Deans Of The Creighton School Of Medicine

1892-1896 – Patrick S. Keogh, M.D.
1896 (Acting); 1897-1900; 1901-1913 – Dewitt Clinton Bryant, M.D., F.A.C.S.
1900-1901 – John Prentiss Lord, M.D., F.A.C.S.
1913-1915 – Archibald Lawrence Muirhead, M.D.
1915-1916 – Robert Retzer, M.D.
1916-1918 – James Ross Clemens, B.M., B.Ch., F.R.C.S.
1918-1932 – Herman von W. Schulte, M.D.
1933-1939 – Bryan Michael Riley, M.D., F.A.C.P.
1939-1945 – Charles Martel Wilhelm, M.D.
1946-1951 – Percy J. Carroll, M.D., F.A.C.S.
1951-1959 – Frederick George Gillick, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Patrick S. Keogh, 1892-1896

Very little is recorded of the life of the first dean of the Creighton Medical College. Dr. Keogh was a well-known and respected physician of his time, however, and a staff member of St. Joseph’s Hospital. As such, he was among the small group called to meet with John A. Creighton and the President of Creighton University in the spring of 1892 to help determine the feasibility of establishing the John A. Creighton College of Medicine.

During Dr. Keogh’s tenure as the first dean of the new Medical College, in 1894, the College expanded its medical course to four years, the first school west of the Mississippi to do so. After leaving the office of dean in 1896, it is known that he practiced in Salt Lake City until his death in 1924. Dr. Keogh was the father of Frank S. Keogh, prominent Omaha businessman, who was President of the Paxton and Gallagher Company in Omaha.

Dewitt Clinton Bryant

Acting Dean 1896
Dean 1897-1900; 1901-1913

Dr. Bryant was born in Lorain County, Ohio, on June 3, 1849, in moderate circumstances. His father, David Bryant, was a farmer and merchant. Dr. Bryant received his undergraduate education at Oberlin
College, Oberlin, Ohio, and his M.D. from the medical department of Wooster University in Cleveland in 1875. He worked his way through both institutions by teaching school. Also in 1875 he married Sophronia Peckham of Chatham, Ohio. Dr. Bryant first practiced medicine as a general practitioner at North Riggeville, a small community in northern Ohio, for a period of six years. He then made the decision to specialize in diseases of the eye and ear, spending the next two-and-a-half years in New York and London studying in this field. In 1884 he returned to Omaha and established a busy practice in ophthalmology and otolaryngology. In the spring of 1892, he was one of the small group of medical men who met with John Creighton to organize the John A. Creighton Medical College. At the school's opening, he served as Secretary, under Dean Patrick Keogh, from 1892-1896. After Keogh's departure, Bryant became Acting Dean, then Dean in 1897. Except for a brief period between 1900 and 1901, he was Dean until early in 1913. For his entire tenure at Creighton from 1892 to 1913, he was the Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology (at times combined with Otolaryngology). Dr. Bryant resigned in 1913 to devote more time to private practice. He moved to Chremont, California, where he remained in active practice until his death on June 30, 1940, at age ninety-one.

During Dr. Bryant's tenure as Dean, remarkable progress was made at the new John A. Creighton Medical College. The school established itself in its new building on 14th & Davenport Streets, and many growing pains of the school were handled. By all accounts, Dr. Bryant was regarded with respect and affection by colleagues and students alike, being given the nickname “Daddy” Bryant. Fr. Michael Dowling, President of Creighton University, had this to say of him:

For years, Dr. DeWitt C. Bryant was the soul of the Creighton Medical College. His ability as an executive, his skill as an organizer, his deep knowledge of human nature and keen insight into character, his acknowledged power as a leader, his recognized standing in his profession—all contributed to make him an indispensable factor and an assured success as Dean of Creighton Medical College. His pleasant smile, his genial manners, his unaffected simplicity had an irresistible charm; he was ever affable and accessible; in the darkest days, when the future of the College was most doubtful, he was calm and imperturbable, cheerful and full of hope. He was dear to all, professors and students alike, and all had confidence in him, because he knew when to be firm and when to relax, and at no time was he unwilling to listen calmly and decide justly, and if necessary, to pour oil on the troubled waters. . . . Dr. Bryant was a man in a thousand.

Dr. Bryant was fond of hunting and fishing, and was an extensive world traveler. In his capacity as Dean of the Creighton College of Medicine, he was Chief of the Medical and Surgical staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was President of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society in 1888, President of the Nebraska State Medical Association in 1913 and Secretary of the American Academy of Railway Surgeons. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Missouri Valley Medical Society and the Pan-American Medical Congress. He was also one of the original organizers of the American College of Surgeons.
John Prentiss Lord, 1900-1901

Dean for a brief period between the first and second terms of Dr. DeWitt Clinton Bryant was Dr. John Prentiss Lord. Dr. Lord was born on April 17, 1860, in Dixon, Illinois. After three years of study, he graduated with an M.D. from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1882. His first practice was a general one in Creston, Illinois, from 1882-1886. Here he married Minnie L. Swingley on October 20, 1886, with whom he had two children, a son and a daughter.

In 1886 Dr. Lord did postgraduate study at the New York Post-Graduate College, after which he moved to Omaha. Dr. Lord was a member of the original faculty of the newly established John A. Creighton Medical College and Chairman of the Anatomy Department from 1892-1893. Having decided to specialize in surgery, he became Associate Professor of Surgery and attending surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1893. In 1898 he became Professor of Surgery, a position he retained until 1913. At that time, having further decided to limit his surgical interest to orthopedics and given that the Creighton College of Medicine had no Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Dr. Lord took the position of Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the Nebraska University College of Medicine. At the time of his death on March 3, 1940, at Coral Gables, Florida, he still held the rank of Professor Emeritus of Orthopedic Surgery at the University.

Dr. Lord was one of the chief organizers and later Surgeon-in-Chief of the Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln from 1905-1917. At that time he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and served at Ft. Riley, Kansas, as Chief Instructor in Military Orthopedic Surgery. He was Orthopedic Surgeon to St. Catherine's, Lord Lister, Clarkson, University and Methodist Hospitals, and Consulting Orthopedic Surgeon for the Convalescent Home for Crippled Children.

Dr. Lord was extremely active in organized medical and civic activities. He was President of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society in 1899, of the Western Surgical Association in 1910, of the Nebraska State Medical Association also in 1910, of the Missouri Valley Medical Association in 1915, of the Central States Orthopedic Club in 1916, of the Sioux Valley Medical Association in 1921 and of the Omaha Mid-West Clinical Society in 1935. He was chairman of the orthopedic section of the American Medical Association in 1930-31, trustee of Doane College and the Omaha University, and a director of the YMCA. In addition he held memberships in many and varied professional associations, including the American Orthopedic Association, the Rochester Surgeons Club and the Elkhorn Valley Medical Association. He was an organizer of the American College of Surgeons. He also published a great deal in medical literature. For relaxation, he and his wife traveled the world extensively.

