

Spring
2018 Issue

Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Moving forward toward
a successful tomorrow



The future can seem uncertain, unclear and even daunting at times. Refusing to let this doubt take control will lead to a brighter tomorrow. By doing everything possible to set the stage for success, we ensure that our future remains open to endless possibilities.



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On the Cover
Making plans and adapting to
the health care industry and
communities served. 12

PHOTOGRAPH BY Andrew Marinkovich

At some point in your life, you have been asked one of two big questions: what do you want to do, and where do you see yourself in five years?

Different seasons in your life may have caused these questions to arise frequently as you assessed and aligned your personal, professional and life goals. Answering these questions is especially challenging when the year ahead is uncertain—let alone the next five years.

However, I would argue that many career successes are the result of planning and hard work, regardless of whether or not you love your job. Career planning takes time, dedication and perseverance, and taking an active role in developing plans for your future can lead to beneficial outcomes.

I recently attended “The Influential Leader” conference, and the event’s focus was on goals, specifically how to set them and complete the goal-setting process. Below are a handful of proactive tips and tricks to remember as you successfully stage your future.

Step 1: Determine what you want to accomplish. If this step proves to be difficult as you begin the goal-setting process, simply imagine that you are the president of your organization, and ask yourself, “What would I have my team do differently?”

Step 2: Turn what you want to accomplish into a specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-based (SMART) goal. A well-planned SMART goal is completed with a deadline in mind. John F. Kennedy modeled a SMART goal when he proclaimed that the United States would put a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s. Time-based deadlines are key in accomplishing your SMART goals.

Step 3: Build support for your goal. Oftentimes, you will be unable to achieve your goal without the assistance of others. Surround yourself with people who agree with what the goal will accomplish and will be your support system.

Step 4: Draft an action plan to make your goal real and concrete. The plan should include the people who will help you, obstacles to overcome, resources to assist, time-frame schedules and a celebration, of course!

Step 5: Review your progress and update the goal’s action plan as needed. Not every action plan will be a strong one, but it is useless if you do not effectively implement it. Changes can and will occur as you work toward achieving your goal, so remember to check your progress regularly and adjust the plan to accommodate any challenges.

Influential leaders know that those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Remember that not all of your SMART goals will be tremendous like JFK’s. A well-defined goal can be anything that you, your team or company is moving toward to change the future.

As you map out the years ahead, what do you want to accomplish and how will you implement the goal-setting process? As you strive to achieve your personal, professional and life goals, remember to make Clarkson College part of your action plan.



Jen Anderson, M.H.A., RHIA ('10), Alumni Association President

Noteworthy

Do you have a goal to get back in touch with your classmates? Make plans to attend Alumni Weekend and reconnect with them. Check out the full event details on page 6. We would love to see you!

Renew or begin your Alumni Association membership

Membership drive runs through Aug. 31

About You

Please print clearly.

NAME

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

SPOUSE’S NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

Employer Information

☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time ☐ Retired ☐ Not Applicable
Are you employed in the field in which you obtained your degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

CURRENT EMPLOYER

POSITION/TITLE

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Education

GRADUATING CLASS(ES) OF

PROGRAM(S)/DEGREE(S) OF STUDY

Giving Back

☐ 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

☐ Assisting with alumni activities

Class Notes

Class notes are published in the summer and winter editions of the Alumni Times. Attach an additional sheet if additional space is needed.

Membership

Make checks payable to "Alumni Association of Clarkson College."

Dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Dues should be received no later than Aug. 31. Alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago receive free membership in the Alumni Association and should mark “Nifty Fifty.”

Membership dues \$25 ☐ Nifty Fifty (class of '68 and earlier)

Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship Fund \$

IN MEMORY OF (NAME)

IN HONOR OF (NAME)

Total amount enclosed \$

Thanks to alumni membership, the Alumni Association awarded student scholarships, provided finals week support, sponsored a continuing education event and assisted with several campus activities this past year.

Making a Plan to Attend Alumni Weekend

Scheduled Sept. 27–28

Each fall, the Alumni Association hosts Alumni Weekend, a two day event for the College community to gather, reminisce and celebrate together. The event scheduled for Sept. 27–28 will honor the classes of 1968, 1978, 1993 and 2013. This year’s Alumni Weekend marks an additional milestone: the 25th graduating class of Radiologic Technology (RT) alumni. All alumni are invited to participate in the events.

Thursday, Sept. 27

We’re kicking off the festivities with our annual all-alumni brunch on campus in Howard Hall. Other activities planned for the day include a guided campus tour, Heritage Garden Walk ceremony and an afternoon trolley tour of historic Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing and Omaha sites.

Friday, Sept. 28

The continuing education event will begin at 7:30 a.m. in Howard Hall. Alumni Weekend concludes with an evening of merriment at the Players Club. Guests are welcome to attend.

Attention Class of 1963

A few 1963 Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing classmates are interested in celebrating their 55th class reunion during this fall’s Alumni Weekend.

If you are a 1963 graduate and are interested in joining us in September, contact Rita VanFleet as soon as possible at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

Graduating the Best for 25 Years

The Clarkson College RT program is celebrating its 25th graduating class this year, and all RT program graduates are invited to join us to honor this milestone. In addition to the Alumni Weekend festivities, attendees and guests will have the opportunity to connect with fellow RT alumni and celebrate 25 years of preparing students to be the best in the radiography field.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

E-MAIL

PHONE

CLASS(ES) OF

PROGRAM(S)/DEGREE(S) OF STUDY

Participation & Reservation

- I plan to attend the following events:
- ☐ Alumni Brunch: Sept. 27 at 10 a.m.
 - ☐ Campus Tour: Sept. 27 at noon
 - ☐ Heritage Garden Walk: Sept. 27 at 1 p.m.
 - ☐ Ollie the Trolley historical tour: Sept. 27 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.
 - ☐ Continuing Education Event: Sept. 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - ☐ Dinner & Entertainment: Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. Guests are welcome to attend.

