

Spring
2016 Issue

AlumniTimes

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



**Valuing education
& seeing the impact**



In speaking to the value of education, one speaks to an otherwise unimaginable journey down a lifelong path. The experiences, lessons, opportunities and challenges that come with a higher level of learning not only prepare you for a specific career path but also to thrive in an ever-changing world. Few other gifts in life hold such enduring power.



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EXECUTIVE EDITOR Rita VanFleet
MANAGING EDITOR Jina Paul
DESIGNER Nicole Bonk
SENIOR WRITER Mikaela Yeager

CONTRIBUTORS Nicki Hardin, Ann Glow, Stefanie Green, Jayne Cromer, Adam Hardy

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On the Cover

Finding common ground in the workplace through the same educational foundation. 10

Employees wearing scrubs finished their cases and changed after their photos were taken.

Participate:
Alumni Survey

Thanks for your feedback
Mail completed Alumni
Association membership
forms and annual surveys
by Aug. 31 to: Alumni
Coordinator 101 South 42nd
Street Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Your opinion counts
Your input is greatly appreciated
and assists the Alumni Association
in providing activities for alumni and
in keeping our records up-to-date.

Alumni Events

When your 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 year
graduation anniversary occurs, would
you attend the following scheduled
Alumni Weekend events?

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Brunch celebration | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Heritage Garden Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Ollie the Trolley tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Educational program | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Dinner event | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Are there educational topics that would
be of interest to you? If so, please list.

Staying Connected

Do you know of an alumnus or alumna
who does not receive the Alumni Times?

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Do you know of an alumnus or alumna
who has made a significant impact within
their profession/community or has an
unusual job/hobby?

NAME

PROGRAM/DEGREE OF STUDY

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT

Alumni Weekend:
Sept. 15–16

Event Registration

This September, the graduating classes
of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1991 are
recognized as this year's anniversary
classes. All alumni are invited to
participate in Alumni Weekend.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

E-MAIL

CLASS(ES) OF

PROGRAM(S)/DEGREE(S) OF STUDY

- Participation & Assistance**
- ☐ I will assist with my class' activities.
 - ☐ I am unable to attend this year.
 - ☐ I want to donate to the Alumni
Scholarship Fund.

Reserve a seat for Alumni Weekend

I plan to attend the following events:

- ☐ **Alumni Brunch:** Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.
- ☐ **Alumni Meeting:** Sept. 15 at noon
- ☐ **Heritage Garden Walk:** Sept. 15
at 1 p.m.
- ☐ **Ollie the Trolley tour:** Sept. 15
from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ **Continuing Education Event:**
Sept. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon
- ☐ **Dinner:** Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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 \$



1 / Proud to be an American. 2 / Elvis. 3 / Downton Abbey. 4 / Clarkson
the Place to VanGogh. Trivia / 90 million. A chick and a duck. Gold.

Decorated Table Trivia
Gets Alumnae "All
Shook Up"

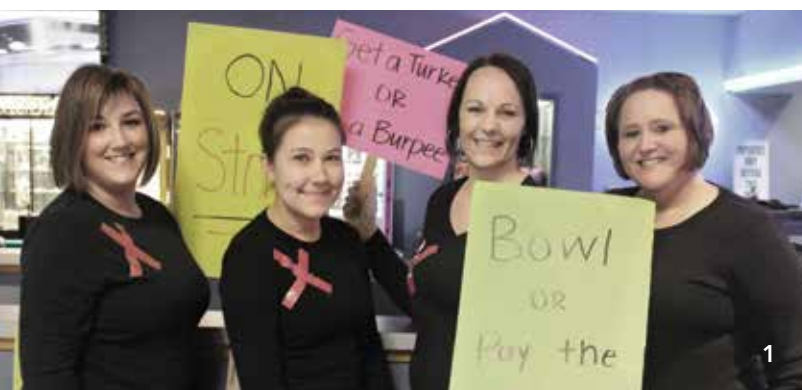
This year's Decorated Table Trivia event was
a magnitude of enthusiasm. The four tables
spent the morning of March 5 testing their trivia
knowledge and showcasing their decorating skills.

The table themes were unique and well-designed.
Alumna Jen Anderson ('10) incorporated wit and
color into her table theme, "Clarkson the Place to
VanGogh." The decorated table was a painter's
dream, with place mats shaped like paint palettes,
pouring paint can centerpieces and a multitude
of art supplies as favors for her colorful guests.
Susan Bristol ('78) and her guests stole the show
when they entered elegantly dressed to match
the table's "Downton Abbey" theme. The red,
white and blue of American pride rang loud and
clear from Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06) and her
guests, who were decked out in Statue of Liberty
tiaras and leis at the "Proud to be an American"
table. The "Elvis" table brought the King to life
and earned alumna Nicole Hardin ('95, '97) this
year's best decorated table. The table featured
Elvis collector's plates, a singing hound dog,
various memorabilia and was chaperoned by
a life-sized cutout of the King himself.

After brunch and table decoration viewing,
the group played seven rounds of trivia. The
"Proud to be an American" team answered the
most questions correctly. Donations from this
event will help the Alumni Association support
current Clarkson College students. Test your own
knowledge against a few of the trivia questions:

- › How many chocolate Easter bunnies are
produced each year?
- › What two animals did Joey and Chandler have
living with them on "Friends?"
- › What color are the Oscars?

Get creative and join the table trivia fun March
4, 2017 at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall. Contact Rita
VanFleet at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu
or 402.552.3516.



Six Years & Still a Striking Event

A recap of this year's Alumni Bowling Tournament

Wit, skill and tradition were the themes of the sixth annual Alumni Bowling Tournament held Jan. 23 at Scorzy Sports Center in Ralston, Neb. Ten four-person teams consisting of alumni, faculty, staff and guests participated in this year's competition, sporting innovative team names and costumes for the event.

Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and her team, The Incredibowls, took home four of the six event prizes: Best Team Costume,

Best Team Name, Grand Champion Team and Highest Men's Combined (three-game) Score earned by teammate Matt Anderson. Over the past six years, Dirkschneider has led her team to three Grand Champion Team wins, competing heavily with another three-time Grand Champion Team led by Sarah Sobotka. The 2017 Alumni Bowling Tournament will be a nail-biting face-off between the two battling teams.

Joan Blum ('81, '86, '01) and her team, Gutter Guards, welcomed their sixth victory as the event's Last Place Champions. Alumna Melissa Youmans ('14) of the Bi-Polar Rollers earned the Highest Women's Combined Score for the night.

