# Alumni Times



QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



BAHA'I SHRINE AND GARDENS IN HAIFA, ISRAEL'S THIRD LARGEST CITY. IMAGE CAPTURED BY RECENT ATA TRAVELER, JOHN PAUL.

# Academic Travel Abroad's Wondrous Journey through Israel

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

In its 15 years as a thriving program at Clarkson College, Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) has traveled far and wide throughout the western European terrain, tracing paths through countries such as Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Greece and Spain. While Clarkson College students, employees, alumni and their travel companions make up the bulk of ATA travelers, the partnerships with Nebraska Methodist College and Bryan College of Health Sciences have welcomed several others over the years. For its most recent venture, ATA had a longing to explore an exotic, new destination, as well as a new partner. "Going to Israel and partnering with Professional Development seemed an ideal fit," said ATA Coordinator Dr. Pat Brennan.

To realize her vision, Dr. Brennan consulted with College administration to determine if Israel was a sensible travel destination.

She avowed the trip would meet three main objectives:

- > To explore ancient Roman sites.
- > To tour traditional sacred sites.
- To learn about health care for those earning continuing education units under the direction of Judi Dunn.

The agreement was to coordinate travel at a time that would not conflict with the already announced December 2013 and May 2014 ATA trips and to target professionals, pilgrims and lifelong learners as potential travelers. Dr. Brennan's push to recruit the required minimum of 20 travelers paid off, and the countdown to Israel began.

After nearly a full day's-worth of travel, the group arrived on the sacred grounds of Israel, bound for the nine days of endless phenomena that lay ahead.

continued on page 3

### INSIDE:

- President's Message: Summer
   Events & Alumni Weekend
   New Alumni Association Officers
   & Board Members
- 3 Graduate Survey Results Lead to Change
- 4 My Journey into Nursing
- 6 Utilizing Your Education to Make an Impact on Future Generations
- 7 Graduate Capstone Review
- 9 Alumni Association Membership
- 10 Alumni Weekend: Event Registration Form
- 11 Continuing Education Event: Care Under Fire
- 12 Alumni Class Notes
- 13 Remembering Wendell Oderkirk
- 14 Perseverance Through the Trials Leads to Inspiration
- 16 Sigma Alpha Pi Inducts 130+
- 17 Practical Nursing: Program RecapRadiologic Technology StudentsWin Statewide Quiz Bowl
- 18 Student Receives Two Scholarships from APTA

The **Alumni Times** is a quarterly publication that is distributed by the Alumni Association of Clarkson College at 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. For story or photo submissions, please contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at 402.552.3516 or via e-mail at **vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu**.

ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Summer Events & Alumni Weekend



I hope this edition of the *Alumni Times* finds all of you well and enjoying your summer!

It has been a busy summer for the Alumni Association, as well. Our new board members

were inducted in June, and we are busy planning for the remaining summer and upcoming fall Alumni Weekend activities.

We will be hosting our first Alumni Golf event on July 11 at Pacific Springs golf course. We will be playing nine holes of golf, giving away pin prizes and following up with dinner at the golf course for all the teams participating.

This fall, we will have our annual Alumni Weekend with many events we hope you will join us for. We will be honoring the classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1989.

Our membership continues to grow and the Alumni Board of Directors is thankful for each and every one of you. I hope the end of your summer is a fantastic one.

Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N. ('04, '12)

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Alumni Association President PH 402 552 3569 thompsonrachel@clarksoncollege.edu

# New Alumni Association Officers & Board Members

The 2014-15 Alumni Association Board members assumed their duties June 1. This year, the nominations were uncontested negating the necessity for sending out a ballot to the paid membership.

#### PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

#### Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N.

Rachel graduated from Clarkson College with her B.S.N. in 2004 and obtained her M.S.N. in 2012. She currently holds the position of Assistant Director of Undergraduate Nursing at the College.

#### VICE PRESIDENT

#### Jeanette Kassmeier, B.S.N., R.N., ONC

Jeanette (JJ) graduated from Clarkson College with her diploma in 1972 and her B.S.N. in 1986. She is employed at The Nebraska Medical Center as a Case Manager for the Ortho/Neuro specialty.

#### **TREASURER**

#### Carla Dirkschneider, M.S., RHIA

Carla graduated from Clarkson College with her Master of Science in Health Care Business Leadership in 2007. She is the Director of Health Care Business at Clarkson College.

#### DIRECTORS

#### Joan Blum, M.S.N., ARPN

Joan graduated from Clarkson School of Nursing diploma program in 1981 and earned her BSN in 1986. She received her master's degree in Nursing Administration from Drake University. She received her certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in 2001. Joan teaches in the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at Clarkson College.

#### Susan Bristol, B.S.N., R.N.

Susan graduated from Clarkson College with her diploma in 1978 and her B.S.N. from the University of Nebraska in 1991. She works in the NICU at Methodist's Womens Hospital.

#### Nickki Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R)(M) (CIIP)

Nickki graduated with her associate's degree in Radiologic Technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Imaging from Clarkson College in 1995. She earned her Master of Science degree in Health Services Management also at Clarkson College in 1997. Nickki is the manager of the Radiology department at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.

#### Susan Leutzinger, M.S.N., R.N.

Susan graduated with her B.S.N. from Clarkson College in 1989 and her M.S.N. in 2009. She is employed by Clarkson College as an Assistant Professor.

#### Jackie Parmenter, M.S.N., R.N.

Jackie graduated from Clarkson College with her B.S.N. in 1993 and her M.S.N. in 2009. She is currently the Director of Clinical Services and Research at Heart Consultants, P.C. in Omaha.

## Memory Books Call for updates & information

During the September Alumni Brunch, anniversary classes are celebrated, and those attending receive a memory book honoring their graduation year. The next Alumni Brunch will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18 and will honor classes 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1989 for their respective anniversaries.

Memory books are made for people attending from each of these classes, and a section is reserved in the book for attendees to update their class members on life events occurring since graduation. To make this section possible, graduates from the honored classes are asked to provide information about him/herself. The information shared can be about family, career, honors, hobbies, travel, etc. Photos are also welcomed to accompany the information.

Information may be sent to Rita VanFleet at vaneetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or by mail to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

#### From page 1

#### Academic Travel Abroad's Wondrous Journey through Israel

Their spirits were awakened at every new turn, from their journey through the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane to the Lion's Gate into the Old City of Jerusalem. They stopped at the place where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount.

"While we stood quietly gazing at the Sea of Galilee below," shared Dr. Brennan, "a member of the group read the Beatitudes. This was especially moving because the Maltese Cross' eight points represent the eight Beatitudes." They walked on to the Via Dolorosa where Jesus was whipped and given the cross to carry, continued along the Western Wall and ended at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where Jesus was crucified and placed in his tomb. But all that only scratches the surface of what the trip entailed.

For Dr. Brennan, there was no one favored moment of the trip. Instead, she compiled her most prized memories from the trip into a single exuberant passage:

Witnessing some of our group get baptized in the Jordan River. Touching ancient walls on Masada and imagining the hundreds of Jews who killed themselves rather than fall into Roman hands. Standing at my open hotel window in Jerusalem listening to the Muslim call to prayer while an Orthodox Jew and American Christians cross paths on the street below. Meeting with the governor of Jenin, West Bank, and hearing his perspective on global politics. Encountering openly friendly Palestinian children eager to have their pictures taken by American tourists. Consuming overflowing falafel sandwiches on a regular basis. Learning about (and tasting) fabulous Israeli wine. Touring the Holocaust Museum. Walking on hallowed ground.

In addition to the endless sacred sites, the present-day Israeli culture presented its own surprises. Dr. Brennan explained a typical dining experience as family style, such as the lunch the travelers had in a Druze village, where a group would be seated at a table with their own plates, and the food was served in bowls and platters that were passed around. "This only became a problem with dessert." The family-oriented lifestyle was apparent in other ways. Dr. Brennan shared that their tour guide described his wedding this way: "Out of 250 guests, 100 were his family, 100 were

his wife's family, 40 or so were friends, and the rest—nobody knew who they were."

The strategic location of Israel summons everyone, with the exception of the protected Orthodox class, to be a part of the armed forces. "All young Israelis serve in the military for two to three years but can be called up at any time," Dr. Brennan said.

The self-proclaimed Israeli personality is often described using the characteristics of a native fruit known as the sabra. It was explained to the ATA travelers that, like the sabra, Israelis are hard and sharp on the outside but soft and sweet on the inside.

Dr. Brennan was also intrigued by the "cheekby-jowl" relationship between Israeli Arabs and Israeli Jews. "Although the children generally do not attend school together, the adults associate with each other in business and on the streets daily. For example, our tour guide was a Jew and the bus driver was Arab. They were always talking and chuckling over something together (in Hebrew)."

Each of the travelers left Israel with their own memorable moments and unquestionable eye-opening experiences. Traveler John Paul, father-in-law of Marketing Director Jina Paul, commented on the impact the trip has had on his and his wife Jacque's lives since their return home. "Now, when Jacque and I read the Bible and hear the Bible read in church, we have a much better appreciation for the context of the verses and can visualize the places where Jesus and his disciples lived," John said. "This Easter had a whole new meaning for us after our trip to Israel."