In February 1938 the Dr. J.P. Lord Elementary School was opened in the basement of the old Field Club School. This was a school for children with handicaps of a severe orthopedic and mental nature. In 1957 this school, named in honor of Dr. Lord, moved to its present facilities at 530 South 44th Street in Omaha. Dr. Lord, whose early years in Omaha were spent at the Creighton College of Medicine, made a lasting mark on the community which he had adopted as his own.
Archibald Lawrence Muirhead, 1913-1915

Dr. Archibald L. Muirhead was considered by many to have shown "great heroism in the interest of medical service." While dying of Addison's Disease, to which he succumbed at the age of fifty-seven on April 17, 1921, Dr. Muirhead assisted the Mayo Clinic in first diagnosing his case, and then in determining a treatment for future patients so afflicted. The treatment became known as The Muirhead Regime for Addison's Disease. A medical historian explains: "The principle of the treatment Muirhead mapped out, too late for his own use, is the frequent administration of adrenal hypodermically and by rectum and of the whole gland or suprarenal cortex by mouth to the point of tolerance." Dr. Muirhead published his case history and observations in the Journal of the American Medical Association. He concluded:

Although the writer is the patient, he believes that observations made by a physician who is also a teacher of pharmacology will be of greater value to those who have patients with Addison's disease under their care, than would the usual observations.

After Dr. Muirhead's death, Dr. L.G. Rowntree of the Mayo Clinic continued to use the Muirhead Regime and published several articles concerning its effectiveness in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Archibald Lawrence Muirhead was born on September 30, 1884, at McIntyre, Ontario. He regularly attended a country log cabin school until the age of thirteen. He was able to attend sporadically only, having to drop out for months at a time to help his family with farm labor. At age nineteen, he started high school in Collingwood, Ontario, working his way as a public school teacher in northern Michigan. Following this, he pursued a medical education at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1892. (Some sources give 1893 or 1894 as the date of his M.D.)

Dr. Muirhead practiced medicine in Michigan for several years, in addition to acting as an Instructor in Pharmacology for three years at his alma mater. On leaving Michigan for Nebraska, he practiced in Hemingford, Lyons, Winside and Central City, Nebraska, before moving to Omaha in 1904. At that time he became Professor of Pharmacology at the Creighton College of Medicine, a position he held until his death. He chaired the Department of Pharmacology (sometimes combined with Physiology) from 1913-1921. He became Superintendent of the school's Dispensary Clinic, and later Vice Dean.

As Dean from January 1913 until September 1915, Dr. Muirhead had to face the difficult task of bringing the Creighton College of Medicine up to the more exacting standards of the Flexner Era. Under his leadership, Creighton changed its entry requirements in 1914 to one year of college-level work. Dr. Muirhead also instituted and headed a new medical research society at the school in 1913 and began an enlargement of the medical library facilities in the same year. He resigned the deanship in 1915 to devote more time to teaching and heading the Department of Physiology.
In other areas, Dr. Muirhead served on the State Medical Examining Board of Nebraska for six years. For eight years he was the editor of The Western Medical Review. He also published widely in professional journals and authored Materia Medica for Nurses, a textbook for nurses’ training published in 1919.

Robert Retzer, 1915-1916

Very little is known of the life of Dr. Robert Retzer. He was hired to replace Dr. A.L. Muirhead, who had retired to devote himself full time to teaching. It is known that Dr. Retzer was a graduate of the University of Leipzig. He taught four years at Johns Hopkins Medical School, two years at the University of Minnesota Medical School and four years at the University of Chicago. His special area of expertise was Anatomy. When he came to Creighton, he was put in charge of the Anatomical Laboratories and taught Anatomy in addition to his duties as Dean.

Robert Retzer, Dean 1915-1916

James Ross Clemens, 1916-1918

Again, little is known of the life of Dr. James R. Clemens. Born in 1866, he took his undergraduate and medical degrees abroad, from the University of London. He was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Before coming to the Deanship of Creighton College of Medicine in September 1916 at age fifty, he was Professor of Pediatrics at St. Louis University School of Medicine.

After becoming Dean at Creighton, Dr. Clemens initiated a thorough reorganization of the school. Partly in response to the Flexner Report of 1910, and partly to win and keep proper accreditation from the American Association of Medical Colleges, this “house cleaning” touched many aspects of the school. New equipment, expanded facilities, more faculty members, remodeled labs, changes in the curriculum and the new clinical clerkship system—all of these were a part of Dr. Retzer’s reorganization. After less than two years, ill health forced him to resign as Dean in July 1918. He then returned to St. Louis.

Herman von Wechlinger Schulte, 1918-1932

Dr. Herman von Wechlinger Schulte, perhaps the most colorful Dean ever to administer the Creighton School of Medicine, was born on August 9, 1876, in Utica, New York. He was the son of an Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. Bernard von W. Schulte, who desired that his son follow in his footsteps to pursue
a clerical career. His mother, Julia Low Nelson, had different aspirations for her son, however, and it was at his mother's wish that young Herman pursued a liberal and classical education, but one which eventually led to a career in medicine.

At age twelve Herman entered a select prep school, St. Paul's in Concord, New Hampshire, where he was among the class leaders and received a gold medal for the highest grade in English. He then attended Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, where, among other activities, he was literary editor of the Trinity Tablet. He received his B.A. degree from Trinity in 1897, valedictorian of his class. He went on to receive his M.D. with highest honors from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. While at Columbia, he won several cash prizes in competitive exams for medical students.

The years 1902 to 1904 found the young Dr. von Schulte serving an internship at Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, after which he journeyed to the University of Berlin twice to pursue specialized studies in Anatomy. In 1904, he joined the faculty of the Department of Anatomy at his alma mater, Columbia. He progressed in rapid order from Demonstrator to Adjunct Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and full Professor. A colleague of Dr. von Schulte's at Creighton, Dr. Francis Heagey, who had also been a colleague at Columbia with him, noted:

To the medical students at Columbia Dr. Schulte was by far the most eminent, the most cultured and the most democratic of all the men who served at the time in the capacity of either professor or instructor. His lectures were finished products. His ability to use both hands in drawing was a never ceasing wonder to the students and to his associates. His mere appearance in the dissecting room or a visit to his office was not without its impression on the student. As to his associates, they delighted in the discussions that he would lead by the hour, not only on matters of anatomical significance, but of clinical and of economical importance in themselves and to the profession.

While at Columbia, Dr. von Schulte was also active in research, earning a reputation in particular for anatomical studies on the vascular system.

In September 1917 Dr. von Schulte accepted an offer to come to the Creighton College of Medicine as Professor of Anatomy with administrative responsibilities as Junior Dean. This was a decision which surprised many of his New York colleagues. After the resignation of Dean Clemens, Dr. von Schulte was made Dean of the Medical College in July 1918.

