

NEWS

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SEE PAGE 2



SEE PAGE 3

OPC Hall of Fame to induct seven on June 6

By Gary Willis
Communications Committee

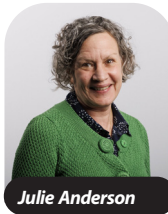
Seven outstanding journalists will be inducted into the Omaha Press Club Hall of Fame. Todd Andrews, director of integrated communications for the Salvation Army of Omaha, will emcee the event.

Those to be honored on Saturday, June 6:

- Chris Allen** – UNO Television, KVNO-FM
- Julie Anderson** – Omaha World-Herald
- Scott Buer** – KETV
- Ross Jernstrom** – WOWT, KETV
- Marcos Mora** – El Perico, Spanish Yellow Pages
- Rosalee Roberts (posthumous)** – Omaha Performing Arts, Bozell, Children’s Health-care Services, KETV



Chris Allen



Julie Anderson



Marcos Mora



Terri Sanders



Rosalee Roberts



Ross Jernstrom



Scott Buer

Terri Sanders – Omaha Star
This is the 18th year for the event (there was no induction in 2020). The inaugural Hall of Fame honored 10 pioneers in the

industry, reaching back to the 19th century. The evening this year will begin with a no-host reception at 5:30 p.m., with dinner and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony to follow.

Reservations can be made online at <https://bit.ly/OPCHallofFame> or call the Omaha Press Club at 402-345-8008 option 1. The event is open to the public. The cost of the event is \$75 for members and \$85 for non-members. Prices include tax and gratuity. A 48-hour cancellation policy applies.

Kirsten Bernthal Booth and Jim Flanery

Two icons in Creighton women’s athletics will be next Face on the Barroom Floor on May 13

By Tom O’Connor
Communications Committee

Women’s athletics have never been bigger in the United States. These days you can hardly turn on the television without finding a women’s athletic event.

In Omaha, two of the leading ambassadors for women’s athletics are Kirsten Bernthal Booth and Jim Flanery. For more than two decades, Booth and Flanery officed next door to each other in the Creighton University Athletics Department. Booth coached the women’s volleyball squad from 2003-2024, while Flanery has guided the women’s basketball team since 2002.

Both coaches built programs of excellence that elevated Creighton to national prominence in their respective sports. For all their efforts in taking women’s athletics to a new level, the Omaha Press Club will honor Booth and Flanery on Wednesday, May 13, as the duo will be recognized as the 186th

Face on the Barroom Floor.

Due to the success of the women’s volleyball and basketball programs, Creighton was able to open the Ryan Athletics Center and D.J. Sokol Arena in 2009. The facility



Jim Flanery



Kirsten Bernthal Booth

has a seating capacity of 2,500 and provides an energetic atmosphere for sporting events. “This is the time for women’s sports,” said Booth, who is now serving as president of business operations for LOVB Nebraska, part of the League One Volleyball professional league. “Flan and I are both honored to be a face for all the women’s athletes and coaches who have come before us.”

Booth was a two-time state champion in tennis at Lincoln East High School before becoming a standout volleyball player at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. She earned her undergraduate degree at Truman State and a master’s degree from the University of Iowa.

While at Iowa, Booth began her volleyball coaching career as a volunteer assistant. In 2000, she landed her first head coaching position at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After three years at Kirkwood, Booth was tabbed by Creighton Athletic Director Bruce Rasmussen to be the head coach of the Bluejays at the age of 27.

Booth took over a program that was 3-23. During her 22 years at the helm, she led them to 12 conference titles and 13 consecutive NCAA Tournament berths, culminating in a historic Elite Eight run in 2024 and a program-best No. 6 national ranking.

Throughout her career, Booth earned three National Coach of the Year honors,

OPC Foundation awards scholarships

The Omaha Press Club Foundation has supported journalism students in Nebraska for more than 50 years. Each year, the foundation awards more than 20 scholarships of \$2,500 each.

Your gift supports the next generation of students pursuing careers in radio, television, print, public relations, and new media.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the foundation again this year awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to students at Creighton University, the University of Nebraska Omaha, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The scholarship certificates were presented April 25 at a Press Club breakfast. The featured address was given by the editor-in-chief

of the Nebraska Examiner, Aaron Sanderford.

"What this scholarship does is open doors," Sanderford told the students. "What your skill does is knock them down."