"Over the last 15 years, I have traveled to many countries, most of them more than once," said Dr. Brennan. "As interesting and engaging as they are, nothing compares with Israel. It is like no place on earth."

Dr. Brennan hopes the College will offer the trip to Israel once again in 2016.

#### Travel with us

Go on an adventure with ATA to the Czech Republic and Austria May 3–14, 2015. Contact Dr. Brennan at brennan@clarksoncollege.edu for more information.

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### Graduate Survey Results Lead to Change

Are you a recent graduate? If so, expect to receive a graduate survey approximately six months after your graduation date.

These surveys are sent from the Alumni Relations office and are administered with the assistance of the Coordinator for Quality Assurance. They are sent to all graduates who have a valid e-mail address or mailing address on file with the College.

All survey responses are kept anonymous and are aggregated. The information received from these surveys is vital for the College. Information is shared anonymously with the Executive Leadership Team and the program directors. They utilize this information to enhance or modify the academic programs offered at Clarkson College.

The information from these surveys is aggregated, so trends can be identified and managed. For example, Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers, Director of Graduate Nursing, has utilized the information to make modifications to the procedures and techniques taught during Graduate Weekends. She has also added lectures and/or PowerPoint presentations to most of the courses for the upcoming fall semester. Changes such as these are a direct result of the information gained from the surveys.

Thank you to all who have previously taken time to complete the survey. Your sharing of both positives and negatives has been extremely beneficial. April graduates should expect to see their survey mid-October. The brief survey takes five to 10 minutes to complete, and your participation is greatly appreciated.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### My Journey into Nursing

By Susan Bristol ('78), B.S.N., R.N.

As a newlywed in 1974, my husband, Dennis, and I moved from Lincoln to Omaha. Not in my wildest dreams could I imagine what the next years would bring.

I am originally from central Nebraska, born in North Platte then raised in Cozad and Broken Bow. I graduated from Broken Bow High School. A town of 3,500 people or so, "smack dab" in the middle of Nebraska, the geographical center of Nebraska is just 10 miles northwest of Broken Bow. Dennis grew up on a ranch east of Valentine, a couple hours northwest of Broken Bow.

We met at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where I was majoring in journalism, and he was in business administration. Dennis graduated in 1973, but I didn't. I was a college drop-out. My father had died in 1971, and my grades declined gradually after that. I had no interest in my education at that point. I just wanted to socialize and party. My GPA the first two years was high enough to tide me over for a while before I was put on scholastic probation. I floundered not knowing what my future plans were.

My mother was a nurse, and for as long as I could remember, she was always encouraging me to consider a career in nursing. I worked in a nursing home as an aide during the summers, but I couldn't see myself as a nurse like Mom. I remembered all the days Mom worked long hours, all the holidays and the low pay. My childhood was filled with enthusiastic dinner conversations about Mom's unusual care experiences. Dad was the hospital administrator and also an RN, so both of my parents engaged in graphic, unappetizing storytelling while we kids attempted to digest our dinner. There was no way I was going to be a nurse.

So, I got married, and we moved to Omaha—the place where I had many preconceived negative ideas about the personalities and traits of people coming from the big city. It was frightening for this small town girl to move to such a place.

It didn't take long for me to realize the stereotypes I had heard from people back home were wrong. Omaha had a small town feel. People were friendly and helpful. It was interesting that we experienced the friendliness of a small town without the nosiness of everyone knowing your "business."

I took a minimum wage job as a nurses' aide at a nursing home, and Dennis had an entry-level accounting position. The times were lean.

After two months of marriage, my mother died at age 56 of a bowel infarction. With no parental support, it was sink or swim. Dennis and I had to depend on one another.

Dennis spoke often of our future and how I needed to go back to school and have a career. I really didn't know what I wanted to do, plus we couldn't afford to pay for school yet. I continued to work as an aide.

I worked at a place called MediCenter across from Bergan Mercy Hospital. It was a rehab/ long-term care center. I liked my work, but I still wasn't convinced I should be a nurse. One day, I met a woman who had come in to visit her grandmother. We exchanged niceties as I took care of her grandmother's needs. Day after day, the woman was there, faithfully visiting. Our conversations became more in depth, and she asked me if I had thought about going into nursing. I explained that I was a newlywed, and we couldn't afford it. Besides, I really didn't want to be a nurse.

One day, she asked me where I was from. "Broken Bow," I said.

"What do your parents do?" she asked.

"Oh, they are both dead now, but Dad was a hospital administrator, and Mom was a nurse."

The woman's face lit up. "What were their names?"

I told her, and she said, "I knew your parents years ago. Your father and my husband worked together as Clarkson Hospital was being built."

As a little girl, I remember coming to Omaha with my Dad, but the memories were vague. In the 1950's, Dad was president of the Nebraska Hospital Association and traveled a lot. Now and then, one or more of us kids and Mom would ride with him. I remember going with my Dad by myself once, and we went to a wonderful new building with shiny

marble floors. I loved running in the halls. I remember receiving a lot of attention from the adults around. I was "Mr. Grady's little girl." That must have been about the time the new hospital was opened or dedicated.

As we talked, I found out the woman's name was Betty Canedy and that her husband was the administrator at Clarkson Hospital. She told me I should go talk to him about going to school at Clarkson School of Nursing. I hesitated, still unsure about nursing. With her encouragement, I finally made an appointment. Mr. Canedy was so friendly and kind, telling me wonderful stories of my father that I had never heard before. I never really knew Dad's friends or associates from work, so this was all new to me. Mr. Canedy sent me over to see Mrs. Jacks, the director of the school at the time.

My childhood was filled with enthusiastic dinner conversations about Mom's unusual care experiences...
There was no way I was going to be a nurse.

I must digress, because it is important to know that my parents met in nursing school at Bellevue Hospital in New York City before World War II. After graduating, Dad was the medical director at Todd Shipyards, and Mom worked at the hospital in med-surg. Bellevue is known for being a psych hospital now, but back then, it was a general hospital.

After the war and with three kids in tow, Mom and Dad decided to move to North Platte. Mom said she had barely heard of Nebraska, let alone North Platte. She and Dad were both born and raised in Pennsylvania where most of my relatives still live. Dad wanted to pursue a career in hospital administration, and the Lutheran Memorial Hospital in North Platte had an opening. They packed up my older sister and two brothers and headed west. I was born in North Platte three years later.

If you are familiar with Bellevue Hospital in NYC, you may know that the nurses wore the "upside down cupcake" nursing caps. Mom faithfully wore her cap to work every day. She was the only nurse I ever saw wear that particular cap with the exception of her sister, my aunt, in Pennsylvania.

I walked into the office of Mrs. Jacks, and there she sat at her desk, wearing her white uniform



THE FIRST HELICOPTER TRANSPORT
AT UNMC. DR. ROBERT NELSON,
NEONATALOGIST, DR. KENT KRONBERG,
PEDIATRIC RESIDENT, & SUSAN BRISTOL
ARE PICTURED.



AFTER THE CLASS CAPPING CEREMONY AT JOSLYN ART MUSEUM. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SUSAN BRISTOL, CINDY STEARNS, MARGIE ARISPE & BETH STEARNS.



DOCUMENTING THE 10 YEAR CLASS REUNION FOR 1978 GRADUATES.

and an upside down cupcake cap. I couldn't believe it! It was an omen. My destiny was to be a nurse. No matter which way I turned, I was being led down this path to nursing.

Mrs. Jacks wasn't impressed with my transcripts. She said she would give me a chance, but I would have to prove myself and get good grades. The Canedys helped me find scholarships and funding for my education. So, along with the small savings Dennis and I built up, I was able to enroll at Clarkson School of Nursing.

Dennis and I were pretty poor. We had an old beat-up, smoke-ejecting 1967 Chevy Chevelle that his parents had given him in college. Every morning, Dennis dropped me off at school before heading to work. I was there about an hour early, so I spent the time in the lounge which was in the lower level of Kiewit Hall. I noticed that our science teacher, Mrs. Perry, came in early and wrote the A&P notes on the board. A&P was my first class of the morning, so I decided to sit in the classroom and copy the notes instead of hanging out in the student lounge.

Mrs. Perry (later Dr. Patricia Perry, director of the school) wrote copious notes on the board and expected students to copy them down verbatim. She then checked our notebooks periodically to make sure we were doing that very thing. So, I spent the time before class, copying as she wrote on the board. I was way ahead of the other students by the time class began.

As I copied the notes, Mrs. Perry started asking me questions about myself. One day, she asked me where I was from and what my parents did. Déjà vu! It was the conversation I had had with Mrs. Canedy all over again. It turned out that Mrs. Perry knew my parents, too! What are the odds? I was finding out that it truly was a small world and that I had no clue who my parents' friends had been.