The seventh annual Alumni Bowling Tournament is slated for January 2017. To save a spot for your team of four, contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Mark Your Fall Calendar for Alumni Weekend

Each year, the Alumni Association Board sponsors Alumni Weekend to celebrate all our alumni and those celebrating their 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 year anniversaries. All alumni are invited and welcome to attend these two days of events. Whether you're a regular or first-time attendee, you're sure to have a good time with your fellow alumni.

Thursday, Sept. 15: Alumni Weekend Kickoff

We invite all graduates to join us for an alumni brunch and celebration of the anniversary classes at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall on campus. Following the brunch will be the annual Alumni Board meeting and campus tour. A Garden Walk featuring a brick donation dedication ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. Ollie the Trolley will start an historic tour of Omaha at 1:30 p.m., returning to the College around 4:30 p.m. There is no charge for any of Thursday's activities, as these are a gift to alumni from the College.

Friday, Sept. 16: Continuing Education Event & Alumni Dinner

Friday morning will begin with an educational event, "Organ/Tissue Donation—All sides of the Equation," from 8 a.m. until noon. Cost is \$20 for paid Alumni Association members, \$10 for Clarkson College students and \$40 for all others. The afternoon is free to spend with classmates. The Alumni Weekend events will culminate with a dinner at the Omaha Player's Club Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. We will provide entertainment and will recognize the recipient of this year's Honorary Alumni Award. Cost for the evening is \$45 per person.

Register to attend by completing the reservation form on page 6.

Clarkson College in the Workplace: Radiologic Technology Spotlight

In 1991, Clarkson College initiated the Radiology Technology (RT) program under the direction of Loren Garletts. Over the past 25 years, this program has seen tremendous growth and advancement. It has evolved from accepting a first class of five students to one that enrolls 30 new students every fall semester. The majority of the program's 427 graduates practice primarily in the Midwest, with some demonstrating the quality of their Clarkson College education as far away as California, Texas and Arizona.

Omaha hospitals, in particular, are reaping the benefits of the Clarkson College RT program. Children's Hospital and Medical Center Radiology Manager Nicole Hardin ('95, '97) proudly acknowledges that 24 of the techs in her department hold the Clarkson College alumni distinction. The Veteran's Administration Hospital has 14 RT graduates employed at its facility, and Nebraska Medicine—educational partner of Clarkson College—has 35 graduates working in Diagnostic Imaging, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Mammography. Our graduates are truly valued for the education they received at Clarkson College.

There are currently 24 clinical sites that support the program. Results from annual alumni surveys show health care professionals at these facilities observe the work ethic, knowledge and caring nature of our students and are anxious to hire them upon graduation. The program has also received several generous donations of equipment from businesses and hospitals such as Cassling Diagnostic Imaging Inc., Columbus Community Hospital, Fremont Health Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine. These donations position the Clarkson College RT

program as the only one in the area with a dedicated energized lab within the classroom environment.

In 1993, the program began to offer online coursework for students interested in supplementing their Associate's degree in RT with a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging. Currently, the Medical Imaging program is offered entirely online with the option to complete select courses on campus. Clarkson College also remains one of the few schools in the U.S. to offer an online certificate in Imaging Informatics.

Each of the six dedicated RT faculty members have ample field experience, and nearly all of them possess a master's degree. Combined, they can boast 65 years of teaching in the Clarkson College program. Involvement in the RT student organization and honor society are additional ways students can gain unique skills and experience prior to graduation.

Ellen Collins M.S., (R.T.) (R) (M), Director of the RT and Medical Imaging programs at Clarkson College, is extremely proud of the evolution of the program. Collins joined the College in 1998 and accepted the RT Director role in 1999 and the Medical Imaging Director position in 2006. She is a Nebraska native and was happy for the opportunity to return to her home state and join the Clarkson College faculty. She states, "It was a great opportunity to go from being a clinical coordinator and instructor to program director." Under Collins' direction, 96 percent of RT graduates have achieved first-time board exam pass rates over the past 10 years, and 100 percent of 2015 graduates secured positions in the field upon completing the program.

A handful of the 24 RT techs and Clarkson College alumni employed at Children's Hospital and Medical Center.



Employees wearing scrubs finished their cases and changed after their photos were taken.

Giving Back to the College

Looking for a unique way to donate to the Alumni Association of Clarkson College? We have a few ways you can from the comfort of your own home.

Online Giving: GoodSearch.com

Support the Alumni Association as you search and shop online by utilizing GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com as your search engines. Powered by Yahoo, GoodSearch.com donates a penny to the Alumni Association every time you search online. GoodShop.com has more than 600 online merchants—including Amazon, Best Buy, Toys R Us and Target—who donate a percentage of your purchases to the Alumni Association. These donations are used to support the alumni-sponsored events and activities held throughout the year.

To get started, visit GoodSearch.com or GoodShop.com and select "support a cause" within the "how it works" navigation menu at the top right of your screen. Enter "Clarkson College" and select "Alumni Association of Clarkson College" within the search results. With "Alumni Association of Clarkson College" selected, you're ready to begin your online shopping searches.

Request for Yearbooks

The Alumni Archives is in need of filling gaps within its yearbook collection. Donations made in the past have helped to augment our collection, and we still need a few issues. If you have any yearbooks issued in the years listed below and would like to help complete our collection, please send them to Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, 101 South 42nd St., Omaha, Neb. 68131. Your addition to the collection would be greatly appreciated.

Missing yearbooks from: 1963, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983, 1988, 1989 and any after that.



Following in Family's Footsteps

*The path we choose in life must
emanate from somewhere.*

We turn to our own deep-rooted passions and beliefs, the moments of hardship and fortune we've endured, and the various desires and displeasures that shape our everyday existence to guide us in one direction or another.

But beyond what we know about ourselves and all we've learned from our experiences is another immensely influential force—the people who surround us. We recognize their accomplishments and impact. And without a sliver of doubt, we begin to see our footsteps so resolutely following theirs.

This story profiles graduates who can view their education at Clarkson College as not only an accomplishment, but also as a shared family value. From siblings and spouses to multiple generations of alumni, Clarkson College is proud to be a common thread that exists among these families of graduates and empowering health care providers.

The Story behind the Brown Family Legacy

When Frances Joann Brown Morris enrolled at Clarkson School of Nursing in 1951, she was unaware of the impact that decision would make for generations to come. Getting started, however, was not easy for a young woman unable to afford Nursing school. It took the encouragement and financial support of her neighbors and friends in Corning, Iowa, including the town doctor who believed Clarkson School of Nursing to be the “only place to train,” to help her realize her dream. “The saying ‘It takes a village’ means a lot to me,” said the class of 1954 alumna.

