

Fall
2016 Issue

AlumniTimes

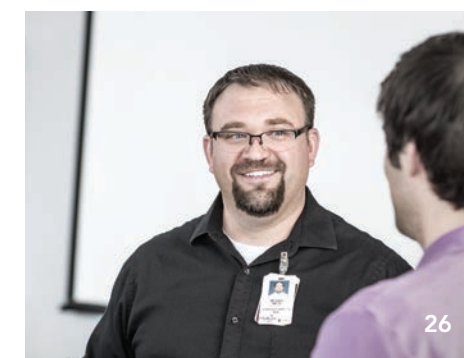
Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Leaving a legacy
& looking ahead



Our days are numbered. We should invest in the quality of life for both our own well-being and for the sake of those who proceed us. For it is through the act of goodwill and perseverance that we not only leave behind a legacy, but that we uphold a tradition of giving and being our best.



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On the Cover
Dr. Louis Burgher and Dr. James Canedy applaud graduates. 18

PHOTOGRAPH BY Jolesch Photography

What is your legacy for the future?

We all want to be remembered for something and to be seen as someone who truly made a difference, but what happens when our lives change and our legacy turns into something we didn't plan on? Things change in a moment and suddenly everything we believed, understood or desired goes out the window.

I don't know about you, but I think working in health care shows us that we have to learn to re-write our legacy and change with the landscape we are given. I have always told my kids they could do whatever they wanted to do; that independence was key; and they could write their own chapters in life.

We have all had the experience of seeing a patient or a loved one come so close to dying that they were forced to put life into a different perspective. As health care workers, our job encompasses teaching and collaborating, while also inspiring others to rearrange their legacy in new directions. As we provide care, we are teaching our patients to recreate their destiny and help them learn that even with health-related deficiencies, they can still move forward and thrive.

Whether it's performing imaging-based diagnosis, physical therapy, nursing care or business aspects that can shape the patient experience, we are all creating a legacy of caring and compassion. I cherish the days when I hear employers say, "Wow, Clarkson College alumni continue to impact the community and health care across the world, by extending innovation and compassion to people who really needed help." We are all seen as more than ordinary because of the education that has shaped us.

In the end, how do you want to be remembered? What have you experienced in your career that caused you to change your life perspective? What do you want your legacy to be?

Nicole Hardin

We are all seen as more than ordinary because of the education that has shaped us.

I now know that our legacy is a collection of experiences and responses that shape our next steps in life, and that it is a balance of independence and team efforts that make change happen—not just being able to stand alone.



Nickki Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R)(M) (CIIP) ('95, '97), Alumni Association President



1 / Gladys Pierce ('73), her husband, Mark and Jayne Cromer, and Joan Blum ('78, '86, '98) enjoy the summer weather. 2 / Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and the Anderson family, Maxon, Jen ('10), Matt and Chase, are all smiles. 3 / Back row, Jayne Cromer, Joan Blum ('78, '86, '98), JoAnn Acierno, Tracey Ozzello. Front row, Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06), Jeanette Kassmeier ('72, '86). 4 / A view on the picturesque game day.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Catching up during America's favorite pastime

Werner Park was the newest adventure for an Alumni Association outing. On Sunday Aug. 7, a group of Alumni and friends gathered for an Omaha Storm Chasers game. The light breeze, sunshine and mild temperatures made it a pleasant evening to take in a baseball game.

The group had a prime view from their seats directly behind home plate. It was a tough game for the Storm Chasers with their 0-3 shutout loss to the Colorado Springs Sky Box team (their loss didn't damper the spirits of the Clarkson College group, though). Watching the game was not only

entertaining but so were the antic challenges between innings, such as "pop the balloons," "spin around the bat" and various races. Alumni who brought children also had the benefit of the Centris Family Fun Stop, which features a merry-go-round and bouncy house to help pass the time for the little ones. It was a great evening for all.

Next up: Winter Alumni Events

Don't get caught in the cold this winter and miss out on the alumni events scheduled through March. View full details and RSVP information on page 6.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Mark your calendar, grab a few pals and join the fun

December: Holiday Lights Tour
Dec. 8 7 p.m. Omaha area
\$10 per person

Take a break from the chilly weather and let the magic of the holiday season warm your spirits. Enjoy seasonal trivia, snacks and festive light displays during a 2.5 hour holiday lights tour. Save your seat by Dec. 2.

January: 7th Annual Bowling Tournament
Jan. 21 6 p.m. Ralston
\$22.50 per person

Gather three talented bowling buddies and join us for an evening of pizza, bowling and prizes at Scorz Sports Center. Teams are encouraged to select a witty bowling-themed team name and wear attire that fits their selected name. Reserve your lane by Jan. 16.

Decorated Table Trivia
March 4 10 a.m.

Clarkson College, Howard Hall
Love brunch, creative decor and competitive trivia? Our spring fundraising event is perfect for you! Sponsor a table and fill it with seven of your trivia savvy friends. Each table sells for \$80 (\$10 per person) and is decorated according to the table sponsor's desired theme. RSVP by Feb. 16.

If you would like to participate or have questions about an upcoming event, contact Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.



With Gratitude: Alumni Donations

A listing of contributions from Sept. 1, 2015 through Aug. 31, 2016

The Alumni Association Board sends a sincere thank you to the following donors who have generously given to the Alumni Scholarship Fund this past year. These contributions assist the Alumni Association in their goal of giving annual scholarships to Clarkson College students. All donations are greatly appreciated. A special thank you to those who have so graciously given to this fund.

Donations up to \$99

Lygia Lee Arcaro ('98)
Darlene Anderson ('64), in memory of Linda Plettner ('64)
Jacqueline & Herman Benson, in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Beverly Bethart ('88), in memory of Aunt Mary
Joan Blum ('81, '86, '98)
Barbara Bollinger ('66)
Susan Bristol ('78), in memory of James Canedy and in honor of Betty Canedy
Florence Mortensen Cline ('44), in memory of Estelle Nordmeyer Mortensen ('44) and Irene Thoreson ('44). In honor of Opal Cooper ('44) and Julie Roestal ('44)
Louann Coatsworth ('77, '88)
Jane Conley ('65)

Janet Danforth-Bacon ('73)
Diana Denker ('74), in memory of Dr. Patricia Perry and Shar Hanson ('68)
Diana Denker ('74) (second donation)
Carla Dirkschneider ('07)
Kathryn Fiscus ('15)
Debra Floreani ('75), in memory of Sandy Peppers Thrasher ('76, '84) and Neva Hannah
Susan Flurry ('85)
Mary Kay Jordan ('76), in memory of Janice Wheeler Bergren ('76)
Linda Jording ('66)
Nikie Herrera ('70)
Norma Hintz ('87, '88), in memory of her mother, Maurine Rose Lehan
Norma Hintz ('87, '88), in memory of her parents John and Maurine Lehan
Gary Javitch ('95)
Mary Kay Jordan ('74), in memory of Janice Wheeler Bergren ('77)
Jeanette Kassmeier ('72, '86), in memory of Alice Kellogg
Diane Kuncil ('87, '15), in memory of Romano Milani. In honor of Jackie Milani
Lea Schriefer Kuper ('75), in memory of Arno Schriefer
Rosemary Lebeda ('00)
Kristin Ledvina ('13)
Carol McCall ('68), in memory of Sharlene Hansen ('68)

Steve, Jo and Mike Morton, in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Letitia Naprsteck ('68), in memory of Sharlene Hansen ('68)
Cheryl Neuroth Olomon ('71)
Northeast Community College Faculty Association, in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Jackie Parmenter ('93, '09)
Susan Pinquoch ('68), in memory of Marcia Stoller and Bev Andersen
Paul & Dorothy Porath, in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Louis & Janice Reasland Jr., in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Tina Rohrs, in memory of Marjorie Schimonitz ('50)
Jed C. Sanders ('05, '14, '16)
Kay Schiessler Scott ('70), in memory of Linda Plettner ('64)
Christy Seckman ('98), in memory of Kent Seckman
Doris Sell ('65), in memory of Judy Sterns Roerman ('71)
Susanne Soppe ('78), in memory of Arthur J. Adams
Vicki Sweet ('66)
Barbara Young ('55), in memory of Bruce Young
Chuck & Judy VonRens, in memory of Linda Lee Plettner ('64)

Janey Walch ('66), in memory of William H. Ashley
Shelli Weddum ('05, '11), in memory of Mary Balken
Marcia Fitzgerald Weeks, in memory of Grandma Virda Fitzgerald
Dorothy Zeplin ('55)

Donations of \$100 to \$499

Cindy Arbaugh ('78, '09), in memory of Jeanne L. Ohms
Mathew Beeman ('07), in memory of William Bailey III, U.S. Army
Mathew Beeman ('07), in memory of William Bailey III, U.S. Army (second donation)
Linda Jensen, faculty
Debra Kozeny ('77, '94)
Annette LeRoy, Honorary Alumna and former faculty
Ruth Briggs Siefert ('66), in memory of Emory and Frieda Briggs
Ruth Briggs Siefert ('66), in memory of Emory and Frieda Briggs (second donation)
Chera Tremblay ('08)
Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06), in memory of Linda L. Plettner ('64)
Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06), in memory of Pauline Dickey ('67)

Donations of \$500 to \$999 & greater
Carol Engquist ('83)
Ann VanHoff, Honorary Alumna

Donations of \$1,000 & greater
Daniel W. Pfister Foundation, JoAnne Jones Pfister ('53)

Making your contribution

Donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund may be made throughout the year. It is an excellent way to recognize or memorialize someone while helping students meet the financial challenges of their Clarkson College experience. Donations can be sent to: Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68131. Please make checks payable to Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. The Alumni Association and scholarship recipients are very grateful to all who have generously donated.