With all these people backing me up, I blossomed at Clarkson School of Nursing. I met many wonderful people in my classes and ended up graduating with a decent GPA. One of my classmates convinced me to go to work with her at the Nebraska Medical Center in NICU. That hadn't been my plan. I thought I

wanted to work in an emergency department. I listened to my friend, Sue, and we both started in the NICU soon after graduation. She is still there and is a neonatal nurse practitioner. I was there for eight years, then worked at a pediatric office while my boys were young.

I am back in NICU now, feeling like I have come full circle in my career. I will always be grateful for those who helped me on my journey. I never thought I wanted to be a nurse, but it has been a very good career for me. I have had so many great experiences and opportunities. I have done everything from working in a NICU in its "infancy" (pardon the pun) to being the first transport nurse to go up in the first helicopter at the Nebraska Medical Center to being a pediatric office nurse. I've worked as a bereavement counselor speaking to families about end-of-life issues and organ donation, and then moved to Chicago to work as an agency nurse throughout the city. I've worked in a suburban internal medicine office with doctors from India, El Salvador, China, the Philippines, Israel and (the most foreign of them all) a doctor from California before finally returning to Omaha and the pediatric office.

About three years ago, I thought I would retire and focus on writing—my first love. Again, it was not meant to be. I had more nursing to do. A former colleague from my NICU days asked if I would be interested in returning to the NICU. I never thought I would go back to hospital nursing or the NICU, but I did. I am working as a casual, supplemental staff member at Methodist Women's Hospital and finding time to write a story or two. It has been quite a journey so far. Who knows where it will take me next?

Have an interesting story to share? We would love to hear from you! For story ideas or questions about the *Alumni Times*, contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT





ABOVE, CURRENT SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN VOGAN, AFRICA.



GUEST SPEAKER & CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNUS KODJOVI ABALO SPEAKS TO STUDENTS DURING THE 2012 RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY LUNCHEON.

### **Utilizing Your Education to Make** an Impact on Future Generations

How one alumnus plans to better his hometown in Vogan, Africa

By Susan Bristol ('78), B.S.N., R.N., & Kodjovi Abalo ('12), R.T.(R)

Alumnus Kodjovi Abalo, R.T.(R), hails from Togo in West Africa. He grew up in the town of Vogan, which is about 36 miles northeast of Lomé, the capital of Togo. A long, narrow country situated between Ghana on the west and Benin on the east, Togo is one of the smallest countries in Africa. With a population of about 6,200,000 people, French is the official language. Togo gained its independence from France after the World Wars.

Culture in Togo reflects the many ethnic groups that live there. Its rich history tells a story of a people who overcame suppression from European slave traders and later, colonization by the Germans prior to WWI and the English and French after the World Wars.

Slave trade began in the 16th century and, for the next 200 years, the coastal region of Togo and the surrounding area became the center of slave trade, giving Togo the dubious name of the "Slave Coast." In 1884, Germany claimed it as a "protectorate" and named the country "Togoland." After WWI, England and France claimed parts of the area, then following WWII, Togo became the property of France.

Kodjovi grew up in Vogan, a small town near the capital. His primary school was built in November of 1955, five years before Togo became an independent nation. It began with 56 students and one teacher. Today, it has 491 students, grades first through sixth, with 12 classes and nine instructors. "The school needs three instructors to make it forty students per instructor this academic year," Kodojovi said. "The students have been working hard to improve themselves and go to junior high. Last year, they had a 38.88 percent passing rate on the national exam, which is amazing in regard to their learning conditions."

Kodjovi has fond memories of the school and the influence it had on him. "I started a project together with some friends from the same country about two years ago," he said. "Our main goal is to help students learn by providing them with some vital tools." Kodjovi said that the only learning materials the school had prior to the project were a board and chalk. Through his efforts and those of his five friends, they raised \$400 to buy dictionaries, books and other school supplies.

Education is very important for a country to grow and prosper. In Togo, formal education is compulsory for grades one through sixth. With teacher shortages, it is difficult to provide the education needed. Quality education is difficult in the rural areas. There is a high rate of repetition of grade levels, as well as a high dropout rate. Kodjovi recognizes the value of a good education and is striving to improve his homeland's chances.

As we know, health and education go hand-in-hand. As educational opportunities increase, so do socioeconomic, psychological wellbeing and health. In Togo, infant mortality is at a rate of 50 deaths per 1,000 births. Maternal mortality is 350 deaths in 100,000 births. Lifetime risk of death in pregnant women is 1 in 67. There are four physicians per 100,000 people. The number of midwives per 1,000 births is two. Half of the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.25. Average life expectancy for males is 60-62 years of age and for females, 65-66 years of age (Wikipedia).

Kodjovi is grateful for the opportunity of his education at Clarkson College. With his Associate of Science degree in Radiology Technology and MRI Technology degree, he is working to improve the conditions of others. "We don't have to be Bill Gates before we help others or always want something back," he said.

Kodjovi graduated from Clarkson College two years ago. "All I want to do is change those children's lives through the right education, and maybe one day, we can have the first library for them to learn and grow."

If you are interested in more information about Kodjovi's project or life in Togo, you can contact him at abalo\_kodjovi@yahoo.fr.

### Capstone Review by Alumni Association Board

Graduate capstone project review for April 2014 graduates

The master's degree-seeking students presented their Capstone work on Friday, April 25 in the Storz Pavilion in the Clarkson Tower of The Nebraska Medical Center. Each student had the opportunity to investigate a question of practical importance by utilizing the critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies, theories and principles learned throughout their course of study. The culmination of this scholarly, evidence-based project is a document that can be revised for publication or educational purposes.

Advisors submitted their top projects—a total of 15—to the Alumni Association subcommittee for placement selection. Using the established rubric, the subcommittee selected four winners. The winners were announced during the Spring Graduate Symposium, and alumna Carla Dirkschneider ('07) presented each recipient with an award certificate

Tying for first place were Amy Loffredo's abstract, Reducing Anxiety During Pediatric Anesthesia Induction: The Role of Parental Presence (advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers), and Makayla Wiese's abstract, Equine Therapy as a Non-Pharmacologic Intervention for Children with Cognitive Disabilities (advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers). Second place was awarded to Leesa LaCanne for her abstract, Fever Phobia: An Assessment Tool to Address Concerns of Fever (advisor Dr. Linda Jensen). Third place winner was Gina Latham for her abstract, Empowering Caregivers to Confront Lateral Violence (advisor Dr. Gloria Gross).

#### Reducing Anxiety During Pediatric Anesthesia Induction: The Role of Parental Presence by Amy Loffredo

Each year, thousands of children require surgical intervention of either acute or chronic illness. Parental presence, an intervention to reduce anxiety, has been studied for decades. According to Messeri, Caprilli & Busioni (2004), previous studies show induction of anesthesia to be the most stressful event faced by children in the period preceding surgery. The purpose of this paper was to systematically review the evidence-based findings to determine if parental presence is an effective means of reducing anxiety. The outcome of this project was the creation

of an evidenced-based teaching brochure utilizing appropriate font, color and design as outlined by Atwood (2008). The brochure discusses in depth what parents should expect during anesthesia induction and ways to comfort their child. The most significant finding during the literature review was that a calm parent does benefit an anxious child (Kain et al., 2006b). This intervention should not be utilized without proper preparation, which is the responsibility of the surgical staff. While parental presence does not always reduce anxiety, there is still validity in using this intervention. Preoperative assessment of patient age, coping skills, past surgical history and parental anxiety are vital. Parents must be educated and prepared prior to induction in order to be able to assist their child during this fearful experience. Further research on preoperative teaching and how to better prepare patients and parents for induction may add to the evidenced-based knowledge on reducing anxiety for pediatric patients and parents during surgical induction.

#### Equine Therapy as a Non-Pharmacologic Intervention for Children with Cognitive Disabilities by Makayla Wiese

More than twenty million people in the United States suffer from cognitive disabilities (Braddock, D., Rizzolo, M., Thompson, M., & Bell, R. (2004)). Multiple interventions are needed to effectively assist children with these disabilities. Many treatment options are available, one being equine therapy. The purpose of this project was to review current evidence-based literature on equine therapy as a treatment option available for children with cognitive disabilities. A literature search utilizing the search engines CINAHL, EBSCO-HOST, Center for Disease Control (CDC), Medline, Google Scholar, Proquest and Pubmed was conducted. The literature review consisted of professional journals, national guidelines, books and professional organizations. A tri-fold evidence-based brochure was created based on Nola Pender's Health Promotion Model. The design of the brochure utilized current design literature. The content of the brochure included information on what equine therapy is, the

benefit, how and why horses are used, who can benefit from equine therapy and local equine facilities. The goal of the brochure was to educate clinicians, patients and families about equine therapy to help the understanding that children diagnosed with cognitive disabilities can benefit from non-traditional therapies. This type of therapy is very beneficial for patients and families desiring to avoid pharmacological interventions to treat symptoms of cognitive disabilities. Additional research is needed on the effectiveness of equine therapy, treatment options available and acceptance by patients.

