

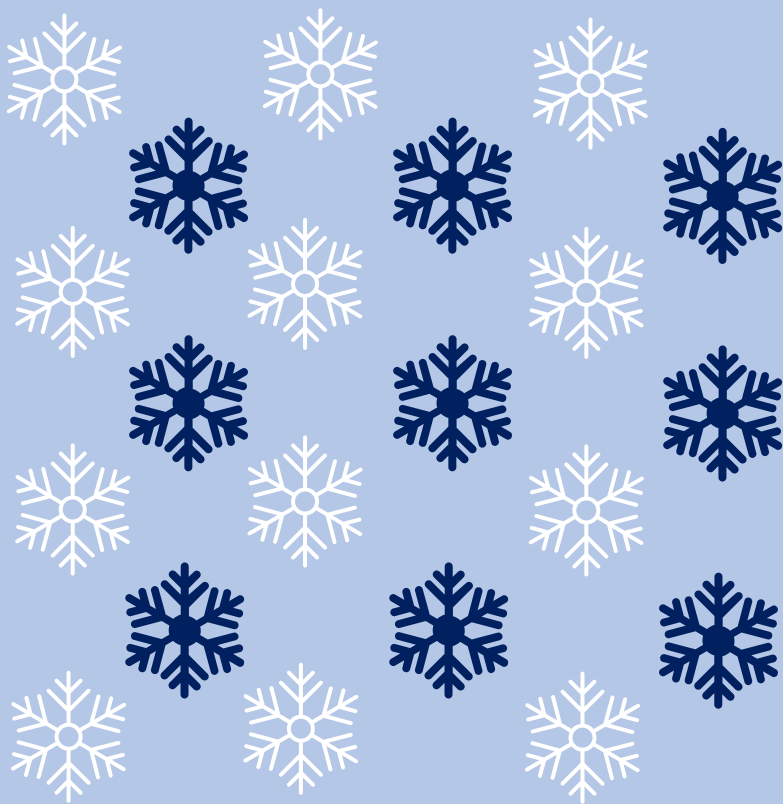


# Gatherings

*Fall / Winter 2020*

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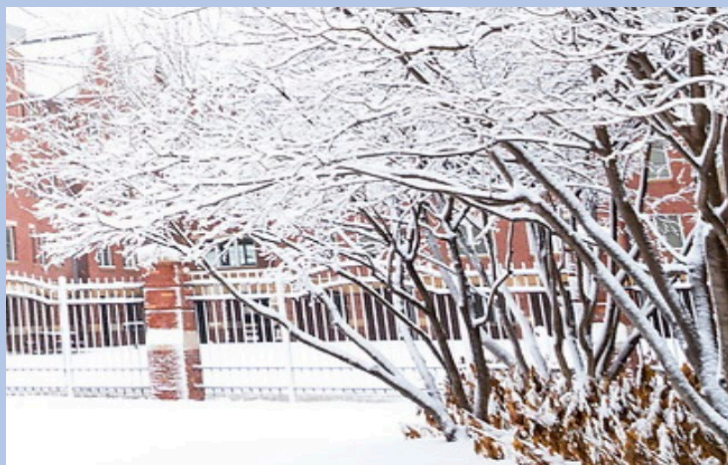
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Contributing Editors: Shelley Schafer, Dany Guerra, Cherlyn Wilson, and Kathy Craig.

## A Message from the Vice President

As we finish the Fall 2020 semester and end of the calendar year, I would like to congratulate everyone for persevering through an especially challenging time. In this year of COVID-19 and all that has accompanied it, we have all had challenges professionally and personally. But as Les Brown is quoted as saying, “the harder the battle, the sweeter the victory.”



First, let’s call out all of our sweet victories. We were able to turn on a dime and support the University’s quick response in March to becoming a 100% virtual campus. This included coordination from all groups to make sure that our students, faculty, and staff could remain productive and meeting our mission. We were able to deploy 2-factor authentication across faculty and staff, a major achievement towards our goal of securing our technology environment. We have continued to provide outstanding service in support of our users, maintaining exceptional ratings in post-support surveys and unsolicited kudos. We selected a new integration tool and deployed our first production solution. We released several huge web updates, including graduate, HR, and alumni campaign. We hired many amazing new faces across IT, and we continue to build our own skills and progress our careers. The list could go on and on.