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, checks made payable to the Omaha Press Club Foundation can be mailed to:

**Omaha Press Club Foundation
P.O. Box 4842
Omaha, Nebraska 68104**



Scholarship recipients, in front, from left: Denise Valdez-Alvarez, UNO; Juliette Eckler, UNO; Greta Waller, CU; Hayden Hudson, UNL; Jocelynn Messersmith, UNL. In back: Fisher Madsen, UNL; Jo Moyer, UNO; Danny Berg, UNL; Carlee Petereit, UNL; Madelyn Graham, UNO; Ailyn Adame, UNO; Bella McAtee, UNO; Justin Diep, UNL; Ben Beecham, UNL; and Parker Lund, CU. Not pictured: Susanna Bovaird, UNK; Shelby Seu, CU; Colin Dalvand, UNL; Sydney Breissing, CU. Photo by Chris Machian.

Face on the Barroom story; continued from Page 1

multiple Conference Coach of the Year awards, and induction into the Omaha Sports Hall of Fame. She is widely recognized not only for competitive success but also for her ability to build resilient, values-driven cultures that empower individuals to perform at their best.

Beyond coaching, Booth is an entrepreneur and innovator. She co-founded NeuroFuel, a mental training app focused on mindset and performance development for athletes. Booth's leadership experience spans athletics, business and innovation, with a focus on building teams, empowering people, and sustaining excellence through change.

She lives in Elkhorn with her husband, Erik, and their three daughters, Reese, Hayden and Berkeley. Reese is playing volleyball for the University of Northern Iowa, while Hayden will play volleyball next fall at Bradley University.

A native of Guthrie Center, Iowa, Flanery is a 1987 graduate of Creighton. From 1985-1987, he was a walk-on member of the men's basketball team coached by Tony Barone. He also was a member of the Creighton golf team.

"I stumbled into coaching," said Flanery, who was originally a journalism major before shifting to philosophy. "I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I didn't have a coaching agenda."

After Flanery graduated, he was asked by Rasmussen, who was then the women's basketball coach at Creighton, to be a graduate assistant coach. He held this post for three years before moving to Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1990 to become an as-

sistant coach under Connie Yori, a legendary women's basketball player at Creighton.

In 1992, Rasmussen stepped down as the women's head coach to become associate athletics director. Yori was brought in as head coach and Flanery returned to Creighton as her top assistant. Over the next 10 years with Yori and Flanery at the helm, the Bluejays notched a 170-115 record and made two appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

In 2002, Yori left Creighton to become head coach at the University of Nebraska, and Flanery was elevated to the head coach post. In 24 years as head coach, Flanery has become Creighton's all-time victory leader with a 469-290 record and a .618 winning percentage.

He led the Bluejays to eight NCAA Tournament appearances, including four consecutive berths from 2022-2025. The 2021-22 campaign was historic for the Bluejays as Creighton reached the Elite Eight with victories over Colorado, No. 8 Iowa and No. 10 Iowa State.

Creighton also reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament in 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2024. In 2017, Flanery led the Bluejays to their first BIG EAST Conference regular season title. In addition, Flanery won Missouri Valley Conference regular season championships in 2003 and 2013 and the 2012 MVC Tournament Championship.

Under Flanery, the Bluejays have reached 20 wins or more 12 times and have been to the postseason 18 times, including a stretch of 11 consecutive years from 2008-2018. Flanery also led Creighton to a pair of appearances in the WNIT Final Four (2003 and 2004), capturing the 2004 WNIT Championship.

Flanery and his wife, Emily, have two children, Jackson and Brynn.

Roasters for the Face event will include:

- Emcee – **Bruce Rasmussen**, retired director of athletics, Creighton University
- Tom Lilly**, tennis coach, Creighton University
- Mike West**, president, Omaha Lancers
- Mark Jones**, Ed.D., former Creighton University basketball player, vice president, Northpoint Recovery, Omaha, and mental health and sports performance consultant for Creighton athletics
- Brian Rosen**, Creighton University head volleyball coach
- Angie Oxley Behrens**, Creighton University assistant volleyball coach
- Brad Bernthal**, Kirsten's brother, associate professor emeritus, University of Colorado School of Law, and founder of Brain Cramp Camp

FACE ON BARROOM FLOOR – KIRSTEN BERNTHAL BOOTH AND JIM FLANERY

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MAY 13:
5:30 P.M. – RECEPTION;
6:30 P.M. – DINNER;
8 P.M. – ROAST**

**COST: \$90 FOR OPC MEMBERS;
\$100 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**RSVP: The event is open to the public.
CALL THE OPC AT 402-345-8008.
MEMBERS CAN CHARGE TO THEIR OPC
ACCOUNT. NON-MEMBERS NEED TO PRO-
VIDE THEIR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.
DRESS IS BUSINESS CASUAL.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

The club in the coming months will see lots of changes. The building has been bought by NuStyle Development. NuStyle is a company that turns historical buildings into apartments.