#### Fever Phobia: An Assessment Tool to Address Concerns of Fever by Leesa LaCanne

Research has demonstrated that parents uphold many misconceptions, misinformation and limited skills regarding the knowledge of fever and the management of fever. Barriers such as culture and language could impair their knowledge of community resources for acute management. Knowledge deficit concerning fever management frequently results in non-urgent calls to pediatricians, as well as hospital affiliated emergency department visits. The design of an evidenced-based educational handout explaining proper treatment and care for children with fevers targeting the parents who are caregivers with a culturally diverse background. Information was derived from databases, credible internet sources and textbooks. The theoretical framework used to guide the outcome of the project was derived from Madeline Lenininger's cultural care theory. The educational tool designed at a sixth grade level or below with only a few colors stresses health treatment incorporating transcultural nursing. Improvements to limited tools to care for patients of different cultures must be designed and utilized. The goal is to properly educate parents on how to address any concerns about fevers in English and Spanish. It would be recommended that the educational tool be translated into many languages to meet cultural needs.

continued on page 8

**Association Board** 

### From page 7 Capstone Review by Alumni

Further studies could determine if there is a decrease in culturally diverse children in emergency rooms before and after distribution of the educational tool.

#### Empowering Caregivers to Confront Lateral Violence by Gina Latham

Lateral violence continues to be a problem throughout the nursing profession, resulting in harmful psychological and physical consequences affecting staff and patient care. This project was created in response to nursing staff stating their concerns with negative behaviors and poor communication between nursing staff. This program taught cognitive rehearsal for staff to use to confront lateral violence to increase positive communication, improve staff retention and provide a positive work environment. All 27 nurses working full-time for Greater Regional Medical Center (GRMC) were asked to participate. Nurses completed Nurses Workplace Scale by DeMarco & Roberts (2004) and Silencing the Self Scale-Work, Revised (DeMarco & Roberts, 2007). The one-hour presentation consisted of a power point slide-assisted lecture plus role-playing by the participants with assigned scenarios and cue cards. Two weeks later, every nurseparticipant was sent the NWS and STSS with 16 (59.3 percent) responding and three surveys not completely answered. Twenty-seven pre-surveys were complete with a mean score of 66.19; thirteen post-surveys had a mean of 62.9. Results showed positive changes in nurses breaking their silencing behaviors. The consistent small decreases in scores suggest nurses were starting to put themselves first, feeling more empowered. Pre-survey scores had one greater than 100 while post-survey showed zero scoring greater than 100. Increased level of awareness has proven to be a positive intervention toward creating a more positive, professional working environment. The talk from the staff following the session has led to a revision in the session to present to each department throughout the hospital.

## GRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECTS APRIL 2014 GRADUATES

**Brittany Bogart** Experiences & Needs of Fathers of Low Weight Infants in a NICU, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Megan Broughton Patient-Centered Rounding: Adopting a Patient-Centered Safety Protocol at an Inpatient Hospice House, advisor Dr. Deb Boucher-Payne

Marie Burrows Pediatric Pain Control: Development of an Education Tool to Improve Assessment Skills, advisor Dr. Deborah Bahe

Heidi Engstler Nursing Students' Knowledge Regarding End-of-Life Care, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**Daniel Feilmeier** Eliminating Excess Inpatient Capacity in Omaha Metro-Area Health Care Facilities, advisor Dr. Russ Buzalko

Kelly Goetschkes Early Mobility Protocol & Impact on Length of Stay of Stroke Patients, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Amy Hemsley Exploring Spirituality & Health Promoting Behavors of Homeless Males, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Jennifer Hirschbrunner Effects of Care Innovation & Transformation (CIT) on Medical-Surgical Nurses' Perception of Their Work Environment, advisor Dr. Regina

**LeAnne Larson** New Graduate Nurses'
Perceptions on Retention, advisor Dr. Layna
Himmelberg

Maria Long Staff Education to Reduce Falls in the Acute Care Setting, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

Carl Markley Utilizing Middle School Teacher Assessments for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Referrals, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**Emily Nolan** *Nurses' Perception of Bedside Reporting,* advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Tammie Nyman Could Nurse Practitioners' Independent Licensure Increase Health Care Access in Rural Areas?, advisor Dr. Michele Heston

Angela Oakie Nursing Retention: What Environmental Factors Influence These Rates?, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**Emily Olsen** Importance of Sleep for Adult Inpatients, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Stephanie Preister An Evidence-Based Guideline for Electrical Cardioversion of Atrial Fibrillation, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**Kristi Sidel** Business Plan: Inflammatory Bowel Disease Pediatric Support Group, advisor Dr. Russ Buzalko

Cindy Teasdale Comparison of Shared Medical Appointment Variables Pertinent to Type 2 Diabetic & Metabolic Syndrome Patients, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Marcy Thernes Hip Fractured Patients & Urinary Catheterizations, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Kelli Thiesen Evidence-Based Guidelines for Diagnosis & Treatment of Acute Rhinosinusitis in Adult Patients, advisor Dr. Peggy Tidikis-Menck

Andrew Wakin Nurses' Perceived Barriers to Optimal Pain Management in Hospitalized Medical Surgical Patients, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Simply visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at http://bit.ly/1mfiVl3. Type the author's name or a few keywords into the search box and hit enter. The Power Search link can be used to conduct a more advanced search.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Library at 402.552.3387 or via e-mail at library@clarksoncollege.edu.

### Alumni Association Membership Form

Annual membership drive runs through Aug. 31

The Alumni Association Board would like to invite you to renew or begin your membership in the Alumni Association. Thanks to membership support this past year, the Alumni Association was able to present a student scholarship, provide snacks for students during finals week, sponsor a continuing education event, provide iPads for the iPad Academy and assist with several other activities. The support of our graduates is necessary for the Alumni Association to continue providing these functions.

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Dues should be received no later than Aug. 31. As a member, you will receive the quarterly *Alumni Times* newsletter, invitations to alumni events and periodic special mailings. Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago should mark "Nifty Fifty" below to receive <u>free membership</u> in the Alumni Association.

### ABOUT YOU

Р	lease print.
Ν	Jame
Ν	Maiden Name (if applicable)
S	pouse's Name (if applicable)
А	ddress
С	City/State/Zip
Н	lome Phone
С	Cell Phone
E	-mail

### **Employer Information**

Current Employer			
Address			
City/State/Zip			
Position/Title			
Education			
Class of	Nifty Fifty I	∃Yes	□No
Degree(s) Earned			

#### **Giving Back**

 $\square$  I would like to receive more information about tax-deductable gifts.

I would like to invest in the future of Clarkson College by:

- ☐ Being a guest lecturer
- $\hfill\square$  Spending time assisting with alumni activities
- ☐ Mentoring or tutoring current students

#### **CLASS NOTES**

	the past year, we would n the January/February	

We enjoy hearing from you! Submit your professional and personal

Attach another sheet if additional space is needed.

Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship Fund \$

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Please make checks payable to "Alumni Association of Clarkson College." Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago receive free membership in the Alumni Association.

#### Membership dues \$25

Total amount enclosed \$

In memory of (name)		
In honor of (name)		

### SUBMIT

Send your completed membership form and survey (located on the back of this form) along with payment to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP** 

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

### **Alumni Association Survey**

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. Your input is greatly valued and assists the Alumni Association in providing programs and activities for alumni members, meeting regulatory requirements for Clarkson College and updating alumni information.

#### ALLIMNI EVENTS

ALOMINIEVE		College students?
Would you pre dinner to be:	fer the annual September Alumni Weekend event	□Yes
□ Casual	☐ Formal/business attire	Do you have any pri interesting future a
Would you like	entertainment at the Alumni Weekend event dinner?	□ No, I do not have
□Yes	□No	☐ Yes. Please desc
List any continu	uing education topics that would be of interest to you.	
		List topics of interes
List any events	you would like to see the Alumni Association sponsor.	

#### **NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

Do you view past issues of the Alumni Times online? □ No Would you like to continue reading stories about current Clarkson □No ofessional or personal stories that would make rticles in the Alumni Times newsletter? e any stories I would like to share at this time. ribe: st that you would like to see in the newsletter.

### Alumni Weekend: Event Reservation Form

The Alumni Association Board is finalizing the details for September's Alumni Weekend events. This year, the graduating classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1989 are recognized as this year's anniversary classes. The Physical Therapist Assistant program will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the program's inception. All Clarkson College alumni are invited to participate and attend this year's activities.

Reserve your spot by completing and returning the RSVP form below. Additional information will be sent to you as September approaches. If you are an anniversary class alumnus and would like to assist with the fall events, let us know. Submit completed forms to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131

#### **RESERVATION**

#### **Contact Information**

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone
E-mail
Program(s) completed
Class of

#### **Assistance & Participation**

- ☐ Yes, I will assist with my class' anniversary activities. ☐ No, I am not interested at this time.
- ☐ I am unable to attend this year's Alumni Weekend.

