

Fall  
2018 Issue

# AlumniTimes

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Embracing our  
true spirit



More than just classrooms, books and desks, Clarkson College consists of a spirit that weaves its way into every aspect of our community members' lives. It reminds us of our calling, inspires us when we lose hope and creates a bond between us that lasts a lifetime.





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## On the Cover

Susan Matson Pinquoch ('68) and Bette Peterson ('68) begin Alumni Weekend with a warm welcome. 11

**PHOTOGRAPH BY** Todd Snover

## From the Alumni President

**I've got spirit, yes I do! I've got spirit, how 'bout you? You got me. I was a cheerleader—at least for a little while.**

Do you remember homecoming week in high school and college? The entire school felt energized and anticipated all of the activities planned for the week. Community members felt this same excitement during Clarkson College Spirit Week and the Alumni Weekend events this fall. Now that the celebrations are over, it's time to reflect on the many things our Clarkson College spirit offers us.

**S - Scholarships:** The College awards scholarships each year to students who demonstrate qualities such as academic achievement and leadership involvement. Scholarships bring many students one step closer to achieving their dream of working in health care. Thanks to the Alumni Association, our community has the opportunity to help several students each year through scholarship donations.

**P - Pursuing:** Pursuing our calling to serve others in the health care field is why we chose Clarkson College, but many of us pursue other goals as well. We recently learned about one Clarkson College alumna, Lindsay Donovan ('11), who not only pursued her dream of becoming a Physical Therapist Assistant, but also a musician, instructor, graduate, singer, dancer and runner.

**I - Involved:** It's nearly impossible to be part of the Clarkson College community and not get involved. The institution offers a variety of organizations, honor societies and various activities for students on and off campus, and there is no better way for alumni to get involved than by joining the Alumni Association.

**R - Resources:** Hop on the Clarkson College website, and you'll find resources for transfer applicants, preceptors, current students, researchers, doctoral candidates, job seekers and more. As both a student and alumna, it is comforting to know that someone is always available to point me in the right direction, answer my questions and enhance my academic goals. Plus, there is even a resource page exclusively dedicated to alumni at [ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni).

**I - Integrity:** It is our Mission to instill the fundamental Value of Integrity in all of our students and alumni. It is what separates us from many other organizations and prepares our students to provide ethical health care services in a changing world.

**T - Travel:** The Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) program at Clarkson College gives students and alumni the opportunity to explore the world. The experiences they gain during these trips sculpt and influence them in both their personal and professional endeavors.

Keeping the community energized during Spirit Week is simple, but keeping that energy alive all year can be a difficult undertaking. We have no doubt that Clarkson College students and alumni are up to the challenge and hope to see many of you celebrating your College spirit at one of our numerous alumni events throughout the year ahead.



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

### Noteworthy

Show your holiday and creative spirit this winter during an alumni celebration! See the next page for full event and registration details.





1 / Alumna Joan Blum ('81, '86, '98), second from left, and her family are all smiles at the game. 2 / Tim L'Heureux enjoys a moment with his daughter, Mia. 3 / Katie Lennemann, JoAnn Acierno ('07) and Susan Matson Pinquoch ('68) take in the summer evening.

## A Summer Night at the Ballpark

The Omaha Storm Chasers played hard, but the visiting Salt Lake Bees were victorious on Aug. 5 at Werner Park in Papillion, Neb. The 6-0 loss and hot humid summer weather did not hamper the Clarkson College group of alumni and friends. The scoreboard featured a welcoming message for the group during the game, and children attendees enjoyed face painting and rides in the Kids Zone.

Clarkson College Life Support Coordinator Tim L'Heureux enjoyed last year's Storm Chasers game with his wife and son and looked forward to this year's event, but his wife Meredith had other plans. She went into labor on game day, and the L'Heureux family welcomed a baby girl, Mia, at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. Tim looks forward to attending next year's event with his entire family.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

Add some warmth to your winter season by attending the next alumni gathering

### December: Holiday Lights Tour Dec. 6 6:30 p.m. Omaha area \$10 per person

Sip on a hot drink, celebrate the season and enjoy festive light displays during the annual holiday lights tour. This Ollie the Trolley tour includes seasonal trivia enroute and coffee, hot chocolate and a cookie before boarding. Save your seat by Dec. 1.