Second, let’s look forward to our many future sweet victories. We will improve our infrastructure and systems, including a data center move, improved networking, and new storage technologies. We will deploy a new mobile student experience that will become a building block for a new digital experience for our constituents. We will continue to focus on data as an asset, both in terms of new processes, new tools, and ongoing support for standard integration. We will focus on metrics and transparency, providing our University partners with better understanding of our services. And, of course, we will support our new campus in Phoenix.

At this time of year, we look forward to being with our families. Though, recently J.D. Rummel asked me if he could take some time off to be with his wife who was asking him to help with some heavy house cleaning, including the attic and the garage, moving, and hauling stuff. I told him “we are too short handed, and you need to work.” He told me, “Thanks, Russ, I knew I could count on you!”

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a well-deserved time away from work. Let’s all come back reenergized and recharged – 2020 is almost over!

**Russ**





## Promotions

- **Derek Horton** – IT Manager
- **Rick Longmeyer** – Sr. CSA
- **Don Hoffman** – IT Manager
- **Mark Ramet** – IT Manager
- **Tim Farkas** – IT Manager, Support
- **Isaac Inkabi** - Sr Client Support Analyst

## 2020 Service Milestones

Congratulate your colleagues on reaching these impressive milestones at Creighton.

### 5 Years

Robert Aki  
Bryan Bowen  
Michael Merritt  
David Ramcharan

### 10 Years

Kathy Craig  
Mark Mongar  
Nick Stankus

### 15 Years

Christopher Erisson

### 20 Years

Matt Andersen

### 25 Years

Rob Wisler

### 30 Years

Terry Begley  
JD Rummel

### 40 Years

Barb Stephens

## IT Outstanding Service Awards

Awards presented at the November 10th Town Hall were:

**Individual Contributor:** Chuck Lenosky

**Team:** *COVID Reporting & Support Team*

- Cat Nakayenga
- Chuck Lenosky
- Tabitha Weyer
- Alex Baker
- Derek Horton
- Susan Hicks
- Nick Stankus
- Mark Panning





## Virtual Escape Room

In 2020, with COVID-19, creating an escape room to educate students on cyber security risks became more of a challenge. After discussion and research, it was decided that in conjunction with IT Communications, the Radlab would develop a virtual escape room.

Chad Bocker created a 3D animated, lip-synced avatar to serve as the guide. Dany Guerra, intern for IT Communications, helped with the script and recorded the avatar's voice. Cat Palmer and Sarah Eulie, Radlab interns, took 360-degree photos of a Creighton dorm room. Having never used it before, Sarah learned how to effectively use Captivate and some of its new capabilities to put together the 360 environment with a series of challenges that participants must complete to escape the virtual world.

Those taking part in the activity worked in groups through Zoom to complete the adventure. Although originally targeted for students, the activity was also available to faculty and staff.

This activity not only works for a cyber security escape room but serves as a model for possible course activities with activities based on other topics.

## Welcome New Employees

- **Patrick Jankowski:** is the new Firewall Engineer. He comes to us with many years of firewall experience with companies like National Indemnity, Mutual of Omaha, and most recently NTT Security. His idduxw is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Old Gym.
- **Ganesh Biswa:** is our newest CSA team member. Ganesh was born in Jhapa, Nepal, arriving in the US with his family in 2013. He graduated from Central High School and received the Thompson Buffet scholarship. He is attending UNO with a focus on MIS with a minor in Cybersecurity and Business.
- **Bill Shelton:** joined the Service Operations team as a Senior System Administrator. He has been providing Linux and Windows server support at Iowa Western College since 1996 and calls Minden, Iowa home.
- **Matt Crowl:** has joined the MyIT Health Science team working in the School of Dentistry. Matt started his tech support career in the late 90's, with a few years of research and marketing along the way. He has lived in Omaha for over 20 years but was born and raised in Southeast Iowa.
- **Scott Taylor:** joined the department of IT as the Assistant Vice President. He comes with a special focus on deploying enterprise systems and spurring innovation.
- **Josh Minarick:** has moved from a contracted developer to a full-time employee. He comes from QC Supply, where he launched the company's intranet on Drupal 8. He brings experience with PHP, HTML 5, CSS, JavaScript, and MS SQL. He graduated from Wayne State College with a major in computer information systems.
- **Dana Perkins-Richardson:** joined the team as Assistant Director of Web Development. She has 25+ years of IT experience and a BA in Computer Science from UNO. Reporting to her will be the Web Devs - Max McCoy, Harry Slaughter III, Abe Coleman, Josh Minarick and contractor Norah Medlin.