#### **Additional Information Request**

I would like additional information on the following events: □ **Alumni Brunch**: Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall □ **Alumni Meeting**: Thursday, Sept. 18 at noon in Howard Hall □ Continuing Education Event: Friday, Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall. This year's topic is titled, "Care Under Fire: Current Issues and Challenges for Health Care Providers Dealing With Veterans."

□ Dinner & Entertainment: Friday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Omaha Player's Club in Omaha, Neb.

## Continuing Education Event

### Care Under Fire

#### **EVENT DETAILS**

Friday, Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus in Omaha, Neb.

#### **Target Audience**

Health care professionals.

#### **Objectives**

The health care professional will be able to:

- > Review the history and evolution of military health care.
- > Describe the current system of battlefield care.
- > Discuss case studies of physical and emotional injuries of war.
- Adapt health care providers' ongoing care to the unique needs of veterans.

#### **EVENT AGENDA**

Check in and welcome 8 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Care Under Fire Presentation & Case Studies

Captain Mathew Beeman, R.N., B.S.N., FN

United States Air Force 375th Aero Medical Evacuation Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Presentation & Case Studies Continued

11:45 a.m. Question & answer session, evaluations and wrap-up

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Attendance at the entire educational event is required for continuing education. Partial credit is not provided.

#### **Health Care Business & All Others**

3.25 education hours awarded.

#### Nursing

Clarkson College is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Nebraska Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

3.25 ANCC/NNA Nursing contact hours awarded. Clarkson College is approved lowa provider #345. 3.90 lowa nursing contact hours.

#### **Physical Therapy**

0.325 continuing education units corresponding to 3.5 contact hours approved by the NPTA.

### Radiologic Technology

3.0 Category A credits awarded. Activity approved by ASRT.

#### **ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

#### Questions

Contact the Clarkson College Professional Development office at professionaldevelopment@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.6148, 402.552.2311 or 800.647.5500.

#### **Registration Deadline**

Event registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 8.

#### Parking & Event Location

Howard Hall is located in the Student Center on the Clarkson College campus. Parking is available in any designated commuter student lot.

#### **REGISTRATION**

#### **Contact Information**

Name Address City/State/Zip E-mail

Nursing license number required for nursing contact hours

#### **Payment Options**

☐ Clarkson College paid Alumni Association member: \$20 ☐ Clarkson College student: \$10

☐ Other health care provider: \$40

Checks or money orders should be made payable to "Alumni Association, Clarkson College."

#### **Phone & Online Registration**

To make a credit card payment, call 402.552.6148, 402.552.2311 or 800.647.5500 or visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Academics/ Professional Development/Continuing Education Events.

#### **Mail Registration**

Send your completed registration form, along with payment, to Alumni Association, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha,

### **Alumni Class Notes**

Class notes are published in the January/
February and July/August editions of the
Alumni Times. We are always happy to hear
from alumni and want to share the information
with others. If you have a story or information
that you would like to share in this section,
please let us know. Information can pertain
to achievements, awards, marriages, births,
deaths, travel and other significant news.

When sending information, please include maiden name, if applicable, program and year(s) of graduation. E-mail your information to vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu, call 402.552.3516 or write to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

#### 1940s

#### Clela Wanamaker ('42)

I am still running the weight club, W.I.N and Lose. In my 33rd year, and successes are terrific. I turned 93 on Jan. 9. I won the Volunteer of the Year for Arizona in 2013. What fun! The prize was \$500 to my favorite charity, which is Samaritan's Purse Run by Franklin Graham. It was a super year again.

#### 1950s

#### Dorothy Richardson ('53)

Married in '52 and divorced in '72. One son, David. Worked for 20 years in Denver at Craig Hospital in acute spinal cord and brain trauma. Loved it! Retired in '93. Would love to hear more from my classmates.

#### Barbara J. Lynch Young ('55)

After 58 years of marriage, my husband passed away from cancer Aug. 19, 2013. My Clarkson School of Nursing training was put into use his last few months. Thank you so much for a wonderful education.

#### 1960s

#### Karen Dorf ('64)

I continue to be retired. In December 2011, I was diagnosed with end stage kidney failure, which means I'm dialysis dependent. I do dialysis three times per week in Lincoln, Neb., which is 40 miles from home. The cause is unknown, but it is a side effect of being a

diabetic. I'm looking forward to seeing as many classmates as possible for our 50th reunion in September.

#### Marcia Fitzgerald Weeks ('65)

I keep trying to retire; seems there is always another project to complete. My proposal for the new grad program was accepted, and I am so excited to get started. Thank you Clarkson School of Nursing for the excellent foundation you gave me. I am so excited to work with the new grads!

#### Carol Tvrdik McCall ('68)

I retired as of April 14, 2014. It has been quite nice to know it isn't the hospital calling when the phone rings. However, I do miss the patients and my coworkers but not EPIC.

#### 1970s

#### Susan Bristol ('78)

I joined the Clarkson College Alumni
Association Board last year in hopes of
reconnecting to the College that helped
form my life's work. It has been an amazing
experience to see what the Alumni
Association does for the students, alumni and
community. The "behind-the-scenes" look
has been very enlightening and has given me
a new appreciation of my "roots at Clarkson
College." I would encourage all alumni to
become more active in the association and
see for yourselves.

I continue to work as a "casual" or supplemental staff at Methodist Women's Hospital in the NICU. The babies are my first love, and I have fellow alumna, Sue Knutson, to thank for that! As a student, I had no clue I would even be interested in taking care of small babies, but Sue convinced me to give it a try. Many of you probably have people who influenced you in your career. It is interesting to think about.

I do freelance writing and work on newsletters and brochures at my church and my workplace. I write whatever and whenever I can. I have some personal projects I am working on, as well. I plunged into the digital world this year and started a blog on WordPress. Its title is "I Write, Therefore I Am." I am an "addict." I must write something every day or I am lost. The blog has been a great outlet. I also am an Irish music enthusiast and

blog on my other site called "Celtic Omaha."
I post weekly events such as band
appearances at local pubs. You can find my
blogs by visiting sgradybristol.wordpress.com.

I belong to a wonderful writers' group that meets in Fremont as well as a couple of critique groups in Omaha. They all keep me on my toes and help me hone my writing skills.

My husband and I have overcome "empty nest" syndrome and are enjoying our time alone (with the cat). Our oldest son and his wife live in the Chicago area, so we make frequent visits to the Windy City to see our two little granddaughters, ages 5 and 18 months. Our middle son got married last summer and lives in Omaha. Our youngest son is in transition, substitute teaching and working at Hy-Vee in Lincoln. He will move to Indianapolis this summer.

I developed neuropathy (non-diabetic), and my primary doctor sent me to see a neurologist. It turns out I saw Dr. Goldner.
Remember him? It was amazing to see him and reminisce about Clarkson College. We had a nice visit during my appointment. He has many fond memories of Clarkson College. I don't think we left anyone waiting too long in the waiting room as we chatted!

I hope to see some of my classmates at the alumni events coming up in September.

#### Lorraine Zachary ('79)

Do volunteer nursing with various organizations.

#### 1980s

#### Cyndi McCullough ('81, '93)

Shares the recent presentations she has given:

- ICONS & Innovations webinar series:
   The design impact of the new bed tower on patients and staff at Central Washington Hospital.
- ICONS & Innovations webinar series:
   Implementing LEAN strategies and the eight steps of evidence-based design to increase caregiver efficiency.
- "Steps for the future—Measuring the nurses path," a Children's Hospital Association Leadership meeting in New Orleans.

"Capital Planning 2.0: The Capital implications of Health Transformation." Lean and Evidence based design in Toronto, Canada.

#### Beverly Bethart ('88)

Retired from critical care in June 2013. Moved to Virginia to become a farmer. I will be raising goats and honey bees.

#### 2000s

#### Debra Johansen ('06)

My husband Andrew and I are the proud parents of a daughter, Audrey Rose, who was born Nov. 1, 2013. She was welcomed home by her siblings Anna, 7, Alicia, 6, and Jake, 3.

#### IN MEMORIUM

#### Class of 1951

Dorothy Fix Teesdale of Lowell, Mich. passed away on May 4, 2014.

#### Class of 1972

Lollie Wibbels-Dugan of Greeley, Neb. passed away on Jan. 1, 2014.

### LOOKING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH FORMER CLASSMATES?

The Alumni office would love to help you in your efforts to reconnect. If you are looking to touch base with a former classmate, contact Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

The contact information is not released without obtaining consent.

#### ALUMNI WEEKEND SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER

A fun way to reminisce about your college days with your fellow alum, this year's Alumni Weekend falls on Sept. 18–19. View complete details and register for the events on page

## Remembering Wendell Oderkirk

Former nursing professor & historian dies at 70

Former Clarkson College nursing professor Wendell W. Oderkirk, 70, died May 2, 2014, at his residence in Las Cruces, N.M. A funeral liturgy was held Monday, May 5 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral in Las Cruces.