### January: 9th Annual Bowling Tournament Jan. 26 6 p.m. Ralston \$25 per person

Gather three teammates and join us for an evening of pizza and bowling at Scorz Sports Center. Teams are encouraged to select a bowling-themed name and wear costumes that reflects their team name for a chance to win prizes. Lanes must be reserved by Jan. 8.

### March: Decorated Table Trivia March 2 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Clarkson College, Howard Hall

Love brunch, creative decor and competitive trivia? Show your College spirit by sponsoring a table during the Decorated Table Trivia fundraising event. Each table sells for \$80 (\$10 per person) and is decorated according to the table sponsor's desired theme. RSVP by Feb. 18.

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

## With Much Appreciation & Gratitude

### Alumni Donations

We would like to extend a warm thank you to the following donors who generously gave to the Alumni Scholarship Fund from Sept. 1, 2017 through Aug. 31, 2018. These donations assist the Alumni Association in its goal of awarding yearly scholarships to current Clarkson College students. The organization greatly appreciates all donations, and student recipients are grateful for those who helped make these scholarships possible.

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#### Donations up to \$99

Beverly Bethart ('88), in memory of Walter F. Burnett  
Joan Blum ('81, '86, '98)  
Carol Brammer, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Susan Bristol ('78), in memory of Mr. Canedy  
Janet Danforth-Bacon ('73)  
Diana Denker ('74)  
Carla Dirkschneider ('07)  
Colleen Dummer ('95)  
Karen Sargent Dorf ('64), in memory of Linda Plettner ('64)  
Kandice Emery ('77), in memory of Barbara Murray  
Susan Flurry ('85), in memory of Ruby Alice Foreman, two donations  
Angela Heminger ('67), in memory of Pauline Dickey ('67)  
Norma Hintz ('87, '88), in memory/honor of all my wonderful teachers in the Bishop Clarkson College of Nursing program  
Jean Scherling Huff ('71)  
Gary Javitch ('95)  
Robert C. & Mary C. Jirak, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Denise Anderson Johnson ('68), in memory of John Anderson  
Mary Kay Jordan ('74), in memory of Janice Wheeler Bergren ('76), two donations  
Jeanette Kassmeier ('72, '86), in memory of Alice Kellogg  
Jeffrey & Linda Lee Krogh Spencer, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)

Susan & Richard Kropp, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Terri Lannan ('74)  
Rosemary Lebeda ('00)  
Letitia Naprstek ('68), in memory of Sharlene Hansen ('68)  
Cheryl Olomon ('71)  
Susan Pinquoch ('68), in memory of Bev Andersen and Marcia Stoller  
Joyce Portz ('04)  
Gregory & Linda Schuchmann, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Susan Schweitzer ('67), in great appreciation for the 50th reunion of our 1967 class held in 2017  
Kay Scott ('70), in memory of Linda Plettner ('64)  
Christy Seckman ('98), in memory of Kent Seckman  
Susanne Soppe ('78)  
Jon & Susan Sprinkel, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Susan Stogdill ('87)  
Mary Tuggle ('73), in honor of the class of 1973  
Gary Tupper, in memory of Doris Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Janey Hogg Walch ('66), in memory of Everett and Bernice Hogg  
Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11)  
Marcia Weeks ('65), in memory of Virda Fitzgerald  
Patricia Wills ('55), in honor of the nursing class of 1955  
Danielle Winkle ('17)

#### Donations of \$100 to \$499

Lygia Arcaro ('98), two donations  
Mathew Beeman ('07, '17), in memory of William Bailey III, U.S. Army KIA, two donations  
Lucinda Butler ('78), in memory of Dr. Perry  
Louann Coatsworth ('77, '88)  
Jane Conley ('65)  
Joseph & Annette Denniston ('81)  
Debra Kozeny ('77, '94), in honor of the class of 1977  
Annette LeRoy, Honorary Alumna  
Carol Tvrdik McCall ('68), in memory of Sharlene Hansen ('68)



Jacqueline Parmenter ('93, '09)  
Doris Sell ('65), in memory of Judy  
Roerman  
Ruth Siefert ('66), in memory of  
Emory and Frieda Briggs  
Cheryl Stelzer, in memory of Doris  
Dillard Jirak ('49)  
Chera Tremblay ('08)  
Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06), in  
memory of Mrs. Jeanette Barber

**Donations of \$500 to \$999**

Carol Engquist ('83)  
Ann VanHoff, Honorary Alumna

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**Making your contribution**

A special thank you is extended to all of this year's gracious donors. Donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund may be made throughout the year. It is a wonderful 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.