Morris’ sister, Judy Brown Grantham, was the first in the family to follow in her older sibling’s footsteps and graduated from the Nursing diploma program in 1963. “She inspired me [and] was a big help preparing me for Clarkson,” said Grantham, whose class was the first to live in the new Evelyn and Peter Kiewit Hall. Every incoming student had a “Big Sister” to guide them through their first year, and it seemed fitting that Morris should fill the role for her real-life younger sister.

Back in Corning, Iowa was Morris and Grantham’s niece, Susan Brown Wallingford, who also had aspirations of someday becoming a nurse. Watching her aunts blossom throughout their education and young careers influenced Wallingford’s decision to complete her training at Clarkson School of Nursing, and in 1968 she graduated with her diploma.



Frances Joann Brown Morris,
Judy Brown Grantham,
Susan Brown Wallingford
and Cindi Grantham Baldwin

Next in line was Grantham’s daughter, Cindi Grantham Baldwin, who grew up idolizing her mother’s compassion, servant heart and, especially, her white nursing uniform. “As soon as I was old enough, I became a candy striper in the hospital where she worked,” said Baldwin. “I loved watching her interact with the other nurses, doctors and patients. She was so amazing at what she did, and it made a lasting impression on me.” After finishing high school in Colorado, Baldwin carried on the family tradition and graduated from Clarkson College with a diploma in Nursing in 1987 and a BSN degree in 1988.

The most recent graduate of the Brown family lineage was Holly Brown Mackie, who received her BSN degree in 1994. Mackie first earned a degree in General Studies from Iowa Western Community College but felt her education was incomplete. “I decided nursing would be a good way to help

people,” she said. “Clarkson College was the natural choice.” The year following Mackie’s graduation was the same year the College opened new student housing villas, making the Brown girls the first and last Nursing students to ever live in Kiewit Hall.

While Mackie was the last to graduate from Clarkson College, the family tradition did not end with her. Current BSN student Kimberly (Kimi) Miller is the great niece of Morris and second cousin of Grantham, Baldwin, Wallingford and Mackie. “There are many more nurses in the family,” Miller said, “but the Clarkson grads are the best!”

Life as a Nurse

With the exception of Mackie, all of the Brown Family women started off their nursing careers at Clarkson Hospital. Morris worked in long-term care for 25 years, and one of her responsibilities was training nursing assistants. Grantham worked 37 years at Denver’s North Suburban Medical Center with orthopedic, burn, oncology and surgical patients. Wallingford took on nearly a dozen different home health and medical surgical nurse jobs all throughout the country and in

England as she and her husband, Wayne, relocated to a different military base every four years or so due to his service in the Air Force. Baldwin worked in critical care for 15 years at the University of Colorado Hospital and has spent the last 11 years working as a hospice RN case manager. Mackie spent her first year working as a clinic nurse and then served as a nurse manager on the Geriatric Psych inpatient unit at an Omaha hospital for six years. She has experience working as a lead case manager on a Med-Surg floor and is currently employed as a school nurse for Blair Community Schools.



Holly Brown Mackie
and Kimberly Miller

Life Today

Morris and Grantham, the sisters who set the tone for building a family legacy at Clarkson College, are retired. Morris has not left Omaha since moving to the city for nursing school in 1951. She and her husband have six children—all girls. She keeps busy with volunteer work, her book club and traveling and is very fond of the symphony and opera. "This love can be traced back to my student training days when the doctors on staff would offer extra tickets, and we jumped at the chance," she said. Grantham and her husband, Dennis, still live in Denver. They have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. "We love to travel and get together with our extended family," Grantham said. "I love to hear all the nurse stories, and the best ones are from the oldest [nurses]."

"She was so amazing at what she did, and it made a lasting impression on me."

Wallingford, now 68, is also retired and lives in Cape Girardeau, Mo.—not far from her son and daughter who, combined, have eight children. Her husband retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel and is currently

the chief people officer for more than 600 McDonald's employees and serves as a state senator for District 27. Although living in various states—Texas, Nebraska, California, Hawaii, Illinois and Pennsylvania—and traveling through Europe while living in England added an element of versatility to Wallingford's life, she is content with the idea of permanently residing in Missouri.

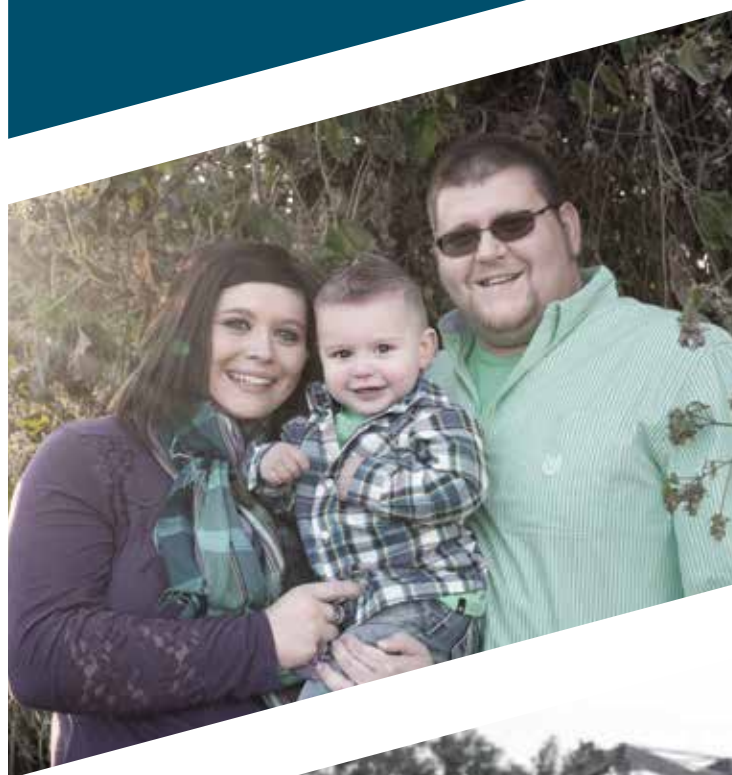
Baldwin continues to derive fulfillment out of her career as a certified hospice and palliative care nurse in Colorado and appreciates the unwavering support and patience shown by her husband, David, and children, Ashlee and Bryce, over the years. She has received numerous work achievements but said nothing compares to "the awesome feeling you get when you have made a difference or when someone has made an impact on how you strive to live your own life." She spends her days at the sides of people in their most vulnerable states and believes it is her moral duty to join them on their journey. "Sometimes I feel I have received much more from those I'm honored to care for than I could ever possibly give," she stated. "It's a gift I appreciate every day."

Aside from her job as a school nurse, Mackie lives with her husband, Mike, and two children in Blair, Neb. Zane will graduate high school this spring and plans to attend Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. Hannah is in the fourth grade.