Payment Information

- Make checks payable to “Clarkson College Alumni Association.”
- ☐ Continuing Education Event: \$20 for Nifty Fifty and paid Alumni Association members, and \$40 for all other health care providers. \$
 - ☐ Dinner & Entertainment: \$45 per person, with individuals attending. \$
 - ☐ Alumni Scholarship Fund donation \$

Total amount enclosed \$

Complete & Mail

Submit your completed reservation form by Aug. 27 to Alumni Coordinator 101 South 42nd Street Omaha, Neb. 68131. Questions pertaining to Alumni Weekend may be directed to Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.



Jaclyn ('15) and Halle Kenney share a moment with Ashley and Easton Chestnut.

Supporting Her Patient Beyond a Health Care Role

Alumna donates breast milk to new mother and cancer patient

Health care providers know that caring for patients comes in many different forms. Alumna and current Master of Science in Nursing student Jaclyn Kenney ('15), a Nebraska Medicine Special Care Unit nurse at the Fred and Pamela Buffet Cancer Center, recently went above and beyond by donating her breast milk to help a cancer patient and new mother. The donation changed the patient’s life and spoke of Kenney’s devotion to her health care profession.

Kenney began working at Nebraska Medicine after completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in summer 2015. She spent time in the labor and delivery department during her undergraduate clinicals and hoped to continue working in that area. With no open job positions in the department after graduation, Kenney explored her options in the Oncology and Hematology unit. “I fell in love with oncology,” she said. “Our patients are incredible, and they made me want to stay.”

One such patient is Ashley Chestnut, a 30-year-old mother of two recently diagnosed with lymphoma. She started receiving chemotherapy

treatments shortly after her diagnosis and could no longer breastfeed her five-month-old son, Easton. The devastating news came soon after her diagnosis, and Chestnut struggled with the implications.

Kenney learned about Chestnut’s family from another Oncology and Hematology nurse who mentioned that her patient had a son around the same age as Kenney’s daughter, Halle. Hearing about the family’s situation inspired Kenney as a mother and a nurse.

Kenney discovered that Easton has a milk soy protein intolerance (MSPI), and he is on a lactose-free diet. Coincidentally, Halle also has a MSPI, and Kenney realized that she had nearly one and a half months of breast milk in her freezer that was compatible with Easton’s specialized diet. Previously, Kenney considered taking the donation to a milk bank, but knowing the recipient inspired her to contact Chestnut. “Some people don’t prefer to use donated breast milk, so I wasn’t sure how she would react,” Kenney said. “When I asked her, she burst into tears and asked, ‘May I hug you?’”

Overall, Kenney donated nearly 1,000 ounces (125 cups) of breast milk to Chestnut, and the two formed a unique bond through their roles as young mothers.

The donation changed the patient’s life and spoke of Kenney’s devotion to her health care profession.

“I think that God placed us in the right place at the right time,” Kenney said. “Ashley is such a strong fighter. Every time I see her in the hallway, she has a huge smile on her face, and she is so appreciative of the donation.”

Photo courtesy of Nebraska Medicine. All medical and personal information is shared with patient’s express permission.

Unable to attend Alumni Weekend? Check out page 11 for additional alumni events slated for later this year.



Alumni Events Continue Their Successful Streak

Alumni, staff, family and friends gathered for camaraderie and friendly competition

Bowling Tournament

Members and friends of the College community made the eighth annual Alumni Bowling Tournament on Jan. 27 a roaring success. Players donned creative costumes reflecting the bowling themed team names and filled the 12-lane alley at Scorz Sports Center in Ralston, Neb.

Each team bowled three games, and an awards presentation was held at the end of the evening. For eight years and running, "OMG (Oh My Gutter) II: The Sequel" were the Last Place Champions Team. Alumnae Joan Blum ('81, '86, '01), Mary Dishman ('85, '91, '09), Kassie McKenny ('07) and Renee Ruhkamp ('09), bowled a total combined score of 964. Members credit their lower-than-normal score to Dishman, who scored six points in the first three frames of game one. Runner-up for last place champions was awarded to "Penguins," consisting of Joann Acierno ('07), Daniel Aksamit, Sarah Flanagan and Rachel Pfeifer.

The tournament's top rivaling teams battled to earn the Grand Champion Team award. In the end, the "High Rollers" with Erin ('13) and Brandon ('06, '13) Jordan and Rachel ('04, '12) and Clark ('06, '13) Thompson snagged the top placement with their combined total score of 1,715. The arch-rival "Strikeologists" team, consisting of captian Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and her teammates Nancy Beaner, Mike Dirkschneider and Matt Anderson, settled for runner-up with a final total combined score of 1,592.

Registrar Natalie Vrbka received the Highest Individual Women's Score award, bowling a combined score of

1 / Split Happens. 2 / Spare Ribs. 3 / OMG (Oh My Gutter) II: The Sequel. 4 / High Rollers. 5 / Penguins. 6 / I Can't Believe it's Not Gutter. 7 / Strikeologists. 8 / Pins and Needles.



381. Brandon Jordan took the Highest Individual Men's Score award, bowling a combined score of 584.

Earning the Best Team Name award was "Ebowla" with Luke Sieburg, Sharon Eden, Lori Bachle and Jeri List. For the second year in a row, Vrbka's team took first place for Best Team Costume. "Spare Ribs" consisted of Student Services members Bailey Jorgensen, Becky Kemper, Vrbka and Brooke Clements.

