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\$549,932 grant continues research

Neuroimmune disease research receives NIH grant funding

PARKER LUND
News Reporter

Creighton University is known for student involvement in research, and in July, a continuation grant of over half a million dollars was approved for a research lab helmed by Annemarie Shibata BS, PhD, a biology professor who's guiding research into antiviral responses in the brain, which has the potential to help with treatments for diseases like multiple sclerosis.

"We're really looking at fundamental mechanisms of antiviral responses in the brain, using a particular mouse model to address those questions, and the mouse model itself has been used extensively to try to study mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease like multiple sclerosis," Shibata explained.

She also clarified that the research that she was leading was focused on antiviral responses in general and not solely on MS treatments, in contrast to what most believe.

"It's not that there isn't relevance. The mouse model is used to study MS, but we're trying to work toward understanding whether these long non-coding RNAs are also going to be relevant for human neurodegenerative processes," Shibata continued.

The mouse model is the primary way that Shibata has been conducting the lab's research. From her description, the mouse model refers to the experiment in which two different strains of mice are introduced to an antigen, then when one mouse responds effectively, another is unable to resist demyelination and other symptoms of viral infection.

"Our grant compares those two model systems in an attempt to understand what the

differences in gene regulation during the viral infection are," Shibata explained.

The grant for the project, formally titled "Regulation of the Microglial Neuroimmune Response by Non-Coding RNAs," was renewed because of the success of the student work, according to her.

"NIH (National Institutes of Health) sees that this money is training students in the way that they would like them to be trained," Shibata relayed.

"We're really looking at fundamental mechanisms of antiviral responses in the brain, using a particular mouse model to address those questions, and the mouse model itself has been used extensively to try to study mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease like multiple sclerosis,"

**- Annemarie Shibata
Creighton Biology Professor
PHD, BS**

That's the advantage of the student-involved research labs at Creighton, she posited. The teaching obligations of the professors at Creighton mean that there's an incentive to involve students in research that matters,

and that's ultimately what leads to the approval of the R15 grant, 3 years prior to its eventual renewal.

For the students that Shibata has been working with, the research laboratory has been important for broadening their horizons and deepening their understanding of what research can do for them. One of those students, senior and psychology major Elle Stiles, said that she's interested in continuing research, even as she hopes to get into healthcare.

"I never really considered it, but it's definitely an opportunity I wouldn't immediately say no to," Stiles added.

According to Stiles, one of the major things that surprised her during her experience in undergraduate research with Shibata was how much of an impact that she had on the research.

"We have a graduate student in our lab, and he's constantly coming up with new procedures. And then some of the other undergrads are helping him. So, there's opportunities for you to contribute to new experiments that haven't been done before," Stiles said.

Despite the success of the lab, Shibata reports that it was a surprise when the grant was renewed as there was a moment in time when the grant had run out. However, her progress reports and consistent communication with the program officer and grants administrator helped renew it.

"With the change in the administration, I was really concerned about what was going to happen because they are less likely to fund research," Shibabta said.

Shibata also maintained that it's the dedication from her students that helped her stay

optimistic, and that they deserve the credit for the success of the lab. She explained that when her lab had been covered before, the students' roles would get cut from news stories too interested in the multiple MS angles of it all.

"After we were done talking [to the news crew], I was going around the lab saying, this student's doing this, the student's doing this, the student's doing this. And none of that information was put into the WOWT [story]." Shibata said.

One of her students who was interviewed by the Omaha-based news organization was Rory Petersen, a senior majoring in neuroscience. Petersen has been working with Shibata since last Halloween, and his interview was cut from WOWT's story entirely.

"Like, I think they had a misunderstanding of what exactly our research was," Petersen said.

His role in Shibata's lab is to measure the regulation of microglial cells in response to the presence of a neurological virus. His data is being used to help build an artificial intelligence that can measure the markers that they put in the mice that they've been studying.

"To do that," Petersen explained, "you have to go in and annotate exactly what's going on."

This work has helped him gain a deeper understanding of the research that's he's been doing for almost a year.

Just as Shibata highlighted the importance of her students, Petersen emphasized the importance of being a part of a research team.

"One person's success is, in a way, everybody's success," he remarked.

Billy's Business Closet opens doors for Jays

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

From Wednesday, Sept. 23, to Thursday, Sept. 24, Creighton University's Heider Business Senate, in collaboration with the university's career center, hosted their annual Billy's Business Closet in the Mike and Josie Harper Center. Aimed at providing free business attire, this pop-up was done in conjunction with the annual 2026 Creighton College Career Fair on Friday, Sept. 25.

"The reason why I founded this [closet] [was because in my freshman year, during symposium time and career fair time, there were so many freshmen that I remember that would show up in khakis and a dress shirt and not [in] a suit and a blazer. Not necessarily because they couldn't afford it, but because they didn't also have the education to know what to wear to a professional event like that," Heider College of Business and member of the Heider Business Senate senior Chaarvi



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

On Sept. 23-24, Creighton University's Heider Business Senate, in conjunction with the university's Career Center, hosted their 2026 Billy's Business Closet, offering free business attire to all.

Kone said. "It's not really from a standpoint of like, 'Oh, if you can't afford it, you can grab it.' This is for everyone. If you can afford a suit, that's awesome. But if you want another one, there's something for free. So, we really are trying to cater toward all Creighton students, all grades."

This year, the closet had a record-breaking attendance of nearly 55 visitors, with a high volume of freshmen and sophomores, browsing its selection. In addition, according to Kone, a Heider College of Business student on the pre-dental track, the closet is meant to be a resource to all Creighton students, since the Career Fair holds opportunities for all Creighton colleges. So, emails advertising the event were also sent to the undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Nursing.

"I think [the College of] Arts and Sciences students don't know [about the closet] be-

TURN TO "Donated" PAGE 3

Alumni invented Tinder feature

CU graduate helps redefine modern online dating

BRENDAN REILLY-SUAREZ
News Reporter

Swipe right to like, swipe left to deny. Simple, effective, and classic. This feature came from Tinder, the most-downloaded and most-used dating app of 2026, according to the Business of Apps website.

The swipe feature was invented by Jonathan Badeen, a Creighton graduate who earned a bachelor's in business administration as a marketing major in 2004.

“When I stepped out, the room was especially foggy. I wiped the mirror clean, but within a minute it was fogging up again. I wiped it clean a second time, only this time, I wiped it in the opposite direction...”