Our club is staying!!! We are happy to say they would like to keep us in the same location. Some of the changes will include renaming the building, front-door entrances but no more buzzers, and a change in pathways to the club.

The DoubleTree parking garage at 16th and Dodge will remain available, but club



Christine Villamonte

visitors will exit the garage elevators on the second floor to walk to our outdoor entrance. The revolving doors will be open on the northwest corner of 16th and Dodge.

We are excited about the new chapter in the Press Club's existence. The OPC staff will keep you in the loop about day-to-day changes. At large events, we will have extra OPC signage to help guide new guests.

Meanwhile, with spring in full bloom and summer on the horizon, mark your calendar for our special events. First up is the Mother's Day Brunch, with two seatings on May 10 and more than 35 items on the menu.

The chefs shine on this day, with mouth-watering omelets and carving stations, ham, chicken, eggs benedict, tilapia, pasta salads, salmon chaud froid paired with cheeses and crackers – and let's not forget about desserts.

Later this month, Creighton athletic icons Kirsten Bernthal Booth and Jim Flanery will

be honored as the 185th Face on the Bar-room Floor.

And don't miss one of the major events of the year, the Hall of Fame dinner on June 6. Come celebrate with the honorees for all the years and hard work that earned them this honor. Congrats!

- **Christine Jones B.S. Nutrition**
Restaurant Manager / Event Coordinator



PHONE 402-345-8008 FOR RESERVATIONS

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Adults \$35 • Children 10 & Under \$17

Carving Station

Steamship Round of Beef
with Horseradish Chantilly
& Au Jus

Old School Pineapple-Glazed Ham

Entrées

Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Buerre Blanc
Eggs Benedict

À la carte

Build-Your-Own Omelet
Multi-Topping Pancake Bar

Salad Display

Thunderbird Salad,
Imported Cheese & Antipasto,
Cole Slaw, Potato Salad,
Deviled Eggs
Smoked Salmon Chaud Froid
Fresh Fruit Display
Pecan Rolls

Dessert

New York-Style Cheesecake
with Strawberries,
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries,
Warm Peach Cobbler with
French Vanilla Ice Cream

Hall of Fame Dinner

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Members \$75 • Non-members \$85

Hors d'oeuvres

Carpaccio
Bruschetta

Salad

Thunderbird Salad

Entrées

Chicken Cordon Bleu
Creamy Mushroom Risotto
and Brandied Carrots

Father's Day Steak Grill

Saturday, June 20, 2026

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Adults \$40 • Children 12U \$20

From the Kitchen

A la Carte Choice:

Prime Rib of Beef
Filet New York Strip
Club Steak

On the Buffet

Vienna Hot Dogs • Fried Chicken
Baked Beans • Corn-on-the-Cob
Potato Salad • Pasta Salad
Coleslaw • House Salad
Deviled Eggs

Desserts

Brownies
Strawberry Shortcake

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WE'RE ONLINE! READ YOUR OPC NEWSLETTER AT OMAHAPRESSCLUB.COM



Every Thursday
Prime Rib Night
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 10
Mother's Day Brunch
Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Adults \$35 • Children 3-10 \$17

Wednesday, May 13
Face on the Barroom Floor
Creighton coaching icons
Kirsten Bernthal Booth
and Jim Flanery
5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Members \$90, non-members \$100

Saturday, June 6
Hall of Fame Dinner
5:30 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner
Members \$75, non-members \$85

**Friday, June 12
to June 21/22**

College baseball
championship series
Come in CASUAL, enjoy specials

Saturday, June 20

Father's Day
Steak Grill
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Adults \$40 • Children 12U \$20

July Wine Dinner

Date to be determined

Hours of Operation

1620 Dodge St., Omaha NE 68102

LUNCH

Tuesday-Saturday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Mondays

DINNER

Thursday-Saturday
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.



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Don Summerside Copy Editor

**Submissions for the June issue
are due on or before May 20.**

Are you looking for a perfect party setting? A lunch surrounded by brilliance?
A dinner your guests will always remember? Keep the OPC in mind.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.