If any errors have occurred in the listings, please notify Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet via email at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu). All attempts have been made to correctly acknowledge all donations made within this time period.

# SHOWING OUR SPIRIT

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*New Spirit Week tradition  
celebrates College history & Values*





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*To understand the true  
spirit of Clarkson College,  
look no further than our  
five Values: Caring,  
Integrity, Excellence,  
Commitment & Learning.*

These Values are the ideals our founders wove into the institution's infrastructure, and they continue to shape our story. The Clarkson College community celebrated its Value-driven foundation, College spirit and institution's history during its first annual Spirit Week held Sept. 24–28.

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*A brief synopsis of*  
**SPRIT WEEK**

The idea of hosting a Spirit Week originated from the Strategic Planning meeting held in January 2017. The annual meeting enables Clarkson College community members to share their insight, and the event results in the creation of Critical Success Factors (CSFs) that help the institution move forward to reach its goals. Community members wanted to create a yearly tradition that highlights the College and its history, so they recommended creating a CSF group to examine other institutions' practices. After much research and discussion, the group advocated the idea of an annual Spirit Week to serve as an enduring tradition at the College.

The five-day Spirit Week will occur each year during the last full week of September, and each weekday will highlight a College Value and its significance to our history. The CSF committee involved the entire campus in the festivities by choosing various College community members to organize each day's events. After a successful first Spirit Week, the College will build upon this year's events and organize annual activities that support, recognize and highlight our history and five Values.





Monday

## CARING

The first day of Spirit Week upheld the Value of Caring. The College displayed 800 flags on 42nd and Dodge Streets. Each flag represented 10 hours of volunteer work performed by Clarkson College students, faculty, staff and alumni over the last year. The display demonstrated the community's commitment to the Value and its dedication to serve others.

A donation drive benefitting the Women's Center for Advancement (WCA) in Omaha began Monday and ran throughout the duration of Spirit Week. Students, faculty and staff brought personal hygiene items to campus, and volunteers dropped off the week's donations at the WCA offices. Overall, College community members donated four large bins of items, which contributed to care kits the WCA distributes to women and families in the area.

Tuesday

## INTEGRITY

Tuesday demonstrated the Value of Integrity, and the day promoted "Games with Integrity" where faculty, staff, students and guests could try their luck at carnival games and contests. Organizers planned to hold the event outdoors in the Courtyard, but inclement weather forced them to move the event indoors to Howard Hall. Attendees enjoyed brats and burgers while playing life-size Jenga, participating in bingo and competing to throw the fastest pitch.

Wednesday

## EXCELLENCE

Excellence was showcased on Wednesday, and College community members demonstrated their commitment to the Value by hosting a Community Health Fair in the green space located at 41st and Farnam Streets. The Health Fair committee members invited businesses and individuals from the newly renovated Blackstone area near campus to participate in the event. Attendees received information about healthy living, insurance and community resources from College faculty and staff, as



well as fire and CO2 alarm installation from the Omaha Fire Department.

## Thursday COMMITMENT

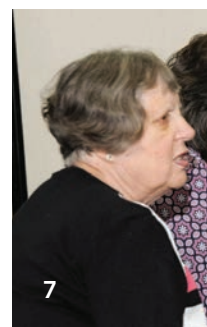
Thursday focused on the Value of Commitment and featured the first day of the Alumni Weekend events. Graduates returned to campus, connected with one another and celebrated their camaraderie during a reunion brunch, College tour, and Heritage Garden Walk and dedication ceremony. Attendees, as well as several Clarkson College employees and students, enjoyed an Ollie the Trolley tour where they visited historic Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing locations and Omaha sites.

## Friday LEARNING

Spirit Week came to a close on Friday, and the week concluded by highlighting the Value of Learning. The Alumni Association sponsored an educational event titled "Workplace Violence in the Health Care Setting" and invited all alumni and College community members to attend. The Association also hosted the annual Alumni dinner at the Omaha Player's Club to wrap up the festivities.