Health Sciences Multicultural and Community Affairs (HS-MACA) and the Center for Promoting Health and Health Equity (CPHHE) sponsored their second hackathon. Student groups of three students each developed proposals on how technology could be used to address public health problems related to mental health disparities. These groups submitted abstracts that were used to select qualified applicants for the hackathon. The selected groups consisted of college students at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels as well as one high school group.

With the pandemic, it was decided that the two-day hackathon would be conducted virtually through Zoom where participants could collaborate with each other and consult with mentors in breakout rooms, and present their proposals to the judges, mentors, and other participants.

Judging also occurred through Zoom as well as presentation of awards. A rubric was used to judge the ideas from each group with scoring guidelines of 40% on public health impact, 20% on business potential, 20% on innovation and ambition, 10% on quality including user interface, and 10% on presentation.

The Radlab was asked to participate in the Hackathon as they had in the previous one. In addition to attending meetings and providing support, Mark Panning and Kathy Craig served as two of the five mentors with Cat Nakayenga (a former Radlab intern) serving as one of the remaining mentors. Shelley Schafer, Strategic IT Communications Lead for the Division, served as one of the judges.

The high school student group won first place with their Brightside app.

## Training Recognition

### ITIL Foundations

- Dennis Lane
- Alex Baker
- Gaurav Gupta
- Heather Franz
- Ravi Rajagopal
- Russ Pearlman
- John Rokes
- Matt Crowl
- Ganesh Biswa
- Bill Shelton
- Noah Mahlberg

### Rick Longmeyer

- ACMT Mac Service Certification

### Matt Crowl

- CompTia Cysa+ Certification







## Editors Corner

Having visited my office only three times since March, I took a special note this last time I was there. On the wall of my cubical is a dusty calendar that still says March 2020. The picture says "Journey: The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having



new eyes." The journey this year has been hard. We've watched as the world has been ravaged by a pandemic, while our country has struggled with civil unrest, and as our economy falters. Some friends and family are no longer with us.

So how would new eyes see this journey differently? We produced a vaccine in record time. We had the largest turn out for a presidential election in history. We kept working and teaching. We celebrated the sacrifices of others who keep us safe. We leaned on each other a little more. We hugged our families a little tighter. I left to work from home on March 13<sup>th</sup>, but I still had work. Others have not been as fortunate.

So, as we move into the holidays and the new year, let's count our blessings and not our misfortunes. Be safe and God bless.

-Shelley

## The 2020 Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, 2020's still here,  
The governor's locked us at some kind of "tier";  
Only ten people can gather, that's fine,  
Eight reindeer plus Santa will only be nine.  
Should we hang stockings, or should we hang masks?

We've cleaned all the doorknobs, (if anyone asks),  
Disinfected the light switches, pencils and phones,  
And I now feel like Lysol resides in my bones.  
When Santa comes, should we leave him a snack?  
You see, outdoor seating is something we lack.  
If he takes the cookies with him tonight,  
We shouldn't get busted (I'm hoping I'm right).  
And though I'm just joking and having some fun,  
The vaccines are coming, humanity's won.  
So, with worries small and blessings plenty,  
Merry Christmas to all, goodbye 2020.

By Steve Mathias (Letter to the Editor, Quad City Gazette)

