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Paw-sitively retired: CU’s therapy dog ends career

GRACE UPDIKE
News Reporter

As of last week, Creighton University’s first therapy dog, Cocoa, has officially retired from her service. The chocolate lab came to Creighton nearly nine years ago in 2016. On Wednesday, she was sent off with a retirement party held on the Mall.

Cocoa’s owner, Creighton counselor Michael Kelley, Ph.D., reflected on the day he adopted Cocoa. He said that he had looked at several dogs, trying to find one that would be a good fit for the role. Immediately when he met her, he said, he knew that she was the one.

“I was looking for a dog who had was very mellow and easy going [and] obedient, and she was that at age one,” Kelley said.

After several courses, training and tests, Cocoa was ready to come to Creighton. Ever since then, she has warmed the hearts of the Creighton community with her friendly nature and love of belly rubs.

“Cocoa was so sweet, and she always brightened my day,” Pressly Schoenherr, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, said. “I loved petting her even when she slobbered on me.”

Kelley reflected on Cocoa’s impact on students’ experiences, specifically regarding Creighton’s counseling services. He said that her presence created a more welcoming atmosphere, which can encourage students to seek the counseling services they need.

“[She’s] an indirect and powerful way of saying, ‘This place is okay. We’re okay and you’re going to be okay if you come here’ ... easing the discomfort that people have about coming to a center like this,” Kelley said.

Kelley also mentioned that Cocoa made mental health resources more accessible to students by sharing advice and tips on her Instagram page through her own “voice.”

“So, students that might not be interested in hearing [advice] from us or from an adult are willing to hear good advice from Cocoa,” Kelley said.

Kelley highlighted some of Cocoa’s memorable moments at Creighton, such as the presence of her picture at graduation ceremonies.

“She just steals the show,” Kelley said.

Another light-hearted story Kelley shared was when Cocoa unexpectedly jumped on a guest’s lap at a speaker event.

“She probably weighed 75 pounds at the time ... she just jumped up in this guy’s lap,” Kelley said, laughing.

Kelley stated that although Cocoa will be dearly missed, her retirement will be much easier for her health. He mentioned she has struggled with some mobility and hearing issues, which prompted the retirement.

Cocoa’s successor, a Bernese mountain dog named Ella, has adjusted well and settled into her new role as Creighton’s therapy dog. She can be found in Creighton’s counseling services office.

Bluejays walking the Jaywalk



JONAH LAGRANGNE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The 23rd Annual Jaywalk once again brought Bluejays together to run, walk and celebrate tradition. But more than that, it’s about giving back. Every step taken supports Jesuit Academy, empowering students with a Jesuit education that shapes leaders for tomorrow.

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

Creighton University’s Student Union (CSU) hosted the 23rd annual JayWalk. Followed by a breakfast and raffle to reward participants after completing the walk, Creighton students, families and alumni raced over a mile of the campus, beginning at the St. John’s Fountain, to Morrison Stadium and crossing the finish line at the stairs of the Skutt Student Center.

“I know some students’ parents went to Creighton, but my parents didn’t. And so, they’re not super familiar with our Jesuit values or our mission. So, I think an event like this is a great way to share our mission with other people in a fun way,” Kate Ellis, the CSU executive vice president and a College of Arts and Sciences senior, said.

Though the walk serves as a time for the Bluejay community to come together, another goal is to raise money for Jesuit Academy, the university’s community partner. Jesuit Academy is an all-boys Catholic school serving minority students in Omaha, according to U.S. News.

Jesuit Academy’s director of advancement and marketing, Lauren Mohatt, said the connection between these two institutions has spanned a total of 23 years, beginning in 2002.

“We’re so grateful. That money goes to help our kids. It helps with programming, supplies, whatever we may need. So, we’re very, very thankful,” Mohatt said.

While the participants mingled over breakfast in the Skutt Lower-Level Ballroom, Ellis awarded the representatives of

Jesuit Academy with a check for \$2,320, raised through the funds generated by the JayWalk. The organization has raised over \$80,000 for Jesuit Academy through prior fundraising events and, according to Ellis, there will be additional fundraisers throughout the academic year to aid the academy.

“Last year we did those restaurant fundraisers where ... [a] percent of the purchase will go to Jesuit Academy, and so I think that’s a good way just to incorporate it all year long; so it’s not just our one event in September, but, you know, we’re thinking about them all year long,” Ellis said.

“We’re so grateful. That money goes to help our kids. It helps with programming, supplies, whatever we may need. So, we’re very, very thankful.”
-Lauren Mohatt
Jesuit Academy Director of Advancement and Marketing

With organizations like CSU continuing to fundraise for the academy, the donations will be put towards expanding the experience of its students in terms of providing various educational opportunities in both academics and in the community.

“This year we’re really working to bring

in different partners, go on field trips so that our guys can see the community, experience jobs that are out there [and do] high school tours. So, this money will probably go to just getting our kids out there in the community, seeing things and hopefully getting an idea of what they want their future to hold,” Mohatt said.

Donations were not limited to monetary gifts. Many other organizations contributed by donating raffle prizes as well.

“We are so fortunate that they [Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium] donated four daytime zoo passes for us ... we have a signed basketball from athletics and then we put together a little Creighton basket with a jersey, a couple mugs, some stickers and a couple signs,” Ellis said.

Lucy Flaata, a freshman in the Heider College of Business, won the autographed Creighton basketball after participating with her family in the morning race.

“Yeah, [I feel] super good. Me and my roommate have all the soccer decor from this season. So, we’re stocking up for basketball too. So, I’m really excited,” Flaata said.

Though she was not expecting to win the signed basketball, Flaata said she enjoyed the JayWalk because it allowed her to participate in a fundraising event while also having fun with those around her.

“Overall, I think it was a really good event. The fact that I went to a good cause ... [at] the school and then they had breakfast, which was ... kind of [my] motivation during the walk, you know. But I just think it was really good event, and the vibes were great,” Flaata said.

Introducing Fulbright to students

PARKER LUND
News Reporter

Citizen diplomacy describes the relationships between countries in terms of people-to-people connections, and it’s what Patrick McNamara, Ph.D., the executive director for the United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, spoke about in the Skutt Student Center as part of a luncheon hosted by Creighton’s Asian World Center.

The Fulbright Program is an international academic exchange program that stems from a bill introduced in 1945 by Senator J. William S. Fulbright after World War II.

“Sen. William Fulbright thought, ‘We need more people-to-people-connections, more citizen diplomacy and not just government-to-government relationships,’” McNamara said in his speech during the Sept. 10 event.