The von Schulte years at Creighton were years of growth and progress for the College. As an administrator, Dr. von Schulte used more "hands on" technique than had most Deans up to that time. He also continued in his capacity as Professor of Anatomy. By all accounts, Dr. von Schulte was a brilliant lecturer and has been referred to as a born teacher. Dr. Morris Blacker (M.D. 1934), a student of von Schulte's, recalled that more than once students were on their feet in spontaneous applause at the close of one of his lectures. Dr. von Schulte was repeatedly voted the most popular member of the faculty, despite the fact that students were somewhat intimidated by his aristocratic carriage and impressive scientific reputation.
There was so much more, however, to Dr. von Schulte than his administrative savvy and brilliance as an anatomist and teacher. Perhaps it was all of these other facets of his life that enabled him to bring so very much to his service at Creighton. Dr. von Schulte was a Renaissance man, with interests, avocations and capabilities in diverse areas. A former student, one of his eulogists, noted:

The many facets of his splendid character make it impossible to characterize his life and career even in the pithest of phrases. To describe him adequately one must paint into the composite picture the scholar, the scientist, the civic leader, the humanitarian, the gentleman who was the symbol of culture in the best and highest sense of the word. This method alone will portray Dr. Schulte as he stood out in his own world.\(^1\)

Dr. von Schulte was an avid reader, having a personal library started at the age of sixteen. He read everything, from Greek and Latin classics (in the original) to current fiction, history, philosophy, sociology and scientific works. Some of his favorites were Plato, Huxley, Kant and Samuel Butler. He was a linguist, speaking and reading not only Greek and Latin but also French, German and Italian. He read and quoted poetry at great length. Another former student, Eugene F. Noonan (M.D. 1917), recalled him saying, “When I feel blue, I take up a book on Anatomy and the mood vanishes.” \(^1\)

Dr. von Schulte loved classical music, but according to a tongue-in-cheek local newspaper biography published when Dr. von Schulte was Dean, he hated jazz. The article noted that Dr. von Schulte was amazed that jazz “doesn’t do as much harm as it psychologically should. The sensitive listener should be prompted to ‘orgies and adventure,’ he declares.” It goes on to say that he felt jazz orchestras should be banned from restaurants and tea rooms. \(^1\) Dr. von Schulte was also outspoken in his belief that men should be more involved in the arts and civic arts projects. According to Dr. D. Arnold Dowell (M.D. 1931), Dr. von Schulte “was a cultured gentleman. He could go out and talk to a group of women about Grecian art just as fluently as he could teach us Anatomy. He was an impressive man.” \(^\) Dr. von Schulte kept up his active anatomical research, which comprised such diverse subjects as the venous system of marsupials, the development of the neuraxis, hepatic circulation, histogenesis of the salivary glands and the embryology of whales. He published extensively in such diverse journals as *The American Journal of Anatomy, Anatomical Record, Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Association of American Men’s Club Quarterly and Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences.* Von Schulte’s hobby was preparing a comparative anatomy for the American Museum of Natural History of the okapi, an African beast that may have been the basis of the unicorn of fable. Von Schulte owned several skulls and the world’s only known fetus of the okapi, an animal which was described at the time as having the head and horns of a giraffe, the stature of a mule, ears of a donkey, hindquarters of an antelope, leg stripes of a zebra and hair almost purplish. \(^\)

Dr. von Schulte’s offices and organizational affiliations were amazingly extensive. For eight years, he was Director of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, part of this time serving as Chairman of its Health Committee and counselor to the Women’s Division of the Chamber. For nine years he acted as a trustee of the Omaha Orthopedic Society. He was a member of the Advisory Council of the Omaha-
Deans Of The Creighton School Of Medicine

Douglas County Medical Society, the Executive Committee of the Association of American Anatomists, and the Omaha Library Board, the latter for three years. He served as President, at various points in his career, of the Omaha Professional Men’s Club, the University Club, the Omaha Art Institute, the Nebraska State Anatomical Board, the Nebraska Writers’ Guild, the Nebraska Academy of Science and the Omaha Council of Social Agencies. He served as Vice President of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Nebraska State Conference for Social Work and was a fellow in the New York Zoological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was an appointee to the Omaha Mayor’s Commission for Communicable Diseases, Secretary to the Omaha World Court Committee, a member of the Public School Lunch and Milk Fund, and a trustee of the Society for the Relief of the Disabled. In addition, he served as a lecturer for the Episcopalian Diocesan Conference of Nebraska and the Omaha School Forum, as an arbitrator in a wage scale dispute between Omaha newspapers and the Typographical Union, and as a Lt. Colonel in the Army Medical Reserves for General Hospital #55. Finally, he served as the chairman of the Nebraska Review of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection.22

Dr. von Schulte’s personal life was, by all accounts, tranquil and very happy. He married Susan Augusta Embury, a woman who shared his many interests, in New York City on September 11, 1907. They had no children. Dr. von Schulte’s chief domestic avocation was gardening, which he used as a safety valve to release the pressures of his many responsibilities.

Students and colleagues who came in contact with Dr. von Schulte were awed and very positively impressed with him. Dr. Morris Blacker (M.D. 1934) shared this story of Dr. von Schulte in his eulogy of him:

Indignant at the low mark he had received, a student decided to lodge his complaint with the dean. On entering the office he began without preamble. “Dr. Schulte, I took my examination in anatomy with seventy other students. They cheated, and passed; I was honest and flunked. How about it; is it fair?” Without the slightest hesitation and in the quietest of tones, the dean replied: “Well, my boy, you received an honest grade.” There was little more to be said.23

Dr. Kenneth L. Roper (M.D. 1921) remembered:

Dr. Hermann von W. Schulte . . . was a masterful teacher, who limited his lectures to the head and neck, leaving the remainder of the didactic lectures and supervision in the dissecting room to Prof. Eben J. Carey . . . Toward the end of our freshman year in medical school each student was given an appointment to meet with Dr. Von Schulte in his office for an oral examination. I went well prepared to describe the temporal bone – his favorite. My first and only question was “Puh, tell me what you know about the petrous portion of the temporal bone.”24

When Dr. John Sheehan came to Creighton in 1930 as a Professor of Biology, Dr. von Schulte conversed with him briefly about where he was from, what field in particular he was working in, and so forth. Dr. Sheehan went on for some time about
his work on the development of the heart. About a week later, Dr. Sheehan picked up a book and found that Dr. von Schulte had written an entire chapter on the development of the heart. After this he would tease: “Been working on the development of the heart lately, Dr. Sheehan?”

Dr. James F. Kennedy (M.D. 1935) shared his memories of Dean von Schulte:

Dr. H. von W. Schulte was Dean when our class entered. He was greatly admired and loved by students and faculty and had a prestigious academic background. The most memorable contacts with him were the talks he gave entering freshmen on study and living habits. I particularly recall his emphasis on proper ventilation in one’s sleeping quarters, and often wondered if this had some connection with his own ailment of asthma and emphysema. Memorable too were the lectures given in the late afternoon by Dr. Schulte. These usually concerned some aspect of skull anatomy and were accompanied by blackboard drawings, done with both hands simultaneously, demonstrating the fine points of anatomy as well as artistic ability. Learning of Dr. Schulte’s death during the summer of 1932 was an emotional blow of considerable magnitude.

As alluded to by Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Herman von W. Schulte died of an acute heart attack at his home, 406 South 40th Street, on July 13, 1932 at the age of fifty-five. He had been ill immediately prior to this for several weeks with a gallbladder infection, but for a number of years prior to this had suffered from poor health, with asthma, intermittent cardiac disturbances and acute emphysema. Dr. Clarence S. Moran (M.D. 1928), among others, recalled that Dr. von Schulte was a constant cigarette smoker, despite his emphysema, which became so extreme that he could not walk up and down the stairs of the Medical School building.