**-Jonathan Badeen
Tinder Co-founder
BSBA 2004**

According to the Creighton Alumni website, he graduated Cum Laude.

According to Startland, Jonathan was born

in Leawood, Kan., and a fan of the University of Kansas Jayhawks and the Kansas City Royals. Badeen not only invented one of the most major app features of the 21st century, but also is credited as an actor on IMDb, cited in small films like “Zombie Wars” (2007), short film “The Proposal” (2008), and “Elmer” (2024).

Since the invention of the swipe, the dating app scene has been revolutionized.

One Creighton student, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, “I was very excited to start using it, and it was really fun at first.”

Even other dating apps, like Bumble, use the swipe (although are planning to replace it with an AI assistant) according to Eyewitness News ABC 7.

During a December live chat on ProductHunt, Jonathan Badeen said, “From the beginning, I had a nagging desire to gamify it.” The original plan for Tinder was going to be a stack of cards made up by people’s profiles, according to the CNBC website.

“Using the buttons to move the cards felt clunky, I wanted more fluidity. Finding and selecting the appropriate button felt deliberate and sluggish, whereas in a real-world scenario, the decisions we make are quick, subconscious,” Badeen said, according to the CNBC website.

His idea for swiping came while getting out of the shower.

“When I stepped out, the room was especially foggy. I wiped the mirror clean, but

within a minute it was fogging up again. I wiped it clean a second time, only this time, I wiped it in the opposite direction. I saw a familiar face looking back at me in the clear sliver of the mirror that my hand had just ... swiped,” said Badeen according to the CNBC website.

This simple idea made in the bathroom turned out to be one of the most revolutionary ideas of the modern technological era.

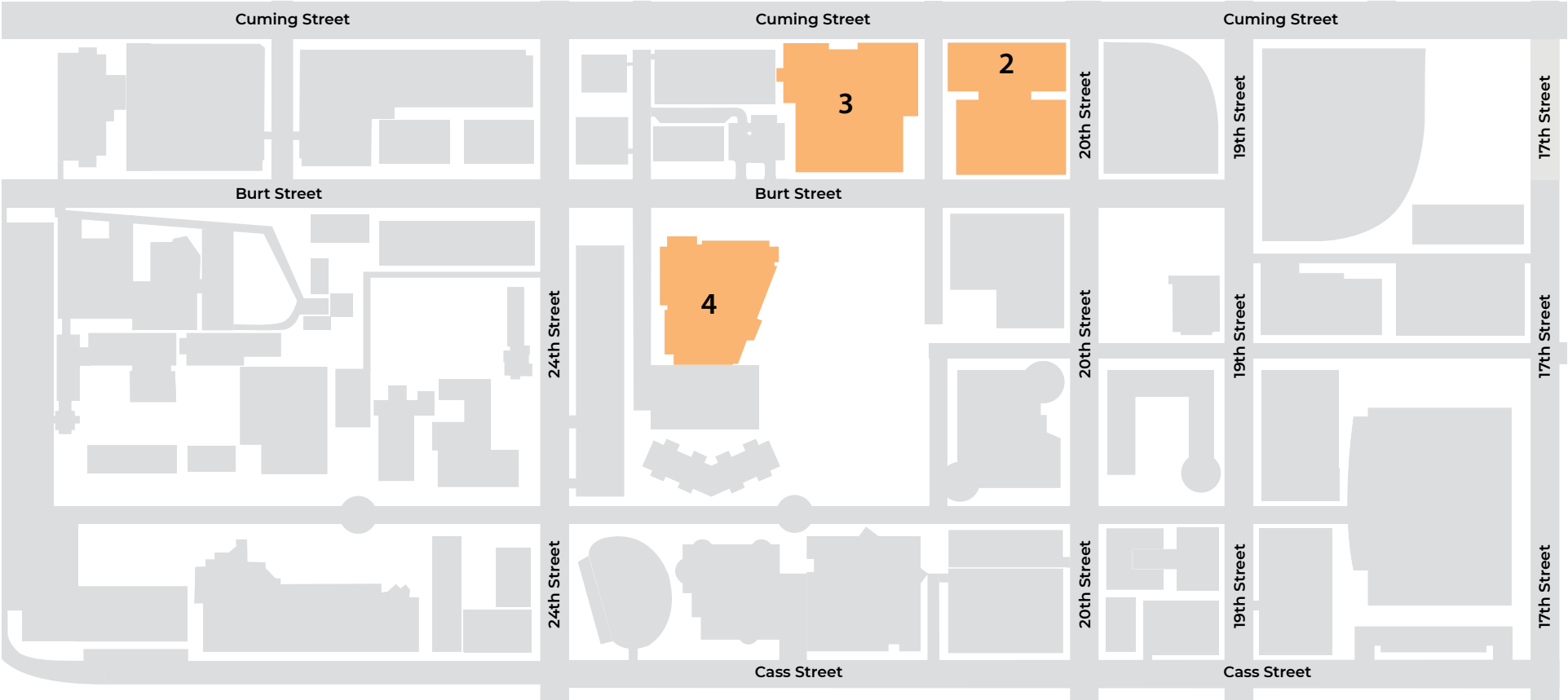
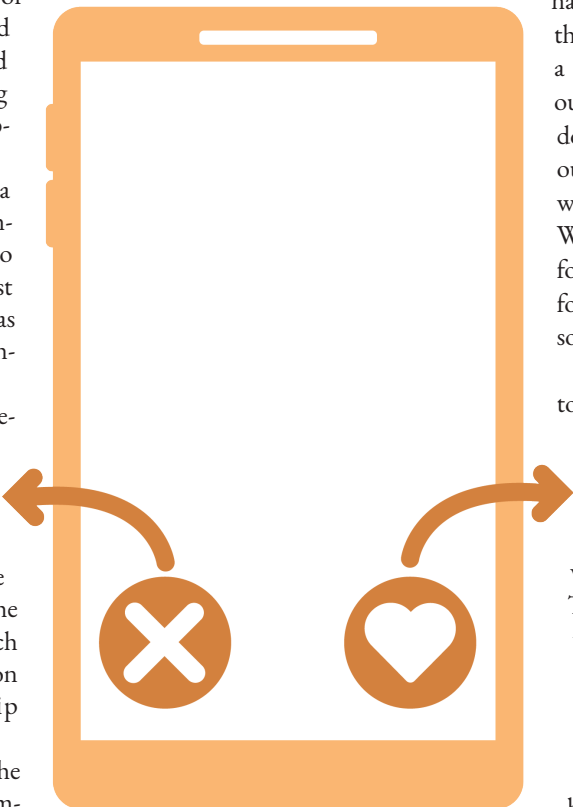
Badeen has returned to Creighton for events multiple times, being a speaker for the youth. He came back as the first judge on March 30th for Creighton Entrepreneurship Club’s JayTank.