The program aims to expand the ways in which different countries relate to each other through the involvement of numerous countries across the globe.

“[There are] 150 different countries that have Fulbright programs. Most of them are run out of the U.S. Embassy. But 49 countries have Fulbright commissions,” McNamara said.

Fulbright commissions are distinct in that they are binational partnerships between the U.S. and the partner country, both aiming to further their academic relationships.

“Both countries’ interests are literally at the table,” McNamara said.

The United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission was established in 1952, and McNamara arrived on the scene as its executive director in 2024. During his lecture, he described his time as executive director as “life-transforming.”

Prior to assuming his position at Fulbright, McNamara took on other roles as

well. He was an instructor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), where he taught conflict resolution and sustainable development, two topics that lend themselves generously to citizen diplomacy. He also worked as the director of philanthropic services at the Omaha Community Foundation, a community that aims to foster connections between Omaha community leaders on a level more small-scale than international diplomacy, but still vitally important to the people of Omaha.

He also has a connection to the Creighton campus.

“He and I worked [together] for many years ... he was the former president of the Omaha World Affairs Council, and I was the co-president of the Nebraska World Affairs council. Of course, he’s a political science professor, and I’m a political science professor ... we had a lot of common interests,” Maorong Jiang, Ph.D., the director of the Asian World Center at Creighton University, said.

Both men were honored by the India Association of Nebraska for their efforts with U.S.-India relations. In fact, as part of his involvement with the Fulbright program, McNamara was a 2011 Fulbright Nehru Scholar in India, where he conducted research on water conflict, according to his UNO profile.

Water conflict – a topic that concerns disputes over water between nations, leaders and communities – is just one thing that citizen diplomacy can be applied towards. In a reflection over his colleague’s lecture, according to Jiang, citizen diplomacy is not solely defined by political relationships as business, academic and community relationships are also included within this concept.

“[They are a] less political, or new political, a political relation between countries so that people will talk face-to-face, or heart-to heart, to form a genuine friendship among

people between different countries,” Jiang said.

With the goal of strengthening their bonds internationally, these relationships are utilized by students to communicate across state borders.

“Through the Fulbright Student Scholarship, our students go to various countries – such as Sri Lanka, or a student from Sri Lanka comes to the United States. It’s a very effective form of citizen diplomacy in terms of getting to know each other and appreciating different cultures,” Jiang said.

If students are interested in the Fulbright program, studying abroad is the best step forward.

“It dips your toe in the water,” McNamara said.

Students can then then move on to apply for the postgraduate program starting in the spring before their graduation year. The deadline for 2026’s Fulbright application is Oct. 7.

McNamara maintains that every student can make an impact.

“As you think about if you are wanting to apply for a Fulbright, think about articulating how – whatever it is you that want to do – it makes America stronger, safer and more prosperous. And frankly, I think you can frame almost anything in those terms,” McNamara said.

In this same vein, McNamara discussed the idea of radical hospitality.

“Literally invite people into your home,” McNamara said. “There is something about literally breaking bread together at your dinner table that is different than meeting in a university conference room or having a beautiful meal at a restaurant ... to be able to welcome someone into your home and host them with an open mind is probably the most important way we can interact with others.”

Creighton’s CIC marks 56 years

KRISTOPHER TAYLOR
New Reporter

Since 1969, the Creighton Intercultural Center (CIC) has aimed to provide a welcoming space for students through mentorship, cultural programs and everyday support – whether it’s a quiet place to study or someone to talk to. The CIC also connects students with organizations such as the African Student Association, Hui ‘O Hawai’i and the Gender & Sexuality Alliance.

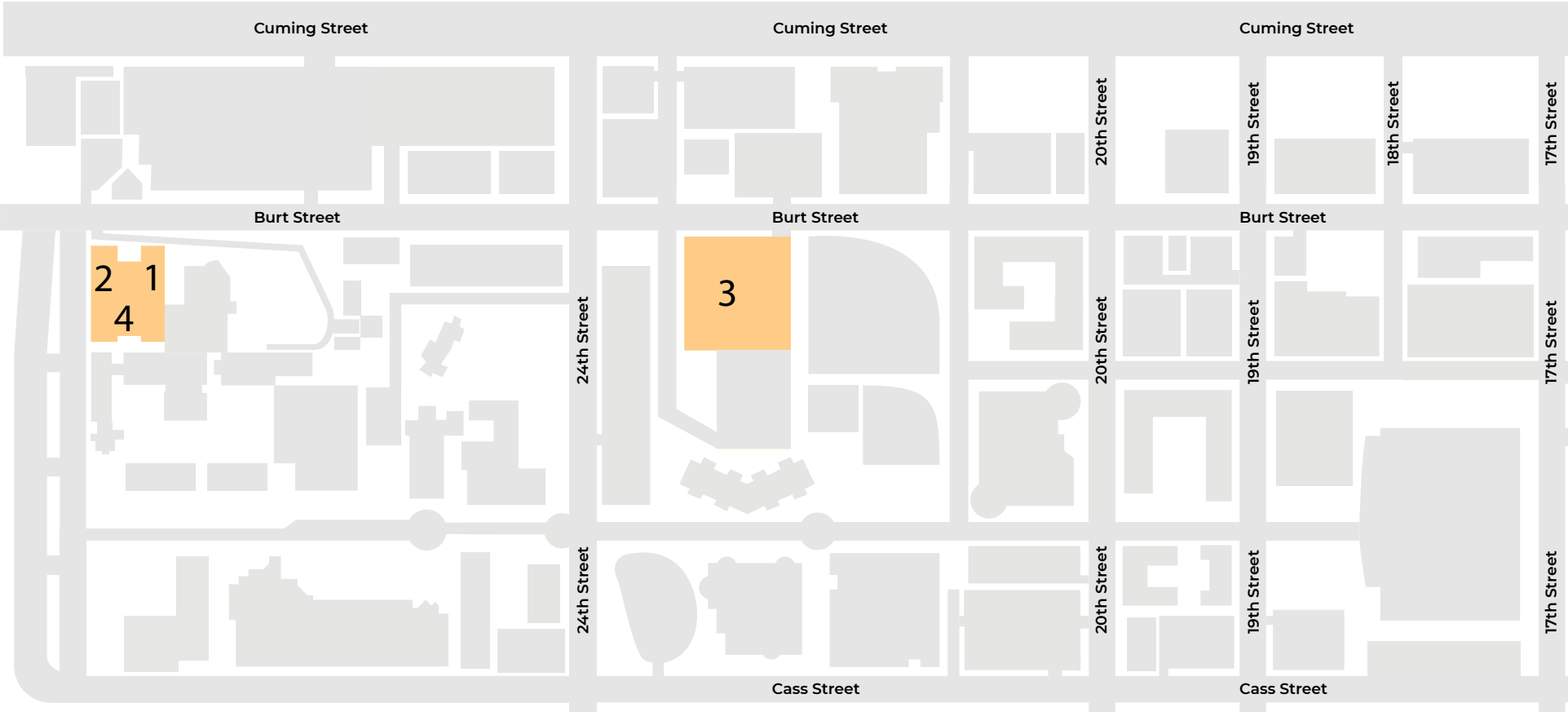
“Our desire is to keep inviting students to help us shape meaningful cultural experiences that all of Creighton can share,” Mario Alejandro, the director of the CIC, said. He succeeded Becky Nickerson, Ph.D., who now serves as Creighton’s senior director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The CIC celebrates the many identities that make up Creighton’s student body by hosting events throughout the year. Programs include LGBTQ+ History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and cultural food and art showcases.