1 / College employees and alumni mingle during the historical trolley tour. 2 / Linda Hensley ('68) warmly embraces Linda Roth Brown ('68) while Susan Brown Wallingford and Candice Simmons Murcek greet their fellow 1968 classmates. 3 / Continuing educational event attendees. 4 / Alumni Association President Jen Anderson ('10) greets brunch guests. 5 / College President Dr. Tony Damewood shares a campus update. 6 / Lucinda Stearns Butler ('78) and Daryl Kuster ('78) greet familiar friends. 7 / '68 classmates take in the treasured mementos. 8 / Susan Bristol ('78) and Susan Westerholt ('68) share a laugh during a bit of after dinner Family Feud. 9 / Alumni take in the Heritage Garden Walk ceremony. 10 / Rev. Hurley opens the Heritage Garden Walk with a prayer.







# Overflowing with Spirit

Capturing the excitement  
surrounding Alumni Weekend









## Each year, the College community

showcases its spirit by welcoming alumni back to campus during Alumni Weekend. This year's festivities proved even more special as Clarkson College celebrated its first Spirit Week alongside the alumni celebration.

The annual event was held Sept. 27–28 in Omaha, Neb., and honored all Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing and Clarkson College alumni, including the anniversary classes of 1968, 1978 and 1993. Alumni in attendance were excited to see long-time friends, connect with one another, and reminisce about their school and life experiences.

A perfect Midwest fall day welcomed attendees to campus for the alumni brunch on Sept. 27 in Howard Hall. Following a welcoming message from Alumni Association President Jen Anderson ('10), Clarkson College President Dr. Tony Damewood shared a short presentation highlighting current student activities, pass rates and employee satisfaction results. Dr. Damewood also updated attendees on the College and its acquisition of the Clarkson Family Medicine building located at 42nd and Dodge Streets.

Following brunch, Clarkson College Student Ambassadors led alumni and guests on a campus tour. The Simulation Lab and the newly renovated Science Lab—which was updated during the summer semester—proved to be highlights for the tour attendees.

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**Top row** / Alumnae guests at this year's brunch. Seated: Susan Flurry, Judith Robbins, Mary Margaret Schaffner, Renee Ruhkamp. Standing: Jen Anderson, Carla Dirkschneider, Rita VanFleet, Vanessa Wagner, Trish Weber, Jeanette Kassmeier. This year's gifted bricks highlighted in the Heritage Garden. **Middle row** / Historical trolley tour guests outside Trinity Cathedral. The class of 1968 alumnae enjoying one another's company during Friday's dinner celebration. **Bottom row** / Honorary alumna Mary Margaret Schaffner gives a blessing before brunch begins. 1993 classmates Sherri Porter Vrabell, Sandra Skillstad Jech and Kristi Miller. Reminiscing during the Alumni Weekend's kickoff brunch. Assistant Professor Will Montgomery shares the fascinating history of Clarkson College. Diana Denker ('68) peruses a yearbook with a friend.

## Laughter-Inducing Memories

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

- › After several of us partied until the wee hours on a Saturday night, one friend attended church the next day. When she opened her purse for the offering, a beer can fell out and rolled under the pews for several aisles. She got up and quickly left church!
- › Freshman year, we tried to get as many classmates as possible in the elevator. We had too many, and it fell between floors. We had to be pulled out over the top of the elevator.
- › I put a bath basin on the ledge after the patient's bath. Dr. X came in and sat in it.
- › The night the seniors played "You're Coming to Take Me Away" over the intercom and placed water on floors, plastic wrap on toilets, and peanut butter/Vaseline on door knobs.
- › Drinking pop from the pop machine with a straw when we had no money to get it out of the machine.
- › During my surgery rotation, I accidentally caught the surgeon's finger in a towel clamp!
- › Staining my clinical instructor's new white uniform while trying to gather a urine sample from a Foley bag. Of course, the urine was stained red from a medication side effect.
- › Mrs. Treat disciplining my roommate for "serious petting."
- › Getting locked out of the dorm and having hospital security let me in.
- › Giving all of the roses to Mrs. Perry at graduation, not realizing that some of them were for me. I didn't know the class wanted to present me with roses too, so when Sue Soppe, our class Vice President, came to the podium to give me the flowers there were none to give! Everyone—parents, families and Mrs. Perry—had a good laugh.
- › Having a young mother refuse to let me give her an injection. The instructor, Mrs. LeRoy, was quite offended for me!
- › Went to Goodrich for ice cream with another student because we thought it wasn't far away. It was a lot farther away than we thought. It was also the middle of winter with lots of snow on the ground, and it was cold.