Dr. Oderkirk was born March 17, 1944 in Glendale, Calif. to Dorn and Edith Oderkirk. He taught at Clarkson College from 1990-96 and later accepted a nursing professor position at New Mexico State University. Dr. Oderkirk's family remembers him as a loving husband, father, a magnificent humanitarian and an incredible man of God. His family wrote: "All was reflected in his life's work and even more so in his family. He will be forever celebrated and greatly missed."

Only a handful or so of current Clarkson College employees had the privilege of working with Dr. Oderkirk during his tenure at the College. Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña remembers him as someone who loved history and who was very caring about his students. "He was very active at the College, particularly in curriculum development. He was very quiet, reserved and gentle." Larry Vinson, Director of Technology and Computer Services, describes him as a wonderful faculty member and colleague. "When I first came to Clarkson College after retiring from the USAF, he helped familiarize me with the various aspects of the College and made my transition easier. He was a quiet, scholarly man who planned well and was very organized and professional." Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Gloria Gross concurred that Dr. Oderkirk was a great teacher who loved nursing history.

Clarkson College also remembers Dr.

Oderkirk for his book "Learning to Care:
A century of nursing education," which
chronicles the evolution of Bishop Clarkson
College from 1888-1988. In the prelude of
the book, which was published in 1988, Dr.
Oderkirk notes the importance of seeing
time as a tool to record and research history

A historian uses time to locate, analyze and accurately summarize even unlikely sources of information. Time is the screwdriver a historian piles to untwist the rusted and snarled vestiges of forgotten decades. This centennial history was compiled in about six months—a sufficient period of time it would seem until one considers how long a century is. Because the College had no records of its first two decades, I found it necessary to spend a disproportionate amount of time researching the school's earliest years at the expense of researching later periods. I can confidently say that no one is more aware than I of the variety of materials not fully researched or represented here; [however,] the centennial history would not likely exist except for Patricia Perry's Iformer Clarkson College President] belief that the past merits active preservation. Her historical sense has ensured the College is taking steps to maintain, present and cherish its history.



Dr. Oderkirk is survived by his wife, Gloria Oderkirk; one son, Wendell Oderkirk—both of Las Cruces; two daughters, Shemane Oderkirk of St. George, Utah and Shonda Oderkirk of Fairbanks, Alaska; two brothers, Paul Oderkirk of Des Moines, Iowa and Randall Oderkirk of Kansas City, Mo; two sisters, Doreen Hudson of Madison, Conn. and Mary Keesling of Tampa Bay, Fla. Other family members include three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Steven Oderkirk.

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

### Perserverance Through the Trials Leads to Inspiration

The story of one current student's journey that fueled her desire to care for others

By Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator

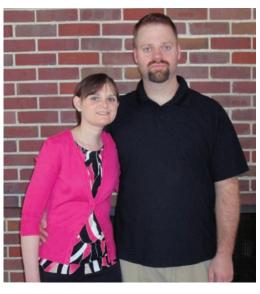
Graduation from any school is always a day to remember. For Nisha Harris, graduating from surgical tech school on May 6, 2011 was not only a day to remember but the beginning of one of the most challenging chapters in her young life.

During her courses, she was frequently fatigued and endured several infections. She had been seen by her physicians and undergone tests. On Friday, May 13, 2011, her suspected diagnosis of leukemia (MDS-Myelodysplastic Syndrome) was confirmed. This diagnosis is the same as what Robin Roberts of "Good Morning America" battled. The plan of treatment the physicians laid out for her was high-dose chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Without that, she could only expect to live one to one-and-ahalf years. This is a difficult diagnosis to hear for any parent, but it was especially hard for Nisha to share with hers. This was the second time a member of her immediate family had been diagnosed with leukemia.

Nisha is the youngest of four daughters:
Nichole Lynn, Natalie Lee, Natasha Love
and herself Nisha Leah. When Nisha was 3
years old, her 7-year-old sister, Natalie, was
diagnosed with leukemia. She lived one
month after diagnosis. Nisha remembers
spending that Christmas in the hospital
visiting with Natalie. Nisha smiles when she
tells you she looked a lot like Natalie. She also
relays that the three surviving sisters are very
close. Upon Nisha's diagnosis, her two sisters
volunteered and were tested as possible bone
marrow donors but did not match.

Nisha and her fiancé, Matt, were looking forward to their June 18, 2011 wedding, which was only one month away from her diagnosis date. She said that "Matt is amazing and wonderful," and together they made the decision to proceed with the wedding. Her treatments were scheduled to begin at The Nebraska Medical Center after their marriage in Scribner, Neb. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church where Nisha was baptized and confirmed. They spent their honeymoon in Hershey, Penn. enjoying the amusement parks and chocolate.





AT LEFT, MATT & NISHA HARRIS ON THEIR JUNE 18, 2011 WEDDING DAY, ONE MONTH AFTER NISHA'S LEUKEMIA DIAGNOSIS. AT RIGHT, A RECENT PHOTO OF THE HAPPY COUPLE.

Nisha was scheduled to begin her chemotherapy in July. She is prone to kidney stones and developed one the first week of July, causing her to undergo lithotripsy on July 6, 2011. A few days after the procedure, she went into septic shock and spent a few days in the intensive care unit and 16 days in the hospital. Developing an infection from the procedure postponed her chemotherapy until September.

#### The challenging road to recovery

Sept. 11 is a day that most Americans remember as the anniversary of the World Trade Center Towers falling. Nisha remembers this day clearly because it was the day she entered the hospital to begin her chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant. It would have also been Natalie's birthday. Nisha began four days of high dose chemotherapy on Sept. 12, 2011. This was followed by an allogeneic (harvested from a donor) bone marrow transplant at 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 17.

Nisha endured an extremely difficult year due to the numerous complications she experienced after her transplant. The chronology of the major ones is as follows:

 Dec. 26, 2011: 100 days post-transplant was admitted to the hospital for pneumonia

- January through March 2012: Admitted to the hospital 11 times for infections and blood transfusions
- > End of March 2012: Developed seizures
- April and May 2012: Infections and chemotherapy caused significant weight loss, resulting in having to be fed via a feeding tube
- May 2012: Diagnosed with a blood clot in her right lower leg and her left upper leg, and she lost the ability to walk for three to four months
- Many other complications and procedures throughout the rest of 2012 and beginning of 2013, such as chest tube placement and graft-versus-host disease (rejection of transplant)

Nisha refers to 2012 as her "foggy year," as the severities of her complications caused her to have a difficult time remembering details of the year's events. She clearly remembers the strict dietary restrictions that added to her weight loss problems. She also fell on May 19, 2013. She tried noninvasive treatments to help her injured hips, but they did not work and she underwent a total hip replacement of her right hip on Dec. 10, 2013. Unfortunately, this was a bilateral injury, and she had the left hip replacement surgery on May 7, 2014.

The beginning of 2013 was a recovery time for Nisha. Thanks to the influence of the nurses she encountered throughout her many hospitalizations, Nisha decided to change her professional career path from a surgical technologist to a registered nurse. After her exposure to many different nurses throughout treatment, her goal is to be a role model of a good nurse and to try everything she can to make things better for her patients. With this goal in mind, she enrolled in the Nursing program at Clarkson College and started her studies in fall 2013.

#### Calm & peace found through the storm

In talking with Nisha, it was amazing to witness how stoically she had accepted her extreme difficulties with all of the complications post-transplant, recovery, fall, surgeries and additional recovery periods. She shared that her family was extremely important through all of it. At all times, she had a family member with her during her hospitalizations and while at home. Primarily that was her husband, parents, sisters, sister-in-law, mother-in-law and close family and friends. They all played important roles in care-giving—both emotionally and physically—during her diagnosis and treatment. Nisha stressed how each individual played an important role in supporting and encouraging her through this challenging period. She and her family were very close prior to her diagnosis and are even closer now.

Nisha lives by the philosophy of "life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it."

How does Nisha keep her spirits up, and what advice does she give to others? She said that each time she had a complication, she would ask God to give her what she needed to get over "this mountain."

During her hospitalizations, she would sing hymns such as "This Little Light of Mine," "Angels Are Among Us," as well as others, which brought her comfort. Nisha lives by the philosophy of "life it is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it." During the most difficult times, she would daily focus on what she had to do to overcome the current issue and would live day to day, which she continues to do.

#### Lessons learned & shared with others

Nisha wants to make certain that all health care professionals learn at least one thing from her story besides compassion. She asks that we do not tell a patient "I understand" because she has learned from all of her experiences that until you have personally walked the walk, you cannot talk the talk. She said to make the patient's situation the best it can be at the time. Nisha is excited for her graduation, barring any additional "mountains" to cross and to begin helping and caring for others.

She and her husband Matt have a saying in their home: "Life takes us to unexpected places, but love brings us home." They have a very strong faith and display a cross in their yard that simply says "Believe." As she relayed her story, the light in her eyes and gentle smile on her face were evident of her acceptance of what she has been through and her eagerness to see what is yet to come.

Nisha truly enjoys her classes at Clarkson College and has extreme drive and determination to meet her goal of becoming a registered nurse. She would like to work in oncology after graduation.