This difficulty created a problem for Dr. von Schulte, as there was no elevator to the third floor, where he lectured. Dr. W. Riley Kovar (M.D. 1935) related the solution arrived at by Dr. von Schulte:

One experience that I cherish regarding the medical school is that I was able to become well acquainted with Dean von Schulte during my freshman year. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar. At that time he was not in the best of health. If I recall he was suffering with asthma and/or emphysema. His office was on the ground floor of the medical school north wing, and the classroom in which he lectured was on the top floor. He had extreme difficulty in breathing even when just sitting in a chair and there was no way that he was able to climb the long stairway up to the classroom. Unfortunately there was no elevator in the north wing.

He had to be carried up the stairway to the top floor classroom. A special chair was constructed for him to sit in. The chair had two strong wooden extensions from both sides, constructed in such a way as to enable two persons, one on either side, to latch on to and ascend with the Dean in the chair safely to the top floor. Dr. Clarence Hartmann and myself were appointed to perform this honorable task.
During the summer vacation, I received in the mail a book from the Dean, entitled *The History of Medicine.* His autograph ended with a "thank you for helping me climb the stairs of knowledge."29

Dr. Morris Blacker (M.D. 1934), in his eulogy of Dr. von Schulte, pointed out that he knew his health was slipping and for several years had approached Creighton authorities about the prospect of retiring from his duties as Dean. Until the spring of 1932, they had always convinced him to stay on "just one more year." According to Dr. Blacker, Dr. von Schulte had now made up his mind, this time, to devote himself to a myriad of other projects he had had in mind for a long time—travel and a book on Anatomy, among other things. Dr. von Schulte never got the chance to pursue these interests. As Dr. Blacker said, "When the end came on July 13, 1932, few could believe it, much less realize it, although they had seen him failing visibly for long, long months."28 After a funeral at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, he was buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Many tributes were paid Dr. von Schulte. On September 25, 1932, at 9:30 A.M., the entire Medical School observed complete silence for two minutes in respect to his memory.22 In 1933 the Omaha Council of Social Agencies started a library of books on social welfare work in memory of Dr. von Schulte, who had been the Council's President.22 Also in 1933 Mrs. von Schulte, who survived her husband until 1948, donated his scientific library to the School of Medicine as a memorial to him. His library consisted of over 2,000 volumes, primarily on Anatomy but including volumes on general medicine, surgery, general science, the social sciences and philosophy. It also included lecture notes and several valuable sixteenth and seventeenth century books.23

Dr. von Schulte was extensively praised by local newspapers, political leaders and professional organizations. *The Omaha Bee-News* called him "a civic asset to Omaha."24 The Mayor, Richard L. Metalffe, said of Dr. von Schulte, "He was a wonderful man, a splendid educator, and beyond all that, a soul so full of loving kindness that he drew all men to him. We shall miss him."25 The President of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Walter L. Pierpont, stated, "He was broadminded, of wide cultured attainments, and was always ready to aid in any way in the upbuilding of the city. As dean of the Creighton medical school, he made it one of the outstanding medical schools in the country."26

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**Bryan Michael Riley, 1933-1939**

Following Dr. von Schulte's death in 1932, the Rev. John J. McInerny, S.J., Regent of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing, was appointed Acting Dean. Details of his life are provided in the chapter on the Regents of the School of Medicine. It is noted that upon Father McInerny's appointment, implementation of the major duties of the Dean's office was handled with the assistance of two other key figures within the School of Medicine. Dr. Bryan M. Riley became chairman of the Board of the School of Medicine and had charge of all affairs.
relating to the clinical years of study. Dr. Herbert “Pop” Gerald had charge of affairs relating to the pre-clinical years.37

Dr. Riley became Dean in his own right in September 1933. Although there is no published record of this fact, many first-hand sources indicate that Dean Riley as a part-time Dean was not truly involved in the day-to-day affairs of the School and did not choose to play such a forceful role as Dr. von Schulte. It is from this point forward that Miss Pauline Cranney, officially the Secretary to the Dean, became much more than a Secretary.

Bryan Michael Riley was born on February 7, 1874, in Dawson, Nebraska. After graduating from Dawson High School, he entered St. Mary’s College, St. Mary’s, Kansas, from which he received an A.B. degree in 1896. In college he not only earned high grades but played fullback on the varsity football team for four years. He also taught boxing.38

Dr. Riley came to study at the Creighton College of Medicine and distinguished himself by his diligence. He received the Hamilton Medal for proficiency in Surgical Pathology in 1899 and received his M.D. in 1900 as valedictorian of his class. He spent the year following graduation interning at St. Joseph’s Hospital, then entered private practice with a certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Riley joined the faculty of the Creighton College of Medicine in 1903 as an Instructor in Medicine, in 1907 becoming an Associate Professor of Medicine and in 1909 a Professor of Medicine and Clinical Medicine. From 1917 until 1933 he acted as Chairman of the Department of Medicine. For this period he was also a member of the Administrative Board of the College of Medicine and served as its Secretary. In addition, from 1921 to 1933, he served as the Director of the Medical Department at St. Joseph’s Hospital.39

Dr. Riley was a popular figure in Omaha medical circles. In 1932 he was elected President of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society. He was medical examiner of the Knights of Columbus in Omaha, a fellow in the American College of Physicians,40 and recipient of the Gold and Diamond Key, the highest honor of Phi Rho Sigma medical fraternity, at a banquet in his honor in 1933.41 In 1938 he was elected President of the Omaha Mid-West Clinical Society. Dr. Riley was also a Major in the Army Medical Officers’ Reserve Corps, having volunteered for duty in World War I, but due to his “essential occupation,” was retained on the medical school staff.42

Dr. Herman von Schulte was a difficult act to follow, so by comparison it may seem that the six-year part-time Deanship of Dr. Riley was uneventful and static. Yet it must be remembered that during Dr. Riley’s tenure, the Depression was raging, and more than a few medical schools across the country became bankrupt and closed their doors. The Creighton School of Medicine under Dr. Riley not only managed to survive, but at the close of his Deanship, a new addition to the School of Medicine building was initiated. While Dr. Riley may have lacked the forceful, charismatic personality and national reputation of a Herman von Schulte, he served the School of Medicine well.

In 1939 it was decided that a full-time Dean was necessary if the School of Medicine wished to advance into the future. According to Father Zuercher, President of Creighton University:
The volume of work which is under the dean's supervision made it imperative to employ a full-time official for the post. Since Dr. Riley decided to continue with his practice, he relinquished the position but will remain on the medical school faculty.

In 1939, Dr. Riley was made Professor Emeritus of Medicine, one of the first times, if not the first, the title was conferred by the School of Medicine. He continued to teach and practice medicine for many years following this. On April 19, 1954, following a short illness, Dr. Riley died at the age of eighty. He had never married.

Charles Martel Wilhelmj, 1939-1948

The need for a full-time Dean in 1939 led to the selection of Dr. Charles M. Wilhelmj to fill that position. One source, a 1939 medical graduate who later came to know Dr. Wilhelmj quite well, indicated that it was with much reluctance that he accepted the position. He much preferred teaching and research to administrative chores. But a Dean was needed, so Dr. Wilhelmj sacrificed his personal desires and did his best to accommodate.