First-time team members Colleen Nielson ('89), her husband Dave, Tami Hansen ('89) and Steve Stang ('89) competed as "Split Happens." The group wore emoji hats and carried bedpans along with other toiletry items.

The annual tournament would not be possible without the assistance of Alumni Association Board members and Administrative Assistant Jean Delfs. A sincere thank you is extended to the event volunteers, organizers and supporters.

Decorated Table Trivia

Scrabble, lumberjacks, pirates, Cat in the Hat characters, chocolate factory workers and a scene straight out of Oz filled Howard Hall during the Decorated Table Trivia held Saturday, March 3. The unique annual event challenges participants to be the best and brightest at both creative decorating and trivia.

Alumnae, staff, family and friends enjoyed the well-executed tables scattered

throughout the room. Alumna Susan Bristol ('78) brought sweet scenes to life with her "I Love Lucy Chocolate Factory" table theme. The decorated table displayed Lucille Ball's candy factory nightmare and featured chocolates, line workers and hints of red as a nod to the show. Jen Anderson ('10) incorporated the high seas and buried treasure into her table theme, "We Aarrgh Clarkson [College]." The table was transformed into a pirate ship, including a ship mast, maps, flags and a treasure chest with jewels. The love of trivia games was evident from Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06) and her guests, who were dressed as game pieces at the "Scrabble" table. Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and guests at the "Cat in the Hat" entered the world of

Dr. Seuss and included Thing 1 and Thing 2. Hosted by Carrie Sunderman ('11), members of the "Trivia Choppers" wore beards and flannel to complete the table's lumberjack vibe. The "Quizzard of Oz" brought wit to the movie and trivia event, earning Admissions Director Ken Zeiger this year's Best Decorated Table award. The elaborate tablescape and costumes highlighted the famed yellow brick road, Emerald City and the film's cast members.

Clarkson College Associate Professor and alumna Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11) served as the emcee during the seven rounds of trivia. Organizers changed the trivia categories this year, and each table enjoyed the challenge as they battled to earn the highest trivia score. The

"Scrabble" team answered the most questions correctly and were awarded Starbucks gift cards.

Donations from this event help the Alumni Association support current students. The Alumni Association extends thanks to the event participants and trivia judges Clarkson College Controller Megan Wickless-Mulder and Health and Safety Coordinator Sharon Mantz for helping to make this event a success.

1 / Cat in the Hat. 2 / We Aarrgh Clarkson [College]. 3 / Quizzard of Oz. 4 / Scrabble. 5 / I Love Lucy Chocolate Factory. 6 / Trivia Choppers.

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar

The Alumni Association is sponsoring events this spring and summer, and we invite you and your guests to join us.

Door Décor Painting Event

Let your creative side shine during the Door Décor Painting event on Saturday, May 19 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Choose a watermelon slice, camper or cross cutout to paint and brighten up your home this spring. The cost is \$45 per person, which includes one wooden cutout, paint supplies, ribbon and a light snack. Attendees may purchase additional cutouts for \$20 each. Please RSVP no later than May 1.

Storm Chasers Baseball Game

Join us on Sunday, Aug. 5 for an evening taking in America's favorite pastime at Werner Park in Papillion, Neb. The Storm Chaser's baseball game begins at 5:05 p.m., and the Alumni Association reserved seats directly behind home plate. The cost to attend is \$16 per person. Fun Zone tickets for children ages 10 and under are also available at the discounted price of \$4. Attendees must RSVP to attend before July 9.

Register to attend one or both events by contacting Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

Serving Where They're Needed



Nurse practitioners find their calling caring for rural & underserved communities across the country

Crystal Dailey MSN, APRN, FNP

The ability to work in a rural setting is a dream come true for many nurse practitioners. Alumna and Family Nurse Practitioner Crystal Dailey ('15, '17) always knew she wanted to serve in a small community. "I never had any intention of working anywhere other than a rural setting," she said. "If anything, I would like to move somewhere more rural!"

Dailey's nursing career is embodied by her passion for serving the community. She was born near Stapleton, Neb., and prior to earning her Bachelor's degree, she worked in a small community as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). She completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at Clarkson College in 2015 and went on to earn her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in 2017.

Dailey works at Rock County Clinic alongside two additional nurse practitioners and two physicians in Basset, Neb. Because the physicians are only available to work three or four days a month, Dailey and her fellow nurse practitioners serve as the primary caregivers at the clinic.

Despite many of her patients having low incomes and no health insurance, Dailey strives to provide exceptional care. "The people here are so appreciative of us," she said. "When you work in this area, you understand the adversities that your patients face. The difficulties that our



Crystal Dailey

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation reports that 58 million Americans belong to rural communities and medically underserved populations that face a shortage of health care providers. Rural and underserved populations include the elderly and homeless, as well as those with limited income or little to no insurance. Organizations like the National Rural Health Association report that these groups experience a lack of providers, limited education about preventative health measures and economic barriers. They also often experience higher rates of disease and medical complications due to a lack of access to primary care.

For these reasons, there is a wide range of opportunities available for nurse practitioners in underserved areas. Nurse practitioners are stepping in to offer a solution to the problem by providing desperately needed assistance in these communities. The demand for nurse practitioners is especially high in these areas because they can perform many of the same services as primary care physicians as outlined in the State Nurse Practice Act.

Clarkson College Nurse Practitioner graduates bring care to people in medically underserved areas across the country. They build strong, meaningful relationships with their patients and work toward a brighter future and healthier generations to come. Their stories demonstrate their commitment to providing compassionate care, no matter the circumstances.

patients encounter are ones that my fellow practitioners and I live with and experience every day.”