If any errors have occurred in the listings, please notify Rita VanFleet via e-mail at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu. All attempts have been made to correctly acknowledge all donations made within this time period.



Reflecting on Their Legacy

Looking back at their careers with classmates during Alumni Weekend

"Oh my goodness!"

I haven't seen you in 50 years!" "How could all this time have gone by since our graduation?" "Where has 40 years gone?" "You haven't changed a bit." The two days of reconnecting with their alma mater and former classmates began with warm, heartfelt greetings as the anniversary classes of 1966 and 1976 welcomed one another to Alumni Weekend.

This year's alumni celebrations began with brunch on Sept. 15 on campus in Howard Hall. Alumnae reminisced, shared joyful memories and caught up on their lives after graduation. Clarkson College President Dr. Tony Damewood updated attendees on the progress of the College and welcomed them back to their alma mater.

Dangling proudly from the wrists of many alumnae were their "Kiewit Hall" bracelets. Each Clarkson School of Nursing student received one of these solid gold bracelets at graduation, making them a true treasure.

Following the brunch, alumnae were treated to a campus tour led by College student ambassadors. The high-fidelity Simulation Labs, updated classrooms and newly renovated Dr. Louis and Susan Burgher Board Room were areas of interest on the tour.

Top row / Classmates Rita Rohrsen and Nancy George share a heartfelt laugh. Janey Walch ('66) and Linda Taylor ('64) cheerfully catch up. Beth Engle, Patty Janousek and their 1976 classmates chat on the campus tour. **Middle row** / Absorbing the details and history at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The Q Street Quartet. Kathy Dineen and Barbara Bollinger warmly reminisce. Kiewit Hall bracelets were worn proudly. **Bottom row** / Shawn Shields ('76) observes mannequin Hal's functionality in the Simulation Lab. A stop at Kiewitt Hall during the trolley tour. President Dr. Tony Damewood greets alumnae during brunch.



"There is a footprint of Clarkson College Values that each of us have contributed and shared..."

NICOLE HARDIN, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



Heritage Garden Walk

At the tour's conclusion, College faculty and staff joined the anniversary classes in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden to celebrate the boulder and four bricks that were donated and installed this past year. The first brick honored the recently retired Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, which was given by LPN graduates. Another brick was donated in memory of the students whose lives were tragically lost in a campus shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore. The teaching legacy of General Education Anatomy Professor, Mary Balken, was commemorated through the third brick donation given by Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Andreia Nebel. The legacy of alumna Linda Plettner ('64) was honored by a brick donation from classmate and longtime friend Linda Whaley Taylor ('64). Linda was also commemorated by her sister Beth Nave, who captured Linda's love of nursing on a plaque inscription stating, "A nurse forever."

During the Heritage Garden Walk celebration, Alumni Association President Nicole Hardin discussed the meaning of the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden and those honored or memorialized there.

"This garden space has very special memories for each of us—memories of those that we honor, of those that we remember, of those that we still cherish today and for those that mentored us. No matter what the memory, there is a common thread woven into each of the bricks that stands for so much more than just a brick in the ground. There is a footprint of Clarkson College Values that each of us—alumni, faculty, the Board, past, present, and future students—have contributed and shared with someone in their life. That legacy and footprint is one of lifelong learning, caring and compassion, inspired by Clarkson College core Values."

Top row / Alumna guests at this year's brunch. Seated: Nicole Hardin, Rita VanFleet, Aubray Orduña. Standing: Trish Weber, Shirley Mondero, Carla Dirkschneider, Cindy Arbaugh, Jeanette Kassmeier. A portion of this year's gifted boulder and bricks. **Middle row** / The rest of this year's brick donations. The class of 1976 celebrating 40 years. Seated: Carol Reha, Carolyn Tate, Patty Janousek. Standing: Shawn Shields, Beth Engle, Mary Didier, Lynette Wheeler. **Bottom row** / The class of 1966 celebrating 50 years. Seated: Sandi Smith, Gail Koenig, Janey Walch, Fran Webb, Rita Rohrsen. Standing: Barbara Bollinger, Nancy George, Kathy Dineen, Mary Ellen Krobot, Karron Bruggmann, Carmen Burr, Shari Benoit.

ALUMNI RESPOND

Blissful Recollection

The most important thing you learned during your three-year training:

- › Good basic nursing care. Thank you, Mrs. Congdon.
- › Psych training at Ingleside in Hastings.
- › Practicing skills on each other.
- › Good, empathetic patient care.
- › A love of nursing, especially O.R. nursing. It was definitely the profession for me.
- › Thanks to all our teachers and mentors.
- › The art of nursing: caring, compassion and touch.
- › Treat the patient as a human being.
- › Being the best nurse possible, compassion, sharing your experience with those who came after us.
- › Pat Perry was a fantastic educator and role model for us!
- › We received a wonderful education.

One of the most humorous/ridiculous things that occurred during training:

- › Crawling around the campus grounds looking for Jeanette's ('66) contact lens. Several patients were curiously looking out of the windows at us!
- › During the last night in the dorm, we turned the Kiewits' pictures upside down and put peanut butter on the toilets. We almost didn't graduate.
- › 7 p.m. curfew the first year.
- › We were sure we saw "flying" alien machines—red, blue and yellow lights—while at Ingleside.
- › Crossroads was as far west as Omaha went. In order to go shopping, it took all day to take buses. If we had extra money, we put it together to take a cab.
- › A "flasher" in the Doctors Building. He succeeded in getting our attention. Students filled all three floors' windows gawking. "He's on the fourth floor!"
- › Living in the dorm with 27 bottles of salad dressing.
- › Telephone calls announcement—only two phones on the entire floor.
- › Candy Olson's ('76) sneeze!



ALUMNI RESPOND

A Joyful Song

A highlight from this year's brunch included a jovial rendition of "I am a Clarkson Nurse," a tune regularly sung by students while attending Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing. After much prodding, Sandi Miller Smith ('66, at far right) graciously sang the song as though graduation was just yesterday.

"I am a Clarkson Nurse"

A Clarkson Nurse. A Clarkson Nurse is hard to beat, she looks a 100 per from head to feet. She's got that style, that smile that winning way, and when you look at her you'll recognize her and "you'll say, "Now there's a nurse I'd like to know, she's got that good 'ole Clarkson pep and go," and just to look at her is quite a treat, it's hard to beat a CLARK...SON NURSE!

Historical Trolley Tour

An Omaha historical trolley tour wrapped up day one of Alumni Weekend, with Kiewit Hall as the first stop on the agenda. Outside of the former school and dormitory, alumnae enjoyed reminiscing about where they resided during their nursing school training. The Florence Nightingale sculpture still proudly graces the building's west wall.

The trolley made its way downtown for a visit to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Dean Loya led the tour of the 133-year-old Cathedral, which stands today in exquisite condition. Stunning hand-crafted stained glass windows line the Cathedral space, each window representing a parish existing in the Diocese of Nebraska at the time the building was constructed. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral holds many stories and tributes to Omaha's early founders, and it has also played a significant part in the history of Clarkson School of Nursing and Clarkson College. Cappings, convocation and graduation ceremonies were held there, contributing to the rich history of the Cathedral and the College.

As the tour rounded Midtown's Turner Park, Gene, the tour's trolley driver, made note of the eight Horses of Honor, a painted horse sculpture exhibit created to honor the lives of the fallen heroes of the Omaha police department. The art instillation also features a bronze dog honoring fallen K-9 Kobus, a 9-year-old Belgian Malinois killed in the line of duty.

A final stop at Joslyn Art Museum included a stroll through the Sculpture Gardens and photographs of the art deco space. The class of 1976 payed tribute to their graduation ceremony by staging a group photo on the building's pink marble steps.

Attendees were also able to witness history in the making with the in-progress demolition of Omaha's Civic Auditorium and a former restaurant space along the Missouri riverfront.

Continuing Educational Event

The Friday morning alumni events began with a continuing educational presentation entitled "Organ Donation: Both Sides of the Equation." A full house of participants learned about the newest regulations and processes for organ procurement. The speakers graciously donated their time and expertise to deliver a very informative and inspiring event. The session concluded with an emotional open discussion with organ recipient Sarah Presnosil and wife of an organ donor, Vanessa Hamil.