Miller, age 20, is in her third year of the BSN program and is in the process of completing her obstetrics and pediatrics clinical rotations. She is a resident advisor in the Clarkson College Residence Hall, a student ambassador and tutor. Off campus, she nannies for a family with 3-year-old twins and also works as a care provider for a disabled child at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Although the Browns are not the only family to establish a Clarkson College legacy, the College finds immense joy in seeing that tradition carry on with Miller and hopes it will continue to do so for many, many years to come.

*Like Sister
Like Sister*



Vicki ('06), Garrett and JC Duckworth.
Brenda ('06, '07), Braelynn and Chad Nigh.

Twin sisters Brenda Thompson Nigh and Vicki Thompson Duckworth grew up experiencing most things in life together. Their childhoods are full of memories going swimming, roller skating and playing with the same group of friends. As teenagers, they also fell into the same social circles and were both peer counselors, national honor society members and played in their school band. Once adulthood struck, for the first time in their lives the sisters had the option to go their separate ways. A little inspiration from their mother, however, ended up bringing them closer together than ever before.

"She encouraged us to get into the medical field and to choose a program that offered a bachelor's degree rather than just a certificate," Duckworth said. Still in high school in Rock Port, Mo. at the time, the sisters consulted their high school guidance counselor to help them research radiology programs in the area. "We liked the program setup of the first year being classwork and the second year being clinicals," Duckworth said. In August 2004, they enrolled as dual Radiologic Technology (RT) and Medical Imaging majors.

With home being a 90-minute drive away, Duckworth and Nigh moved into the brand new Residence Hall on campus. They were now classmates and roommates, but at the end of the day, they were sisters first. "We definitely held each other accountable while working toward our degrees and often studied together," said Duckworth. "And, of course, there was always that competitive aspect to compare how we did on assignments and tests!"

The sisters graduated with their RT degrees in August 2006. Duckworth completed her Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging the following December. In August 2007, Nigh also received her bachelor's degree, as well as a Picture Archiving & Communication Systems certificate.

Duckworth has worked at Watson Imaging Center in St. Joseph, Mo. for the past five years and is the lead Mammography and Computed Tomography (CT) Technologist. She and her husband of eight years, JC, live



Brenda (Thompson) Nigh, Beth (Heidemann) Sonderup, Melinda (Meinecke) Beroshvili and Vicki (Thompson) Duckworth

in Savannah, Mo. and have a 2-and-a-half-year-old son named Garrett. Since graduating, she has received post-primary certification in X-ray, mammography and CT.

Nigh attended Hillyard Technical Center in St Joseph, Mo. from July 2014 through December 2015 to earn a Diagnostic Medical Sonography diploma. She also has advanced certifications in X-ray and vascular sonography. She primarily works as a sonographer at North Kansas City Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. For the last four-and-a-half years, she has also held a pro re nata (PRN) position at George C. Grape Community Hospital in Hamburg, Iowa as a CT and X-ray technologist and recently began another PRN sonographer position at Northland Imaging in Liberty, Mo. She has a goal of earning post-primary certification in Abdomen, OBGYN and Breast for Ultrasound.

Nigh married her husband, Chad, in 2009. Like the Duckworths, they also live in Savannah, Mo. and have a 2-and-a-half-year old child—a daughter named Braelynn. They are in the process of building a home approximately one hour to the southeast in Kearney, Mo.

Father Knows Best

Mark Longacre is the Chief Strategy Officer at Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital (NOH) in Omaha, Neb., an esteemed position warranted by his multifaceted education and extensive work experience as a teacher, coach, physical therapist and director.

Longacre earned a Bachelor's degree in Education with concentrations in Special Education and Coaching from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1982. He honed the first several years of his career teaching before heading to the Mayo School of Health Related Sciences in Rochester, Minn. to earn his Master's degree in Physical Therapy in 1991.

After five years of working as a physical therapist, Longacre accepted his first management position in the Physical & Occupational Therapy department at Nebraska Medicine. Around this same time period, he became a member of the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program Advisory Board, a position he held from 1995–2000. He also dedicated six years to teaching online classes for the program as an adjunct professor.



Kathy, Mark, Adam and Matthew Longacre

In 2002, Longacre joined NOH as the Director of Rehabilitation and Radiology Services and was later promoted to Chief Operating Officer. He assumed his current position in January 2016—eight months after earning his Master's in Health Care Administration degree from Clarkson College.

Longacre's decision to advance his degree at Clarkson College was well-rationalized. Along with his former professional connections to the College, he was aware of the institution's educational partnership with Nebraska Medicine. He also knew several students enrolled in the Health Care Administration program and was drawn to the idea of enrolling in a fully online program while also having the option to meet with faculty at his leisure. Additionally, a smaller institution like Clarkson College was very appealing—a nice change from the large institutions he attended for his previous degrees.

While Longacre has maintained a strong focus on his career and educational advancement over the last three decades, his family life has always taken precedent. He and his wife, Kathy, wed in 1982 and gave birth to their first child, Matthew, in 1991. A few years later came their second and final child, Adam.

Adam Longacre graduated from Millard West High School in 2013. Between his father's history of academic accomplishments and his mother's longtime career as an elementary

school teacher, he grew up understanding the importance and value of a quality education.

Like his father, Adam made his way to Cornhusker USA and enrolled at UNL as an Accounting major. By the end of his first semester he realized a desk job was not for him. While visiting home over winter break, his dad, who is surrounded by health care providers daily at NOH, asked his son if he ever considered nursing, specifically nurse anesthesiology. "Once my dad starting talking about the career, I was immediately hooked."

During his second semester at UNL, Longacre researched BSN programs and narrowed his options down to Clarkson College and UNMC. Clarkson College matched up better with his undergraduate classes from UNL and allowed him the opportunity to start earlier. His father's experience in the master's program, coupled with his own hope to someday pursue a Master's degree in Nurse Anesthesia—a program not currently offered at UNMC—helped him make a final decision.

Adam grew up understanding the importance and value of a quality education.

Now in his second semester at Clarkson College, Longacre does not have any doubts about his career path and is very satisfied with his experience in the Undergraduate Nursing program so far. "This is my first semester taking Nursing classes, and all of the faculty are excellent," he said. "It's beneficial to have teachers that will take time out of their day to meet with students, even if it's to deal with a small issue." Longacre believes the grade of 80 percent required to pass a course at the College is pertinent to professional preparedness. "It makes sure students aren't only studying the material but also learning it, too." He plans to graduate in spring 2017 and complete at least one year of full-time critical care nursing experience as an RN before applying to the Nurse Anesthesia program.

The hard-earned achievements of Mark Longacre and the prospects for Adam are sure to leave a notable imprint at Clarkson College and in the local health care community overall.