According to the Creighton Alumni website, he also starred as a guest speaker for Professional Networking Happy Hour in Kansas City back in April, where he spoke

about his time at Creighton and his journey to success at Tinder.

During an interview with Startland News, Badeen said “People have found jobs there, [used] it as a travel app to find out what locals go do when they’re out and about, and we encourage that. We see it as a way for people to meet for a variety of reasons.”

Another Creighton student, Heider College of Business junior Isabella Flores, said when asked about Tinder, “It was very easy to use.” Also, when asked about her success with the app, Flores said, “It’s been awesome. We [Flores’ significant other and herself] have been together for one year. And it’s been great. Yeah. Tinder did well.”



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 22 - 1:22 p.m.
A campus visitor reported that a fireman was taken from her vehicle over the weekend. The vehicle was parked in several different locations including on and off campus locations.
(Not Pictured)
- 2

September 23 - 9:25 a.m.
Public Safety observed a non-affiliate urinating on the north side of Magis Hall. The individual was identified and issued a Ban & Bar.

- 3

September 24 - 11:00 a.m.
A dental student reported a shattered window at the Dental School. Facilities Management was notified of the incident.
- 4

September 27 - 10:40 p.m.
A student from Graves hall reported the theft of shoes from the laundry room after they were left in the room all day.

Donated clothing help dress for success



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Billy’s Business Closet reports a record-breaking attendance of 55 students, mainly underclassmen, who browsed through the large selection of donated men’s and women’s business attire.

Continued from Page 1

cause they’re not in those kinds of classes where you’d need that kind of stuff every day. Your average med student is in scrubs every day, but still, [to] get that job, you need a business professional outfit,” Kone said.

Adjacent to Kone’s taking notice of an absence in education on business attire, according to the career advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Nursing, Kara Dieke, the need for Billy’s Business Closet also stemmed from an old partnership the university had with a department store, which eventually fell through due to climbing prices.

“The idea for a professional clothing closet had been around for a few years before Billy’s Business Closet opened. Previously, there had been a partnership with a department store to offer students discounted professional clothing. However, that department store progressively reduced the discount to a point where it wasn’t any cheaper than other clothing options,” Dieke said via email.

In connection to the climbing prices, College of Business senior and president of the Heider Business Senate, Max Olson, saw that accessibility to these types of clothing was decreasing for students on campus.

“This is for everyone. If you can afford a suit, that’s awesome. But if you want another one, there’s something for free.”

**-Chaarvi Kone
Heider College of Business
Senior**

“I think Billy’s Business Closet serves as a foundation for equal opportunity on campus. For many, having business professional clothing that we like can be taken for granted. Unfortunately, there are many students who don’t have business professional clothing that they feel comfortable in,” Olson said via email. “As many say, ‘if you look good, you feel good, you play good.’ Throughout the creation of this event, I saw my fellow senators

identify that many students didn’t have access to the clothing they needed. Since then, I’ve watched and supported students like Chaarvi who took initiative to provide fellow Bluejays with access to comfortable, fashionable and sharp business professional clothing.”

The closet itself also addressed the need for more affordable options in women’s business attire as well.

“I also think women’s clothing attire is more expensive than it should be. Like any suit blazer these days is going to run you \$500 at least, I think, for the whole set. So, to be able to provide these clothing items for free is a really great opportunity for these students, especially women who don’t have a car and are able to try things on in the heart of campus and just makes it really convenient and affordable,” Kone said.

Through various advertisements posted in the weeks prior to the closet’s launch, Creighton parents, alumnus, professors and students all chipped in used articles of clothing to stalk the racks with a multitude of styles, colors and sizes.

“There can be many barriers to accessing affordable professional clothing. For those without a car, it can be difficult to travel to stores with professional attire. Even if students do have access to transportation, high-quality pieces can be cost prohibitive,” Dieke said via email. “Utilizing the career center and Heider Business Senate’s connections to source clothing from employers, faculty, staff and community members allows us to address these barriers. Beyond accessibility, it also contributes to Creighton’s mission of sustainability by allowing these clothes to have a second life.”

At the drive’s conclusion, remaining business pieces were given to the Creighton Sustainability Club and the Siena Francis House. According to Kone, this is not only to ensure that more individuals can benefit from the drive, but also to promote sustainability by allowing professional clothes to be made accessible to the Creighton body and the Omaha community.

“People who are experiencing homelessness might be looking for jobs and they can’t afford a suit to wear. So now they have an avenue, at least, to look slightly more professional. And it’s for free, which ... it’s really fulfilling to see them be so happy about something

as simple as clothing,” Kone said. “You really don’t know how much a difference it makes, but you put clothes on [your] body every day, and it’s just a regular old day. But for them, it really means so much more. And now they can find other avenues and find other jobs and get opportunities that they didn’t have before. So, I think that’s really our main goal; we want to support everyone in the Omaha community, Creighton students and everyone in Omaha.”

With the flow of sustainable practices running through the university and into its surrounding community through the recycling

of donated business attire, Chaarvi emphasized that the closet itself provided more than just a space for anyone in need, but a break from the academics while also preparing oneself for the future.

“It’s fun because I see all these girls that come in and they’re trying on this clothing and it kind of becomes like a shopping mall experience for them, which is fun to see. The other day on Wednesday, ... four girls came in, and they were in there for an hour just trying on different things. And it was so fun as a girlhood moment, kind of like a sisterhood vibe,” Kone said.



CU presents 'The Trojan Women'



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM WILLIAMS

Creighton Theatre's production of *The Trojan Women* explored the aftermath of the Trojan War, highlighting Hecuba and the women of Troy as they faced the loss of their families and futures.

CHLOE CARRILLO Scene Editor

From September 23-27, the Creighton Theatre Department put on their fall production "The Trojan Women," a Greek tragedy telling the story of a group of women after the Trojan War.

And a Greek Tragedy this show was. The show explored themes of grief, loss, assault and violence. While exploring heavy topics, the depiction was done with grace, elegance and what one could see was a true respect for the women being portrayed.