Entertainment & Festivities

Alumni Weekend drew to a close with a celebratory dinner at The Players Club on Friday evening. Alumnae enjoyed their continued conversation and reminiscing, creating a perfect, intimate atmosphere for the Weekend's final event. The Q Street Quartet provided the evening's entertainment, which encouraged sing-alongs, clapping and a respectful tribute during Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A."

Typically, the Honorary Alumni award is given during the alumni dinner. However, this year's recipient was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. The award will be given at a later date during a Clarkson College Community meeting and published in a future issue of the Alumni Times.

Good byes, tears, hugs and promises to keep in touch were shared as another enjoyable Alumni Weekend came to a close.

Top row / Wife of an organ donor, Vanessa Hamil, and organ recipient, Sarah Prenosil. A few of the continuing educational event presenters John Stallbaum, Kimber Bonner and Kyle Herber. 1976 classmates, Mary Didier, Lynette Wheeler, Meg Cotton, Carolyn Tate and Carol Reha. **Bottom row** / Alumna celebrating their 50th anniversary, Shari Benoit, Rita Rohrssen, Karron Brugmann, Nancy George, Sandi Smith and Gail Koenig. The morning continuing educational event presenters, Dr. Lee Morrow and Mike Matukewicz, Esq. Alumni Association Board members Jen Anderson ('10), Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and Nicole Hardin ('95, '97).



AVEN'S BLUE RIBBON

COUNTY
FAIR



NEBRASKA

Aven Zimmerman is 12-and-a-half years old and never had the opportunity to meet her maternal grandmother, the late Norma White Abood. Norma graduated from the diploma program at Clarkson School of Nursing in 1964. Over the next several years, she worked, got married, had children and reached an age where she couldn't wait to someday soon become a grandmother. Then, a diagnosis of liver cancer at age 52 cut Norma's life short. She would not live to tell Aven or her other grandchildren about her life as a nurse and passion for raising people's spirits. For them to ever know what she was really like, they would need to take a deep dive into her past themselves. With great faith, that's precisely what Aven did.

Aven's desire to learn about her late grandma—beyond the stories told by her mother, Kayleen—all started with her involvement in 4-H. This past year, Aven and her fellow 4-H clubmates were encouraged to complete a project to learn about a topic of their choice. The project Aven chose, "Family Heirlooms and Treasures," was the perfect opportunity for her to research her Grandma Norma and discover what her life was like as a nursing student and health care provider.

One of the things Aven learned from her research was that her Grandma Norma wanted to be a nurse from the time she was a little girl. Her aunt, Mildred White McKibben, graduated from Clarkson School of Nursing in 1940, and Norma wanted to follow in her footsteps. When it was time for Norma to go to school and fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse, her parents already had three children attending college, so a sister helped pay her expenses.



While in nursing school, Norma spent most of her weekends in her dormitory. She worked at the front desk and took on sewing projects for different people to help pay her bills. Years later, Norma's son, Dale, shared how his mom was quite a prankster with her dorm-mates. He believes her rowdiness was a way to relieve stress and break the ice with strangers.

An undated letter that Norma wrote home while she was in nursing school depicts a bit about some of her experiences. She wrote:

Dear Peoples,
I am preparing a talk to be given tomorrow in one of our O.B. classes on my project—Criminal Abortion.

Friday we sure were busy with delivering babies. It seemed as soon as we got one delivered another one was ready to deliver. You sure learn a lot while you are in O.B. I never knew so much went on when a baby was born. We are supposed to scrub our arms and hands for 10 minutes before going into the delivery room, but we are lucky if we get to scrub them for one or two minutes. We've had so many patients lately that two were out in the hall Friday.

This morning I took care of the First Presbyterian nursery and first thing off—didn't this mother tell me to watch this little boy to see if he had a B.M.? Well, I checked him, and didn't I stick my finger in a mess!

The letter was unique in that Norma addressed each one of her "peoples" (Richard, Mom, Jerry, Bob and Pop) by name and had a bit to say to each one.

After graduation, Norma worked in the Gothenburg Memorial Hospital in Gothenburg, Neb. She met and married Amen Abood in 1966 and moved to Aurora, Neb. where she worked for a short time at the local hospital. Amen was hired by Chief Industries in Grand Island, Neb., and Norma soon transferred to work at the old St. Francis hospital.

Norma stopped working in 1969 when her daughter, Kayleen, was born. In 1971, Amen and Norma welcomed twins Dana and Dale into the family. At this time, Norma became involved with the Mother of Twins Club. Around 1975, Amen was laid off, and the family moved home to the rural Overton/Lexington area of Nebraska. Norma stayed home with the children and then began working part-time at the care home in Lexington when the twins began kindergarten. Though a dream of her own to someday return to school and earn a degree, Norma, instead, led classes for girls who wanted to become nurse's aides and also taught classes at Central Community College in

1 / Norma White Abood ('64). 2 / Aven and her mother Kayleen proudly show Aven's winning 4-H entry.

"I PICKED MY
GRANDMA
BECAUSE I'VE
ALWAYS
WONDERED
WHAT HER LIFE
WAS LIKE."

AVEN ZIMMERMAN



Kearney, Neb. She later worked at a care home in Elwood, Neb. Throughout her nursing career, Norma took a special interest in Alzheimer's patients and encouraged her employers to provide the best care for them.

Nursing was not Norma's only commitment. She was also a devoted wife and mother and worked with a local doctor to start a hospice program in Lexington. She enjoyed planting flowers and gardening. Her sewing skills enabled her to make numerous outfits for her children and even the dress she wore on her own wedding day.

With fondness, Kayleen remembers her mother's ornery side. "My newly married husband had a dislike for cottage cheese," she says, leading in gaily to her next comment. "We were going through a salad bar with mom, and, when he wasn't looking, she snuck a serving of cottage cheese on his plate. She loved doing things like that!"

Dropping to a more serious tone, Kayleen also shares how her mother always considered the feelings of others, especially the patients she cared for who suffered from terminal illness. "She believed strongly in the rights of people to live out the rest of their lives with dignity," says Kayleen. When Norma was diagnosed with liver cancer, Kayleen struggled seeing her mother try to make peace with her own fate. "I wanted her to fight to be with us by doing whatever it took—experimental surgeries, treatments, tests, all of it," she says. "But that wasn't what she wanted."



Instead, Norma used skin patches to manage her pain and received home visits from hospice nurses as needed. She died two years later at age 54.

"Her death left a huge hole in my heart and was incredibly painful," says Kayleen, who had married two years earlier and just given birth to her first child when Norma passed. "I never wanted to feel that hurt again, so I didn't talk about her for a very long time. Recently, I realized that my children are getting older and know very little about their grandmother." When the concept for Aven's 4-H history project arose, both Kayleen and Aven felt researching Norma could fill a void in both of their lives.

"I picked my grandma because I never had a chance to meet her and have always wondered what her life was like," Aven says. In doing the research, Aven learned that her grandmother was a hard working woman and that being a good nurse takes a lot of effort and compassion. Her project also sparked a new-found interest in learning more about other family members. Someday, Aven would like to see her grandmother's dorm and the places she visited on a daily basis.

Aven's diligent research and quest for information about her grandmother Norma earned her a Blue Ribbon for her 4-H project. She put together a shadow box with memorabilia and wrote about her grandmother. She now knows who her grandmother was and a lot more about her

life. It was also healing for Kayleen to be able to share her mother with Aven.

A BIT ABOUT AVEN

Aven started seventh grade this fall at Overton Public Schools. She lives in Lexington with her parents, Kayleen and Alvin, and two sisters, Peyton, 18, and Ivey, 16. During her summer vacation she helped her dad in the garden and sold kolaches made using her Grandma Norma's recipe, along with other baked goods and vegetables at the local farmer's market. She likes to read, especially books such as Percy Jackson and the Olympians/Heroes of Olympia.

1 / Aven's blue ribbon award and paper submission about her grandmother. 2 / Norma's nursing memorabilia played a role in Aven's 4-H submission.

Honoring Our President of Nearly a Decade



What a leader contributes shapes an organization's future. Because of Dr. Louis W. Burgher, the legacy of Clarkson College will not only live on, it will continue to move forward.



Dr. Damewood gives Dr. Burgher a signed gift from the College community.



Dr. Louis and Susan ('70) Burgher



The Board Room ribbon cutting and unveiling ceremony.



The completed Dr. Louis and Susan Burgher Board Room.

A Tribute & Dedication

In recognition of his service as Clarkson College President for the past nine years, more than 100 faculty, staff and Board of Directors members gathered for a reception on campus on July 21 to celebrate Dr. Louis Burgher's transition to President Emeritus, made official on Aug. 1.

As guests filled into Howard Hall for a slideshow presentation featuring photos of Dr. Burgher as a child, student, physician, family man, entrepreneur and Clarkson College President streamed across a projector screen.