Our Growing Family Legacy



Mark and Adam Longacre

The Browns, Thompsons and Longacres are three of the countless families Clarkson College is proud to have in its lineage.

As time carries on, this number continues to grow as daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren of generations prior follow in the footsteps of their loved ones.

Here are some of the other alumni who have begun their own Clarkson College family tradition:

- › Wife and husband Afoua (PTA, 2015) and Bakir-Wena Badjaglana (BSN, 14)
- › Mother and daughter Kim Battreal (BSN, '14) and Jade Hoschar (BSN, '15)
- › Husband and wife Tom (RN, '80) and Brenda Denich (RN, '80) and sons Nicholas Denich (BSN, '10) and Benjamin Denich (BSN, '12)
- › Siblings Michelle Fielmeier (BSN, '11) and Dan Feilmeier (MHA, '14)
- › Mother and daughter Cheryl Francois (RN, '78) and Kimberly Francois (BSN, '07)
- › Mother and daughter-in-law Karen Hardy (RN, '80) and Elisha Hardy (current MSN student)
- › Siblings Donald Haferbier (BSN, '13) and Jessie Marie Clere (BSN, '15)
- › Wife and husband Layna (BSN, MSN '03, '05) and Chad Himmelburg (MSN, '16)
- › Siblings Jenna Holland (RT/Medical Imaging, '06) and Karla Holland (RT/Medical Imaging, '10)
- › Siblings Toni Hulinsky (PTA, 14) and Terri Hulinsky (PTA, '15)
- › Siblings Sara Kenne (PTA, '09) and Shane Kenne (PTA, '12)
- › Wife and husband Sydnie (MSN-FNP, '15) and Chase Luther (MSN-FNP, '15)
- › Siblings Aubrey Martinez Zuber (BSN, 05), Nicole Martinez Robinson (LPN-BSN, '08) and Kelsie Martinez (BSN, '15)
- › Siblings Carrie Maas Nixon (RT/Medical Imaging, '04) and Abbie Maas Kempcke (RT/Medical Imaging, '06)
- › Siblings Michaela McMahon (PTA, '12) and Jessica McMahon (PTA, '15)
- › Mother and daughter Aubray Orduña (Post-Master's Certificate) and Adryanne Orduña (BSN, '14)
- › Mother and daughter Becky Paar (RN, BSN, '76, '97) and Breanne Paar (BSN, '10)
- › Siblings Luke Poore (PTA, '10) and Caleb Poore (PTA '11)
- › Siblings Danielle Knight Schulz (BSN, '10) and Kalen Knight (BSN, '15) and cousin Kristin Wellwood (BSN, '13)
- › Mother and daughter Jane Stier (RN, '69) and Stacy Stier Vocolka (BSN, '94)
- › Wife and husband Stephanie (BSN, '07) and Vincent Terrell (PTA, '15)
- › Cousins Sara Waddell (RT, '14) and Corrinne Waddell (BSN, '14)

If you and a family member are not listed among this group with family ties, please contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu, as we would like to recognize you in a future Alumni Times issue.



Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College President

Planning the Future

Honoring the Present

It is not unusual, but expected rather, for an organization's strategic planning paradigm to shift over time as its mission, values and vision evolve in accordance with ever-changing implicit and explicit demands. Vice President of Operations Dr. Tony Damewood showed just how drastically that process can change in a 20-year period when he referenced a hand-held copy of the Clarkson College 1996 strategic plan at the Jan. 18 College-wide planning retreat. The plan entailed 14 critical success factors (CSFs), more than 50 goals and a myriad of action steps to complete them. The purpose of creating a strategic plan is to have a practical, purposeful and cohesive strategy supported by measurable goals with specific tactics. "That is what makes this day," he reiterated, "so critically important to the future of Clarkson College."

The major transformation in the strategic planning process came eight years ago and less than one year after Dr. Burgher stepped into his role as Clarkson College President. Perhaps the most significant change was incorporating faculty and staff involvement in developing the annual plan. Input from every corner of the College emerged on large sheets of paper displayed throughout the room, each labeled "strengths," "weaknesses," "threats" or "opportunities." Round-table discussions and an open-mic forum were also new implementations the College continues to employ at the annual planning retreat.

Although a high level of parity now exists in the institution's strategic planning process, every method can use evaluation, feedback and, if presumed necessary, adaptation. Based on feedback given in a CSF employee survey, the College Strategic Planning Day Committee approved a proposal to extend the length of the retreat to allow time to explain what the CSF development and outcomes review processes entail.

A strategic plan is a practical, purposeful and cohesive strategy supported by measurable goals with specific tactics.

"One of the things we haven't done as well in the past as we could have is making sure that when a CSF goal is completed, the approved recommendation is put into place and people have been assigned to carry out its implementation," said Dr. Damewood.



Dr. Burgher overlooks the Nebraska Medicine campus

"Serving Clarkson College has been one of the most gratifying roles throughout my career."

DR. LOUIS BURGHER,
CLARKSON COLLEGE PRESIDENT

At the annual planning retreat, the 2015 CSF goal leaders gave brief presentations regarding their teams' goals, recommendation(s) for new strategies or practices and the implementation steps for carrying out those initiatives. Providing such reports is an effort to prevent and close any communication gaps that can easily form when cross-organizational planning and development are performed.

The conclusion of this year's strategic planning retreat was also one without precedence. Clarkson College Board of Directors member Dean Thomas Hurley approached the podium to deliver the closing remarks for the day. What came as a surprise to the many faculty and staff who sat before him was the announcement of Dr. Burgher's retirement to President Emeritus this August after serving as College President for more than nine years. Furthermore, the Dean shared that, in a collective decision made between Dr. Burgher and the Board of Directors, Dr. Damewood, current Vice President of Operations, would assume the role as Clarkson College President at the time of the transition.

"Serving Clarkson College has been one of the most gratifying roles throughout my career," Dr. Burgher said. "However, I believe it is time to turn over the reins, and we are thankful to have the right person for the job." In Dr. Burgher's role as President Emeritus, he will concentrate on larger scale projects, such as legislative issues, acquisition of additional campus space and community relations.

Dr. Damewood humbly accepted the honor to follow in the footsteps of a leader he considers exemplary in all respects. "Clarkson College has been fortunate to have had such a transformational leader as President, and the positive impact he will leave with us is like no other. Thankfully, in his role as President Emeritus, I will have the opportunity to consult his expertise at any time." For the next several months, Dr. Burgher will continue to mentor Dr. Damewood with the expectation of a smooth transition this summer.