This Creighton theatre experience was unlike any other. Instead of the traditional theatre that students may be used to going to for past shows, students are led to a black-box type of theatre setup, walking basically straight onto the set of the show. The ground and rocks in the set are littered with the chorus women and Hecuba -- Queen of Troy (Erin White) -- scattered and laying down until the show begins.

While the lighting of the show is extremely dim as the audience enters, the set lights up and starts the performance with Poseidon (Owen Sayers), speaking to the audience about the story that would occur, and how the great city of Troy was about to be ruined forever.

The story begins with the women (played by Eva Quam, Leah McEvoy, Leila Sobhani, Laura Molina Arroyo, Amanda Seeliger and Alora Menzies) confused, worried and convinced the war was all just a bad dream, all to find out that the tragedies of the Trojan war

were a reality.

The women of Troy look to their de-throned queen, Hecuba, who can only offer the truth to the other women; that they were to be sold and married to Trojans in Greece, and to take in their last moments of their beloved home in Troy, now gone.

Conflicts in the story arise also, in the form of Helen of Troy (Julia Romero) and Cassandra (Emma Borkstrom), daughter of Hecuba. Cassandra, seemingly gone mad, is to be married to the king of Greece, and Hecuba questions why Cassandra has been cursed. Helen of Troy speaks to her own experiences, while hated by the women of Troy for her hand in their suffering and delivery to Greece.

"Often we hear of the glories of conquest, but we don't think about the survivors of it ... telling these stories is important."

**-Erin White
College of Arts and Sciences
Junior**

All while the story unfolds, the true travesties and grief are portrayed by the chorus women and Hecuba. Their story is a tale of suffering. Their grief and pain are taken out on Helen of Troy, when Hecuba orders that

the women of Troy take her and take revenge on her, only for Helen to speak that nothing they can do or say is worse than what those who control her will do to them, and her.

This tale continues with Hecuba's daughter-in-law Andromache (Annie Herfordt), who attempts to remain joyful despite her situation, and is seemingly blessed by a son in the light of her husband's death. In the beginning of her story, she talks about telling her husband's bravery to her son, and Hecuba speaks of being blessed with a grandchild. Since many of the other children in Troy have been casualties of the war, this is a true symbol and source of joy in the story.

However, this joy is short lived, as Talthybius (Jonathan Shelton), a soldier of Greece, comes to notify Andromache that her son must die, under Greek orders. Andromache gives an emotional goodbye to her child, who was such a symbol of hope and life for herself and Hecuba.

The story ends with the women going to their new lives, or lack thereof. Hecuba and the women give a passionate and grieving farewell to Troy, and just like that, the story fades into dark and is over.

Erin White, who played Hecuba, said that "it was really, really special to be able to play a role that's been a testament to the human experience and specifically the experience of women throughout thousands of years."

"The play takes place just hours after the city has been destroyed, so she's trying to grapple with those feelings and these experiences."

"Often we hear of the glories of conquest,

but we don't think about the survivors of it ... telling these stories is important," White added.

In an online interview with junior Julia Romero, who played Helen of Troy, she mentioned that "[Helen] is such a known character, but also so misunderstood ... at her core, she truly is just a pawn of the Gods, but she's blamed for everything that happens in really terrible ways."

"Portraying Helen really felt like expressing the rage and pain of every woman, and it was really powerful to do that," Romero added.

Senior Bella Loftus, the lighting designer of the show, mentioned that "it's empowering to be able to platform those [refugee] stories at Creighton University, that center around women struggling to survive."

"I really wanted to honor the work being done on stage with the lighting I did, so I really tried to isolate Hecuba or give the chorus their moments when they were speaking," Loftus said.

"They're all speaking through the trauma and the horror they're experiencing in real time ... the lighting helps you stay present and follow that emotional arc."

The dedication and emotion behind the cast and crew's portrayal of "The Trojan Women" was intentional and done with clear care and true want to share this deeply emotional story.

If you missed "The Trojan Women," stay tuned for the Creighton Fine Arts Department's other productions later this year, or attend the Spring production of "Little Women."

Brunch in the Old Market

CHARLEY HECHTL
Advertising Manager

This past weekend, my friend officially completed her first marathon at the 2026 Omaha Marathon. One of the motivators fueling her drive to the finish line? Waffles.

But not just any waffles. The Table Coffee Co.'s Waffle Charcuterie Board.

This must-try menu item features the shop's signature locally-sourced grain waffles, made with hearty oats and rich butter-milk, dusted with powdered sugar and served with your choice of delicious toppings, including fresh fruit, toasted pecans, chocolate chips and of course, real maple syrup.

For a runner facing 26.2 miles, it was a pretty good reason to keep pushing.

Located in Omaha's Historic Old Market, The Table Coffee Co. opened its doors in May 2024 and is open Monday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Table offers more than just traditional coffee shop staples. Alongside its handcrafted specialty beverages, including unique signatures such as the Tiramisu Cold Brew, and satisfying food items, this locally owned business provides an inviting and welcoming atmosphere — a place for the community to gather around the table. Or, in this case, at The Table.

Walking into The Table, it is easy to understand how the space lives up to its name. The atmosphere is warm and relaxed, making it a comfortable place to meet up with friends, grab a quick breakfast or settle in with a cup of coffee. The shop's emphasis on community also extends to students and those working remotely, with free Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB ports available throughout the space.

And, of course, I couldn't leave without trying the waffles behind the finish line incentive.

While I didn't get the Waffle Charcuterie Board, I couldn't miss the opportunity to eat the sweet, buttery waffles. I opted for the Farmers Market Skillet, a delightful medley of scrambled eggs, crispy potatoes, bacon, sausage and colorful sautéed veggies, paired with two of the power grain waffles. The waffles added a sweet, rich contrast to the savory skillet, making both a satisfying and filling breakfast. I now understand why my friend was looking forward to them after crossing the finish line.

While the waffles may be what initially caught my attention, they are far from the only option on the menu. The Table also offers items such as its Waffle Breakfast Sandwich, Table's Best Turkey and Woolworth Club, all of which incorporate its signature power grain waffles. For those looking for something lighter, the menu also includes seasonal salads and soups, along with home-made desserts.

For coffee lovers, the menu offers just as

much variety. Along with its Tiramisu Cold Brew, The Table serves specialty drinks such as the Rosemary White Mocha and Cherry Choco-Latte. Its coffee is handcrafted and made to order, giving customers plenty of options whether they prefer their drink hot, iced, blended or flavored.