To welcome everyone to the celebration, Board of Directors Chair Reverend Thomas J. Hurley delivered a jovial message, praising Dr. Burgher for building a durable foundation for the College and expressing his faith in former Vice President of Operations Dr. Tony Damewood to lead the College into the future as he steps into the presidential role.

Next, the College debuted a professionally produced video featuring several of Dr. Burgher's closest

constituents during his term as President. One by one, they expressed their gratitude to Dr. Burgher for entrusting his confidence in them as colleagues and applauded his nobility and professional guidance.

Dr. Damewood thanked guests for attending the celebration and extended his personal gratitude to his mentor, Dr. Burgher, for being such an exceptional role model to him over the years. He then presented Dr. Burgher with a signed and framed photo of Clarkson College faculty and staff taken during the spring 2015 Employee Pride Day.

Somewhat overcome by the reverential comments made about him by his cohorts, Dr. Burgher very unassumingly expressed his own gratitude for those who have and continue to shape his life's journey. With that, he shared how his "interim" role as College President manifested from being an anticipated three- or four-month-long appointment to a nearly 10-year-long vocation that has brought him a great deal of fulfillment.

In closing, he reassured the College community that, despite his transition to President Emeritus, the best years of Clarkson College are yet to come.

Dr. Louis & Susan Burgher Board Room Unveiling

Two weeks prior to his celebration reception, Dr. Burgher and his wife, Susan ('70), were the honorary guests for the unveiling of the newly-remodeled Clarkson College Board Room, which was named after the Burghers for their many years of service to the College.

In addition to Dr. Burgher serving as Clarkson College President since 2007, Susan is also a proud Clarkson School of Nursing alumna. Individually and together, the Burghers have supported the College Mission for many years through their longstanding relationship with Nebraska Medicine and Clarkson Regional Health Services.

Shortly after Dr. Burgher announced his plans to step down as President last January, Dr. Damewood, presented the idea of remodeling and renaming the Board Room as a tribute to Dr. Burgher for his many years of service to the College. After receiving approval and support from the College Board of Directors, plans for the remodeling project kicked off in late March. The renovation project began in mid-May and took nearly six weeks to complete.

Updates made to the space include new paint; replacement lighting; the addition of a 30-foot-long custom cut conference table; new black leather chairs and black leatherette table pads; charcoal stone coasters; and an acrylic print adhered to the wall that features a photo of Dr. Burgher and one of his most prized quotes, "Always remember, the work you are preparing to do is a sacred trust." The exterior of the Board Room features a dibond-printed image of Dr. and Mrs. Burgher, accompanied by a written description of their many contributions to the College.



Noteworthy Accomplishments Achieved Under Dr. Burgher's Leadership



Establishment of a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia



Implementation of the first ever doctorate degree programs to be offered at the College: Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor in Health Education and Leadership



Development of two high-fidelity, on-campus simulation labs to enhance student learning experiences and outcomes



Continued impact of the Gateway to Success Minority in Nursing Scholarship program, which Dr. Burgher led the development of in 2000 while serving as CEO at Nebraska Medicine



A multitude of national awards and recognitions that highlight online learning efficiency, student success outcomes, affordability and support for active-duty military and veterans



Implementation of annual College-wide strategic planning process

According to Facilities Director Chuck MacDonell, the last time any updates were made to the Board Room prior to this project was in 2006 with the addition of new chairs. Thus, the full-scale remodel brings a fresh look and feel, while also paying a special tribute.

"The dedication of the Board Room is a gesture of gratitude to Dr. Burgher for everything he has done for Clarkson College," said Dr. Damewood. "Words simply aren't enough to convey the lasting impression he will leave on those of us who were fortunate enough to work under his leadership."

Following the ribbon cutting, guests expressed their thanks to Dr. Burgher and Susan for the continual support they've provided the College over the years.

A Final Token of Appreciation

Following his "semi-retirement" reception and Board Room ribbon cutting ceremony, the College had one last surprise honor to present to Dr. Burgher for his unremitting service to Clarkson College prior to, during and now following his role as College President.

The Otto Bauer Humanitarian Service Award was created in 1999 to honor Dr. Otto Bauer, former Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska–Omaha, for his many years of demonstrated leadership and dedication to Clarkson College.

Dr. Bauer's affiliation with Clarkson College began in 1981 as a consultant. He then became a member of the Board of Directors in 1992 and Chair of the Board of Directors

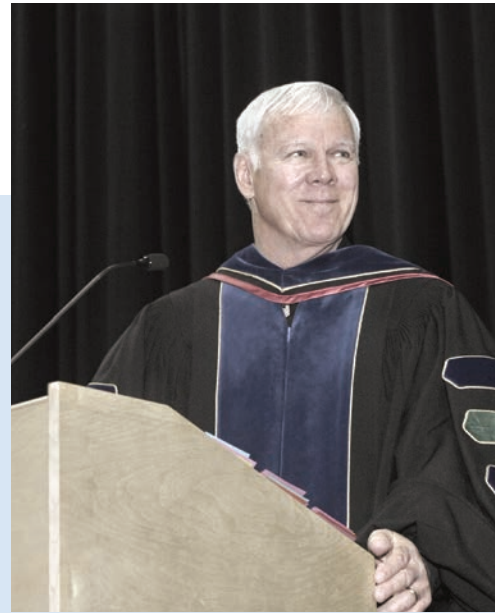
in 1997. His mentorship played a major role in helping the College transition from a diploma-granting nursing school to a fully accredited institution offering associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees and post-master's certificates.

Established with the idea that only a fixed number of honorees would ever receive the Otto Bauer Humanitarian Service Award, the College felt it was only appropriate to present the final medallion to Dr. Burgher. The timing of the summer 2016 graduation commencement ceremony came just five days after Dr. Burgher's transition to President Emeritus. In front of the hundreds of students, faculty and guests attending graduation, Dr. Damewood presented his predecessor with the award.

"On Aug. 1, our leader of the last nine years transitioned into his new role of President Emeritus and will also continue to offer his support as a member of the Clarkson College Board of Directors," shared Dr. Damewood. "I speak on behalf of the entire College when I say we are humbled by his service and truly appreciate his commitment to the College, its traditions and its students."



President Dr. Damewood presents the final Otto Bauer Humanitarian Service Award medallion to Dr. Burgher.



Dr. Louis Burgher

Following the Legacy of an Accomplished Leader

The Clarkson College Board of Directors knew the individual it approved to supersede Dr. Burgher would need to possess a wide-ranging list of sound leadership qualities and professional accolades to even be considered for the presidency role. Likewise, it would need to be someone who understood the importance of high-quality education with respect to its impact on the future of health care. These criteria left little room for debate when Dr. Burgher recommended Vice President of Operations Dr. Tony Damewood take over as the next President of Clarkson College.

Dr. Damewood is one of the longest-standing employees at Clarkson College. He first began as the Director of Admissions in 1998 and was promoted to Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services in 2001. A restructure of leadership in 2005 led to his next appointment as the Vice President of Operations—the position he held until assuming the role of President.

Dr. Damewood's career in higher education began shortly after receiving a B.A. degree in psychology from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa in 1990. After graduating, he worked for five years as the Director of Admissions

and was also the head baseball coach at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. His success with the baseball program led him to a new opportunity as the head coach at Bluefield College in Virginia.

After earning his MBA degree in 1998 from Averett College in Danville, Va., Dr. Damewood returned to the Midwest to join the Clarkson College community. From 2008–2012, he coached baseball for the Millard Athletic Association and also spent several years coaching Little League. In 2014, he furthered his education and earned his Ph.D. in Human Capital Management from Bellevue University.

"I would be remiss if I didn't express my gratitude to Dr. Burgher for serving as my trusted mentor and role model over the years," said Dr. Damewood. "It is because of his guidance that I can step into this role with the confidence and wherewithal to move Clarkson College forward for many years to come."

"It is because of his guidance that I can step into this role with the confidence and wherewithal to move Clarkson College forward."



Dr. Tony Damewood

Otto Bauer Humanitarian Service Award Recipients

| | |
|---|--|
| 1999 Otto Bauer University of Nebraska—Omaha Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs | 2004 Candace Gregory Open Door Mission President and Chief Executive Officer |
| 2000 William Dinsmoor The Nebraska Medical Center Chief Financial Officer | 2005 Rebecca Valdez Chicano Awareness Center Executive Director |
| 2001 Dr. Robert Jones Open Door Mission Volunteer Psychologist | 2006 Nancy Jewell Clarkson College Assistant to the President and Alumni Relations |
| 2002 Drexel Sibbernsen Clarkson College Board of Directors | 2008 Dr. J.W. Upright Clarkson College President, 1997–2007 |
| 2003 David Castilow University of Nebraska—Omaha Director of Business Services and Clarkson College Residence Hall Consultant | 2009 Robert Howard Clarkson College Board of Directors |

PTA Department Launches Bachelor's Degree; Appoints New Director

Ushering the Next Wave of Physical Therapist Assistant Education

Clarkson College is among one of the first colleges in the nation to launch a PTA Bachelor's degree option for certified PTAs seeking educational advancement and increased career opportunities. Currently in the latter half of the development phase, the new degree program is accepting applications, with plans to begin classes in August 2017.