Patients in the community often experience higher than average rates of sickness, according to Daily. She also sees many patients with more progressed illnesses because there is a lack of education about preventative care. “Out here, there is not as much of a focus on wellness,” she said. “People usually don’t keep up with preventative health measures, and many of them have not seen a provider in five or ten years.”

Rona Johnson

MSN, A-GNP, RN, OCN, CHPN

Rona Johnson (’17) has dedicated her nursing career to working with American Indians, one of the most chronically underserved populations in the United States. She was born and



Rona Johnson pictured on far left.

raised in Anchorage, AK and grew up with close ties to the Alaska Native community. After earning her BSN from the University of Alaska-Anchorage in 2003, Johnson began working at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) in Anchorage and earned her MSN from Clarkson College.

Johnson and her colleagues at ANTHC strive to meet the unique needs of Alaska Native and American Indian populations living in the state. ANTHC is the primary provider for the majority of specialty services in the state such as oncology, internal medicine and orthopedics and often receives patients from smaller hospitals in the region.

“We serve a relatively homogenous population of indigenous people who are very underserved,” said Johnson. “They come from communities across the state, most of which are not part of the road system so they have to get to us by airplane.”

Many patients must take a three-hour boat ride or 40-minute bush plane trip to get to ANTHC, according to Johnson. When they travel to ANTHC, it is often their first time leaving their village. “We typically see a lot of elders who come out of their villages near the end of their lives,” she said. “It can be traumatic for them to leave their communities and the people they see as their family.”

Cost is another major barrier. Many families across Alaska live simple lives by hunting and gathering only what they need to survive. This lifestyle leaves few resources for preventative health care measures. “Many times, people can’t spend the extra money on gas or a hospital visit because they need to spend that money on fuel and oil to heat their home or food for their families,” said Johnson.

Working with individuals who have little knowledge of and access to health care can be difficult, but Johnson says her patients’ innocence and vulnerability are one of the reasons she loves caring for them. “In Alaskan native culture, it’s not just blood that defines family; it’s the community,” she said. “It provides me so much joy and perspective to be able to serve them and be part of their family.”

Mark Huber

MSN, APRN



When Mark Huber (’16) entered the nursing field, he initially saw himself in the emergency room treating trauma patients. However, he saw the needs of underserved populations firsthand while obtaining his BSN and working in the ER.

“One of the things that I found very frustrating about working in the ER is that a lot of people—oftentimes because they didn’t have any other choice—were using the ER as a place to get primary care,” he said. “We often ended up treating emergent conditions over and over again like high blood pressure, diabetes and high blood sugar, which is a really poor way to manage chronic conditions.”

Huber continued his education and became a Nurse Practitioner in 2016. Completing clinicals in family practice settings encouraged him to move from the ER to an area that would allow him more interaction with his patients. “I really started to like the idea of being able to get to know my patients and manage their chronic conditions in a non-emergent setting and more efficient way.”

His clinical experiences allowed him to work with OneWorld Community Health Center in Omaha, Neb. where he now serves as a Family Nurse Practitioner. By utilizing options such as a sliding fee scale based on a patient’s income, OneWorld is able to provide an open door policy and provide treatment regardless of income, insurance coverage or ability to pay.

“One thing that is nice about working with underserved populations is that you’re really able to give back because your patients don’t have a lot of other options,” said Huber. “You provide care that people would not be receiving otherwise.”

Huber also frequently treats non-English speaking patients and estimates that between 70–80 percent of his patients are from countries such as Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. Despite language barriers, working with diverse populations appeals to Huber. “One of the reasons that I went into nursing was the opportunity to work overseas and provide health care to people who don’t have the opportunity to get it,” he said. “In a lot of ways, I’m able to do that every day without traveling.”

Sources: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/tapping-nurse-practitioners-to-meet-rising-demand-for-primary-care/

National Rural Health Association. Retrieved from ruralhealthweb.org/about-nrha/about-rural-health-care

President Update: Annual Report & Outline for the Months Ahead

Dr. Damewood discusses how the College is moving forward to stage a successful future for the institution and health care field it serves

The Clarkson College community completed its annual strategic planning retreat on Jan. 15. The event involves participation of faculty, staff and administration to assess, develop and reaffirm the organization's direction for the upcoming year. Gaining input and ideas from employees across the institution is a vital part of the strategic planning process. Unlike most organizations, Clarkson College reviews the previous year's plan and then creates a new strategic plan for the year ahead. This approach ensures the development of a focused, up-to-date plan, which is something missing from many organizational strategies.

Department and program directors submit an annual report and environmental assessment prior to the strategic planning retreat. The report's purpose is to assess outside factors, research trends, and evaluate the College academic programs and student

services. The assessment includes best practices in higher education and an examination of health care industry changes that may impact College offerings. The College shares the environmental assessments with employees in preparation for January's strategic planning retreat.

During the event, employees discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

pertaining to Clarkson College. Employees also share "quick fixes," which are items that could be improved with minimal planning and funding.

Following the retreat, the Clarkson College Executive Leadership Team evaluates the information and creates Critical Success Factor (CSF) goals for the year ahead. Each approved 2018 goal fits into an Academics, Student Services, Quality Improvement or Multi-Year Goals category.

CSF A: We will evaluate and improve academic services.

1. We will implement a standardized advising process to include student coursework option, resources and evaluation.

CSF B: We will address student and College concerns.

2. We will create a proposal for a nursing skills lab that includes best practices, competition, comparisons, costs, etc.

CSF C: We will assess and improve the quality of the College.

1. We will explore and make recommendations for mission trip service opportunities for the College community.

CSF D: We will implement multi-year goals.

1. Master Facilities Plan update with assessment of the College physical environment, finances and timeframes for scheduled completion.
2. Create, implement, assess and report on the College quality initiative project per HLC guidelines and timeframes.