With midterm exams approaching and the long-awaited Fall Break just around the corner, Creighton students have plenty on their plates — literally and figuratively. As students enter another busy period of the semester, the usual study spots, such as the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library or the Harper Center, may be overcrowded with students partaking in some last-minute cramming. With free Wi-Fi, power outlets and USB ports available, The Table offers a new space to work on assignments, study and enjoy a waffle or two. And with Creighton Days (family weekend) beginning today, The Table is a must-visit addition to your

itinerary.

For students who are tired of studying in the same four walls, a change of scenery can make a busy week feel a little more manageable. There is something about stepping away from campus — even if it is only a few blocks — that can make studying feel less like a chore. Pairing an afternoon of work with a coffee and a waffle certainly doesn't hurt, either.

The Table's location also makes it an easy stop while exploring the Old Market. Whether you are grabbing breakfast before spending the day downtown, meeting a friend for coffee or looking for somewhere to take visiting family, its location makes it a convenient addition to a weekend in Omaha.

Whether you're looking for a new favorite spot, or introducing your parents to the Old Market area, The Table is the perfect space to gather.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARI VARGAS

The Table has many breakfast options, including the waffle charcuterie board, where there are an array of toppings for the waffles on a photo-worthy platter, perfect for sharing with friends.

WRITE FOR US

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Email EDITOR@CREIGHTONIAN.COM

Friday Oct. 2

- Fresh Fruit Friday**
12:30 PM
KFC Spine
- JayWalk**
8:00 AM
Skutt Ballroom

Saturday Oct. 3

- Sophomore Excursion: Vala's Pumpkin Patch and Apple Orchard**
10:45 AM
Harper Globe

Sunday Oct. 4

- CU Project Sunshine**
3:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House Omaha

Monday Oct. 5

- Financial Forward: Financial Education Series**
5:30 PM
Harper 3048
- Letters of Love Meeting**
5:00 PM
Harper 2057/8
- WIB Fall Speaker**
6:00 PM
Harper
- Shadows General Meeting**
6:00 PM
Creighton Hall 136

Tuesday Oct. 6

- Coffee with Commuters**
8:00 AM
Skutt 104
- Retreat Center Trail Tuesdays**
9:00 AM
Creighton University Retreat Center
- Rest and Recharge Night**
6:00 PM
Skutt 104
- Anime and Japanese Culture Club Meeting**
6:30 PM
EPLY 312

Wednesday Oct. 7

- Midterm's Study Break**
11:00 AM
Reinert Memorial Library
- Wednesdays After Class**
2:00 PM
Creighton Mall
- Letters to Ancestors**
4:00 PM
CIC Social Space
- Entrepreneurship Club Meeting**
5:30 PM
Harper 2079

Thursday Oct. 8

- Blender Bike**
4:00 PM
KFC Spine
- Drop-In Spanish Tutoring and Conversation Practice**
5:00 PM
Hitchcock 111A
- Sign Language Club Meeting**
5:00 PM
Creighton Hall 331
- Calabaza's y Calsa**
6:30 PM
Creighton University
- Swing Dance Club Weekly Meeting**
6:30 PM
KFC

The danger of armchair detectives

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

Earlier this September, the Lindsay Clancy case, characterized by months of online controversy, courthouse rallies and incessant media coverage, ended in a mistrial. A lone juror prevented the jury from reaching a unanimous verdict, which would have found Clancy not guilty by reason of insanity for the murder of her three children.

The insanity defense presented by Clancy's lawyers never disputed that she had committed the crime, but instead argued Clancy was in the throes of postpartum psychosis and could not have acted with premeditated, malicious intent. Despite Clancy's own admission

of guilt, online commentators remained suspicious of the facts.

"This is why I think Patrick [Clancy] did it," said TikTok user @ja.kramer before presenting a laptop with a PowerPoint presentation. "This is all my opinion, this is all alleged. Please do not come for me. I can't afford a lawyer."

The conspiracy theories generated by true crime sleuths vary in audacity and ambition. Some claim that Clancy's ex-husband Patrick ignored the severity of Clancy's postpartum depression and was therefore equally responsible for the murders. Some go as far to claim that Patrick strangled the children himself and framed Clancy. Most accusations towards Clancy's ex-husband contain similar epithets as @ja.kramer's -- users find ways to

make sure they can't be held responsible for their opinions.

But they should be held responsible for their opinions because true crime's tendency to equate real-life suffering with hobbyist entertainment causes tangible damage. In an interview with 60 Minutes, Patrick Clancy confessed that speculation about his involvement in the case has made it difficult to be in public. In other high-publicity cases, families of victims reported severe harassment both online and in-person to US News, alleging that some perpetrators went so far as to visit the families' homes. More often than not, true crime fans reject empathy in order to sensationalize and leverage victims' situations in favor of their own narrative. They forget that, on some fundamental level, they are

discussing real people. Violence becomes tabloid fodder.

The truth behind most criminal cases, like Clancy's, is that there is no great mystery to be unraveled. There is no story behind the story. Ordinary circumstances and ordinary people produce horror at the same rate as anyone else. Once we come to terms with that, we can also understand that people like Clancy or her ex-husband aren't evil or alien. They are both deserving of empathy in their own right, but true crime narrative tries its hardest to remove any nuance in favor of witch-hunting an arbitrarily guilty party. True crime and its constituents should be held more accountable, or at the very least, less cruel.

Opinions on the Mall

"How have you been adding whimsy into your life this fall?"

**"Collecting stickers/
junk and scrapbooking
them"**

-Ainsley Smith
Assistant Opinion Editor

**"Cooking for people
and listening to Beautiful
Girls by Sean Kingston"**

-Cece Sladovnik
Opinion Editor

**"Reading more
consistently and
romanticizing the
mundane"**

-Teagan Lynch
Junior

**"Making soup with
my family and watching
Dancing with the Stars"**

-Linsey Anderson
Senior

**"Going out of my
way to try to make new
friends"**

-Mia Castro
Sophomore

**"Appreciating the
little things"**

-Tommy Carraux
Senior

**"Getting something
fun at the grocery store
every week"**

-Katie Carlson
Senior

**"Naming and taking
care of my plants like
they are my children"**

-Abby McGuire
Sophomore

It's who you know

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

When I was a freshman in my Heider classes and lectures, getting exposed to the business world for the first time, I was immediately put off by the idea of networking. I felt like I was being inundated with pressure to reach out to people I didn't know and ask them for favors. I saw it as an inauthentic practice of getting to know people just to see what they can do for me. Now, with almost four years in Creighton's business school and some job experience under my belt, I have come to a different understanding of the importance of networking.