In fall 2012, an undercurrent of increasingly high standards for entry-level PTAs—and discussion amongst PTA educators nationwide—spawned a dialogue to implement a bachelor's degree offering at Clarkson College. The discussion led to the formation of a formal college-wide investigatory committee in 2013, which found sound evidence to believe the advanced degree

option would enhance student learning outcomes and overall career potential. In early 2016, the committee submitted a formal proposal to the College Executive Leadership Team and Board of Directors for review, which they unanimously approved.

Dr. Witte spoke candidly about the inevitable changes in physical therapy education over the last 40 years. "The profession has advanced with the educational requirement of physical therapists (PTs) from bachelor's to master's, and now to doctoral programs. These changes were attributed to the expansion of both acute and chronic patient conditions, the increased emphasis on PTs to provide differential diagnosis and the advancing complexity of the health care environment."

All the while, the educational requirement for PTAs remained at the associate's degree level. "This made sense in 1970," said Dr. Witte, "but after years of progress, the profession has come to realize the role and capacity of quality care provided by the PTA is limited by this level of education." He added that many employers only offer advancement for clinicians who have a bachelor's degree or higher, which limits the career opportunities for PTAs.

Clarkson College is in the process of finalizing the curricula and projected goals for the bachelor's degree program. With the degree being designed for practicing PTAs, it is offered online and completed on a part- or full-time basis.

"The initial hopes are to secure a quality group of applicants and students that are eager to learn and develop with us," said Dr. Witte. "Getting in on the ground floor of a new endeavor is exciting, and I fully expect to meet our objectives and

graduate a group of students who are proud to be not only the best but also the first to receive the Clarkson College Bachelor's degree in PTA."

"For us at Clarkson College, this new degree offering is focused on helping PTAs work toward becoming expert clinicians, better community members and leaders within their organization," Dr. Witte said. "While other bachelor's degrees may prepare a student for one or another, we are excited that the Clarkson College B.S. in PTA degree offering will meet all three of those objectives and that—regardless of whether you are starting as a PTA or have been working for 20 years—this can add value to your career and the profession of physical therapy."

Dr. Witte Ready to Take the Lead

August marked the start of Dr. Michael Witte's tenth year with the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program and the rise of his first year as the Program Director. "What a whirlwind of growth, challenges and joy this time has been for me, as well as prosperity for our program and College," said Dr. Witte upon assuming his new leadership role.

After practicing as a clinician for several years, Dr. Witte brought his expertise to Clarkson College as an instructor in August 2007. He greatly values the family-like atmosphere at the College and the ability to get to know students, create lifelong professional relationships with them and prepare them to be the most high-quality and compassionate health care providers they can be.

Dr. Witte is also grateful for the support and caliber exemplified within his own department. "I could not be more pleased to have the group of faculty we have today and am wholly optimistic for the future of our PTA program, as well as the next evolution PTA education we are prepared to lead."

This degree offering is focused on helping PTAs work toward becoming expert clinicians, better community members and leaders.



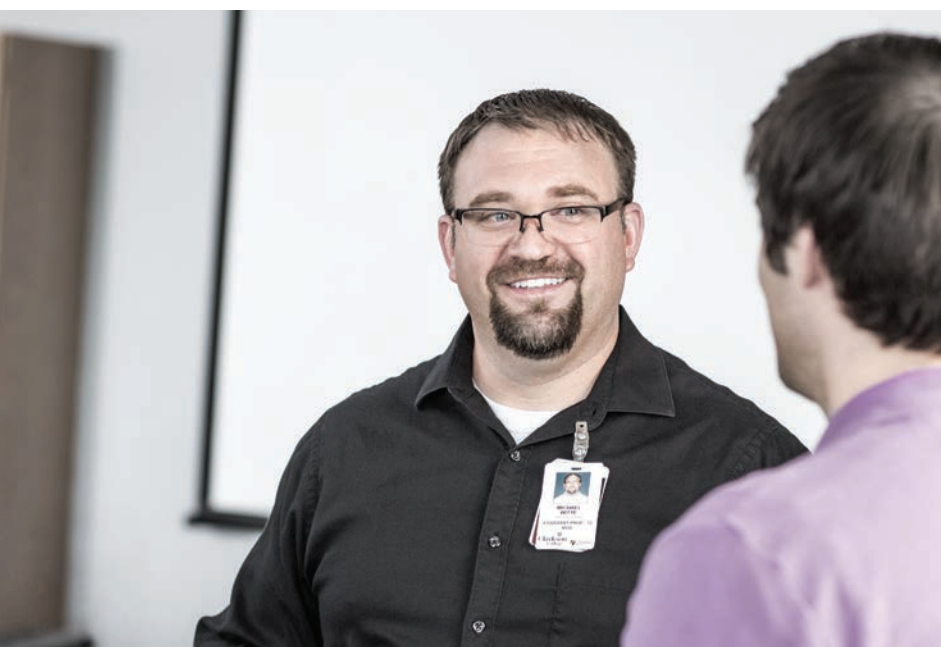
President Update: Dr. Tony Damewood

It is my pleasure to write this message as the sixth President of Clarkson College. I stepped into this role on Aug. 1 as my mentor and friend, Dr. Louis Burgher, semi-retired into the President Emeritus position. I am truly humbled and excited about the opportunity to lead an organization known widely for its rich history and success in preparing high-quality, ethical and compassionate health care professionals.

The College completed another successful academic year, receiving national recognitions from multiple publications—most notably U.S. News and World Report. Our licensure exam pass rates remain extremely high, once again surpassing the state and national averages. Personnel have been added to further enhance both the quality of instruction and the services provided to our students.

Enrollment remains at record levels, with the highest fall head count in Clarkson College history at more than 1,250 students. The College continues to be financially responsible by outperforming budget projections in both revenue and expenses while remaining the second least expensive private college in Nebraska.

The success of Clarkson College could only be obtained with the support of the Board of Directors, faculty, staff and alumni. We are excited for what the future of the College holds and look forward to sharing our continued growth with you as one of our proud graduates.



Dr. Michael Witte meets with a student.

New Orientation Format Exudes College Pride & Unity

The 158 students who attended New Student Orientation (NSO) on Friday, Aug. 26 were the first group to experience NSO as a full-day event, entailing the involvement of more than 70 faculty and staff members and 13 Student Ambassadors.

In years prior, NSO was a morning event that took place in Howard Hall and consisted of presentations given by speakers from throughout campus. This year, the event ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and involved hands-on activities and conference-style programming that allowed students to move around campus and make connections with various people and resources.

“One of our main goals was to have more contact with current students, faculty and staff,” says Brooke Clements, Student Success Coordinator and lead organizer of NSO. “To achieve this, we implemented ways for students to connect throughout the day.”

To start the day off, students enjoyed a light breakfast as they received a warm welcome from College President Dr. Tony Damewood. To infuse a dose of Clarkson College history into the day, the students watched a video featuring and narrated by Board of Directors Chair Rev. Thomas Hurley.

Next, students split up into four groups of 40 and rotated through four 30-minute-long sessions held on the second and third floors of the main building. The sessions expanded on what they learned on their respective Advising and Registration Day and included information about wellness and resiliency, IT services and Online Campus. One session included a panel of four current students who shared about their own experiences at Clarkson College and offered tips on how to be successful. Another session allowed students to visit a series of booths to gain information about health and safety requirements, the Writing Lab and other student support services.

Following the breakout sessions, the students returned to Howard Hall for lunch and to hear from Student Government Association President Joseph McMahon and Alumni Association President Nicole Hardin. Their speeches encouraged the students to serve as leaders, supporters and change agents for the Clarkson College community.

This truly was an all-hands on deck effort.

At the end of the day, students split up once again—this time based on academic program. “Each program designed an hour-long interactive session for their students to connect with each other,” says Clements.

“The program directors and faculty really took the lead and got creative!”

Other essential items students could check off their “To Do” lists by the end of the day included purchasing books and parking permits and picking up their student IDs.

Clements believes the new format of NSO enabled students to not only get acquainted with peers, faculty and staff ahead of time and help them feel prepared for the days ahead but also to witness first-hand how proud, supportive and passionate the campus community is as a whole.

One of our main goals was to have more contact with current students, faculty and staff.

“This truly was an all-hands on deck effort,” she says. “We literally had representation from every department on campus. Admissions, specifically, was instrumental in providing Student Ambassadors, free T-shirts and volunteering for almost all sessions throughout the day.” With NSO previously being an event organized by

the Admissions team, Clements says she also relied on them to help with planning logistics and to offer their advice for making it successful.