The College will implement fewer CSF goals this year for two specific reasons. First, more than 100 improvement projects were completed over the last 10 years, leaving fewer weaknesses for the College to address. Second, a Higher Learning Commission site visit to confirm our accreditation status is slated for spring 2019. To prepare for the visit, the College community is on track to complete 14 projects throughout the 2018 academic year.

Clarkson College has successfully implemented the same strategic planning process for more than a decade, and we are excited about the upcoming plan. The key to a successful strategy is the College-wide input received, and we are eager to see the results of our shared efforts.



Employees Unite for a Day of Caring

College staff and faculty spend an afternoon at Open Door Mission

Clarkson College community members share a commitment to building a positive future for both the institution and those around them. This desire inspired more than 30 employees to spend an afternoon at Omaha's Open Door Mission during a Day of Caring held Jan. 15.

Their time at the Open Door Mission supported the organization as it works to break the cycles of poverty and homelessness. The local facilities offer more than 800 beds to homeless men, women and children from Omaha and the surrounding areas. The organization's employees and volunteers serve more than 2,000 hot meals daily and provide preventative measures to more than 275 people living in poverty. The College has a long history with the organization, and students, faculty, employees and their family members volunteer several times throughout the year to provide health care and other services.

Day of Caring participants toured the Open Door Mission facilities, which included the Lydia House Women and Family Center, Garland Thompson Men's Center and permanent supportive housing areas. Men and women staying at the facilities shared their stories during the tour, giving insight and perspective to the Open Door Mission's impact in the community. In addition to providing shelter and food, the organization offers education, rehabilitation and job assistance programs.

Following the tour, Clarkson College employees assembled food pantry boxes containing non-perishable food items for Omaha families served by the Open Door Mission. Altogether, volunteers packed nearly 850 boxes in two hours. The experience gave employees a first-hand look at the difference one day of caring can make.

College to Offer Educational Grants Beginning Summer 2018

Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program options are becoming a crucial part of the nursing field. The Institute of Medicine reported on the future of nursing in 2010, making a strong recommendation that 80 percent of the nursing workforce have a baccalaureate degree (BSN) by 2020. According to surveys by the Nebraska Center for Nursing, 63.9 percent of nurses in the state have a Bachelor's degree or higher. While these numbers are encouraging, the community continues to look for ways to increase the number of working nurses with Bachelor's degrees in the state and across the country.

Students enrolled in the RN to BSN program will receive a Nursing Workforce Educational Grant beginning in the summer 2018 semester. The institutional grant provides funding for RN to BSN students to use toward nursing-specific courses.

The RN to BSN program has a strong reputation for its level of academic excellence, proficiency in online education, customizable and accelerated study options, and small student-to-faculty ratio. "I believe the program is a direct reflection of the College Values of Caring, Commitment and Excellence," said Dean of Nursing Aubray Orduña, Ed.D., RN.

Learn more about the grant and program opportunities by visiting ClarksonCollege.edu.



Innovative Offerings

Multiple academic program changes to occur in the coming year

Clarkson College will update multiple programs this fall in an effort to remain on the forefront of health care education.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice

Clarkson College will implement the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program option in fall 2018. The decision came following a 2016 strategic planning process to examine the current DNP curriculum. The Critical Success Factor committee recommended updating the curriculum and implementing a BSN to DNP option, and College leadership voted to implement the program option with three specialty tracks in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Anesthesia.

Research shows that interest in BSN to DNP programs is very high. A 2016 Clarkson College BSN student survey revealed that 74.1 percent were interested in a BSN to DNP program option, and 96.08 percent were interested in continuing their education at Clarkson College.

Students enrolled in the Clarkson College BSN to DNP program option have the opportunity to select evidence-based projects that are applicable to their work environment. The curriculum requires a minimum of 300 residency hours and the completion of a scholarly project that demonstrates a student's ability to translate research into evidence-based health care practice.

The implementation of a BSN to DNP option reflects the growing need for doctorally prepared nurses. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) now recommends a DNP degree for all advanced practice nurses, including nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists. The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists mandates all nurse anesthesia programs graduate doctorally prepared nurse anesthetists by 2025.

Graduate Nursing Director Dr. Layna Himmelberg believes the new program option will offer benefits for nurses looking to advance their careers. "All levels of nurses are needed in our ever-changing world of health care," she said. "The demand for doctorally prepared

nurses is very high, which gives those who earn their DNP the opportunity to follow many different career paths. As a doctorally prepared nurse, you gain knowledge not only of clinical practice, but also of the business and management side of health care."

The College will enroll students in the BSN to DNP Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks beginning fall 2018. Students who choose the Nurse Anesthesia track will enroll in spring 2020. The curriculum will continue to prepare students to provide quality care and meet the new standards of qualifications for advanced practice nurses.

Community Health

The Clarkson College Health Care Services program name will change to Community Health effective fall 2018. The program's core focus remains the same as it aims to help students develop the knowledge base, skill set and professional experiences necessary for health care. A Community Health degree prepares students for positions in health outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

The Community Health interdisciplinary curriculum includes courses in health literacy and patient advocacy, legal and ethical implications, environmental and cultural influences on health, and health care organizations. Students choose from concentration areas in Gerontology, Health Care Business, Human Services, Public Health or Women's Health as they progress through the program. Traditional Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health, Post-Associate's degree and dual degree options are available as part of the program.