According to Alejandro, the center was created in response to the Civil Rights Movement by Charles Rucker. It began as the Office of Minority Affairs, became the Office of Multicultural Affairs in 1994 and adopted its current name in 2016.

“What we need to do across campus is ensure that students, faculty and staff feel seen and invited to participate,” Alejandro said of the CIC’s mission.

After 56 years, the CIC remains committed to fostering belonging and hopes to continue serving Creighton for decades to come.



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 10 - 6:52 a.m.

A Creighton employee reported that a non-affiliate exposed himself while outside of the Werner Building. OPD was contacted and Public Safety issued a Notice of Ban and Bar.

2

September 11 - 9:45 a.m.

Public Safety assisted a non-affiliate recover his stolen motorcycle he tracked and found at the Werner Center loading dock. OPD was contacted.

3

September 13 - 1:45 a.m.

Public Safety and the Omaha Fire Department responded to a full red fire alarm at Graves Hall. Burnt food appeared to be the cause.

4

September 15 - 4:00 p.m.

A student at the Werner Center reported the theft of his push-powered scooter from the bike racks.

CU students address global issues



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIANG MAORONG

From the classroom to the global stage, students in Creighton's Intro to World Politics class stepped up at the Nebraska World Affairs Council's Annual Honor & Banquet, addressing state leaders, diplomats and business executives on issues like climate change and political division. Their voices reflected the heart of Jesuit education: engaging the world's toughest challenges with courage, insight and a commitment to the common good. The event showed the power of young students, like those on Creighton's campus, to voice the world's urgent need for change and action.

LILIAN GARDNER News Editor

Students from Creighton University's World Politics class, PLS 105, traded the classroom for the global stage, speaking before state leaders, international guests and business executives at the Nebraska World Affairs Council's Annual Honor & Banquet. The event, hosted on Sept. 11 at Happy Hollow Country Club in Omaha, brought together voices from across Nebraska and abroad to discuss pressing global issues.

Led by Professor Jiang Maorong, director of Creighton's Asian World Center and co-president of the Nebraska World Affairs Council, students presented on two critical themes: climate change and political division. Their speeches, delivered alongside seasoned diplomats and public officials, underscored the power of youth engagement in shaping the future.

"This was an incredible opportunity for students to practice civic engagement at a professional level," Jiang said. "The university is not enough for our students. The real world is the stage where students should be involved. That is the fundamental philosophy of Jesuit education — to get students into the real world to deal with real problems and possible solutions."

One group of Creighton students tackled the theme of political polarization in the United States. Their presentation traced the roots of division, examined modern challenges and called on leaders to amplify the voices of young people.

Weston Wise, a sophomore in the Heider College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences, situated today's political climate within a long historical arc.

"[Now that] the why and the how of the current state of the political divide in the U.S.

[have been discussed], we can first examine the founders' intent ... the 1900s in this country begin with hope as several key pieces of bipartisan legislature were passed across the aisle, such as Social Security in the '30s and Medicare and Medicaid in the '60s," Wise said. "This led to the civility and the respect in that political hemisphere."

Wise also argued that media and government power have deepened the divide in modern times.

"The horse-race style of coverage of elections incentivize flash over substance, polling and strategy over policy and impact," Wise said. "Misinformation leads to a decline in trust. A lack of trust leads to confusion. And as it's been proven time and time again, confusion leads to conflict."

Still, Wise suggested that division — while dangerous — also provides a safeguard against authoritarianism.

"Paradoxically, the very division that frustrates us just may be the last safeguard protecting us from a tyrannical minority. The burden is now in our generation ... to ensure that this divide comes with baggage of productivity and empathy," he said.

John Quinn, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences and another student in the group, delivered an emotional plea for action, tying his remarks to recent national tragedy.

"It is true to say at this moment the world has never been more intrinsically connected in the whole of human history. Yet, we have never been further apart," Quinn said. "As I'm sure all of you know, just yesterday, a political commentator was assassinated in a very public and in a very gruesome manner. All for stating his beliefs, a right that he was granted by our Constitution ... Charlie Kirk is the latest casualty of this growing and gaping chasm between us. He will not be the last if we do not act. His blood was not the first shed as a

victim of our division."

Quinn closed with a direct appeal to Nebraska leaders present in the room.

"Our voices are there. But the choice is in the hands of leaders like all of you to either ignore these rising voices or amplify them. Please, continue to amplify our voices. Help us bridge this ever-growing divide," he said.

As a young political science student, Quinn said the experience meant a lot to him.

"It's nice to actually have a forum to voice your views and needs as a member of the youth to people of actual positions of influence," Quinn said. "A lot of the time, when you do that, it just kind of feels like throwing words out into the void. But here, they listened, and that matters."

Quinn said he hoped their voices would help spark broader conversations.

"I don't think that we enacted a change, but I feel like we definitely voiced our part. We did what we could as students, as young people. It's still in their hands. So really we are limited to our voices and we made sure our voices were heard," he said.

For Maorong, the students' performance affirmed his mission to bring Creighton's Jesuit values into the global sphere.

"The students are not selfish. They want to be involved," Jiang said. "The best part of being a professor is that you connect with your students. Students can talk to you and be part of your dream. That's why I just want to create any opportunity that's available to get them involved ... so, you know, just like a normal thing, you have a kid and you want a kid to be better than you. And that's the simple logic. So, I want my student way better than me."

Jiang praised their performance, noting how quickly they rose to the occasion.