The Clarkson College Pathways Committee, which seeks to enhance the first-year student experience, was another key contributor in developing the overall goals and vision for the new NSO format. “I am the point person for NSO but have gotten feedback from all areas of campus on the agenda and format,” Clements says.

This new format of NSO will carry over for the spring and summer semesters, only on a smaller scale. “We want to make sure all undergraduate on-campus students have a similar experience,” says Clements. With the help of the Pathways Committee, Clements hopes to expand programming to undergraduate online programs and students who live outside of the state but enroll in on-campus programs.

The revamping of NSO was an initiative Clements began preparing for not long after returning to the College this past spring. She is extremely thankful to everyone who provided their support and input throughout the planning process. “Anytime I’ve asked for ideas, volunteers or help, I have had more than enough people step up to the plate,” says Clements. “Without all of you, we wouldn’t have had such a great event. Thank you, thank you!”



1 / Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11), Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging Instructor, assists new students during a break out session.

2 / In a breakout session moderated by Admissions Coordinator Jocelyn Medrano, four current Clarkson College students offered advice to new students on the different opportunities and resources to explore as they settle in to campus.



Howard Hall was filled with new students eager to learn at NSO.



Enhancing Campus One Space at a Time

Several environmental projects have been completed or are currently in the works on campus to help call attention to a specific area's members or mission.

Honoring a Lineage of Excellence

The receptionist area on the fifth floor recently installed a wall graphic titled "Continuum of Excellence" to honor past recipients of the Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award and the Teaching in Excellence award, as well as those who have offered their talents through organizational leadership during their tenure at the College.

The idea to create a physical exhibit on campus that displays the names of those who have earned such honors originated with Faculty Senate. The base of this piece consists of dark grey vinyl that wraps along two walls, accompanied by a 15" x 19" printed dibond plaque that explains the name and purpose of the installation. The exhibit features 402 5" x 2" dark and light blue rectangles cut from varying thicknesses of acrylic. Faculty names, along with the award(s) received and the year, are adhered to the top of the rectangles. This piece

will change over time, as future award recipients will be able to select where they'd like their name to appear on the Continuum of Excellence wall.

Making Their Mission Known

Shortly following his appointment as the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) Director in 2015, Dr. Ricardo Varguez suggested developing a department-specific mission statement to help CTE achieve its goal of providing quality services to faculty and staff. After consulting the appropriate channels to develop a mission statement that aligned with the Mission and Values of the College, as well as the individual objectives of CTE, the department's mission statement reads, "We promote and support a culture of excellence in teaching through the application of technology, assessment, research and collaboration, with the goal of improving student performance in a health care environment." The CTE mission statement is proudly displayed on a vinyl wall graphic placed in the center of the department space.



Widening Our Reach

On Aug. 26, a new digital monument sign on the green space off of 42nd and Dodge Streets lit up to tell the Clarkson College story. The sign not only displays the Clarkson College logo but also a large digital screen with rotating messages for passersby to read. The outdoor billboard companies reported an estimate of 942,000 cars passing by the intersection on a daily basis.

"Throughout the year, we will highlight our programs, events, welcome new students and alumni to campus, congratulate our graduates, and more," said Marketing Director Jina Paul. "We are always looking for new ways to get our message out to the public and are excited to be able to give guests a little more direction and help make Clarkson College stand out in the cluttered busy streets of Omaha."

August Capstone Project Summary

Thirty-seven master's degree-seeking students presented their Capstone projects on Aug. 5 at Storz Pavilion on the Nebraska Medicine campus. In keeping with tradition, the Alumni Association Board subcommittee awarded first, second and third place certificates based on an evaluation according to an established rubric for the abstracts. Health Care Business Director, Clarkson College alumna and Alumni Association board member, Carla Dirkschneider, presented the winning certificates at the close of the presentations.

Amanda Hansen was awarded first place for her abstract *Emergency Department Blood Draws: Examining Methods and Hemolysis Rate* (advisor Dr. Pam Holtz). Rebecca Szuba's abstract *Helping Nurses Understand Medical Marijuana* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg) was selected for second place. Third place was awarded to Chantelle Rawlinson for her abstract *The Value of Nurse Specialty Certification* (advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers).

A quantitative, correlational study was completed over a two week period in a small Midwest hospital. All emergency room patients needing blood drawn were included in this study. The entire sample had a seven percent hemolysis rate and 100 percent of the hemolyzed samples were obtained using a peripheral intravenous catheter. There were no hemolyzed samples collected from a butterfly needle or a central line. Another finding from this study was that vacutainers had an 11 percent hemolysis rate, while transferring blood with a syringe resulted in only a two percent hemolysis rate. The presence of a tourniquet had no effect on hemolysis rate. Based on these findings, it is suggested to use a butterfly needle or central line whenever possible to draw blood samples while transferring the sample with a syringe in order to reduce the risk of hemolysis. This study recommends future studies be conducted that include larger sample sizes, as this study was limited to 102 samples.

Emergency Department Blood Draws: Examining Methods and Hemolysis Rate by Amanda Hansen

Emergency departments frequently utilize blood samples to receive immediate information about a patient's health status. Obtaining results quickly is important to help guide the patient's plan of care. One common reason that results become delayed includes hemolysis, or the breakdown of red blood cells within the sample (Lippi, Plebani, Di Somma, & Cervellin, 2011). The purpose of this study was to add to the literature on the topic of laboratory testing within the emergency department and identify whether methods used to draw blood had an effect on hemolysis rates.

Helping Nurses Understand Medical Marijuana by Rebecca Szuba

While medical marijuana use may seem like a relatively new topic, marijuana has been used for centuries in treating the side effects of several illnesses. In recent years, the legality of marijuana use had caused a problem in perception of the drug as a treatment, but this trend has changed in more recent years as several states have legalized medical marijuana. This recent advent begs a corresponding need for education, both for patients and medical staff to aid them in dealing with medical marijuana use. According to the National Centers for Health Statistics, over 76 million Americans suffer from chronic pain,

continued on page 32

Well Wishes

Sending a heartfelt message for a swift recovery

Darlene, our dear friend and #604 roomie,

We are all sending good thoughts and prayers as you recover. May you have strength and stamina to give you comfort during this time. And we were just thinking that the next reunion might be at your place!

Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing Class of 1965

In Memoriam

Paula Gammel Fink ('66)
Died May 31, 2016. She was from Palm Desert, Calif.

Daniel Brune ('91)
Died suddenly on June 28, 2016.

August Capstone Project Summary
continued from page 31

which is more than people with diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined (as cited in Leland, 2011). The purpose of this study hoped to determine if attending an educational session with time for questions and answers on medical marijuana would improve nurses' knowledge when caring for patients using medical marijuana. This qualitative study indicated that 66 percent of the nurses who participated strongly agreed and 33 percent agreed that attending an educational session on medical marijuana improved their knowledge related to caring for patients who use medical marijuana. As medical marijuana usage grows, it will become imperative for nurses to have knowledge of its use in order to provide proper patient care. In future research, it would beneficial to have a larger sample size and a longer uninterrupted educational session.

The Value of Nurse Specialty Certification by Chantelle Rawlinson
Nursing specialty certification is often linked to improved quality and outcomes. Certification represents a higher level of knowledge and practice, with intent to protect the public (Niebuhr & Biel, 2007). As of 2015, 17 accredited certifying organizations have been established with 56 nursing specialty certification programs (McLaughlin, A., & Fetzer, S.J., 2015). The purpose of this study was to measure the perceived value of certification in both certified and non-certified nurses on a cardiac step-down unit in a large academic hospital using the Perceived Value of Certification Tool (PVCT). Data was collected via electronic survey. Responses to the PVCT were requested from 84 nurses on a cardiac step-down unit, with an overall response rate of 25 percent. The survey data revealed that over 90 percent of the certified nurse respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 9 of the 12

intrinsic value statements. Consistent with previously published literature, agreement was higher for intrinsic items than extrinsic items. In the non-certified nurse respondents, agreement was also higher for intrinsic items. This group had a higher percentage of agreement to both intrinsic and extrinsic items compared to the certified nurse respondents. This was a variation from previously published literature. Future studies should focus on a larger sample of non-certified nurses to determine if this difference is significant. Health care organizations will also need to aim their efforts to increase extrinsic rewards to achieve increased nurse specialty certification rates.

Learn more and read up
Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Simply visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at <http://bit.ly/2fF2YdH>. In the search box, type a few keywords or the author's name and hit enter. The Power Search option can be used to conduct a more advanced search.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Clarkson Service League Library by calling 402.552.3387 or sending an e-mail to library@clarksoncollege.edu.