On Feb. 1, the Omaha World-Herald published an article announcing the leadership transition titled, "The best boss I've ever had. Outgoing president who tripled enrollment is praised," which spanned the front cover of the Midlands section of the newspaper. Subsequently, on Feb. 2, an editorial was written shining a much deserved light on the impact Dr. Burgher's leadership has made on Clarkson College and the Omaha community. Both articles were written and published unsolicited, showing the influence of Dr. Burgher's extraordinary career.



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1 / Dr. Damewood and Dr. Burgher.
2 / Dean Thomas Hurley and Dr. Burgher
at Strategic Planning day.

Gbogbo & Knapp Crowned 2016 Mr. & Ms. Clarkson College



Yaovi (Tony) Gbogbo, Mr. Clarkson College



Heather Knapp, Ms. Clarkson College

We crowned our first ever “Miss Clarkson” in 1943, and we take great pride in the fact that—more than 70 years later—we continue to celebrate this tradition. Each year, the Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College crowning takes place in conjunction with the annual Casino Night event, held this year on Feb. 9.

Students, faculty and staff submitted their Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College nominations several weeks leading up to Casino Night. The 2016 nominees were Yaovi (Tony) Gbogbo, Brandon Ladwig, Brett Temme, Paige Chaney, Kendra Croghan and Heather Knapp. After tallying up the results, this year's crowns went to Gbogbo and Knapp.

Gbogbo enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in fall 2015. He stays active on campus through his involvement in Student Government Association (SGA) and the Student Nurses Association. He plans to graduate in spring 2017 and would like to gain experience working as an RN in the ICU before furthering his schooling to become a CRNA.

“It’s a great honor to have been elected as Mr. Clarkson College by my peers and by the staff on campus,” Gbogbo said. “Being chosen to receive this honor makes me feel that I am well-liked and respected by both the students here on campus, as well as the faculty whom I come into contact with. I am extremely grateful.”

Knapp enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program in fall 2014. She serves as Vice President of the Clarkson College Student Physical Therapist Assistant Association, participates in Residence Hall Council and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Previously, she served as

an Allied Health Representative in SGA and also worked as an academic tutor on campus.

Knapp plans to graduate with her Associate’s degree in PTA in August 2016 and will continue taking courses to receive a Bachelor’s degree in Health Care Services, which she hopes to complete in the next two–three years. After passing the state board exam, she hopes to start working as a PTA near her hometown of Madison, Neb. and will focus on gaining experience and completing her bachelor’s degree.

The annual royalty crowning tradition marks its 73rd celebration this year.

“Being elected Ms. Clarkson College made me realize that participating in student organizations, helping out around campus and attending school events is not only beneficial to my knowledge, skills and experience, but has also given me many opportunities to meet new people, many of whom have become very good friends throughout my time here at Clarkson College,” Knapp said.

“If I had chosen to not get involved around school, I would have missed out on some wonderful experiences with great people!”

The Student Activities Council extends a special thanks to each of the following faculty and staff members who volunteered at Casino Night this year: JoAnn Acierno, Lori Bachle, Alina Borkowski, Debi Gardner, Kelly Jackson, Chuck MacDonell, Tina Roland, Dr. Neka Simms, Kris Smith, George Smith and Trish Weber.



Career Fair for Health Professions Connects Students to More than 50 Employers

Clarkson College hosted its third annual Career Fair for Health Professions on March 31. More than 50 employers from Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota visited campus to speak with students about their organizations and open positions.

The Career Fair is a College-wide initiative that aims to support students and alumni in their professional paths. This year, more than 240 students attended the event—triple the number from last year. Employers were ecstatic with the professionalism of the students and mentioned how eager they were to follow up with the candidates they met. Stefanie Green, a member of the Career Fair planning team, commented, “There was a fantastic energy around the event this year! Both students and employers were enthusiastic about the connections they made, which is why we believe this event is so beneficial for Clarkson College students.”

In conjunction with the career fair, 91 students also took advantage of three separate professionalism workshops held intermittently throughout the day.

Clarkson College Director of Human Resources Deb Tomek led a workshop focused on resume writing and spoke to students about the importance of developing a professional representation of themselves on paper. Additionally, Nikki Hardin (’95, ’97), Director of Radiology at Children’s Hospital and Alumni Association of Clarkson College President, shared her expertise in the areas of interviewing and presenting and assisted students in developing a captivating elevator speech to better market themselves to potential employers. Lastly, Andrea Jahn, J.D., Associate General Counsel, spoke to students about professionalism in the workplace and online.

Radiologic Technology (RT) student Tolé Kounsivannarat found the interview presentation especially helpful as it provided “quality information from someone who actually conducts interviews in the field.” Similarly, RT student Mark McVey appreciated the timing of the event since he is gearing up for graduation

in August. McVey believed he received beneficial tips from the workshops and said he “hopes to put them into practice soon, as it’s never too early to start preparing for the job search.”

“We believe this event is so beneficial for Clarkson College students.”

Employers frequently express a preference for Clarkson College students and graduates, and the Career Fair for Health Professions quickly and conveniently connects them to a professionally prepared group of potential applicants. If your organization would like to take part in this event in the future, contact Stefanie Green at 402.552.2944 or greenstefanie@clarksoncollege.edu.

Nursing Students Come to Crash Victim's Aid

Applying their Clarkson College education in an act of heroism

Many have experienced it. You're driving along the road when, suddenly, you witness or come upon an accident. Sometimes, help is already on site or the crash victims appear to be unharmed and handling the matter on their own. Other times, the level of severity is unclear, leaving you with the decision to stop or continue on. For some, making the choice is tough; for a carful of Clarkson College Nursing students, there was no time for deliberation.

The day was going as expected. After attending orientation at their clinical site in Papillion on the afternoon of Feb. 22, third-year Nursing students Emily Duren, Brandi Klotthor and Jessica Patterson rode together in Patterson's car to a nearby Panera Bread restaurant. Driving in the same direction in separate vehicles were their classmates, Carlie Anzalone, Megan Hillmer and Ryan Sheehy.

As the students drove to 72nd and Centennial Streets, they noticed a dense mass of smoke ahead. As they drew closer, they encountered a vehicle surrounded by five to seven construction workers. Slowing down the vehicle, Patterson asked her classmates if they should stop and help. Duren immediately responded, "Yes, we have to."

Patterson pulled the vehicle to the side of the road. As she and Duren jumped out, Klotthor turned on the hazard lights. Running down the hill toward the smoking truck, the girls yelled at the construction

workers, asking if someone was inside. "Yes, are you nurses?" they responded. "Yes," said the girls—"we're students."

They called out to Klotthor to grab her stethoscope from the car. "We jumped into 'nurse mode,' and I remember hoping he was alive," said Patterson.