"We rehearsed only once, not even twice in class. It's just amazing. And I was so afraid

that my students make the credit on the global stage, but they performed so well," he said.

Jiang also highlighted how the event connects Nebraska with international communities. Attendees included Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen, Deputy Secretary of State Cindi Allen, the mayor of Omaha's sister city Shizuoka, Japan, and numerous business and community leaders.

"It's such a small place but connected to the great world outside," Jiang said. "And our students just performed so well. The Omaha sister city immediately wanted them to come perform in their annual event ... I plan to have this presentation again on our own campus to showcase how freshman and sophomore students care about the big things that everybody is worried about — global change, political polarization."

For both students and faculty, the banquet underscored Creighton's role in preparing students not only for careers but for citizenship. Jiang described it as part of the Jesuit mission: cultivating "moral and genuine and sincere" leaders who can engage with the world's challenges.

"Politics cannot be just a dirty part. It has to be a better part of it. And we want to use that better part to brighten the environment, the place that we all call home here," Jiang said. "Creighton stands on such a good stage that can lead and be part of the global solution to things that concern our future and our generation's future."

By the end of the night, Creighton students had not only impressed state and international leaders, but also embodied the university's commitment to being men and women for and with others.

"Even if it's in a small corner of the world like Nebraska, that's where real change starts. It starts in all the corners and then it spreads. And I feel like that's important," Jiang said.

Hypnotist topples students



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Michael C. Anthony, a hypnotist, entrances student volunteers at the Harper Auditorium. The crowd watches in amusement as volunteers are hypnotized during this Homecoming Week tradition.

BROOKE VANDERWAL Scene Reporter

Inside Harper Auditorium, Michael C. Anthony performed his third annual hypnotist show for Creighton's Homecoming Week, hosted by the Creighton Students Union (CSU) Program Board on Sept. 11.

"[The point of] organizing these fun, free events is to help undergraduate students grow their community and make new friends," Lauren Pittinger, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences and entertainment coordinator for the CSU Program Board, said.

While some students claimed they attended for extra credit in their psychology classes, most were just interested in experiencing the science of hypnotism for themselves.

"I don't believe in hypnotism, but I hope

tonight changes my mind," Sienna McClutchey, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Anthony began the show by diving straight into an amusing card trick. His pace was as quick as his wit.

When it came time for the main event, Anthony invited anyone who wanted to be hypnotized up to the stage. Many students leapt out of their seats and joined Anthony on stage, eager to lose their minds.

He began his hypnosis by asking the volunteers to close their eyes and consciously ignore distractions. He then gave them suggestions with rhythmic inflection.

The hypnotist asked them to interlock their hands and, after a time, pull them apart. Most volunteers found themselves unable to wrench their hands apart, as Anthony suggested that their hands would squeeze tighter

as they separated their arms.

During the first exercises, he weeded out the volunteers who did not appear genuinely hypnotized, until there was one for every seat across the stage.

The next hour was filled with various acts of hypnosis.

While on a mental Bahamas getaway, the temperature in the room seemed to fluctuate by the second for the volunteers. A harmless leather belt transformed into a hissing snake before the volunteers' eyes. McClutchey became a human seatbelt, encouraged to leap across as many laps as possible whenever the hypnotist said "safety." An urgent, competitive scenario threw the volunteers into a high-stakes dance-off.

"[I] liked experiencing how a hypnotist works on the unconscious mind, and seeing how the conscious mind reacts," Rose Red-

dig, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Reddig, a volunteer for the show, had the number six wiped clean from her memory because of a few counting exercises.

Mason Lytle, another freshman, was made to believe he was dancing with the most breathtaking woman he had ever seen, while engaged in a slow dance with a broom.

Throughout the performance, the audience and participants regarded Anthony with rapt attention and quiet wonder.

After the performance, Anthony shared that his uncle was a stage hypnotist, which was how he became fascinated with the craft. Although he performs across the world, from Vegas to Dubai, Anthony said he cannot wait to come back to Creighton.

Sweet treats uplift Jays at CU gathering



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

As part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, Jays line up for Carousel's Icery for a sweet treat.

JOSSY FETTE Scene Reporter

Creighton’s Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center and Student Counseling Services hosted “You Matter: A Scoop of Encouragement.” The event, hosted on Sept. 9, provided free sweet treats for Creighton students from Carousel’s Icery.

The event was put on for Suicide Prevention Awareness Week. To spread a positive message, members of the VIP Center and Student Counseling Services handed out motivational cards that included hotline numbers for the students to call.

Carousel’s Icery sells dairy-free ice that is a great ice cream substitute. The truck offered plenty of fruity flavors including cherry, mango, blue raspberry, cotton candy, watermelon and even chocolate. All of the flavors were vibrant in color and packed with flavor. The mango ice was surprisingly creamy and deliciously sweet. The cherry ice’s flavor was reminiscent of a cherry slushie, and its texture was more on the ice-y side than the mango’s.

While the ice cream was a welcome addi-

tion, other students appreciated the connections the event encouraged.

“Events like this help people to come together,” Meghan Mahoney, a freshman in the College of Nursing, said.

By having events on the Mall, students from across colleges can connect to and be in proximity with each other in an out-of-the-ordinary way, reinforcing positive energy.

On CUinvolved, the invitation reinforced that this event was meant to “serve as a reminder that you matter, you are not alone and support is always within reach.”

Additionally, “You Matter: A Scoop of Encouragement” encouraged students to learn more about the organizations that sponsored the event. The VIP Center and Student Counseling Services host other events meant to promote the wellbeing of students beyond the classroom.

“[This event is] a great way to teach people about what’s going on campus and keep it friendly and welcoming,” Erica Popp, a sophomore in the College of Arts and Sciences, said.

New talent hits Emmys

CHLOE CARRILLO Assistant Scene Editor

The Emmy Awards were a night full of record-breaking wins, powerful speeches and surprising sweeps.

Aired on Sept. 14, the two most notable wins of the night were undeniably “Adolescence” star Owen Cooper, and “Severance” supporting actor, Tramell Tillman. Cooper became the youngest male to ever win an Emmy, at just 15 years old, for his extremely emotional and raw performance in the Netflix series “Adolescence.” The story features the scary and emotional reality that child-on-child crime can cause. Tillman became the first Black man ever to win “Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series.” Both gave moving acceptance speeches, encouraging viewers.

One notable moment from the night was the recreation of the iconic “Gilmore Girls” porch for the announcement of the winner of “Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series” for the 25th anniversary of “Gilmore Girls,” with Lauren Graham (Lorelai) and Alexis Bledel (Rory) announcing the nominees.