AUGUST 2016
Graduate Capstone Projects

LINDSEY ABBOTT *Maternal Breastfeeding Pain: Pre-and Post-Frenotomy*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

REBECCA ANDREWS *Can a Preoperative Questionnaire Reduce Surgical Anxiety and Improve Outpatients' Surgical Experience*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

DONNA BAKER *Obesity and Military Dependents*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

SHIRLEY BEEDON *Effects of a Nurse Led Presentation on the Consequences of Smoking*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

DANIELLE BERRY *Vaginal versus Cesarean-Section Delivery and the Effects on Exclusive Breastfeeding Rates*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

KAYLEE BRUNS *Childhood Obesity, Increasing Awareness of Healthy Eating Habits in Children of Pre-K Ages*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

BRITTANY BURBACH *Intravenous Acetaminophen Use in Pain Management Following Laparoscopic Abdominal Surgery*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

ASHLEY CORCORAN *Nurse Perceptions of the Teach-back Method*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

KELSEY CROWDER *Assessment of Hand Hygiene Knowledge and Behaviors in Hospital Staff*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

JESSICA CULLAN *The Role of Medically Oriented Staffing Agencies in Meeting the Needs of Optometry Patients*, advisor Justin Avery

KATIE EDWARDS *Effects of Heart Failure Education on Nursing Knowledge: An Effort to Improve Heart Failure Education*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

JOHN ELSAESSER *A Retrospective Chart Review of Surgical Spine Prophylactic Application before Incision Closure*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

STEPHANIE FISCHER *Effect of Delayed Umbilical Cord Clamping on Bilirubin Levels at Hospital Discharge in Term Infants*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

SARAH FRANZLUEBBERS *Optimizing Nurse Practitioner Care for Postmenopausal Women Experiencing Cardiac Surgery*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

ELISHA HARDY *A Quantitative Analysis of Urban and Rural Parents' Decision Regarding Infant Nutrition*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

ALICIA HEIL *Effects of Aromatherapy on Nursing Staffs' Work-Related Stress Levels, Blood Pressure and Heart Rate*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

WENDY HERRERA *Congregate Housing for Aging Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

AMANDA HOFFMAN *Factors Influencing Successful Pain Management in Lumbar Epidural Steroid Injections*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

SARAH KELLY *The Effect of Education on the Caregiving Providers to those with Alzheimer's Disease*, advisor Dr. Martha Sanders

STEPHANIE KLAPPHOLZ *Community-based Educational Impact on Parents' Knowledge of Safe Sleep Practices*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

MARENA KLEINE *Increasing Breast Self-Examination Compliancy*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

KELLY KOLANDER *Nursing Perception of Inter Professional Team Rounds in Critical Care*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

NICOLE KORICIC *Initiation of Skin-to-Skin and Exclusively Breastfed Newborns in Vaginal versus Cesarean Deliveries*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

CARI LYNN *Preoperative Pain Education: A Quality Improvement Project*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

STACEY LYTLE *Utilization of Glucagon-Like Peptide I Receptor Agonists for Weight Loss in Insulin-Resistant Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

RAIME MISKO *Exploration of Diabetes Educator Consultations and Patient Outcomes*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

ANDREW MURTHA *Exploring the In-patient Nurse's Perceptions of Post-Cardiac Arrest Debriefing*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

KATELYN PAKZAD *Effect of Dietary Surveillance or Weight/Lifestyle Counseling on the Obese Patient*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

DMITRIY SHISHKIN *Identifying Perceptions of Physicians and Nurse Practitioners with Electronic Prescription System in Urban Area*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

ERIN SILLMAN *Nursing Student Perceptions of SBAR Reporting*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

STEPHANIE SIMON *Comparing Pediatric Early Warning Scores (PEWS)*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

NATALIE SMITH *Compassion Fatigue among Oncology Nurses*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

MACY URRUTIA *Analysis of Time Spent on Tasks Related to Nutrition Education in South Dakota Public Middle Schools*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

CRISTINA WIRTZ *Nutrition Literacy in 4-H Participants*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Academic Honors

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

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

Honor Societies

Honor societies at Clarkson College include:

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

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

Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Marisa Bardell λΣ

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Kayla Marie Bailey Σ
Steven Campbell
Bailey Lynn Ellerbeck
Kimberly Groeper
Joseph Jon Heider**
Zachary Herr*
Matthew Alvah Kilgore**
Heather Michelle Knapp Σ***
Yana Merkulov
Kayla Michelle Miller
Jenica Lee Pauletto
Cari Anne Peters Σ***
Katrina D. Reifenrath
Kelsey Rene Swanson
Heidi Teahon Σ*
Andrea Voss Σ

Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Leslie R. Nichols Carlson
Michaela Chatfield
Meredith Rae Colombo λ
Nicholas Anthony Duckworth λ
Abigail Freyermuth
Carlie A. Grieb λ
Leann Hamilton
Kaylee Kane
Hannah Marie Keenportz λΣ
Jordan Keysor λ*
Tolé Kounsivannarat λ***
Jennifer MacDonald Σ
Kathryn Ann Madsen λΣ***
Sydney Lynn McCaw λ***
Mark McVey
Lauren Amelia Sievers
Jena C. Shanahan λ*
Heather Marie Speck λ***
Benjamin Thomas Tessin λ**
Katherine Rose Thaman λΣ**
Melissa Marie Winkler
Ashley Lauren Witkowski λ*
Jenelle Workman λ
Raina Rochelle Zoerb

Associate of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Technology

Marissa Denisha Allen

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Marisa Ann Bardell λΣ
Sere Joy Bauer
Meredith Rae Colombo λ
Jena C. Shanahan λ
Jenelle Workman λ
Raina Rochelle Zoerb

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Services

Emily Farr

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Faith Amongin Ahuvia Σ*
Ashtyn Jo Alfes Σ*
Brandi Allison
Beverly DeVenecia Aquino
Mary J. Arnold
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Ariel Rose Thorne
Karina B. Treppner
Jaimie Villarreal
Steven S. Wall
Angela Marie Warman Σ**
Lilian Wong

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Management

Jill Renee Judkins Σ*

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Administration

Michaela Renee Else
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Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Management

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Nicolas Jacob Phelps***
Dawn M. Schnepel***

Master in Health Care Administration

Jessica Elaine Cullan Σ
Wendy A. Herrera
Ann L. Yager

Master of Science in Nursing

Lindsey Nicole Abbott
Rebecca Andrews Σ
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Brittany Nichole Burbach
Olivia Kay Chapman †
Ashley Brooke Corcoran †
Danielle Culbreath
Katie Edwards
Sarah Franzluebbbers
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Elisha Christine Hardy †
Alicia Heil Σ
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Chantelle Traci Rawlinson Σ
Dmitriy Shishkin
Erin Joy Sillman
Rebecca L. Szuba
Macy Ann Urrutia
Cristina Rose Wirtz

Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Michelle Anderson
Kelly-Jo P. Balignasay
Kelly Ferguson
Angelica Griffiths
Elizabeth Purvis-Jeffrey
Chelsie Josephine Rodabaugh
Janelle M. Wood Σ

Mystery Photo

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

This aspiring model has a knack for leaving a legacy as vast as the open range. Hats off to whoever recognizes this kind hearted cowboy.

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

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

It's a grand slam

Several responses knocked this mystery photo out of the park by correctly identifying this summer College World Series queen as Susan Houghton Evans ('73).



Jackie Parmenter ('93, '09)

Picture is Sue Evans.

Larry ('73) & Carole Hummel Lieb ('74)

What a surprise to see College World Series Queen, Sue Houghton ('73) of Red Oak, Iowa.

Karen Heimuli ('64)

I recognized the picture. It's Sue Evans.

Maureen Kelpe ('72, '83)

The mystery photo is Sue Houghton. She was class of '73 and from Red Oak, Iowa. She must have been the CWS princess or whatever we called them!

Diane Lerch ('74)

College World Series queen Jane Horkey ('73).

Marylyn Range Willis ('73)

The student nurse in the photo is Sue Houghton ('73), 1972 College World Series Queen.

Janet Bacon ('73)

The pretty girl on page 29 with the flowers in her hair is Susan (Houghton) Evans, class of 1973. She was named the College World Series Queen in either '72 or '73. The nursing schools were eligible to enter candidates for Queen.

Rita Armendariz ('86)

As soon as I saw her face and that wonderful smile, I knew it was Sue Evans. Wonderful person and great nurse.

Betty Frey Nelson ('72)

Sue Houghton-Evans is your mystery photo. She is class of 1973 graduate and is a great person.

Ann Marsh ('73)

The person in the photo is Susan Houghton, 1971 College World Series Queen. She is a member of the 1973 class and a very pretty girl.



Omaha Central High School Inducts Dr. Aubray Orduña into Hall of Fame

An Omaha Central High School senior introduced Dr. Orduña at the school's annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Oct. 6.

In honor of her demonstrated commitment to the nursing profession for more than 40 years, Omaha Central High School inducted Clarkson College Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 6. She was one of just 10 alumni, ranging from the classes of 1902 to 1967, to be inducted this year.

Born in Palestine, Ark., Dr. Orduña is the daughter of rural farmers who moved their family to Omaha in the 1950s to escape heavy segregation in the Southern U.S. After graduating from Omaha Central High School in 1965, some coaxing from friends took Dr. Orduña back to the South to attend Murray State University in Kentucky.