The front half of the truck was submerged in two feet of water with the wheels spinning and splashing up mud. An electrician pulled over just prior to the students and broke the back window with a sledge hammer to gain access to the victim, who appeared unconscious as his foot lay on the gas pedal.

Standing on the running board of the truck and placing her hand in the broken glass window, Patterson pulled herself inside to find the victim seat-belted in with his head hanging and blood coming from his mouth. Duren stood on the running board opposite of Patterson and was also able to reach the victim.

"I unzipped his coat and reached my stethoscope down his shirt," said Patterson. "He was diaphoretic and had labored, slow breaths." Their quick assessment led Duren to one conclusion—"I think he had a seizure," she said to Patterson. They detected a heartbeat and were able to find a bounding pulse. At this time, the students stayed with the victim, counting and listening to his palpitations and keeping his neck in position until the Omaha Fire Department (OFD) arrived. Anzalone, Hillmer and Sheehy, who also pulled over to assist, were on standby at the top of the hill.

As the students provided their testimonials for the police report, the firefighters wheeled out the victim on a stretcher. He was in a C-collar and responsive to small commands, signaling to Duren, Patterson and their classmates that his life was likely not at risk.

The heroic actions of the students quickly spread to the Undergraduate Nursing faculty. Once the paramedics took full control of the situation, the students sent photos of themselves in their muddy scrubs and shoes to their Behavior Health instructor, Kymi Black, who was very impressed with her students and how they took charge of the situation.

"They were at the right place, at the right time, to do the right thing," Black said. "Once I saw the pictures and got the whole story, I knew faculty would want to know about this, as well. Faculty teaching first- and second-year undergraduate students should be proud of the skills they taught these students."

The students share a similar stance. "I feel we did all we could do for the victim at the time and state he was in," said Duren. Patterson added how proud she was to see herself and her classmates apply their compassion and nursing skills in a real-life matter. "This is what I love to do," she said. "I wouldn't have been as confident with aiding in this accident had I not learned and experienced what I have in school."

According to a recent report from the students, the victim was not seriously injured and returned to a normal routine within 48 hours. Though he may never know exactly how the accident unfolded, he can be forever grateful for the care he received from the brave, compassionate and demonstrably prepared students who came to his aid that day.



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1 / President Dr. Louis Burgher met with students Jessica Patterson, Emily Duren, Carlie Anzalone and Brandi Klotthor to acknowledge their act of bravery and goodwill. Students not pictured: Megan Hillmer and Ryan Sheehy. 2 / Firemen work to put out a small fire igniting from the back right tire of the crash victim's vehicle. 3 / Student Jessica Patterson, along with firefighters and paramedics, at the accident site.

"I wouldn't have been as confident with aiding in this accident had I not learned and experienced what I have in school."



Jennifer Memolo, M.A., B.A.

Memolo Named Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program

Jennifer Memolo, M.A., B.A., joined Clarkson College as the Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program in January 2016. She took the place of Dr. Andreia Nebel, who served as the program's director for nine years and is the current Vice President of Academic Affairs at the College.

In her role, Memolo manages curriculum development, maintains awareness of student progress and needs, upholds the professional accreditation of the program, and serves as a link between the PTA program and College community. On the side, she works per diem performing therapeutic services for a home health care organization.

Previously, Memolo worked as an adjunct English instructor at East Carolina University and at Pitt Community College, both in Greenville, N.C. After receiving her associate's degree to be a PTA, she worked on the inpatient rehab and acute care floors at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. Later, she worked as the Rehab Manager at a skilled nursing facility and taught as an adjunct instructor for the PTA program at Nebraska Methodist College.

Memolo has been a member of the American Physical Therapy Association since 2009 and served as secretary for the PTA Special Interest Group—Nebraska chapter from 2013-15. She is certified in Kinesiotaping and Tai Chi for Better Balance.



Mystery Photo

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

The value of an education is an accomplishment and a shared family value. Recognize this influential alumna?

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

In Memoriam

Dorothy J. Steinbauer Ryder ('51)

Died Sept. 19, 2015 at Ashburn, Virginia.

Rosean Marie Machal Porter ('53)

Died March 15, 2016 in Omaha, Neb.

Linda L. Plettner ('64)

Died March 15, 2016 at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Neb.

Mary B. (Mitchell) Larson

Died Jan. 2, 2016 at Memorial Community Hospital in Blair, Neb. She was a former employee of Clarkson College.



MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Relentless Compassion

Making a difference resonates with others in more ways than we realize. This image of alumna Pat Kerkman Young ('65) is clearly still making a positive impression.

Vicki Sweet ('65)

The mystery photo is of Pat Kerkman Young of the class of '65.

Mary Kay Kadow ('65)

The beautiful picture is of my classmate Pat Kerkman Young.



Honored for Five Years & Running

Online Graduate Nursing program ranked best in Nebraska

U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College 39th out of 147 eligible institutions in the nation in the category of 2016 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, making it the top ranked school in Nebraska.

This is the fifth year U.S. News released a Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list and the fifth time Clarkson College achieved a high-ranking status in the category, this year earning a total of 79 out of 100 possible points. The rankings recognize the best online graduate nursing programs based on five factors: student engagement (30 percent), faculty credentials and training (25 percent), peer reputation (20 percent), student services and technology (15 percent), and admissions selectivity (10 percent).

"This national ranking is an honor and emblematic of our focus on quality and cost control," said Clarkson College President Dr. Louis Burgher. "Graduate Nursing Director Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers expressed her gratitude to the nursing faculty and College administrative staff

for their commitment to high academic standards. "Without their expertise and guidance, our program would not be as successful as it is today."

The Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program is accredited by the ACEN and began offering distance-learning courses in 1998. The master's degree program offers specialties in family nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing health care administration, and adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Post-MSN certificate programs are also available online. The curricula for each program prepare registered nurses to promote, maintain, supervise and restore health; identify health risks; and assess, diagnose and manage patients. Students are prepared to function as nurse educators, leaders, consultants, advocates and advanced practitioners.

Other colleges in Nebraska to make the 2016 U.S. News Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list include Creighton University (ranked 64th) and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (ranked 73rd). To view the complete list of this year's rankings, visit the U.S. News & World Report website. All unranked programs (those reporting fewer than 10 enrolled students) and Rank Not Published programs (those whose overall scores are in the bottom 25 percent) are listed but not numerically ranked.

Svatos Retires after 14 Years of Heartfelt Service

Liz Svatos spent 14 years at Clarkson College putting her whole heart into raising awareness about cardiovascular disease and teaching essential life-saving skills. No matter how many classes she taught or how many lives she touched, she always wished she could do more and that there were more hours in the day to do it.