Another shocking win of the night was Stephen Colbert’s win for “Best Talk Series,” as the series was just canceled earlier this summer. This win sparked controversy and backlash from watchers, and Colbert himself.

The winningest program of the night was comedy series “The Studio,” with 13 wins, including the wins for “Best Comedy Series”

and “Best Lead Actor in a Comedy Series” for Seth Rogen. The programs to follow were “The Penguin” with nine wins; “Adolescence,” “SNL 50” and “Severance” tied with eight; and “The Pitt,” “The Traitors” and “Andor” tied with five wins each.

While there were many happy moments that night, extremely noteworthy shows went without recognition, including “The Last of Us,” “The White Lotus,” “Nobody Wants This,” “Abbott Elementary,” “Only Murders in the Building,” “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” “Monsters: the Lyle and Erik Menendez Story” and “The Bear.” While the competition was fierce, viewers may find it shocking that the bigger names in television lost to some limited series.

It was particularly shocking that “Severance” did not win the category for “Best Drama Series” and Adam Scott from “Severance” lost his nomination for “Best Actor in a Drama Series,” based on the extreme popularity and praise the series received online.

As with all awards shows, the acceptance speeches were some of the most anticipated moments of the night. Whether it was a heartfelt and grateful response, like that of Owen Cooper, Tramell Tillman and Stephen Graham, or even an easter egg of the show by Britt Lower, no moment was wasted and the event provided entertainment for all.

September 20 Saturday

- Brandeis Kitchen Food Packaging**
11:00-11:30 AM
Brandeis Dining Hall
- Casual Gaming Afternoon**
1:00-4:00 PM
Eppley 111
- AAWD Fall Event at Ditmar’s Orchard**
10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Ditmar’s Orchard and Vineyard

September 21 Sunday

- Graves Mini Golf**
12:00-4:00 PM
Graves Hall
- Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House**
3:00-4:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House

September 22 Monday

- Green Jays Meeting**
4:00-4:45 PM
Creighton Hall 126
- Salsa Practice**
6:00-7:00 PM
Graves LL28
- CUSA Cookout**
6:00-10:00 PM
Graves Courtyard

September 23 Tuesday

- Wellfest: Creighton’s Wellness Fair**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Kiewit Fitness Center Courts 1-5
- Take a Seat, Make a Friend!**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
KFC Basketball Court
- Shoo the Flu Wellfest**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
KFC Courts
- FLP Seminar**
7:30-8:30 PM
Harper 4067

September 24 Wednesday

- Pursuing Research Through Library AI Tools**
12:00-1:00 PM
Reinert Library Upper Level Conference Room 202
- Shoo the Flu**
11:00-1:00 PM
Graves Hall L118
- Wednesdays After Class (WAC)**
1:30-3:30
The Mall
- Little Bin, Big Solution: DIY Kitchen Top Compost Bin**
1:30-3:30
The Mall

September 25 Thursday

- Shoo the Flu**
11:00 AM-1:30 PM
Werner Center 127/128
- Survivor’s Circle Support Group**
2:00-3:00 PM
VIP Center Rise Room
- Dance Jamz Class**
7:00-8:00 PM
Graves LL28
- Late Night: Lego Night**
7:00-8:30 PM
Skutt 104/105

September 26 Friday

- Fresh Fruit Friday**
1:00-2:00 PM
KFC Spine
- Shoo the Flu**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Skutt Student Center Ballroom
- All-Majors Fall Career Fair**
12:00-3:00 PM
Harper Center Ballroom

Out with the old, in with the bold

GRACE UPDIKE
Opinion Writer

In the 2010s, minimalist fashion became the standard. Since then, we have been stuck on the rule that either the top or bottom (or both) parts of an outfit need to be plain and neutral colored for the outfit to look put together. I, like many others, am guilty of this. I blame an ongoing obsession with Brandy Melville and emerging minimalist brands such as Kim Kardashian's SKIMS. In addition to this, we saw a resurgence of loyalty to this style during the clean girl aesthetic phenomenon on TikTok a few years ago.

Don't get me wrong, I still find myself stopping by the Brandy Melville table in PacSun every time I go to the mall, but I can't help but notice that there is a shift happening. We are starting to see boldness again in trendy outfits. People are once again mixing patterns, colors and styles together. To give an example of this maximalist fashion, I can't help but refer to the early 2000s queen herself, Carrie Bradshaw. If you have seen Sarah Jessica Parker's "Sex and the City" or the recent reboot "And Just Like That...", you know that Carrie is one of the greatest examples of what clashing patterns and randomness in her clothing looks like.

So, where did this shift come from? I don't

know the exact reason, but I can use another recent cultural shift to draw some conclusions.

Also beginning in the 2010s came the rise of millennial gray interior design. Interior design enthusiasts started renovating their living space into sleek, modern and neutral-colored designs. Recently, a social media mob has revolted against this change, stating that they would rather go back to the warm and vibrant styles of the 1970s, '80s, '90s and 2000s. They think that the minimalist design and over-use of neutrals create a cold and uninviting atmosphere. I believe the same principles could be applied to fashion. People are getting tired of the lack of personality in the

trending stylistic choices.

Now how do we go about embracing randomness in fashion? How do we know if a bold outfit looks good? Is there some sort of color theory to be used? Are there rules behind which patterns and textures can be mixed? Unfortunately, I do not have the secret recipe. If I did, I would be at a fashion school right now. However, I can give one helpful tip: do not be scared to try things. Next time you look at your closet, pull out two pieces that you normally would not put together and try it on. Maybe it doesn't work out, and that's okay. But every once in a while, you might just surprise yourself.

Mental health deserves attention

TOMMY CARRAUX
Opinion Writer

There are certain sets of emotions, experiences and elements of life that all human beings go through. This set of shared aspects is known as the human condition. It is this defined set of human aspects that unites humankind. Birth and death are examples of this, as well as emotions we all feel, such as love, suffering and many more.

A critical part of the human condition is the aspect of suffering or struggle.

We all struggle at some point in our lives, experiencing feelings of depression, loneliness and hopelessness. This unifying struggle has shifted over the years, as people have changed the definition of struggle.

Now, there is a different kind of struggle, one that has silently plagued humanity for centuries. It has only recently come to light as a publicly acknowledged aspect of being human.

The mental health crisis has been around for as long as humanity has existed, but it came to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic. People all over the world were united in their isolation, feelings of loneliness and mental health challenges. It seemed that for once, everyone in the world experienced this same part of the human condition simultaneously.