Have a story to share?
We would love to hear from you!
For story ideas or questions about the
Alumni Times, contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni
Coordinator, at 402.552.3516
or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Program Spotlight:

### New General Education Classes

By Clarkson College General Education Faculty Members

Editor's Note: The following is the second in a series of articles highlighting the General Education program at Clarkson College.

#### Celebration of Writing & the Creative Arts

Katie Kirkpatrick, General Education Assistant Professor, introduced the Celebration of Writing and Creative Arts in 2011 with the goal to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their creative side. The event was warmly received, and faculty and staff were invited to submit their writing/artwork the following year.

The third annual event employed an all-digital approach, which eliminated issues with storage space and made the entries more visible to a greater audience. The move to digital also enabled greater participation by our distance students and adjunct faculty.

Many thanks to the Alumni Association for providing wonderful prizes. The continued support is greatly appreciated.

#### Writing Lab Growth

The Writing Lab continues to provide both face-to-face and synchronous online appointments. The number of appointments has continued to increase each year since 2009 when the Writing Lab was first introduced. All Clarkson College students are encouraged to contact the Writing Lab for help with beginning assignments, researching, writing a thesis statement, organizing ideas and APA formatting.

Program directors, faculty members and students appreciate the flexibility and excellent service provided by the Writing Lab and applaud all the time and effort by Katie Kirkpatrick and her consultants!

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT



SGA PRESIDENT AMANDA HANLIN PRESENTS BILL SCHLOTFELD WITH HIS STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE SGA INAUGURATION CEREMONY.

### **SGA** Inauguration

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Student Government Association (SGA) held its annual inauguration ceremony April 10 in Howard Hall. The evening began with a welcoming speech delivered by 2013–14 SGA President Amanda Hanlin. Presidents of various student organizations across campus were also in attendance to discuss their organizations' goals and accomplishments of the past year.

The inauguration ceremony is also the time of year when SGA distributes various awards to members of the Clarkson College community. The Student Practical Nurse Association received the Student Organization of the Year Award; Bill Schlotfeld, Campus Maintenance, received the Faculty/Staff/Administration of the Year Award; and Amanda Hanlin received the SGA Member of the Year Award. All of the awards are voted upon by the current SGA members

New this year was the Excellence in Student Leadership Award, which honors two graduating students from either the spring, summer or December graduating classes. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply, and the recipients are selected by the College program directors.

Dr. Burgher led the reading of the inauguration oath, which all new and returning executive officers and representatives are required to recite. The ceremony concluded with an acceptance speech from Catie Faust, the 2014-15 President.

### Fifth Floor Renovation Project

By Tony Damewood, Vice President of Operations

During the last accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission, it was recommended that Clarkson College create private offices for its faculty. In order to meet that recommendation and create a more comfortable and private faculty work setting, a renovation project began May 2014.

The project will completely renovate the fifth floor of the main building, which currently has 36 cubicle work spaces for faculty. The cubicles were removed, and 32 private faculty offices are being constructed and furnished with new furniture. Additionally, the fifth floor reception area that houses two administrative assistants responsible

for assisting faculty will be renovated to feature a more inviting service counter and a glass wall looking out to the elevator lobby.

The planning of this project has been ongoing for over a year, and the project will be completed by August 2014. There is a very short timeline for this project, as it was strategically scheduled during the summer semester to minimize operational disruption.

The project received financial support of approximately \$450,000 from the Clarkson Regional Health Services Foundation in order to make the renovation possible.

## Sigma Alpha Pi Inducts 130+

By Carla Dirkschneider, Health Care Business Director

The Clarkson College Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) inducted more than 130 students to the Honor Society on April 9. An estimated 75 students and approximately 50 guests attended the induction ceremony held in Howard Hall.

The ceremony began with Sigma Alpha Pi President Rachel Kunkle discussing the highlights and benefits of being a member of the NSLS. The requirements for members to be inducted into the honor society are to maintain a 3.0 CGPA, attend Orientation, participate in Leadership Training Day, view three speaker broadcasts and participate in three success networking team meetings.

Deborah Istas, Executive Director of Neurosciences and Orthopedics for The Nebraska Medical Center, provided the keynote address. Her address depicted her experiences with becoming a leader and provided helpful suggestions on how to demonstrate leadership abilities in their daily job functions.

The Sigma Alpha Pi Executive Board participated in the awards and honors presentation to faculty, staff and students. Honors were given to Monica White, JoAnn Acierno and Sue Leutzinger for their

"Excellence in Teaching." Bill Schlotfeld received the "Excellence in Service to Students" award, and Julie Donnelly, Service Leader for the Operating Room and Emergency Department for Methodist Women's Hospital, received an honorary membership to the NSLS Society. This year, the Executive Board wanted to give back to the student membership by offering a \$100 scholarship to an emerging leader. Amy Wise, B.S.N. student, was the first recipient.

The Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society is the only honor society to induct faculty, staff and students from all graduate and undergraduate academic programs.

The 2013-14 Sigma Alpha Pi Executive Board members included President Rachel Kunkle, B.S.N. student; Vice President Brittnae Maris, B.S.N. student; Member Outreach Chair Anastasia Atayi, B.S.N. student; SNT Coordinator Amber Mekush-Harter, MHA student; Technology Coordinator Anthony Miller, B.S.N. student; on-campus advisor Carla Dirkschneider, Health Care Business Director; and online advisor Karen Abboud, Physical Therapist Assistant Instructor.

For more information about joining Sigma Alpha Pi, contact Carla Dirkschneider at dirkschneider@clarksoncollege.edu.

# Practical Nursing: Program Recap

By Aubray Orduña, Dean of Nursing

In 2003, Clarkson College initiated the first part-time Practical Nursing (PN) program in the state of Nebraska. This option was selected to meet the needs of the non-traditional student, which facilitated concurrent enrollment in nursing school while continuing a full-time work schedule. Enrollment was limited to only once a year with 10 to 20 students in each class in order to keep tuition and costs affordable.

With the assistance of Cate Rongish, M.S.N., a Student Practical Nurse Association was chartered and officially recognized by the Clarkson College Student Government Association. The PN Association was very active on campus and within the community, and the organization was awarded the Student Organization Impact Award for their community service by the Nebraska LPN Association in 2012. Most recently, the Student Practical Nurse Association was recognized by the College Student Government Association.

Historically, approximately 50 percent or greater of the graduates continued on to Registered Nurse programs, as the College Licensed Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program allowed transition into the third year of the BSN program. Our PN graduates were also preferred by employers, and the College often received accolades regarding their exceptional competence.

As a part of the Clarkson College strategic planning, a team reviewed aspects of the program during the 2013-14 academic year, and the decision was made to close the program after admission of the summer 2014 incoming class. Nursing administration has developed a plan to teach out the existing classes and assist students who may need to transition to other programs.

### Radiologic Technology Students Win Statewide Quiz Bowl

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

It may be time for Clarkson College to invest in a trophy case. After last year's nailbiting loss against Southeast Community College, the Radiologic Technology (RT) students and coaches arrived at the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists (NSRT) annual conference in Grand Island on April 24 bound and determined to take home the victory. It came down to the final question—the one that could win it all or force the teams into a five-question tie-breaker round. With a quick smack on the buzzer and a fearless response, Clarkson College walked away as first-time champions.

Two teams from each of the six participating schools, which included Clarkson College, UNMC, Regional West Health Center, Alegent Creighton, Mary Lanning and Lincoln Southeast Community College, participated in the student bowl. The teams were asked 21 questions in each competing round. The team with the most points then proceeded on to the next round, while the losing team was eliminated. After four rounds of intense play, Mary Lanning and Clarkson College faced off in the final round, and Clarkson College snatched the win on the final question.

"We got to bring home the trophy, which has been travelling to the winning school since 1977," said Trish Weber, who cocoached the students alongside fellow faculty Kelly Eaton. Each student and coach also received a medal. Winning team members included second-year students Jessica Wirth, Taylor Schwieger, Jaimie Hoge and alternate Dustin Hahn. The other Clarkson College team consisted of students Michelle Glow, Kelly Sindelar, Shelby Waite and alternates Lori Evridge, Justin Bauer and Lindy Randel.



JAMIE HOGE, DUSTIN HAHN, TAYLOR SCHWIEGER, INSTRUCTOR TRISH WEBER, JESSICA WIRTH & INSTRUCTOR KELLY EATON POSE WITH THEIR WELL-DESERVED TROPHY.

Each student underwent intense training leading up to the conference. Weber and Eaton, met with them on a weekly basis since January to write, review and answer practice questions. Two weeks prior to the competition, the coaches pulled the teams together for a face-to-face challenge. The training also served as good preparation for their upcoming board exams.

The NSRT conference also hosted a symposium in which students from different schools were grouped together, presented with a specific topic in radiology and asked to perform a skit using various props. Two Clarkson College students, Michelle Glow and Sara Waddell, were on the winning team and each received a cash prize.