An "I'll just do it myself" mentality is tempting for one's ego, but it is not how the world works. Everyone who has gotten to a higher position in their career got there because they made a connection or impression that led them to being recognized and brought up. No, you cannot get by on just your connections, but you also cannot get by on just your brain. Everyone at the door may be as smart or talented as you. Those you connect with are the ones who will get you the key.

Additionally, I don't want to do it by myself. Being able to learn from experienced people in my field is a gift that I don't want to shrink in favor of figuring it out on my own. It is valuable to be able to lean on your mentors when you are unsure of your next step. They can prevent you from making

mistakes they have made and help you see things differently. Especially as a woman entering the business industry, I want to keep a group of people to look up to and get advice from throughout my career. Any new place feels more comfortable and fosters success when one has a community to lean on, and a career is nothing different. Networking isn't about riding coattails; it's about gaining wisdom and support.

The word "networking" always used to garner images in my mind of stiff suits, firm handshakes and golf courses. While these are common for many business leaders now, I see a shift coming in the near future. Pickleball, pilates classes and run clubs can all be avenues for meeting and bonding with new connections. Yes, connecting with people will sometimes look like name tags and LinkedIn, but it doesn't always have to. Finding people through what you enjoy doing, in an environment where you feel comfortable to be yourself, will lead you to advice, perspectives and opportunities that match your aspirations and personality.

I encourage you to stop thinking about networking as a shallow practice people do to get ahead, and rather an act of fostering community for your future career. Reach out to Creighton alumni and ask them about their experiences post-grad. Get to know your professors and advisors. Talk to the person next to you in your workout class. Who you get to know may lead you to opportunities you would never have predicted.

Let the little expenses actually add up

LIAM SOMMERFELDT
Opinion Writer

We all have that one friend.

You go out somewhere fancy for a special occasion. You wear something nice, spend the evening preparing. You have everything planned perfectly. You finally get to the location, meet up with your friend and ...

They tell you they don't want to spend money. You need to choose a different restaurant. They make an excuse that they can't come. Worse, that they can come but they'll refuse to eat. They somehow make you the guilty party, even when you thought everybody was on the same page. If it isn't a restaurant, then it's a trip you've planned for months. If not that, then it's something else. They just refuse to spend money.

There's no shame in being down on your luck, you know that. But this person ... well, this person is always down on their luck. They are as miserable as they are miserly, and they make sure you know that.

But there's virtue in being frugal, right? Surely, it helps to pass up on the little costs here and there? You can't fault them for trying to save wherever possible ... But I'm sorry to say, it just won't do any good.

Everyone's heard the advice: "you could own a home if you didn't buy that morning coffee." It's the classic one-liner usually sprung by an older, self-proclaimed wiser person than you. But even if we skip our morning indulgences and invest in the difference, the truth is that we simply don't spend enough to make that saving worthwhile.

To make those little savings add up, you would need to contribute 20-30% of the av-

erage income amount to savings. And all that still won't come close to funding a big purchase like a house. No one spends 20% of their income on coffee; and once a year trips won't ruin your financial future.

Why do we feel like they will? Why do we think skipping minor expenses can be effective, even if we know it can't? The simple reason is that guilty pleasures, like coffee or skipping a fancy dinner, are a low barrier of entry change for our lives. When people make 3 a.m. resolutions, they don't consider long-term financial health strategies. They come up with low effort solutions, the kind that will make them feel like they're accomplishing something. It just so happens that coffee is a popular choice. But those minor changes won't have substantial return -- a cup of coffee a day won't be the difference between owning a home or not. Capitalism makes us believe that changing trivial spending habits

will somehow have a systemic impact, even when we know that realistically it cannot.

No one needs to be that friend skimping on lunch if everybody receives a fair wage. Nobody would need to pass up on a trip if everyday goods weren't so expensive. We don't need to pretend to be misers. We need to refuse to let money control our lives.

Marx tells us:

"The less you eat, drink, read books, go to the theatre, the dance hall; the less you think, love, theorize, sing, paint; the more you save -- the greater your capital ..."

"The less you are, the more you have; the less you express your own life, the greater is your alienated life -- the greater is the store of your estranged being."

Are we really going to let our frugality rule us?

Rowing opens season, bests Wildcats



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton rowers Emily Gleason, Zoey Rauterkus, Ellie Kearin, Laurel Kieffer and Summer Ryan compete in the Varsity 4 race against Kansas State on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Carter Lake in Iowa.

GRETA WALLER Assistant Sports Editor

Creighton rowing opened its season Saturday with a home regatta against Kansas State, giving the Bluejays their first chance to race another team after weeks of fall training.

The teams raced twice at Carter Lake, starting with the Varsity 4s at 10:30 a.m. Kansas State won that race by 0.45 seconds, leaving Creighton with a short lunch break before the teams returned for the Varsity 8.

“It was helpful to bring nerves down again,” senior coxswain Mariana Vasquez Rosas said. “We got to recuperate and then get back out there really focused.”

Creighton won the Varsity 8, continuing a two-year streak of victories over Kansas State in the top boat. Senior Claire Robertson has

been part of both of those wins.

“It felt like we were driving together,” Robertson said. “It felt really connected and fast.”

Robertson credited her coxswain with keeping the boat in a straight line and making strong calls throughout the race. After coming so close in the first race, Vasquez Rosas said the team was eager to get back on the water.

“I think everyone was wanting it after the outcome of the first race, so we took that as motivation and energy,” she said.

Head coach Dan Chipps said the first competition gave the team a chance to see how its fall training translated to racing.

“It was rewarding for our team to compete against another team for the first time this season,” Chipps said. “There is room for

improvement, but I’m proud of our performance and the improvements we’ve already made in the fall.”

The home course also brought friends and family out to watch. Robertson said Vasquez Rosas would call for a power-ten “to show off” when they passed the crowd.

“We wanted to show: ‘Yeah, this is what we do, every day,’” Robertson said.

The race marked another step back into competition for junior Ellie Kearin, who missed her entire sophomore season with a knee injury. She hadn’t rowed since her freshman year.

Kearin spent the time cross-training with activities including walking, kickboxing and HIIT workouts while limiting the range of motion in her knee.

“Being back and rowing with the team is

so fun,” Kearin said. “It made me realize how much you miss when you’re on the sidelines versus when you’re in the boat, you know?”

Kearin said she was surprised by how many friends came to watch her race.

“It’s great to feel so supported,” she said.