Somehow, even after that moment of collective unity, the mental health movement lost its momentum. Five years after the start of the pandemic, we seem to be back at square one for mental health advocacy and treatment. People turn to social media to avoid their problems. Therapists are so stigmatized that people turn to artificial intelligence for help.

We build rockets to send to space, create AI and design supercomputers that fit in our pockets. So how is it that we cannot de-stigmatize such a crucial part of being human? Are we so afraid to appear weak that we invalidate the struggles of others so we can seem strong?

When you break a bone, it is acceptable to take some time off to rest and heal. Mental health struggles don't show up on X-rays, and you don't get a cast, so no one else can see what you've gone through. However, they both deserve a high level of treatment and care because if left untreated, there can be consequences.

To ignore mental health is to downplay a critical aspect of being human. If we are ever to unite through our shared humanity, we must treat the invisible scars of the mind like their visible counterparts of the body.

Too soon to sign a lease?

CLARA JOHNSON
Opinion Writer

As the new school year settles in, freshmen, sophomores and some upperclassmen are starting to adapt to their new dorms on campus but some of us have already begun searching for a new place to live next school year.

The first week of sophomore year brought familiar faces and new schedules, and for some it also meant an immediate dive into house hunting. It seems insane to be looking into a lease for next school year already, but it's oddly necessary.

Finding a place to live off campus has its challenges. The Atlas is the favorite option for apartment living and there are other complexes nearby, but there's still plenty of time to decide on an apartment. It's the shortage of genuinely good houses in areas surrounding Creighton that forces an early search.

When looking for a house, there are many things you have to figure out; roommates, price range, how many parking spots are needed, the move-in date and neighborhood are just some of the big ones.

Choosing a new set of roommates only a few weeks after moving in can be tricky. You don't have the experience of a semester or year of living with these people, but you have to know a set number of roommates in order to narrow your house search down. Add that to the startling financial demands that come from utilities, house upkeep and rent, and tensions are high.

Sometimes, there's the pressure of moving into a house with a legacy. Sororities, fraternities, programs and older siblings are sending out their addresses and offering tours in the hopes that their house passes to someone they know.

Here's where it gets tricky. While it seems reasonable to wait until you find the perfect roommates and decide whether or not you're staying in Omaha this summer, houses are disappearing fast.

Most groups are either in the stage of lining up tours, visiting houses or getting ready to sign the lease. For those who haven't reached those phases yet, cross your fingers that someone else's plan falls apart.

Is it mind-bending that you need to be touring houses in September? Of course, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be reaching out to landlords right now.

Is it absurd that you need to be gathering the money for a security deposit? Absolutely, but your best options could slip away if you don't take action.

And is it insane that you must commit to a potential two-year lease in the fall of sophomore year? Yes. And a word of warning: your parents are going to think it's even crazier.

There are so many factors that aren't settled yet, but you have to take the leap. Mov-



ELIZABETH GRAVELINE /THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Gifford Park neighborhood is a popular option for Creighton upperclassmen. For houses like these, students must sign a lease almost a year in advance.

ing off campus is a big step, but the housing market near Creighton is competitive and narrowing fast. Gather your roommates, decide on the details, and start punching in addresses. Your future house awaits.

From consumer to creator

LAUREN MEIXNER
Opinion Writer

I was a kid with lots of hobbies. I wrote, painted, took music lessons, played volleyball and sang. You name it, I probably tried it at least once. I grew up in a family that was largely into supporting any creative whim I had. These activities helped define my identity. I wasn't just a kid, I was an athlete, a creative.

Many of these hobbies have grown up with me. I write poetry and I sing in an a-cappella group (shoutout Jaybeats here on campus!). However, what takes up most of my time, outside of work or school, is consuming media. I watch TV, scroll through TikTok and Instagram, and watch hour-long commentary videos in the background as I do any menial task.

To be transparent, I spent a total of nine hours on TikTok last week. Before I checked, I thought I spent three hours, at most. I am chronically online. Now I'm left wondering what else I could have done in those nine hours. I could've spent the time at the gym. I could've read a few self-help books. With some consistent repeated effort, I could've

written my own book.

My screen time was jarring to me. When did we start replacing hobbies with consuming other people's content? I surely can't be the only one. It is entertaining and after a long day at school, it is mindless. I use TikTok as my example here, but if social media isn't really your thing – how many hours a week are you watching TV? I might know whether someone is Team Conrad or Team Jeremiah before I know what creative pursuits they explore. So, is it true? Have we lost the art of creation?

I would like to say we haven't, at least not fully. I have friends who make music, edit videos and craft pottery. But I also have friends whose answer to the classic hobby icebreaker is "I watch TV" or "I read books." Both are perfectly fine activities, but I argue that creating something or participating in a sport fills your spirit in a way consuming media simply doesn't.

When you consume, you remain in your comfort zone. The average TV show, movie or TikTok video does not challenge you. The insight and bravery required to improve at an activity are what expand your bubble. The constant reminder you are imperfect,

and the effort it takes to repeatedly get off the ground and try again is what keeps you humble and serves as a low-stakes practice run for the times in your life when you'll make a bigger mistake.

We can't spend our free time being spectators. We have to leave our mark through the activities we do. Being reduced to a number on a view count or a like on a video is an injustice to your personhood. We only learn so much about ourselves and the world through watching and listening. True learning comes from pushing yourself further, exploring your whims and being an active participant, rather than a spectator of the ever-changing world around you.

So, I challenge you to check your screentime. Whether you're chronically online like me or you indulge in binge sessions of your favorite comfort show, identify what your biggest area of media consumption is. You may be shocked at how many hours you spend doing that. Then, this week, challenge yourself to spend at least half of that time participating in something creative or active, and see how much more fulfilled you feel at the end of the week. You might just learn something about yourself.

Jays set attendance record, fall in five



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton celebrates in the fourth set after junior middle blocker Eloise Brandewie blocks a back-row attempt from Nebraska's Harper Murray. The Bluejays finished the night with 8.5 blocks.

SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN Assistant Sports Editor

In a showcase of the strength of Nebraska volleyball in front of a new NCAA record crowd of 17,675, No. 18 Creighton came just short of securing their first ever win over rival Nebraska, falling in five sets to the No. 1 team in the nation.

“They are a phenomenal team, and the true number one team in the country right now,” Head Coach Brian Rosen said. “I’m proud of the fight, proud of the way that we showed Creighton volleyball on a national stage and continue to prove to everyone that we belong here, and that we’re as good as anyone. Now we just have to win a couple more points.”