Married by the time she graduated with her BSN degree in 1970, Dr. Orduña relocated to Pittsburgh after her husband accepted a job offer with IBM. Due to a nursing shortage at the time, she was able to secure a job soon after moving. "The hospital [where Dr. Orduña worked] was large and a great place to gain experience," she said.

Dr. Orduña returned to Omaha in 1975 to serve as a unit nurse at Clarkson Hospital. Her skills and leadership abilities were quickly recognized and earned her the title of assistant head nurse.

A career move to become a nursing instructor at Clarkson College in 1979 set Dr. Orduña on a 10-year teaching track. Then, in 1989, she accepted an offer to return to the hospital in an administrative role, and by 1995 she rose to Director of Evaluation and Case Management.

The hospital would eventually, once again, have to let Dr. Orduña continue her career goals. "I returned to Clarkson College in 2000 when Dr. Upright [Clarkson College President at the time] offered me the opportunity to be the Director of Diversity Services, oversee the Gateway to Success Scholarship program part-time and teach nursing, as well."

From that point on, Dr. Orduña continued to advance up the leadership ladder at the College. She served as the director of the Practical Nursing program, which transpired into overseeing all undergraduate Nursing programs. In October 2009, she accepted her current Dean of Nursing role. Aside from her mentorship in establishing the Gateway to Success Scholarship program, Dr. Orduña considers leading the development of the DNP and Ed.D. programs her proudest professional accomplishment.

In addition to her contributions at Clarkson College, Dr. Orduña has also served as president of the Omaha Black Nurses' Association since 2005 and has received numerous awards, including a positive image of nursing award from the

Nebraska Nurses Association, the Clarkson College Caring Kind Award and a volunteer of the year award from the Kidney Foundation of Nebraska.

Given the numerous honors and opportunities Dr. Orduña has earned throughout her nursing career, she says she is "most grateful for being able to share the journeys of so many unique and special patients and families, students and colleagues."

As for her own family, Dr. Orduña is a proud mother of three children. Her eldest daughter, Cheri Ricks-Medley, works in customer service for CenturyLink in Omaha and has two sons—Robert Medley III, PFC 1st Class US Army, stationed in Kuwait; and Jaheem Medley, age 11. Her son, John E. Orduña, has a Master of Arts degree in Performance Arts, Vocal Performance and lives in Chicago where he works with the Chicago Lyric Opera and Grant Parks Chorus. Adryanne Orduña graduated from the Clarkson College BSN program in April 2014 and works at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. She has a 7-year-old daughter named Jordyn.

Though her recent induction to the Omaha Central High School Hall of Fame will top the list of accolades that precede her, Dr. Orduña remains humble. Her hope in life is "to be remembered as a hardworking, caring, committed person with integrity." Many who know Dr. Orduña would attest that her final wish has already been achieved.

MHA Program Ranks 4th; Medical Imaging Program 6th in National Online Ranking

Online Colleges ranked the Clarkson College Master's degree in Health Care Administration (MHA) program fourth in the nation in the category of Best Online Colleges for Healthcare Administration and the Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging sixth in the nation in the category of Best Online Colleges for Radiologic Sciences.

In order to qualify for the Online Colleges rankings, schools had to offer at least one degree or certificate in that subject online and have awarded at least one degree/certificate in that subject in 2014-15.

After compiling the lists of eligible schools for each category, Online Colleges ranked them on six criteria:

- › In-state tuition
- › Graduation rate
- › Accessibility, based on the admissions rate
- › Program prominence, based on how many of the degrees and certificates awarded by the school in 2014-15
- › Related subjects, based on the number of similar programs that the school offers at any level
- › Variety of degree levels, based on the number of degree and certificate levels out of a possible nine that the school offers

The Medical Imaging program ranked third out of 30 schools for the prominence metric, and the MHA program ranked 16th for the prominence metric and 47th out of 140 schools for its higher-than-average graduation rate. The MHA program received another national recognition just two weeks prior from Top Master's in Healthcare Administration and has received multiple other rankings throughout the year.

"We credit these recognitions to our hardworking students, faculty and staff," said Carla Dirkschneider, Clarkson College Health Care Business Program Director. "By working together as a team, we ensure that the Masters in Health Care Administration program is high quality, flexible and strives to meet the needs of working adults."

The six-week course format, along with various completion options, allows students to customize their education to fit their lifestyle. Students choose to complete the MHA program for various reasons, such as advancing their careers, looking for additional education to enhance their current positions, or they are looking for personal growth opportunities.

The online convenience of the Medical Imaging program also makes it feasible for working professionals. "Students in the Medical Imaging program all have their American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification, so they really appreciate that there's an opportunity to advance their education without having to adjust their work schedules," said Ellen Collins, Director of the Clarkson College Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging programs.

View more about these national rankings and many others received by the College at ClarksonCollege.edu/about/awards-recognition.





Wagner-Connolly Named 40 Under 40 Nurse Leader Honoree

Alumna and Assistant Nursing Professor
honored by Nebraska Action Coalition

Just seven years ago, Amberly Wagner-Connolly ('04, '11) was about five months in to her battle against stage 2 grade 3 invasive ductal carcinoma, a common type of breast cancer among women. Today, she can celebrate not only being cancer-free but also being chosen as a 2016 Nebraska Action Coalition (NAC) 40 Under 40 Nurse Leader Honoree.

The 40 Under 40 award is given out every other year and celebrates accomplished nurse leaders under the age of 40 who show expertise in their field, adherence to high ethical standards and leadership within their profession, organization and community. Honorees are nominated by members of their organization, each one meeting the criteria established by NAC.

"I did not see it coming at all," says Wagner-Connolly after learning about her nomination. "This award epitomizes not being afraid to lead the way and to use your voice and the skills God gave you to make a difference in the world. I have worked so hard in my nursing career, and to know that others have taken notice of the things I am doing and the things I think are important makes me feel like a million dollars."

Like many instructors, Wagner-Connolly's career as a nurse is what inspired her to teach. Right after graduating from nursing school, she started off as a full-

time staff nurse working nights in the nurse residency program at Nebraska Medicine. "In nursing, it is common to see 'nurses eating their young,'" she says. "I wanted to do just the opposite by helping others achieve their dreams and find their passions through kindness and positivity and being a good role model/mentor."

In realizing her own dreams, Wagner-Connolly began working at Clarkson College in 2007 as an adjunct instructor for the office of Professional Development. Two years later, those dreams were put on hold when her breast cancer diagnosis prompted a double mastectomy, followed by six months of chemotherapy and then one year of target therapy. Fortunately, the treatments were successful in blocking any further growth, and she was ready to forge ahead.

"I believe that attitude is everything and that positivity and kindness can take you very far in life," she says amicably. "I am a perfect example of how if you follow your heart and true passions in life, it can all come together and work out."

And follow her passions is precisely what Wagner-Connolly did. With hardly any hair on her head from the chemotherapy and surgery she underwent to combat her

breast cancer, she interviewed for a full-time teaching position at the College in 2010. "I was so blessed that those in my interview—some of whom were my mentors and teachers—saw my potential and gave me a chance," she says.

Since surviving breast cancer, Wagner-Connolly has also completed her master's degree, given birth three times and adopted her niece (for a grand total of seven children) while finishing her doctorate. "If it was not for Clarkson College and the love and support I have received over the years, I would not be here today," she says.

Over the course of her career at Clarkson College, Wagner-Connolly has taught a wide variety of courses across the Professional Development, LPN, BSN, Health Care Business, Health Care Services and MSN programs. She enjoys teaching everything from basic nursing and health assessment to women's health and public health.

She claims that her "ticket to success" was knowing that she wanted to be a nurse at a very early age and setting that goal for herself. However, "the best decision I ever made," she says, "was walking through the doors of Clarkson College more than 17 years ago."

"I am at home here and have been mentored by some of the most amazing leaders," she says emphatically. "I want others to see the sparkle and passion inside of me and be inspired to find their own calling to make a difference. I look forward to paying it forward for many, many years to come."

Wagner-Connolly attended the NAC Leadership Conference in Lincoln, Neb. on Sept. 16 to accept her 40 Under 40 Nurse Leader award. Clarkson College alumni and current Nebraska Medicine employees Stacie Ethington ('09), MSN, RN-BC and Erik Borgmeyer ('12), BSN, RN, CCRN were also honorees.

"This award epitomizes
not being afraid to lead
the way and to use your
voice and the skills God
gave you to make a
difference in the world."

We would love to hear about the legacy you're sowing and how it's changing lives. Share your story with us by contacting Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516.



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Ring in the joyous season Holiday Lights Tour: Dec. 8

Grab a friend and warm up this December with holiday trivia and radiant local light displays. Save your seats by Dec. 2.

Full details can be found on page 6 of this issue or by visiting ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni.