Charles M. Wilhelmj came from a family of physicians. His grandfather, Charles August Wilhelmj, came from Germany to St. Louis, Illinois, in 1896 and followed the new family tradition of entering the medical profession. Dr. Wilhelmj attended the St. Louis University College of Arts and School of Medicine from 1916 to 1922, receiving both a B.S. and an M.D. in 1922. The final four years of that time he also served as a teaching fellow in Anatomy. In 1923 he earned his M.S. in Anatomy. He then spent a two-year internship at the Jewish Hospital of St. Louis, returning to his alma mater in 1924 as an Instructor in Bacteriology and Immunology. In 1925 he was appointed to a two-year fellowship in Medicine at the Mayo Foundation. Upon the completion of his fellowship in 1927, he served for three years on the permanent staff of the Mayo Foundation as Director of the Division of Experimental Surgery and Pathology. He also concurrently acted as an Instructor in Physiology at the University of Minnesota.

In 1930 Dr. Wilhelmj came to the Creighton School of Medicine as Professor of Physiology. When he became Dean in September 1939, he considered it a full-time administrative position. But during World War II, due to the shortage of teachers at the School of Medicine, he continued teaching as well. While Dean, Dr. Wilhelmj helped the School of Medicine to weather the fast-paced World War II years and to emerge strong and unified.

In 1948 a new position, that of Director of Research, was created, reflecting the increase of research activities at medical schools nationwide and the new priority given that activity within academic medicine. Dr. Charles Wilhelmj was the first Creighton faculty member appointed to this new position. He also retained the title of Professor of Physiology. In 1958 Dr. Wilhelmj was named Chairman of an all-
University Committee on Research, which acted as a clearing house for research plans and research grants.48 Throughout his tenure at Creighton, Dr. Wilhelmj continued his much loved research on various phases of metabolism, thyroid gland diseases, physiology, gastric ulcers, and on the cardiovascular system. Dr. D. E. Baca (M.D. 1939) pointed out a little-known fact: it was here at Creighton under Dr. Wilhelmj's leadership that the corroborative research studies on Dr. Branstad's work on the vagus nerve and vagotomy were done.49 In the late 1940's and 1950's he researched an animal model of stress-induced hypertension that closely resembles human essential hypertension.

Besides administrative, teaching and research activities, Dr. Wilhelmj found time for organized medical groups and for writing and publishing. He founded the History of Sciences Section of the Nebraska Academy of Science. He also founded the Caducean Society, a student organization devoted to study of the history of medicine. He was President of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society, active in the Nebraska Heart Association, and an active member of various scientific and professional societies including Sigma Xi research fraternity, Alpha Omega Alpha national honorary medical fraternity, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Physiological Society.50 During World War II, he served as Chief of Emergency Medical Services in the Office of Civilian Defense and was, in 1945, an appointive member of the committee that reorganized the City of Omaha Health Department.51 Dr. Wilhelmj published over eighty articles in professional journals detailing his research, and at the end of his life co-authored the well-received monograph, Dietary Neural Factors in Hypertension. His accomplishments are all the more impressive when one considers the severe health problems reported to have plagued Dr. Wilhelmj for many years prior to his death. He died of a heart attack on November 25, 1963, at the age of sixty-six. He was survived by a son, Dr. Charles M. Wilhelmj, Jr., who was a 1956 School of Medicine graduate and the fourth-generation physician in the Wilhelmj family.52

In his personal life, Dr. Wilhelmj liked hunting and fishing, gardening and light reading, especially biographies. His favorite pastime was listening to classical music, and he had a collection of records numbering in the hundreds.53 Dr. Wilhelmj was honored by a banquet in December 1951, at which he was presented with a gold watch from the St. Joseph Hospital staff. It was engraved with the Creighton University coat of arms and the words "In appreciation - for many years of loyal and devoted service to Creighton University."54 He was also honored by Creighton University in 1959 and again in October 1962.55 Students and colleagues remember Dr. Wilhelmj with respect and admiration. Dr. D.E. Baca (M.D. 1939) said that Dr. Wilhelmj could be "short fused" and was "not cut out to be a Dean," since he was totally honest in his feelings and couldn't sugarcoat things. He "called a spade a spade, and let the chips fly where they may."56 As a teacher, Dr. Wilhelmj was considered brilliant. Dr. John William Vincent (M.D. 1944) recalled that "there was none who impressed me more than Chas. Wilhelmj. He knew his Physiology and how to intimidate students to study."57 Dr. Gerald J. Spothman (M.D. 1960) shared similar sentiments:

I will never forget Dr. Wilhelmj's teaching us the history of medicine. He was a tremendous speaker and spoke with no notes. Very few
of us attended his class because it was elective, but he was one of the most dynamic teachers I have ever listened to.59

Dr. Richard O'Brien (M.D. 1960) recalled a specific lecture which illustrates the drama and intensity that Dr. Wilhelmj injected into his teaching. Dr. O'Brien recalled that Dr. Wilhelmj always gave extremely dramatic lectures, with much arm waving and modulation of his voice, from low and quiet to extremely loud, for emphasis. Once when lecturing on thyroid physiology, Dr. Wilhelmj worked himself up overcretinism and told the class, "Anytime you see a cretin child, that is the equivalent of the sign of the red hand of neglect on the white coat of some physician!" He said this with emphasis and anger.60

Finally, Dr. J. Whitney Kelley (M.D. 1934) said of Dr. Wilhelmj: "He took things systematically and in a very, very organized way. And if you didn't understand it, you were not very bright!"61

Percy J. Carroll, 1948-1951

Dr. Percy J. Carroll, our Dean from September 1948 until September 1951, was also Brigadier General Percy Carroll and had a remarkable military career. We are indebted to a graduate, Thomas F. Egan (M.D. 1951), for providing us with much of the information about him. Dr. Carroll grew up in East St. Louis and graduated from the St. Louis University Medical School in 1914. In 1915 he was commissioned a First Lt. in the Army and first saw action in 1916 during the Mexican border disturbances. He rode with General John J. Pershing in his attempt to capture Pancho Villa. When we entered World War I, he was sent to France with the Fourth Division Engineers. In 1919 he returned to the United States as Chief of the Neuro-Surgery Section of the First General Hospital at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. Before returning to St. Louis in 1922 to become Post Surgeon at Jefferson Barracks, he spent two years in the Philippines as Chief of the Surgical Service.

Between 1925 and 1930, he served as a Professor of Military Science and Tactics and Instructor in Hygiene at St. Louis University. For the next five years, he was shifted from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., to the position of Post Surgeon at Ft. Dux, New Jersey, to a post in China. In 1940 he was sent to the Philippines to take charge of Sternberg General Hospital in Manila. He was Colonel Carroll in those days and still in charge of the hospital when Pearl Harbor was bombed and the Philippines invaded; shortly thereafter.62

By December 31, 1941, MacArthur had withdrawn his troops to the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor Island, leaving his sick and wounded in Manila which he had then declared an open city. Presumably they would await capture by the Japanese. Fortunately, on the same day, the Army was able to commandeer an old inter-island steamer called the Mactan. It was hardly sea-worthy, but they decided it was better to risk the medical evacuation of the hospitalized soldiers rather than leave them to the Japanese. Hurriedly, 224 patients were loaded aboard, red crosses were painted on the sides of the ship, and later, that same night, the Mactan—hurried out of the harbor. Less than forty-eight hours later, the Japanese occupied the city.
The ship had a hazardous time maneuvering through a mine field, but the weather was favorable and it moved slowly but steadily south, eventually delivering its precious cargo in Sydney, Australia.