Kearin, who is from Minnesota, is looking forward to having her family at Creighton’s next race. The Bluejays will compete in the Head of the Mississippi Regatta in Minneapolis on tomorrow.

This event is a head race, with crews starting separately and racing against the clock on a course of about 3 miles. The regatta includes collegiate, high school, open and masters divisions. It will offer the Jays a chance to continue their early-season growth on a unique course.

Volleyball finds success on East Coast

DAVID LUJAN Sports Reporter

Creighton volleyball opened conference play on the road with two dominant wins against St. John’s and Seton Hall, snapping a five-match losing streak.

The weekend commenced in South Orange, N.J. with an offensively efficient three-set sweep over the Pirates, 25-19, 25-18, 25-23.

The opening set began with Creighton responding to a 5-0 Pirates run. After falling behind, junior outside hitter Trinity Shadd-Ceres delivered two kills as the Bluejays tied the set at 8-8. She continued her offensive dominance, finishing the set with six kills while hitting .625. Creighton closed out the set 25-19, hitting .333 while recording 15 kills and four errors on 33 attacks.

From there, the Bluejays’ offensive rampage continued from start to finish. After opening the second set with a 10-3 lead, the team maintained its high level of performance with a 72% sideout rate.

Junior middle blocker Ayden Ames led the team with six kills on six swings, producing a perfect 1.000 hitting percentage in the set. Head coach Brian Rosen said Ames was “manipulating the ball and putting the ball in the right spaces.”

The third set opened with a strike from the Pirates. After a close back-and-forth battle, Creighton fell behind 8-6 before Seton Hall expanded its lead with a 5-0 run, putting the

Jays behind 14-8. From there, Creighton began chipping away. The Jays’ offensive output, along with a block from senior middle blocker Eloise Brandewie and graduate setter Katie Dalton, cut the deficit to 15-12 before Seton Hall later rebuilt its lead to 18-13.

The Bluejays’ biggest turning point came with freshman defensive specialist Peyton Carlson at the service line. Creighton scored five straight points to erase the 18-13 deficit and tie the set at 18-18, including two service aces from Carlson.

“I loved how Peyton came in and made an impact,” Rosen said. “Anytime someone comes off the bench and does something like that, it’s such a spark for the entire team.”

With a new spark, Ames recorded back-to-back kills, followed by a Seton Hall attack error, tying the set at 21-21. With the set tied, the teams exchanged points before Ames delivered back-to-back kills to close out the set 25-23 and complete the Bluejays’ sweep.

Following their victory in New Jersey, the Bluejays crossed the Hudson to overcome the Red Storm in four sets, 20-25, 25-10, 25-17, 25-21.

The opening set began tied at 5-5 before St. John’s began to create separation. The Red Storm used a 5-0 run to build a 10-5 advantage, forcing Creighton to play from behind for the remainder of the set.

Despite gradually cutting the deficit to 18-15, Creighton struggled to find its offensive rhythm, recording nine kills and seven errors on 39 attacks to hit just .051 as St. John’s cap-

tured the opening set, 25-20.

Despite dropping the first set, Rosen was encouraged by the Bluejays’ momentum.

“I love that our team responded and finished that set well,” he said.

With momentum on their side, the Jays opened the second set with a 3-2 lead, which expanded following consecutive kills by Ames. The Bluejays grew their lead to 9-4 before an offensive surge fueled by three kills from Brandewie helped the Jays to a 6-0 run, pushing their advantage to 17-7 and eventually securing the set victory.

“I really like the way we responded, just the way that they competed together.”

**-Brian Rosen
Volleyball
Head Coach**

After its struggles in the opening set, Creighton increased its hitting efficiency nearly sixfold to .297 in the second, recording 14 kills and just three errors on 37 attacks. The Jays were equally effective defensively, holding St. John’s to a .000 hitting percentage while producing five team blocks.

The third set opened with St. John’s taking a 7-2 lead by capitalizing on early Creighton

errors. However, Creighton quickly orchestrated a response, scoring six consecutive points to take an 11-9 lead. From there, the Jays never trailed again. Creighton continued to expand its advantage behind a .241 hitting percentage, eventually closing out the set 25-17.

With an opportunity to close the match, Creighton carried its momentum into the fourth set and established a 4-1 advantage. Although St. John’s continued to challenge the Jays and eventually erased the early deficit, Creighton remained within striking distance with a 61% sideout rate.

The Bluejays ultimately completed the four-set victory behind an offense that had completely transformed following the opening frame. Creighton hit .297, .241 and .290 across the final three sets after hitting .051 in the first, finishing the match with 48 kills and 11 team blocks.

The Jays were “rolling,” as Rosen put it.

“We were playing really well,” he said.

Coming off a series of losses, Rosen said the team “just had to get back to ourselves and have some fun and play free.”

“I really like the way we responded, just the way that they competed together,” Rosen said. “[The weekend] was a great response for our team to get two wins in two very different ways.”

With two wins under their belt, the Jays are flying again. Creighton opens Big East play at home tonight, hosting DePaul at 6:30 p.m.

Kokoszka’s strike lifts No. 4 MSOC

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Just hours after earning a spot in the nation’s top five, the unbeaten Bluejays were suddenly staring down an upset against their crosstown rival.

The yellow cards were piling up, the intensity was rising and neither side was willing to give in. With just over 10 minutes remaining at Caniglia Field Tuesday night, No. 4 Creighton men’s soccer and Omaha were locked at 2-2 in the Dodge Street Derby.

Creighton controlled the opening stretch, weathering an early surge from the Mavericks that included a pair of critical saves from Bluejay goalkeeper Amari Thompson before responding with two goals of its own in the opening 28 minutes.

Junior Angel Lopez opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, taking a pass from freshman Jordan Igwenma along the right side before beating a defender and firing his seventh goal of the season past Omaha goalkeeper Karny Ndione.

Six minutes later, senior Matthew Reed doubled the advantage with his ninth goal of the season, tying him for second in the nation in scoring. After receiving a pass from sophomore Ayden Kokoszka, Reed sliced a shot past Ndione to give Creighton a 2-0 lead.

For a moment, it looked like the nation’s leading offense would cruise to another convincing victory, but Omaha quickly proved otherwise.

The Mavericks began to chip away at the deficit late in the first half, cutting Creighton’s lead in the 39th minute before leveling the match less than a minute before halftime. Freshman Maguire Perkins, a Gretna native, slid the ball into the net after Thompson made a diving attempt to stop a shot from Italo Jenkins. Just 71 seconds before the break, Perkins’ older brother, senior Brett Perkins, headed in the equalizer off a corner kick.