Radiography

The Clarkson College Radiologic Technology program name will change to Radiography beginning fall 2018. Faculty and College leadership voted to approve the name change in an effort to conform to industry standards and mirror top organizations within the field, including the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

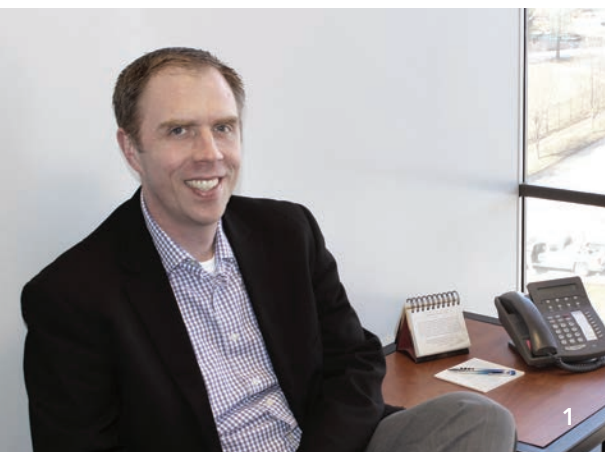
The name change will not affect program requirements or course curriculum. The Radiography program will continue to teach students skills in anatomy, medical terminology, radiographic exposure,

patient positioning, and medical image manipulation and evaluation. Students must also learn proper use of high-tech imaging equipment and complete clinical practicums to prepare for real-life settings.

The College will also continue its dual degree option for students to earn an Associate's degree in Radiography and a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging. The flexible, online format of the Bachelor's degree offers advanced skill sets in specialty modalities, including angiography, mammography and magnetic resonance imaging. Students with no prior college credits can complete the dual degree option in as few as three years, and students with an Associate's degree in Radiography from an accredited institution can complete the program in as few as two years. The in-depth training and education offered in these areas increases students' job marketability and salary earning potential in the radiography field.

New Directors Lead College Academic & Service Departments

Program and department directors set the stage for a strong future



Earlier this year, Clarkson College appointed new leaders who will build upon the institution's strong foundation and lead to greater achievements for its community while preparing students to be the best.

DIRECTOR, HEALTH CARE EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP **Dr. Ryan Meers**

Ryan Meers, Ph.D., joined the College as the Health Care Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) Director in February.

Dr. Meers earned his Bachelor's degree in Speech Education from Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. before returning to his native Lincoln, Neb. to earn a Master's degree in Educational Administration and a Doctorate degree in Leadership Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Meers served as the Chair of the Division of Communication before

helping to create and serve as the Director of the Center for Leadership Development at Bob Jones University.

Following his time at the University, Dr. Meers took a break from higher education and knew he would revisit it later in his career. "I love higher education and wanted to return to this world," he said. "I also love the small, private college environment and have a fondness for mission-driven institutions such as Clarkson College."

As the Ed.D. Director, Dr. Meers oversees faculty, advises students, and evaluates program goals and outcomes. He believes

the curriculum offers health care professionals numerous opportunities. "This program can provide extreme value to many who are in higher education and health care settings," said Dr. Meers. "I also see potential for those who are interested in becoming leaders in non-profit health care settings."

The program prepares graduates to design and implement educational processes in both classroom and practice settings and perform research across the health care continuum.

Dr. Meers plans to build upon the program's infrastructure by getting to know its students and faculty to learn more about its strengths and needs. "It is wonderful that the program has such a strong foundation," he said. "I think we have a tremendous opportunity to see this program grow and to develop it even more."

DIRECTOR, ADMISSIONS **Ken Zeiger**

Ken Zeiger was promoted to Admissions Director in November and is eager to utilize his nearly 10 years of experience in higher education to assist prospective students.

Zeiger joined the College in 2010 as an Admissions Counselor and changed roles after five years to become the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program Advisor Coordinator. In late 2017, Zeiger returned to assist in the Admissions department, and the experience motivated him to apply for the open Admissions Director position. "The more time I spent in that role, the more I realized how much I missed the environment and the work that I can do here," he said. "I believe that I have a lot to offer this position and feel my

higher education experiences have been building to this opportunity."

As Admissions Director, Zeiger oversees outreach and communication for the department and enrollment for the College. He also directs recruitment and networking efforts, and he works with the

Admissions Counselors and front desk staff to give campus guests a positive first look at the College.

Zeiger looks forward to updating current procedures and improving opportunities to share the College message with prospective students.

"I am very passionate about Clarkson College and the educational opportunities our students receive here," he said. "We are truly the best in health care education, and I am excited to relay this message to the applicants and communities we work with daily."

A Royal Tradition Held During Annual Casino Night

The crowning of Mr. and Ms. Clarkson spans more than 70 years, and we're proud to celebrate this long-standing tradition. The annual coronation takes place in conjunction with Casino Night, held in Howard Hall this year on Feb. 7.

Students, faculty and staff submitted their Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College nominations in the weeks leading up to Casino Night. Appointed student nominees demonstrate the College Values in their personal, professional and academic lives. The 2018 nominees were Shane Asher, Sam Jackson, Eli Moseman, Michaela Holmes, Danika Lucy and Ashley Sellin. This year's crowns were presented to Asher and Holmes. Both Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College are Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students, and each received a \$100 scholarship along with the award.

Asher is from Creighton, Neb. and plans to graduate in spring 2020. He works on campus as a Student Ambassador and hopes to become a Student Nurses Association (SNA) member this year. He works as an emergency services technician at Nebraska Medicine during his spare time.

"Being named Mr. Clarkson College is an honor," Asher said. "It shows that students and staff see my hard work every

day, and I am very grateful for their recognition. I appreciate the staff members who nominated me and the students who voted for me."

Holmes is a Gateway to Success Minority Nursing Scholarship recipient and plans to graduate in summer 2019. Born in China, Holmes was adopted and raised in Omaha, Neb. She is an SNA and National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) member who stays active on campus as a Student Ambassador and tutor. She works off campus as a student nurse technician in the operating room at Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy and as a certified nursing assistant at Brookestone Village.