Soon after, General McArthur promoted Dr. Carroll to Brigadier General and in 1942 appointed him Chief Surgeon of the American forces in the entire Southwest Pacific theater. At that time, in a meeting with McArthur, Dr. Carroll suggested that some type of emergency facility be created to be located just behind the front lines. He told McArthur that badly injured soldiers often died during the two to three days it took to get them to an evacuation hospital. The facility, when created, was identified as a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, now commonly known as MASH. Its founding and development earned Dr. Carroll a Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1944 Dr. Carroll became commanding officer of Vaughn General Hospital in Hines, Illinois. In this capacity he reorganized the hospital in regard to its treatment of paraplegics. For these efforts he was awarded the Army Legion of Merit. Dr. Carroll retired from the Army in 1946 to become Assistant Dean of the St. Louis University Medical School and head of the School's Department of Public Health, but he resigned within a year to accept the position of Dean at Creighton. When he retired from the position after having been convinced to serve three years instead of his intended two, he returned to his home near St. Louis. He continued some practice and died in December 1987, at age ninety-six.

Dr. Thomas Egan reported that he visited the General (who he said preferred to be called "Doctor") when he was ninety-four years old, and found him:

neat as a pin with a small, well-trimmed mustache and very sharp mentally. He was still corresponding with Mrs. Douglas McArthur, who was living at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. He was a great admirer of General McArthur and had been their family doctor for several years. I listened to his World War stories and his stories about Creighton Medical School with fascination. I gathered that he changed some things at Creighton and may have stepped on some toes in the process. However, he obviously enjoyed his years as Dean and frequently referred to the students as "my boys."
served as an Instructor in Internal Medicine at St. Louis University, a Lecturer at the Catholic University of America, a Research Associate in Medicine at the University of California and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University. He maintained a private practice in California from 1946 to 1949.

Between 1945 and 1951 he was associated with the United States Public Health Service in various capacities in connection with his interest in cardiology research. Between 1945 and 1946 he was a member of the Heart Section of the USPHS, and was instrumental in developing the electrokymograph at Temple University. Between 1948 and 1950 he was Chairman of the Heart Disease Control Branch in Washington, D.C. and was appointed senior surgeon of the National Heart Institute at Bethesda, Maryland. This was the position he held just prior to coming to Creighton as Dean in September 1951.68

One medical graduate said that Dr. Gillick was "terrible tempered;"69 and several others spoke of the spirit of controversy that seemed to surround Dr. Gillick's tenure as Dean. It must be remembered that several very difficult issues were underlying the day-to-day activities of the School of Medicine during this time, and that Dr. Gillick was responsible for dealing with them. These were issues, such as finances and the hiring of full time faculty to replace volunteers, that were bound to create some controversy, even in the best of situations. At any rate, due to a number of circumstances, Dr. Gillick's continuance as Dean came to be almost impossible for him, and he tendered his resignation effective June 30, 1959.70

After leaving Creighton, Dr. Gillick served as Director of Medical Institutions for Santa Clara County, California. He left that position in November 1961, after the Associated Press reported a controversy in which difficulties with Dr. Gillick had caused visiting staff physicians to resign from the county medical system.71 Between 1971 and 1972 he was Chief of Staff for the Veterans Administration Extended Care in Los Angeles, and from 1972 to 1976 he was the Assistant to the Director of the Southern California Medical District. From 1976 until his death in 1982 he served as a physician at the Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Los Angeles. Dr. Gillick received the American Medical Association's Helson Silver Medal in 1946. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and a fellow of both the American College of Cardiologists and the American College of Preventive Medicine. He was a two-term President of the Nebraska Heart Association. In addition he had contributed to two books, co-edited one book and had co-authored at least twenty-four articles in professional journals.72

Richard Leo Egan, 1959-1970

Dr. Richard Leo Egan, the man appointed to succeed Dr. Gillick as Dean of Medicine, has a long history both at Creighton and in Omaha. He was born in Omaha on December 27, 1917, to George and Marie Egan. He received a B.S. in Medicine from the Creighton University School of Medicine in 1938, followed by his M.D. in 1940. At age twenty-two, Dr. Egan was one of the youngest graduates of the School of Medicine. After an internship at St. Catherine's Hospital in Omaha, he joined the School of Medicine faculty. 73
Dr. Egan filled many roles at Creighton. He began his academic career as an Instructor in Medicine (1941-1946) and in the same year assumed the new position of "Director of Clinical Clerks" at St. Joseph's Hospital (later listed in the Annual Announcement as Director of Undergraduate Clinical Instruction). In this capacity Dr. Egan coordinated and supervised the new clinical clerkship program required of all medical upperclassmen. In 1946 he progressed to Assistant Professor of Medicine, in 1953 to Associate Professor and in 1969 to Professor of Medicine.

Meanwhile, Dr. Egan was assuming various other duties. Between 1949 and 1953, he was the editor of the Journal of the Creighton University School of Medicine. In October 1953 he was appointed Assistant Dean of the School of Medicine following the resignation of Dr. Thomas D. Fitzgerald, who had been the first to hold that office. Dr. Egan also held the post of Coordinator for Medical Television. In July 1959, he was appointed Dean of the Creighton University School of Medicine.

As Dean, Dr. Egan inherited many problems along with his title. An antiquated physical facility, inadequate funds, shaky accreditation, the necessity for conversion to a core of full-time faculty - all of these were major make-or-break issues for the School, but Dr. Egan's skillful administration enabled the School to survive these issues, and emerge revitalized. During his tenure the School gained a new building, more stable finances, an expanded student body and an increased full-time faculty.

In August 1970, he was given the title Assistant to the President for Health Sciences. In this new position, he served as a consulting expert to the President of Creighton University on health education, research, and future medical issues. His change in positions came at a time when a decision was formulated as to the future of St. Joseph Hospital and the nature of Creighton University's affiliation with it. Opinions diverged on this issue and Dr. Egan may well have felt the time had come to contribute his services to the School of Medicine in a different capacity.

In a 1967 West Omaha-Dundee Sun feature article, Dr. Egan was called "an academician far from the traditional ivory tower" and was quoted as saying, "Part of the function of a university is to serve the community and share its abilities with that community in whatever capacity it may." In line with that philosophy of community service, Dr. Egan himself served in many professional and community organizations. He was on the Board of the Omaha-Douglas County Medical Society in the late 1950's. He was active in the Health Council of the United Community Services of Omaha, serving on the Executive Committee from 1955 to 1966 and as its Chairman from 1958 to 1960. He was on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Heart Association from 1957 to 1970, acting as Secretary in 1956 and President in 1960. He was a Board member of the American Heart Association.

In addition, Dr. Egan was a member of the House of Delegates of the Nebraska Medical Association from 1954 to 1971. In 1968 he was named to a three-year term on the Committee of Health Affairs of the newly established U.S. Catholic Conference, a national welfare board. He was the only physician appointed. Dr. Egan served as a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the Salvation Army Central Territory from 1971 to 1977, and from 1982 to 1986 on the Board of Directors for the National Medical Examiners.