A two-goal lead had disappeared, and the match had been reset.

Omaha carried much of the possession into the second half, forcing the Bluejays to defend for extended stretches as the match

grew increasingly physical. The Mavericks finished with a 16-9 advantage in shots, while Creighton committed a season-high 21 fouls and collected seven yellow cards, compared to six fouls and four yellows for Omaha. Yet despite the pressure, neither side could find the breakthrough it needed.

Then, with just over 10 minutes remaining, Kokoszka answered the pressure with a moment of brilliance that would decide the night.

The sophomore collected the ball just inside the box on the left side, created space with a quick turn and fired toward the upper-right corner at 79:29. The shot bounced off the far post and into the net, sending the Bluejays back in front.

“That was a world-class strike,” head coach Johnny Torres said. “I think that’s one of the best goals I’ve seen this season.”

“[Kokoszka’s] always had an uncanny ability to be able to shift defenders and run with the ball. He just glides,” Torres added. “I’m a lucky coach to have a guy like that on our team.”

The Bluejays weren’t done. Just six minutes later, Omaha native Igwenma gathered his own rebound and buried the insurance goal in the 86th minute, putting the finishing touch on Creighton’s 4-2 victory over its crosstown rival.

“It’s always a big win against Omaha. Always feels good. This one feels better,” Kokoszka said.

For Omaha soccer, the night was bigger than the final score. The Dodge Street Derby brought together two of the city’s Division I programs at Caniglia Field, continuing a rivalry Creighton has not lost since 2021.

“We’re very fortunate to be in a situation where we have a local derby. To be able to treat our fans and our entire community to that is a plus,” Torres said. “We’ll keep this thing going for as long as we can. We enjoy the competition, and it’s a great way to come out and show out in front of our community.”

The victory came on the same night the Bluejays reached No. 4 in the United Soccer Coaches poll, their highest ranking since



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

A goal worth celebrating. sophomore Ayden Kokoszka’s game-winning strike for No. 4 Creighton late in the match against Omaha landed at No. 6 on SportsCenter’s Top 10 this week.

earning the No. 3 spot in November 2015. Creighton climbed three spots from No. 7 after wins at Denver and Marquette last week.

The Bluejays also finished non-conference play without a loss, moving to 10-0-2 through 12 matches. Continuing to lead the nation in total goals (39) and total assists (43), Creighton has established itself as one of the country’s most dangerous attacking teams.

“It’s a special group,” Torres said. “We set out every season to try and have the best season possible. If I told you that we were going

to be unbeaten in non-conference, I’d be a liar.”

Despite the success, Torres knows the team still has room to improve.

“These guys surprise me every day. As long as we keep our feet on the ground, and we stay hungry and humble and continue to work, I think the sky’s the limit.”

The Bluejays now turn their attention back to Big East play, returning home to Morrison Stadium tonight to face St. John’s. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.

Bluejays battle through tough week

SYDNEY FLANDREAU
Sports Reporter

Creighton women’s soccer faced a pair of tough tests this week, earning a 1-1 draw against Providence Saturday before falling to Villanova, 2-1, Wednesday at Morrison Stadium.

The Bluejays battled through a competitive 90 minutes against the Friars, responding to an early deficit with a stronger second half to earn a point in Big East play. Four days later, Creighton returned home for its inaugural Kids Day at the pitch, welcoming more than 1,100 fans before the Wildcats held on for a 2-1 victory.

Against Providence, the Friars came out with high intensity in the opening minutes, putting pressure on Creighton early. According to head coach Jimmy Walker, the Bluejays struggled to match that intensity during the first 15 minutes of the game.

“We were second-best. We were second guessing ourselves. We weren’t getting out to defend properly.”

Providence took advantage of Creighton’s slow start, earning a penalty before eventually finding the back of the net and taking a 1-0

lead. The early deficit forced the Bluejays to adjust as they worked to stay within reach of the Friars.

One of the biggest moments of the first half came from Creighton goalkeeper Morgan Paley, who made back-to-back saves during a Providence penalty kick sequence. Paley’s saves prevented the Friars from extending their lead and gave the Bluejays an opportunity to stay in the game.

“I was just doing it for my team. I tried to read her run up the best I could,” Paley said. She also explained that she was able to read the second attempt by recognizing the Providence player’s positioning. “She opened up her hips, so I knew she was going back post on the rebound.”

Walker also recognized the importance of Paley’s performance, calling the sequence a “massive moment” for the Bluejays.

While Providence controlled much of the first half, Creighton came out of halftime with a different level of energy. The Bluejays possessed the ball more effectively and put Providence under pressure.

“We were on the front foot, second half. We dominated possession second half,” Walker said.

That pressure quickly paid off. Just three minutes into the second half, senior midfielder Olivia Duray scored Creighton’s only goal of the match, tying the game at 1-1. She was assisted by sophomores Taylor Yablonski and Olivia Sides.

The goal came off a dead-ball situation, continuing Creighton’s recent success in that area of the game. Walker noted that set pieces were one of the team’s key targets heading into the match.

“The delivery’s been better,” he said. “The set pieces are going to win in those games.”

The quick response was especially important for Creighton after falling behind in the first half. Paley said coming out and tying the game early in the second half helped set the tone for the rest of the match.

“It was so important that we did it at the beginning of the half to really set the standard, especially coming from behind,” Paley said.

Creighton continued to battle for the remainder of the match, creating opportunities while trying to find a second goal. Providence also continued to look for chances, but neither team was able to break the tie.

The Bluejays’ second-half performance

was much closer to the level Walker had wanted to see from the team.

“We adjusted, and I felt we had the better play [in the] second half,” he said.

Although Creighton was unable to come away with a victory, the Bluejays earned a point against a Providence team that Walker described as a “strong, well-organized opponent.” For Creighton, the draw also showed the team’s ability to respond after a difficult opening period.

“That’s something that we don’t do very often, so to be able to do that and tie it up and get a result against a team instead of a loss is really big for us,” Paley said.

Creighton returned home Wednesday looking to build on its second-half performance against Providence, but Villanova took a 2-0 lead into halftime. Freshman Radleigh Childers scored her first Bluejay goal in the 82nd minute off a corner, but the Wildcats held on for a 2-1 victory.

Creighton will look to bounce back tomorrow when it travels to Queens, N.Y., to face St. John’s. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. CT.