Even between exchanges of farewell wishes on her last day in the office, Svatos kept busy loading up training manikins and supplies for the off-campus CPR classes planned for later in the week. It was apparent that retirement would not come easy, and in a certain sense she was glad for that.

"I love what I do," she said. "That's what makes letting go of it so hard."

Svatos started at Clarkson College in 2002 with a dual role—Coordinator for the Dean of Nursing; and Basic Life Support (BLS) Coordinator. The following year, Nebraska Medicine and the College formed an agreement that all hospital employees needing BLS certification would complete their training through Clarkson College. At this point, courses for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) also became available. Due to the rising

demand and popularity of the courses, Svatos became the full-time BLS & ACLS coordinator.

2003 was a big year for Svatos. She received the annual Clarkson College Distinguished Service Award, and the American Heart Association (AHA) named her Volunteer of the Year for her distinguished commitment to the organization's mission.

For several years, she also served as the coordinator for a free, annual mass CPR training event sponsored by the AHA. The event trained up to 700 community members in a single day who were interested in learning adult and child CPR.

Towards the middle of Svatos' career at Clarkson College, she became the Assistant Director of Professional Development and continued to spearhead the BLS and ACLS courses in this role.

"In the years she was here, Liz made a significant impact on Clarkson College students, faculty, staff and Nebraska Medicine employees," said Judi Dunn, Professional Development Director.

"Her professionalism and deeply caring nature touched many people. She will be greatly missed."

Svatos said she, too, will miss her day-to-day interactions with colleagues who she considers to be some of the most genuine and compassionate people she's ever met. "As a whole, that's what is most impressive about the College, and it really means a lot," she said.



Liz Svatos leading a CPR class on campus.

Just three days into her retirement, Svatos boarded a plane with the priest of her church and a few other acquaintances for an 11-day trip to Rome, Italy. This was her first time traveling overseas.

While Svatos will always be a philanthropist at heart, she has opened up to the idea of shifting some of her focus inward. "I want to be able to find some peace and really appreciate my surroundings," she said. She is also looking forward to growing closer with her son, John, who she says in recent years has become her own greatest life support.

"Liz made a significant impact. Her professionalism and deeply caring nature touched many people. She will be greatly missed."

Fall 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients Announced

The Excellence in Teaching Award (also commonly known as the Apple Award) is sponsored by the Clarkson College Faculty Senate and is given to faculty members each spring and fall semester. The award was established to recognize faculty who strongly exemplify the “Seven Principles of Good Practice” (Chickering & Gamson, 1987), which are:

- › Encourages contact between students and faculty
- › Develops reciprocity and cooperation among students
- › Encourages active learning
- › Gives prompt feedback
- › Emphasizes time on task
- › Communicates high expectations
- › Respects diverse talents and ways of learning

Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that the fall 2015 Apple Award recipients are Mary Balken, General Education Associate Professor of Anatomy; and Dr. George Rogers, Doctoral Professor.

Mary Balken began teaching anatomy at Clarkson College in July 2000 and also served as the Accommodation’s Coordinator from 2002–2007. This year marks her 30th year of teaching. She previously taught at Creighton University and College of Saint Mary. Students praised Balken with the following comments in their nomination forms:

- › She is a wonderful teacher, as well as a person. She inspires you to be better and tells you that you’re better than what you think. She made me believe that I could understand all that was presented in her class and made sure I passed. She gives you unlimited resources and will go out of her way to stay and make sure you understand.
- › She builds confidence in her students. Whenever we would stress about not understanding something or being nervous about an exam coming up, she always said, ‘you’ve got this—don’t worry’ with a smile on her face.

“It is an overwhelming honor to be acknowledged by students and great when you can be honored for something you love to do,” says Balken. “Trying to facilitate learning requires a lot of background preparation by a professor [and] it is nice to know you’re on the right track for their [students’] benefit. I greatly appreciate their time and effort in nominating me and writing such a lovely letter. I will treasure it always.”

Dr. George Rogers retired from Purdue University on May 14, 2013 and began teaching in the Clarkson College Doctoral program the following week. Students spoke highly of Rogers as an exemplar and role model in their nomination submissions:

- › Hands down, this professor should be highly considered for this award. He is such a great asset to the College and the students he educates. I am so fortunate to have been in contact with him. If it weren’t for him, I wouldn’t have made it very far in my program. He gives me motivation and encouragement that relieves stress and anxiety. His attributes are everything I hope to demonstrate with my students.
- › He is the professor I want to be. I feel he respects his students and values our ideas and opinions. He creates a welcoming online environment, which creates a sense of community and belonging. While creating this supportive, collaborative environment, I feel that I can depend on him to steer me in the right direction. He is approachable and I feel I can go to him with any concerns or questions. He has great listening skills and takes time to have a conversation with me. He does set high expectations for his students that affect our achievements. He shows a passion for teaching and displays strong characteristics of a leader and mentor.

Rogers is grateful for the internal support he has received to help him have such an impact as an online instructor. “Thank you for the assistance in transferring my traditional face-to-face teaching methods and research mentoring into effective use of online tools and techniques to assist distance learners with their knowledge acquisition and their research endeavors,” he says.



Nurse Anesthesia Program Receives Superb Review from Accrediting Body

After a two-day site visit and an in-depth self-study in October 2015, the Council on Accreditation (COA) reported the Clarkson College Nurse Anesthesia program supremely meets established standards of acceptable education quality. The accrediting body found no deficiencies or citations in its evaluation, which is a rare and remarkable accomplishment.

Accreditation is a process designed to ensure quality assessment and quality improvement of an educational program. As such, extensive periodic reviews are required by the Council, which include a self-study and an onsite review. The self-study is a written component developed by the program faculty and documents how each standard is met with evidence attached.

Following the self-study, a formal onsite review is conducted by representatives of the Council. During this onsite review, records and facilities of the program and the College are reviewed. Interviews with staff, students, administration and faculty are held. The onsite reviewers are trained to find deficiencies and issue citations the program must address—all directed at improving the program.

The Clarkson College Nurse Anesthesia faculty graciously accepted the COA’s analysis, understanding the importance of scrupulously abiding by and upholding accrediting body standards and ensuring the best possible education for its students.



Fall 2015 Apple award recipients Mary Balken and Dr. George Rogers.



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- June** Wine tasting and live music with fellow alumni at Soaring Wings Winery in Springfield, Neb.
- July** Tee off with us at 7 a.m. on July 9 at Pacific Springs Golf Course. Round up your four favorite golfers!
- August** Join us for America's favorite pastime by rooting for the Omaha Storm Chasers on Aug. 7 at 5 p.m.
- September** Check out the details for Alumni Weekend on page 9.