Dr. Egan received many significant honors and recognitions. In addition to membership in Alpha Sigma Nu, national Jesuit Honorary Society and Alpha Omega Alpha, in 1966 Dr. Egan was presented a Certificate of Merit from the U.S.
Navy for his help in interesting medical students in naval careers. In 1972 he was given a Distinguished Service Award from the American Heart Association, and in 1983 he was given the Creighton University Alumni Merit Award.80

Dr. Egan married Alice Larsen on May 1, 1943 and is the father of two children, Katherine and Richard.81 The 1967 year article on Dr. Egan noted that he had remained people oriented, despite his heavy schedule at Creighton and within the community. This is the trait that most remember about Dr. Egan. Dr. Richard L. O'Brien (M.D. 1960), the current Dean, said that when he was a student, Dr. Egan, the assistant Dean, was recognized as the student’s friend. “He bent over backward to help students.”82

Dr. Vincent J. Carollo (M.D. 1962) shared a story about Dr. Egan as Dean:

As a third year student one day in surgery I was asked to cut suture after knots were tied. As I would cut the surgeon would say “too short” then “too long.” This went on for some time – he then said “cut” and I said, “Too long or too short?” He promptly told me to go to the Dean’s office and throw me out of a laughing operating room. With much trepidation, I went to see Dean Egan believing my days were numbered, but fortunately, as I retold the story to him, a smile crossed his face, and he “pardoned me” and advised a different approach in the future.83

Effective July 1, 1971, Dr. Egan accepted a position with the American Medical Association’s Department of Undergraduate Medical Education in Chicago as Assistant Director, a position he held until 1975. In this capacity, Dr. Egan helped accredit medical schools, counseled those with difficulties and helped form new medical schools.84 Following this, he became Director of the AMA’s Division of Educational Standards and Evaluation until 1982, when he switched to the post of Director of the Division of Medical Education. In 1976 he became Secretary of the Council on Medical Education, a position he held until 1989. In 1989 he was made a consultant on medical education for the AMA, a position he holds at the present.85 Dr. Egan and his wife still reside in Chicago, and he is listed in the current Who’s Who in America. A large note of thanks goes to Dr. Egan for his generous help in providing information for this book.


Dr. Joseph M. Holthaus, one of the most popular Deans of the School of Medicine, was born in 1923 in Seneca, Kansas, one of nine children. His father, a German Catholic immigrant, was a banker in Seneca. Dr. Holthaus was inspired to a medical career early in life by his uncle, a physician who had brought him into the world. It was “seeing his uncle at work that ignited the unquenchable flame in the lad. He wanted to be a physician.”86

Dr. Holthaus graduated from high school in his native Seneca, where he played basketball in addition to trumpet and trombone in the nine-piece or-
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chestra he helped to organize. He came to Creighton for his undergraduate premedical training, then was accepted to the School of Medicine. Active in campus affairs Dr. Holthaus was the subject of several Creightonian articles during his student years, which illustrate a lively sense of humor and a busy social life. A November 1945 article profiled "Sleepy Joe" Holthaus, M3, President of Phi Rho Sigma fraternity, who swam and played tennis in his spare time, and who in the summer "could usually be found at Piccolo Pete’s in Omaha [a restaurant] ‘making love music’ for the customers on the bass fiddle." The article ended prophetically: "Joe Holthaus, M3, has had a busy life, and is planning an even busier one."

Another Creightonian article in May 1947, focused on Joe Holthaus as a candidate for King Creighton, "whose candidacy for King climaxes a reign of public offices." He was called "a typical medical student" and a "humorist", "about six feet tall, with dark hair and self-styled ‘cat eyes’." The article noted that his pet peeve was Journalism, and that the title of his thesis was "The Effect of Vitamin B on the Nervous System of a Queen Bee." (Dr. Holthaus did not win the election for King Creighton.)

On a more serious note, Dr. Holthaus graduated from the School of Medicine under the World War II accelerated program in 1947. After an internship at St. Mary's Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri, and two years of military service in the Air Force, he returned to Omaha in 1951, where he took a Residency in Internal Medicine at the Omaha Veterans Administration Hospital. In 1953 he joined the Veterans Hospital staff. After three years he became Chief of Medical Services there and in 1963 was named Chief of Staff.

Concurrently, Dr. Holthaus joined the faculty at the School of Medicine in 1951 as an Assistant in Medicine, becoming an Instructor in Medicine in 1954, Assistant Professor of Medicine in 1957, and an Associate Professor of Medicine in 1961. In 1965 a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation enabled the School of Medicine to create a new position, that of Associate Dean of the School of Medicine. The first person to fill that office was Dr. Joseph M. Holthaus. In 1970 at age 47, Dr. Holthaus was made Dean of the School of Medicine.

The advances made during the Holthaus years have been chronicled at length elsewhere in this book. They are numerous and praiseworthy. The Medical School enrollment was increased and stabilized at 110, and the medical faculty was increased by 25%. The Dean's Office was reorganized. Fulfilling many years of dreaming and planning, the Criss buildings were completed, the new Bio-Information Center was opened, and a new St. Joseph Hospital was constructed. Truly phenomenal growth was realized under the astute leadership of Dr. Holthaus. And it was done with a sense of honor, caring, and ethical awareness which all agree typify the Holthaus way of doing things.

In addition to his administrative duties, between 1977 and 1980 Dr. Holthaus served as Acting Chairman of the Department of Pathology and in 1980 was made Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology. In November 1980 when Dr. Holthaus resigned in response to the Ten Year Rule, there were many vehement protests that he remain as Dean. Despite the tumultuous circumstances and the fractious atmosphere, Dr. Holthaus continued to act with his characteristic grace and helped make what could have been a very turbulent time for the School of Medicine a tolerable transition period.

Dr. Holthaus took a year-long sabbatical after his resignation to update himself in his field of Gastroenterology, then reengaged in clinical medicine. He remained actively involved in the administration of St. Joseph Hospital and in 1985 was elected
Chairman of the St. Joseph Hospital Medical Policy Board. He was also the physician member of the Hospital President's Office. Dr. Holthaus was presented the 1986 Distinguished Service Award from the School of Medicine, honoring his many years of dedicated service. In 1988 the School of Medicine Alumni Merit Award was given to Dr. Holthaus. At the time Dr. Holthaus said, with characteristic understatement, "I am very pleased to receive it. It makes one feel like one's efforts are appreciated. It is a great honor."

Dr. Holthaus married Frances Meister, a TWA airline hostess, in 1949, and is the father of six children. For hobbies, he paints in oils, mostly landscapes and has kept up his musical interests, begun in his youth, playing most brass instruments, the bass fiddle and the organ. Dr. Holthaus' research activities have focused on liver disease, especially the prevention of coma resulting from liver failure.

As Dean, Dr. Holthaus addressed the entering freshman class of the School of Medicine at the beginning of each school year. Quoted below are some of his remarks to the 1976-77 freshman class, indicative of Dr. Holthaus' character:

... you must learn to love your neighbor. You may become the best scientist in the world, and you may master the great volumes of medical information, but, unless you can truly love your fellow man, you will be incapable of treating disease but totally incapable of relieving the suffering and the mental anguish that always accompanies that disease.