The Jays got off to a hot start with senior setter Analea Maeder serving an ace to open the match, but momentum shifted quickly. After Creighton briefly led 7-6 behind a kill from senior middle Kiara Reinhardt, a successful Nebraska challenge allowed the Huskers to reclaim the energy and they never looked back, pulling away for a 25-17 win. Nebraska’s offense hit .306 in the frame, while Reinhardt and sophomore Jaya Johnson combined for six kills to keep Creighton close early.

The name of the game was service pressure and errors, with both teams finishing in double digits from the line. Still, Creighton steadied itself in the second set. Johnson opened with a big block to spark a 3-0 start, and the Bluejays never trailed. Junior outside hitter Destiny Ndam-Simpson delivered a crosscourt kill to push the lead to 10-7, and senior outside hitter Ava Martin added four kills in the frame.

Nebraska crept back within one at 22-21, but an ace from Ndam-Simpson and a Husker net violation sealed the 25-21 set win, the first-time all-season Nebraska failed to lead at any point in a set.

“I love the way we responded in the second set; we went back to just who we are,” Rosen said. “We are a great serving team, we got them out of system and we limited the hitters we thought we could slow down and went on some runs of our own. I thought we had a good offensive night on a really tough defense.”

Nebraska regained control in the third set, using an 11-2 run to break open an 8-7 score. Freshman Virginia Adriano was nearly unstoppable, recording seven kills on seven swings for Nebraska, and the Huskers rolled to a 25-18 win in the third set.

With the match on the line, Creighton refused to fold. Rosen made a switch in the fourth set, bringing in junior Sydney Breissinger at libero for a new look. The Jays fought through 15 ties in a back-and-forth set, highlighted by Reinhardt’s steady net play and a late push from Martin. With the crowd at full volume, freshman outside hitter Abbey Hayes added a clutch kill to keep Creighton within reach, and Martin capped the set 26-24 with her seventh kill of the frame to force

a decisive fifth.

“She [Reinhardt] has always been such a good leader for this team, but I think offensively she’s really been able to shine,” Martin said. “I’m glad that everyone else has been able to see that, because we see it in the gym every day. It helps me too because I know when we’re up there together, the block is staying home because of Kiara.”

The final set opened with promise as redshirt freshman Nora Wurtz delivered back-to-back aces for a 2-0 lead. But Nebraska’s depth showed as they responded with an 8-3 surge and stretched their advantage after switching sides. The Bluejays trailed 10-8 but could not close the gap. The match came to a close as Husker libero Olivia Mauch sprawled for a highlight-reel dig before Rebekah Allick ended it with the final kill in a 15-9 decision.

While it was technically a home game for the Bluejays, the 17,675 fans in attendance — a new NCAA indoor volleyball regular season record — created a sea of red that gave the night a neutral-site feel.

“I’m proud of the fight, proud of the way that we showed Creighton volleyball on a national stage and continue to prove to everyone that we belong here, and that we’re as good as anyone.”
-Brian Rosen
Head Coach
Volleyball

“It was really cool to see the support we got for the game. At one point one of the Nebraska girls went back to serve and it was so loud in there ... you could hear the two different chants,” Martin said. “I think it’s such a fun environment to play in, and we kept saying, win or lose, this is something really special so don’t take this moment for granted.”

Statistically, Martin paced Creighton with 17 kills while Reinhardt had one of her strongest outings as a Bluejay, hitting .526 with 11 kills and six blocks. Maeder tallied her sixth double-double of the season with 38 assists and 12 digs, and Damrow collected 14 digs. The Bluejays finished with 49 kills, seven aces, 54 digs and 8.5 blocks while hitting .173 — the best mark posted against Nebraska so far this season.

The Bluejays continue their homestand tomorrow against South Florida in the Creighton Classic before hosting Kansas in a rematch of the Opening Spike Weekend. First serve is set for 3 p.m. at D.J. Sokol Arena.



Soccer earns 4-0 win on Senior Day

AIDAN FLAIRTY
Sports Reporter

Coming off a thrilling come-from-behind victory over crosstown rival University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the Creighton women’s soccer team had some momentum going into their Senior Day match against the South Dakota Coyotes on Sunday, Sept. 14, at Morrison Stadium.

The Bluejays had a record of 2-4-1 going into the match, including a road victory over the Kansas City Roos and a draw against No.18 Arkansas at Morrison Stadium. Meanwhile, the Coyotes came into Omaha with a solid 4-1-3 record and had not lost a match since Aug. 21.

The Bluejays did not hesitate to put pressure on the Coyote defense, but their first five shots of the match were unsuccessful. However, sophomore University of Pittsburgh transfer Olivia Duray put the Bluejays on the board in the 26th minute when she recovered a deflected header from senior forward Ariana Mondiri and put it in the goal, making the score 1-0. This was Duray’s first goal of her Creighton career.

The Bluejays would then take two more shots in the first half in an effort to extend their lead before halftime. First, junior midfielder Clara Kulik took a deep shot in the 29th minute that went over the top. Second, sophomore forward Anna Bragg took a shot early in the 38th minute that was saved by the South Dakota goalkeeper. But the score stood 1-0 at the half.

“We said at halftime about the importance of getting that second goal,” Head Coach Jimmy Walker said. “We talked a little bit at halftime to the team about moving it quick up midfield.”

The Bluejays did not waste time getting things rolling in the second half. Sophomore forward Mallory Connealy headed senior defender Ella Offer’s pass to Mondiri, who scored a goal on the first shot of the second half in the 47th minute, giving the Bluejays a quick 2-0 advantage.

The Bluejays would then face a scoring drought, failing on six consecutive shots. But Creighton took control of the match when Bragg capitalized on a pass from senior forward Brynn Gardner in the 80th minute and scored her first goal of the season, giving the Bluejays a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Even with a solid lead, the Bluejays remained hungry. Creighton netted an exclamation point goal in the 89th minute when freshman defender Kennedy Moore took a pass from freshman forward Sarah Hyde and scored her first collegiate goal, making the score 4-0 late in the match.

Neither team took a shot after this goal, and the match ended as a 4-0 victory for the Bluejays.

Creighton’s defense gave South Dakota trouble all match, and the Coyotes were unable to fire a shot throughout the full 90 minutes.

Sunday’s match also marked the first time Creighton scored four goals while also shutting out their opponent since Oct. 16, 2016, against Seton Hall at Morrison Stadium.

“I just think we needed a game where we all work together. We put a full 90, together, shutout. And did it for our seniors [at] Senior Day today,” Bragg said. “I’m proud of us ... We all worked together really well today.”