Seeing as it's a traveling trophy, a case may not be a necessary investment, after all. However, one thing is for sure—the students know what it takes to win the gold, and their coaches are going to use the momentum from this year's win as motivation to bring home more victories in the years to come.

**COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT** RECENT GRADUATES





MINIATURE SCHNAUZER ELLIE SNUGGLES WITH A STUDENT. LILLY WAITS PATIENTLY WHILE YELLOW LAB MOLLY PROVIDES A MUCH NEEDED STUDY BREAK



LAUGHS (& STUDY TIPS) ARE EXCHANGED WHILE NEWFOUNDLAND AL REMAINS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.



LILLY LOVES HER JOB AS A PIT BULL BREED

### **Domesti-Pups Relieve Stress During Finals**

At students' request, the Alumni Association invited the Domesti-Pups to campus April 21 for the alumni-sponsored study hall to wrap up the spring semester. Four dogs and their handlers visited with students in Howard Hall, providing a much-needed break from studying for final exams. Deb Carlson brought her yellow lab Molly; Peggy Orr attended with her miniature schnauzer Ellie; Ann Smith brought pit bull breed ambassador Lilly; and Nancy Sammut was accompanied by her newfoundland Al.

Students and staff enjoy interacting with the therapy dogs each semester, and the dogs were excited to be visiting Clarkson College again. Each Domesti-Pup member knew they were on familiar ground as soon as they walked into the Courtyard in the middle of campus.

The Alumni Association also provided snacks for students throughout the day-long study hall.

### **Student Receives Two** Scholarships from **American Physical Therapy** Association

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

For the second year in a row, a Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) student was awarded the annual American Physical Therapist Association (APTA) Minority Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. This year's recipient, Theresa Hoffman, raised the bar with the news that she was also the recipient of the annual APTA Mary McMillan Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000. Both scholarships consider scholastic performance, past productivity, evidence of potential contribution to physical therapy and service to the APTA.



"I feel humbled to be given this recognition," said Theresa, a native of Korea and transfer student in her final year of the PTA program. Theresa enrolled in the program in fall 2012 with many accomplishments behind her. Aside from already holding a Bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in chemistry, Theresa also volunteered in the Peace Corps from 2007–2009 in Carriacou, Grenada and the West Indies. In 2013, she gained certification as a T'ai Chi Moving for Better Balance instructor an achievement she says has been an invaluable asset to her personal and professional life.

Theresa's decision to return to school to earn a degree in PTA came from her desire to work in a field where she could empower people. "I feel like I can share pertinent information/techniques to better someone's life," she says. "My personal practice in martial arts is very body/movementoriented, and physical therapy on a whole works well with my health and wellness practices."

"What I feel is truly exceptional about Theresa is that she is an exceptional person," says PTA Program Director Dr. Andreia Nebel, who praised Theresa for her volunteer work in the Peace Corps and service to the local community beyond that which is required in the PTA program. "She was also elected the Clarkson College PTA student body secretary last year; has written wonderful class updates for the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association newsletter; made the dean's list every semester; and always has time to help a classmate. Theresa will make a wonderful addition to any rehab team, and we are all very proud of her accomplishments!"

The APTA has invited Theresa to attend the 2014 NEXT Conference and Exposition in Charlotte, N.C. on June 12 where she will be presented with her awards. While attendance is optional, the Clarkson College Alumni Association has graciously offered a grant to help fund Theresa's travel expenses and congratulates her on being elected for the awards.

Upon graduating in August 2014, Theresa hopes to continue her work with alternative exercise and underserved populations, either through a physical therapy/medical clinic or out in the community.

### **April 2014 Clarkson College Graduates**

#### Academic Excellence Awards

Presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average.

#### Kristina Ann Brown

Undergraduate Health Care Business

#### Lauren Shirk

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Cheryl Lynne Tidiane Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jenna Sue Zaliauskas Master in Health Care Administration

Gayla Marie Davis Master of Science in Nursing

#### Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Nicole Leigh Carroll Kyla Beth Hartog Elizabeth Jane Kroeger λ Rafael Antonio Maldonado Lauren Shirk λ\*\*\*\*

#### Associate of Science in Health Information Management

Carrie A. Lozano Brittany Chate' Thomas

#### Associate of Science in Health Information Technology Kristina Ann Brown \*

Rachel Marie Ishii

#### **Bachelor of Science in Health** Care Business in Health Information Administration

Amy B. Bradley  $\Sigma$ Angela Kathleen DiSalvo  $\Sigma$ Cynthia Susan Stewart Scott Kincaid Woodworth

#### **Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging**

Nicole Leigh Carroll Melissa Kay Elkins Tara Forest Kyla Beth Hartog Elizabeth Jane Kroeger λ Rafael Antonio Maldonado

Lauren Shirk λ\*\*\*\* Abby Marie Tunning Alexandra Marah Voqel \*

Victoria Mae Arnold

Anastasia M. Atayi Σ

#### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Bakir-Wena Komla Badjaglana

Teresa Jean Basile Cary Jane Bremseth Jessica Joy Buda  $\Sigma$ Erin Rachel Budach \*\*\*\* Michelle Marie Collins  $\Sigma$ Maurcey Janien Davis †Σ Michael E. DeSoe Σ Kandice Lynn Donner Helen Marie Ehm  $\Sigma$ Amy J. Fink Janice Lynn Fritsch Σ\*\* Jade Nicole Gearhart †Σ\* Nathan Daniel Gibilisco Leon Gildersleeve Jr. Amanda Joan Hanlin †Σ\*\*\* Meredith Anna Hellman Katherine Suzanne Herrera Ashley Nicole Hopple Erin Colleen Johnson Christine A. Kohnekamp Kourtney Nicole Kubicina Lyndsey A. Lynch Kayla Rae Mace \*\*\* Shanesha Rocha Mapp Andrew J. Mattes Dana Nicole McGill \* Margaret Messersmith Van Thuy Nguyen 7 Adryanne Nycole Orduña Leslie Pelster \*\*\* Kelsey Lauren Pollock Σ Mia Redding \*\*\*\* Stephanie Robinette \* Rachel Jean Schaaf Courtney Schooley Carrie Joe Stom Phattrawan Suksuwan Cheryl Lynne Tidiane \*\*\*\* Chelsey Troutman Lindsay Marie Vanlandingham †Σ\*\* Jessica Elizabeth Waker †\*\*\*\* Brittany Margaret Waterman  $\Sigma^*$ 

Marquetta Williamson  $\Sigma$ 

Hanah Elise Zehnder  $\dagger \Sigma$ 

Christina Marie Xydakis †Σ

#### Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Information Administration

Laura Eileen Harrison Jasmine Kay Konyek

#### Master in Health Care Administration

Daniel Joseph Feilmeier Kristi Lee Sidel Jenna Sue Zaliauskas

Master of Science in Nursing Jessica Marie Bachmann † Megan Lynn Broughton Marie Mather Burrows † Gayla Marie Davis † Heidi Suzanne Engstler Kelly Renee Goetschkes † Amy Sue Hemsley Jennifer Corinne Hirschbrunner Leesa Marie LaCanne Brandi Jo Larson LeAnne Kay Larson Gina Michelle Latham  $\Sigma$ Amy Diane Loffredo † Maria Pauline Long Carl Dale Markley Tammie Sue Nyman † Angela Marie Oakie  $\dagger \Sigma$ **Emily Margaret Olsen** Stephanie A. Preister Cindy R. Teasdale Marcy Thernes Kelli Sue Thiesen

### Post-Master's Certificate in Health Care Administration

Liane Marie Connelly Nichole Lynn Niehus

Andrew James Wakin

#### Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Heather Marie Casper-McLay Teresa Marie Doolittle Nicholas John Franssen Brach Rene' Jones Stephanie Jean Rexilius † Colleen Marie Ross

#### **Academic Honors**

Academic honors are conferred on Bachelor of Science and Associate of Science degree candidates who, upon graduation, distinguish themselves by maintaining a high cumulative grade point average. To qualify for academic honors, students must have completed the minimum number of required residency hours.

Honors are distinguished by:

- \*\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude 3.85 and above
- \*\*\* Magna Cum Laude 3.75 through 3.84
- Cum Laude 3.65 through 3.74
- With Distinction 3.50 through 3.64

Honor societies at the College:

- λ Member of Delta Chapter Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences
- † Member of Omicron Epsilon Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing
- Σ Member of National Society of Leadership and Success Sigma Alpha Pi Interdisciplinary Honor Society

Please note: Honors designations were based upon most current information at press time. Clarkson College apologizes for any errors or omissions.



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All travelers enjoy the same student rate of \$3,599, which includes round-trip airfare (from Omaha), ground transportation, double accommodations in 3- & 4-star hotels, medical and travel insurance, private deluxe motor coach and expert local guides, private tour manager, daily breakfast and admission fees for all activities on the itinerary.

#### Questions & additional trip information

Contact Dr. Patricia Brennan, Academic Travel Abroad Coordinator, at 402.552.6125 or brennan@clarksoncollege.edu. The itinerary and registration form may also be found under the Alumni & Friends tab at ClarksonCollege.edu.







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