A respect for human beings is presumably present in all of you. You have the background and basis for cultivating this respect with relative ease. One can lean on ethical and moral principles to establish the ground rules of such a relationship, or, for the religiously inclined one can lean on the concept that all men are created in God's image. Regardless of how this is accomplished, it must be done and it can be.

The physician has a commitment. He must be dedicated to his responsibilities, to personal honesty and integrity, to knowledge and to people.

Dr. Joseph M. Holthaus made such a commitment. He has lived and continues to live up to it admirably. The Creighton School of Medicine was fortunate to have such leadership at so critical a juncture in its history.

Richard L. O'Brien, 1982-1992

After the resignation of Dr. Holthaus as Dean of the School of Medicine in November 1980, Father James Erwin Hof, S.J., was designated by the university president, Father Creighton, for the position of Acting Dean. Considered a surprising choice by many, it did serve to bring a closer Jesuit influence to the School of Medicine and gave Father Hof valuable administrative experience for important positions which followed. A year-long search was conducted for a permanent Dean, which resulted in the selection of Richard L. O'Brien (M.D. 1960), Dean of the School of Medicine.
of an alumnus, Dr. Richard L. O’Brien (M.D. 1960), to fill that office effective November 1, 1982.

Following his two-year tenure as Acting Dean, Fr. Hoff became an Associate Vice President for Health Sciences from November 1982 to June 1983. At that time he became the Vice President of University Relations. He also served as President of the Creighton University Foundation. Effective December 31, 1990, Father Hoff resigned his positions at Creighton to become President of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, a position he maintains at the present. He has continued his affiliation with Creighton University, however, being elected to the Creighton University Board of Directors late in 1990.

Dr. Richard L. O’Brien was born August 30, 1934, in Shenandoah, Iowa. After graduation from Shenandoah High School in 1952, Dr. O’Brien came to study at Creighton, where he earned an M.S. in Physiology in 1958, followed by his M.D. in 1960. While at Creighton, he received a student research fellowship from the Allergy Foundation of America (1957) and a Post-sophomore Research Fellowship from the United States Public Health Service (1957-58).

Following graduation from medical school, Dr. O’Brien served a one-year internship at the 1st (Columbia) Medical Division, Bellevue Hospital, New York City, followed by a residency in Medicine from 1961 to 1962 at the same institution. From 1962 to 1964 he served as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Health, Institute for Enzyme Research, at the University of Wisconsin, where his area of research was mitochondrial energy transduction and membrane transport. The following two years, Dr. O’Brien served as Captain in the U.S. Army. His position was Assistant Chief, Department of Molecular Biology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

In 1966 Dr. O’Brien joined the faculty of the University of Southern California School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Pathology, becoming an Associate Professor in 1970 and a Professor in 1976. While at USC, he received a two-year National Cancer Institute Special Fellowship, from 1967 to 1969, for research concerning molecular events in carcinogenesis. At USC, Dr. O’Brien was responsible for teaching all levels of undergraduate and graduate medical students, in addition to supervising laboratory research for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and acting as faculty advisor for the St. George Society, the student oncology group.

At USC, Dr. O’Brien also had extensive administrative responsibilities. These included filling numerous committee assignments, serving on the Faculty Senate from 1969 to 1982, and acting as the Chairman of the Medical School Admissions Committee from 1977 until 1980, after having served for six years at prior times on that body. He also served as Deputy Director of the LAC-USC Cancer Center from 1975 to 1980, Director for Research and Education at the USC Cancer Center from 1980-1981, and in 1981 was named Director of the USC Cancer Center and Kenneth Norris Jr. Cancer Hospital and Research Institute. From 1973 to 1974 Dr. O’Brien acted as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology at the University of Geneva.

He returned to Creighton in 1982 as Dean of the School of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Medical Microbiology. He served as Acting Vice President of Health Sciences from 1984 to 1985, at which time he was made permanent Vice President for Health Sciences. In addition to the heavy administra-
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tive responsibilities entailed by these two offices, Dr. O'Brien continues to retain teaching responsibilities in Immunology for second-year medical students. Research has played an important role in Dr. O'Brien's career throughout his professional transitions, earning him a national reputation in the field of oncology. His major areas of scholarly interest have included the mechanisms and control of eukaryotic chromosome replication in cell division; mechanisms of lymphocyte activation; environmental agents in human oncogenesis; mechanisms of chemical and viral carcinogenesis; and health care policy. Dr. O'Brien has received numerous research grants, including those from the American Cancer Society (1967-68, 1976-82); the National Cancer Institute (1967-1979, 1974-1977, 1974-1976, 1978-1981, 1981-1983, 1987-1988); the Tobacco Research Council (1972-73); the John A. Hartford Foundation (1949-1974); and the Bryant Research Fund (1980-82). His research grants at USC have totalled in excess of $4 million.18

Dr. O'Brien has published extensively in numerous professional journals such as Science, Military Medicine, Virology, The International Journal of Cancer, The Journal of Immunology, Nature and The American Journal of Pathology. He has had published twenty-one book reviews and co-authored or edited seven books or parts thereof. In addition, Dr. O'Brien has presented lectures by invitation at locations worldwide, such as Lausanne, Switzerland; Ottawa, Canada; Paris, France; and widely in the United States.

In addition to all of this, Dr. O'Brien has managed to provide extensive service to community and organized medical activities. On a local level, at various times, he has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, the San Gabriel Valley (California) Camp Fire Girls, the Southern California Cancer Center, the Hereditary Cancer Institute, St. Joseph Hospital and St. Joseph Center for Mental Health. He was a consultant for the City Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, California, on occupational carcinogenesis for six years, and in 1988 he was the Chairman of the Omaha United Way/CHAD Campaign. He served on the advisory committees or advisory boards of the California Hospital Medical Center Community Hospital Oncology program, the Wellness Council of the Midlands, the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society and the Nebraska Cancer Control Program.

On a national level, Dr. O'Brien has served on the American Cancer Society Scientific Advisory Committee on Institutional Research Grants (in 1980 as Chairman) and in several capacities for the National Cancer Institute, the American Association of Cancer Institutes and the American Hospital Association. He is on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education for the Association of American Medical Colleges, acting as its Chairman from 1989 onward. He is an Associate Editor for Hematological Oncology, and reviews manuscripts for nine national professional journals, among them The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Internationally, Dr. O'Brien is on the Board of Directors for Sight Savers International and the Institute for Latin American Concern.

Dr. O'Brien is married to the former Joan F. Gurney, whom he met while they both were students at Creighton University. He is the father of four children: Sheila, Kathleen, Michael and Patrick. He has received numerous honors and awards recognizing his many achievements and contributions. In 1966 he was a White House Fellowship finalist. In 1981 he was presented with the Outstanding Leadership Award from the American Cancer Society. The Department of Pathology of the University of Southern California presented him with the Distinguished Service Award in 1982. Here in Omaha, Dr. O'Brien was named Health Citizen of the Year.
in 1987 by the Combined Health Agencies Drive. He is also a member of Alpha Omega Alpha.

In August 1991 Dr. O'Brien announced that he would leave the Dean's office after ten years, effective July 1, 1992. He has announced his intention to devote his full efforts to the office of Vice President for Health Sciences.104
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