"I am honored that people would choose me to represent Clarkson College, and I hope to continue to make a positive impact in our community," Holmes said. "In the two years that I have been here, I have grown tremendously as both a person and student, and I owe so much of it to the opportunities that Clarkson College provides."

The royal crowning was one of many activities planned for Casino Night. The event features casino-inspired games like blackjack and roulette for students to earn chips. In exchange for their earned chips,



Shane Asher



Michaela Holmes

students receive an equivalent number of raffle tickets to place in their choice of available prize buckets. A few of the prizes this year included an Apple iPod Mini 2, a Polaroid mobile photo printer, a drone with camera and an Amazon Echo Dot.

Organizers host the event each year to provide students an opportunity to connect with each other and fellow College community members. "Student Activities Council seeks to plan events that offer a safe, healthy environment for students to get together and have fun without engaging in risky behaviors," said Residence Hall and Student Life Coordinator Susannah Rand. "Casino Night brings the community together to recognize great leaders on campus and build meaningful relationships. Students love this annual tradition!"

1 / Dr. Ryan Meers. 2 / Ken Zeiger.

Putting Our Best Foot Forward

Updated Clarkson College Experience showcases College strengths

Each semester, Clarkson College offers prospective students the opportunity to explore campus, meet with various College department members, and tour classroom and lab facilities. The organized visit days highlight the culture and educational experience offered at Clarkson College. The Admissions team recently improved this process by introducing a new kind of campus visit: the Clarkson College Experience. The first Clarkson College Experience was held Jan. 26.

While many original elements are still part of the Clarkson College Experience, organizers sought to incorporate more ways to involve College community members. "The event's goal is to showcase what we do best here at the College," said Admissions Counselor Becca Gordon. "Some of our greatest assets are our faculty members and students, and the new setup demonstrates this."

The team moved the event from Saturday to Friday morning to integrate more involvement and hands-on experiences for prospective students and their families. The new schedule gives visitors a more accurate understanding of daily student life at Clarkson College.

"We decided to move the event to a Friday because the College is much livelier during the week," said Gordon. "Visitors were able to meet faculty and current students and experience everything that happens here daily."

led by current students, alumni, employers and parents. The panel gave visitors a first-hand opportunity to hear about how a Clarkson College education impacts its students and their families.

"The multi-community panel was definitely a highlight of the event," said Gordon. "Attendees were able to hear what it is like to be an applicant, student and working professional. They also heard the long-term benefits our programs have to offer."

Students and their families toured campus with Student Ambassadors following the panel discussion. Groups visited the Residence Hall and Student Center before participating in hands-on demonstrations with faculty and students from their program of interest. The event concluded with an information fair that allowed attendees to interact with various on-campus departments and groups. Organizations such as Academic Travel Abroad, Student Government Association, Residence Life and Financial Aid answered attendees' questions and provided additional resources.

The Admissions team will continue to host the Clarkson College Experience every semester. The team will build upon the event's success by updating and improving the revised structure to reshape how the College community connects with potential students.

Past visit days focused on information and presentations from various College departments, and the new event format incorporates more interactive components throughout the day. Attendees listened to a short presentation from the Admissions team and participated in a multi-community panel discussion

"The event's goal is to showcase what we do best here at the College."

In Memoriam

Mary Evenson Buchanan ('51)
Died in Albuquerque, N.M. on March 15, 2018.

Muriel Joanne Cutler Torrey ('54)
Passed away in Florida on Nov. 4, 2017.



Mystery Photo

A snapshot of the people, ideas and events shaping our history

Our goals set the stage for a successful future. Hats off to whoever recognizes this forward-thinking alumna.

Send your responses to Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.



MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Upholding Honesty

Our alumni stand by the sacred trust between patient and care giver. Even though the alumna pictured remains a mystery, we're certain that she upheld her vow to provide ethical, compassionate and value-driven care.

Joni Learch ('88)
The nurse in the mystery photo looks so much like my cousin, but she graduated from a different college.



Radiologic Technology Program Earns JRCERT Accreditation

The Clarkson College Radiologic Technology (RT) program earned an eight-year, citation-free accreditation status from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) in February 2018. The recognition is the maximum award term offered and marks the program's third accreditation honor since its establishment in 1991.

Earning JRCERT accreditation is a department-wide effort that requires input from the program director and faculty members. To receive the award, each program must submit a self-study report explaining how the program and institution meet the radiography field's educational standards. The approval process also includes a site visit to assess the program's compliance standards.

"Site visitors provide an exit summary following each campus visit where they explain any recommendations or suggestions," said Clarkson College RT Program Director Ellen Collins, M.S., R.T. (R)(M)(ARRT). "The report provided following our November site visit

contained no citations. It was an amazing report to receive." Receiving no citation marks during an accreditation visit is rare, and the site visitors were very impressed with Clarkson College RT program.

JRCERT offers the top accreditation standards for radiography, radiation therapy, magnetic resonance and medical dosimetry educational programs. It is the only organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to promote excellence in radiologic science education. Programs demonstrating

"The report contained no citations. It was an amazing report to receive."

ELLEN COLLINS, M.S., R.T. (R)(M)(ARRT)

compliance with standards to promote academic excellence, patient safety and quality health care are awarded JRCERT accreditation. "Many institutions will not hire graduates unless they complete a JRCERT-accredited program," said Collins.

Online Graduate Nursing Program Earns U.S. News & World Report Ranking

College offers one of only two Graduate Nursing programs ranked in the state

U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College 77th out of 154 eligible institutions in the nation in the category of 2018 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, making it only one of two top ranked programs of its kind in Nebraska.

This is the seventh year Clarkson College received a high-ranking status by *U.S. News*. "It is an honor to be recognized in this category," said Graduate Nursing Director Dr. Layna Himmelberg. "It speaks highly of the program, the College and the hard-working faculty who continue to advance the program and ensure its success."

