ve dropped our heads in the past, and this time we picked it up and said, ‘Yeah, we can do this.’ So we’ve got grit.”

The Bluejays scored their first goal of the match when Kulik tapped in the ball off a rebounded shot from Mondiri’s blocked attempt in the 63rd minute, cutting the deficit in half to 2-1. This goal was a significant career milestone for Kulik, her first goal as a Bluejay.

“It feels good,” Kulick said on scoring her first collegiate goal. “I’d give a shoutout to Ari[ana Mondiri] though, because she’s the one that got the header, so it was just an easy flick in right there, but ultimately it was a team effort.”

Creighton was able to continue its momentum when freshman forward Jalen Chaney headed the ball in off a perfect pass from senior Tori Gillis in the 69th minute, tying the match at two goals apiece. Soon after, Chaney managed to block the Razorback goalkeeper’s free kick and take it in for a goal in the 71st minute, giving the Bluejays their

first lead of the match at 3-2.

The Bluejays continued to battle in an attempt to secure a victory over a top-15 team, as as Zalac executed a clutch save in the 80th minute, but the Razorbacks tied things up at 3-3 in the 85th minute when senior Taylor Berman scored a goal assisted by senior defender Makenzie Malham.

Arkansas tried to regain a late lead when Wagner took a shot in the last minute, but the shot went to the top right, and the match ended in a 3-3 draw.

“That second-half performance is probably one of the best if not the best in my coaching career of a team I’ve ever coached,” Walker said. “Credit to the women, absolutely brilliant second half.”

The match was played as part of Creighton’s 13th annual Socctoberfest in front of a crowd of 3,673, which broke the program record for largest home crowd.

After taking on UNO on Wednesday, the Bluejays return to their home pitch Sunday at 12:30 p.m. to battle South Dakota.

# Volleyball fights through Cali gauntlet

## No. 13 Jays battle San Diego and UC Santa Barbara to victory, fall to USC

### SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN Assistant Sports Editor

This past weekend, the No. 13 Creighton Bluejays volleyball team took on three California teams as a part of the Trojan Invitational at the University of Southern California.

After a big win the previous weekend against Kansas, the Jays were looking to continue their success out west.

In first match of the weekend, the Bluejays faced off against San Diego in a tough match. Creighton got off to a strong start in the first set, closing it out 25-15.

The second set played out similarly, and Creighton kept the win streak going winning 25-18. But, in the third set, the Jays ran into some trouble. San Diego went on two big serving runs that the Bluejays were unable to find an answer for, and eventually lost the set 21-25.

Creighton got their game back in the fourth set with help from senior Kiara Reinhardt, who had 15 kills on the day.

“She [Kiara] brings so much to our team. She’s a leader, she’s an energy bus person for us. When she’s going, our team is going because you know you can’t get a middle going unless we’re passing well, setting well. So I

just love when we can have a middle lead our team and kill, that’s the sign of a really good match,” Head Coach Brian Rosen said.

The Jays finished the set in similar fashion to the first, 25-15, beating San Diego 3-1.

In their second match of the weekend, the Bluejays took on the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos in a five-set thriller.

“I think Santa Barbara will be a top-40 team at the end of the year, they are going to win a ton of games,” Rosen said.

While the Jays got off to a slow start in the first set, Ava Martin came out swinging. By the time the Bluejays tied the score at 6-6, Martin already had three kills on the day.

“Ava’s pretty good, I love that she got off to a three-kill start right in the beginning of the first set to give her confidence,” Rosen said.

While the Bluejays went on a four-point serving run by freshman Abbey Hayes to hold off Santa Barbara, it wasn’t enough, and the Gauchos took the opening set, 25-19.

“Abbey just came in and brought a calmness to the court. Challenged some blocks, got a couple kills for us, went on some serving runs. I love that she was kind of able to make an impact,” Rosen said.

It was a game of serves yet again in the second set, with the Bluejays coming out on top thanks to many strong serves from redshirt

freshman Nora Wurtz.

“I get a lot of questions about why I have a middle serve for a middle, but Nora Wurtz’s serve is just so impressive,” Rosen said. “It just comes at you so fast from a different angle, she hits seams so well ... She is the most feared server in our gym.”

With Wurtz’s serve combined with some strong kills from junior Eloise Brandewie, Creighton was able to take set two, 25-17.

Set three was close, but ultimately Creighton dropped it 23-25 and it all came down to the fifth set.

In the final set, redshirt sophomore Saige Damrow led the way with a couple of great digs and a serving run to start the Jays off.

“She brings a great voice to the court,” Rosen said of Damrow. “She’s always talking about what’s happening on the court, where we need to be defensively. She does a really nice job of making sure everybody’s in the right place.”

With another kill from Martin, the Bluejays ended the match with 15-10 win in the fifth set.

“[Santa Barbara] brought some different tests to us, their outsides were really good and challenged us from the pins. I loved their fight and I loved the fact that we had to play a fifth set and find a way to win,” Rosen said.

With the title of the Trojan Invitational on the line, the Bluejays faced off against the host team, No. 22 Southern California. Battling illness, Brandewie was not able to play in this match and Creighton felt the loss.

While playing tough in the first two matches, the Bluejays fell 23-25 in the first set and 22-25 in the second.

“I thought again in the first two sets we played really good volleyball. We had chances to win both of them, and got stuck in rotations and couldn’t side out at the end game,” Rosen said.

In the third set, Creighton tried to string together a couple serving runs, but it was no match for the Trojans playing on their home court. The Jays dropped the set 16-25 and lost the match 0-3.

“They’re a good blocking team, they’re super athletic, they’re big, they’re very physical. I did not think we took great swings at times. I thought we kind of gave balls to their blocks some and could have covered some more balls. I think that’s definitely an area that we’ve got to get better,” Rosen said.

The Bluejays will hit the court again for their first home match today against No.4 Louisville at D.J. Sokol Arena. The first serve is set for 8 p.m. and will air on Fox Sports 1.