Creighton’s attack on the Coyotes was balanced, with four different Bluejays scoring a goal.

“It feels great, I’m proud of everyone today, what a performance from everyone,” Bragg said. “We talked about it. We don’t have to rely on just one person, everybody on this team works so hard and everyone wants to score and you saw that today.”

Sunday’s match was Creighton’s final non-conference battle of the regular season.

“This was our last dress rehearsal going into conference play. We needed to see a complete performance and you know, get all the little details dialed in, get the defending right, get the attacking right, put a full 90 together,” Walker said. “That was the challenge we gave them and they’ve done everything spot on today from start to finish.”

Creighton’s 11 seniors were recognized for their dedication to the program before the match. The players were accompanied by their parents and given a framed jersey.

“I think that’s a good moment for all the seniors because we have a lot of seniors and graduate students,” Mondiri said. “It meant a lot to almost all the lineup team because you have a lot of seniors. So it was good for the team.”

Sunday’s victory improved Creighton’s record to 3-4-1 on the season. The Bluejays are back in action tomorrow against the No. 16 Georgetown Hoyas at Morrison Stadium for their first Big East battle of the season. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

Jays fly at home, defeat Oral Roberts for third win



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Redshirt freshman defender Brian Edelman (left) celebrates with junior defender Matthew Reed after Reed capitalized off a penalty kick to extend the lead to 2-0 in the second half. The penalty kick score was Reed’s second goal of the season.

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

On the road, when teams are contending with tough opponents, a tough schedule and tough results, joy is hard to find. But at home, embraced by faithful fans and the comfort of playing on home turf, joy is everywhere.

For Creighton men’s soccer, on the heels of three clean sheets in four matches and a three-game win streak, what’s powering the streak isn’t just tactics or talent. It’s alegría.

“We talk about playing with lots of alegría, which means joy ... we were having a hard time finding a little joy when we were on the road, [but] we definitely found a little bit of our stride,” Head Coach Johnny Torres said. “You see a lot of guys playing with joy ... so we’ve got to thank our fans for that. It’s good to be home.”

That joy was on full display on Sept. 13, as the Bluejays dominated Oral Roberts 3-0 to secure their third straight win. Three goals, three scorers and six different names on the season’s scoresheet showed just how deep and dangerous Creighton’s attack has become, with the team tallying eight goals in its last three matches.

“It’s very good to have six different guys score [this season]. We don’t have any problems as long as the team is scoring, so it’s good. We just kept trusting the process, kept doing what coach tells us to do, and we know it’s going to pay out. It’s good to start to see that come to fruition,” junior midfielder Ali Ramadan said.

True to trusting the process and watching it foster results, Ramadan was the first to find the net against the visiting Golden Eagles, opening his scoring account this season and giving the Bluejays the go-ahead goal in the 19th minute.

The sequence began with a shot from the top of the 18-yard box by junior defender Matthew Reed, a low attempt forcing the Oral Roberts goalkeeper to block it from entering the bottom left corner of the net. As the shot ricocheted off the goalkeeper’s hands, Ramadan swooped in, collapsing on goal and finishing off the rebound for a 1-0 lead.

The early goal set the tone for Creighton’s offensive onslaught in the second half, but while the stat sheet reflected the chances created in the first 45 minutes, the real story was in the relentless high press that kept Oral Roberts largely stagnant on offense. Productive offense is fueled by defensive efficiency, a principle that paid dividends for the Bluejays throughout the match.

“That’s our bread-and-butter, creating chances off the press, so it’s good to turn that into goals as well ... I’d say [the high press] was a little bit up and down, but when we got our chances, we took them well, which was good,” Ramadan said.

Creighton battled a stubborn Oral Roberts defense all half, holding a 9-4 edge in shots, but as Torres said, breaking through was tough. Yet, an early second-half goal changed everything, finally opening the seams and shifting momentum in Creighton’s favor.

Unlike their first-half go-ahead goal, which came from a

live play, the Bluejays’ next score arrived on a penalty kick. In the 51st minute, a foul in the 18-yard box set up Reed one-on-one with the Golden Eagles’ goalkeeper. Reed’s shot slipped past the netminder, extending Creighton’s lead to 2-0.

A 2-0 score may have lit up the scoreboard, but the Bluejays continued to play like the score was 0-0, constantly berating Oral Roberts’ backline and actively hunting for a high-percentage shot. The excitement and joy of attacking — the very alegría Creighton emphasized — never lessened even as the minutes ticked down on the clock.

“It’s something that we’ve challenged our guys on: get excited about running into our opponent’s box. Get excited about the possibility of scoring goals,” Torres said. “And at the end of the day, if you make a hard run into your opponent’s box and you’re not addressed with the pass, your run probably opened something for somebody else.”

This excitement about getting offensive opportunities and intentional movement to create chances flowed seamlessly into the Bluejays’ final score of the night in the 69th minute.

Breaking down the field on a through pass from fifth-year senior midfielder Luka Nedic, redshirt freshman midfielder Brady Bragg found himself in a foot race with Oral Roberts. Winning the battle, Bragg centered the pass to an awaiting sophomore forward Bautista Rossi, who tapped the ball into the net.

That goal pushed the Bluejays to a 3-0 lead, and with red-shirt freshman goalkeeper Matthew Hudson and a steady backline holding firm, Creighton maintained control until the final buzzer sounded.

The victory not only secured the Bluejays a winning record at 3-2-2 but also landed Hudson his third shutout in four games. The secret to Creighton’s recent defensive dominance wasn’t just skill or strategy — it was the mindset. Even with a young backline, the Bluejays don’t let inexperience slow them down. Instead, they let their collectiveness and hunger for a win inspire them.

“I know some of those guys didn’t finish the game, but even the guys that came on had that same hunger. We’re up 3-0, [and] we don’t care. We want that zero and that starts with everyone. I know we’re young, but I don’t think we care either,” Hudson said. “That’s a little confident, but I think it shows that we want to win no matter what. It doesn’t matter what age [we] are, we’re just going to do our own thing and play to our identity.”

Creighton’s embrace of alegría, the Bluejay style and their identity will be tested again as Big East play gets underway. Their first challenge comes against the unbeaten 3-0-2 Marquette Golden Eagles today, where the Jays will aim to turn that mentality into three points.

“These last three games have showed that if we play our identity, our style, [and] go out there and hit them hard first, they might hit us hard but we’re going to hit back harder,” Hudson said. “I think that just living with [that] inside of us and keeping that going into Big East play will hopefully keep [us] on this winning streak.”