U.S. News & World Report determines the rankings by compiling a list of schools offering online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees and collects data from the schools accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The rankings recognize the best online graduate nursing programs based on five factors:

- › Student Engagement (30 percent)
- › Faculty Credentials and Training (20 percent)
- › Peer Reputation (20 percent)
- › Admissions Selectivity (15 percent)
- › Student Services and Technology (15 percent)

A program's score for each factor is calculated using the statistical and peer reputation data reported to *U.S. News*. The organization collected data between August 2017 and October 2017, and 159 schools—or 30 percent of

schools surveyed—said they would be offering online MSN degrees. Five of the 159 schools are unranked because they reported having fewer than 10 students enrolled or because the program was less than one year old.

The Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program is accredited by ACEN. The program offers specialties in Nursing Education, Nursing Health Care Administration, Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner. Post-MSN certificate programs are also available online. The program curriculum prepares registered nurses to work as educators, leaders, consultants, advocates and advanced practitioners.

The Clarkson College Mission and Values drive the program to continue making strides in nursing education. "Clarkson College faculty and administration work together to ensure that our students receive the best education," said Dr. Himmelberg. "We strongly believe in our Mission to prepare students to professionally provide high-quality health care and our Values, which continue to motivate us to improve the program."

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is the only other school in Nebraska to receive a 2018 *U.S. News* Best Online Graduate Nursing Program ranking. To view the complete list of this year's rankings, visit usnews.com/education/online-education/nursing.



Dr. Nebel Named National Academies of Practice Distinguished Fellow

College Vice President of Academic Affairs joins fellow professionals in the pursuit of quality health care

The National Academies of Practice (NAP) elected Clarkson College Vice President of Academic Affairs Andreia Nebel, PT, D.P.T., as a Distinguished Fellow in Physical Therapy in January. Dr. Nebel joins distinguished health care professionals dedicated to advancing interprofessional health care by fostering collaboration in practice settings and advocating policies for individuals and communities. NAP honors the nation's leading health care practitioners and their contributions.

Professionals must be nominated and complete a formal process to be accepted into one of NAP's 14 academies, including disciplines such as nursing, social work, psychology and pharmacy. The organization requires applicants to have a 10-year minimum exemplary career, commit to interprofessional practice and deliver accessible, affordable health care.

A nomination from a mentor and former professor combined with more than 16 years as a physical therapist practitioner and educator earned Dr. Nebel a spot in the Physical Therapy Academy. "My passion is to be a positive educator who makes a difference in the lives of my students," said Dr. Nebel. "I believe in the fundamental principles of interprofessional education, and this organization resonates with who I am."

Dr. Nebel received a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Development from Montana State University-Bozeman followed by her Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy from Creighton University in 2002. She joined Clarkson College in 2003 as an Associate Professor and served as the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Director from 2007 to 2015. That year, Dr. Nebel became the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and she continues to teach in the PTA and Health Care Education and Leadership programs. She is currently earning a Doctorate degree in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University.

Dr. Nebel's introduction into NAP allows her to meet and work with other professionals who share a belief in health care practice with an interprofessional foundation. "I have always aspired to be the best physical therapist I can be and to help the community at large," she said. "I am truly honored, and I hope to continue supporting the organization in their interprofessional pursuits."

She will attend the NAP annual meeting and forum in April in Atlanta, Ga. as a Distinguished Fellow. Event sessions will address advancing technology, health care advocacy, relationship-centered care and working in collaborative teams.

Call for Nominations: Honorary Alumni Award

Is there someone in your personal or professional life who exemplifies the qualities of a Clarkson School of Nursing or Clarkson College graduate? The Alumni Association invites you to nominate him or her for the Honorary Alumni award. Nominated Honorary Alumni have a strong commitment to the College and have made significant contributions to its well-being in support of its Mission and goals. Nominees are extraordinary community leaders and are not Clarkson School of Nursing or Clarkson College alumni.

Selection Criteria & Application Submission

- › Has contributed significantly to the betterment of the students and alumni of Clarkson College.
- › Has shown extraordinary loyalty, involvement and identification with Clarkson College.
- › Has distinguished him/herself by a special service to the College or to the community in which they reside.
- › Manifests qualities of strong moral principles worthy of recognition.
- › Monetary contributions are not considered as criteria.

Nominations are accepted through June 30, and up to three awards may be granted if acceptable nominations are received. Awards are announced during the September Alumni Weekend events.

Submit the completed nomination form and essay to Alumni Coordinator at 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Questions may be directed to Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Donating Through Omaha Gives!

Contribute to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund in a unique way during the sixth annual Omaha Gives! event on May 23. Organized by the Omaha Community Foundation, the annual charitable event allows participants to donate to their favorite non-profit organizations in the Omaha-Council Bluffs areas. All donations made to the College through Omaha Gives! will benefit the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is available to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing an education at Clarkson College.

Omaha Gives! is a 24-hour charitable challenge that begins at midnight on May 23. Visit the Omaha Gives! website at any time during the 24-hour period to donate \$10 or more to Clarkson College. If you are unable to participate on May 23, scheduled donations will be accepted through the Omaha Gives! website beginning May 1.

Honorary Alumni Award Nomination Submission

Please print clearly.

Nominee Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Employer Information

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Position/Title of Nominee _____

Education _____

Essay & Application Instructions

In 350 words or less, describe why this person should be chosen for the Honorary Alumni award. List the reasons according to the selection criteria. If available, attach his/her resume or C.V.

Nominator Information

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Signature _____

Award Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be postmarked or received no later than June 30.



Mike and Dr. Andreia Nebel



Prepare to be the **best**.

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for full details