## Heritage Garden Walk

The Heritage Garden Walk began shortly after the campus tour. Alumni joined the College community in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden located at the center of campus. Reverend Thomas Hurley opened the annual dedication ceremony with an invocation, and Dr. Damewood welcomed guests before dedicating the Garden's new bricks. The first brick was added to commemorate

the first Clarkson College Spirit Week. Two additional bricks were dedicated in honor of honorary alumnae Mary Margaret Schaffner and Ann VanHoff.

A marble garden bench addition was unveiled during the Heritage Garden Walk. Residence Hall and Student Life Coordinator Susannah Rand created an artist's rendition of the piece that is slated to be installed later this year.

The bench addition to the Heritage Garden space honored the institution's founders, Bishop Robert H. and Meliora Clarkson and memorialized the inaugural Spirit Week. General Education Assistant Professor Will Montgomery closed the ceremony with a brief history of the College that acknowledged the Clarkson Regional Health Services (CRHS) board members and their support of the institution.



## Lifelong Influencers

Name an instructor who had an important impact on you:

### Class of 1968

- › One instructor told our class, "You know, death is very terminal!"
- › Our OB instructor, Mrs. Young.
- › Nutrition instructor, Miss Moffatt. She was so informed and able to get the information across for everyone to understand it.
- › Pat Perry and her ability to make our labs fun and interesting.

### Class of 1978

- › Gloria Gross being so supportive and defending my efforts as a struggling nursing student. God bless her!
- › All of them except the tall blonde who gave me a D for bed making in Fundamentals 101.
- › Mrs. Hyslop, and her dignity and respect for young learners.
- › Mrs. Perry, of course. We were the last Physiology class she taught. She was unbelievable. She gave us a great foundation and was an excellent teacher, but if you weren't prepared for class—watch out. Loved her.
- › The instructor who taught a science class. I think she was an ex-nun, and I really liked her.

*continued on page 16*



1 / Cindy Hoy Berkland ('68) is all smiles while greeting a life-long friend.  
2 / Continuing educational event guest speakers Abbey Jo Klein, Tiffany Armstrong, Sgt. Erin Payne and Maureen O'Donnell. 3 / Radiography alumni and faculty members observe 25 years of graduating the best in the field.  
4 / Alumnae and guests take in the Simulation Lab. 5 / The marble garden bench represented in a painting by artist Susie Rand. 6 / The class of 1968 celebrates 50 years. Seated: Linda Hensley, Susan Westerholt, Kathy Soll, Diana Denker, Janet Kriegler. Standing: Nancy Boyd Thomas, Susan Matson Pinguoch, Susan Brown Wallingford, Lynnea Wheeler Fertal, Candice Murcek, Linda Roth Brown, Dianne Keasling Keller, Bette Peterson. 7 / Ellen Collins embraces Jen Anderson after receiving the Honorary Alumni Award. 8 / The class of 1978 celebrating 40 years. Seated: Terri Meier Link, Lucinda Stearns Butler, Susan Bristol, Janice Nowak LaPatka. Standing: Judy Larson Major, April Kositzky Klutman, Darrell Kuster, Patricia Smolinski Scott, Donajay Goetz Anderson, Mona Faris Hohman.

## Lifelong Influencers

### Name an instructor who had an important impact on you:

#### Class of 1978

- › Mrs. Perry, A&P and Micro instructor. I learned so much from her. She made us think. I remember one time when we cultured something in Micro. Our cultures were sent to the lab. When we got them back, we were supposed to identify the organisms. I cultured our garbage disposal at home, so everything grew. It was hard to identify any specific organism. Mrs. Perry questioned me about how I would kill all of the organisms. The only solution I thought of was to pour bleach or a disinfectant down the disposal. She continued asking me questions, and I got a little defensive. She was so patient, and I finally realized she wanted me to say, "Remove the matter! Clean the junk off of the sides!" She was amazing at making us think things through.

#### Class of 1993

- › Marlene Mahoney, Mary Margaret Schaffner (Community Health), Sharon Schuett (Psych), Aubray Orduña, Virginia Davidsaver, Wendell Oderkirk (History) and Frank Cardiello—they were so very kind and wanted us all to succeed.
- › Marlene Mahoney and Mary Margaret Schaffner guided us into good experiences in Community Health. Judy Meyers encouraged me to return to Clarkson College to get my BSN.

### Historical Trolley Tour

The first day of Alumni Weekend concluded with a tour of historic Omaha. Two trollies, one containing alumni and one containing current Clarkson College students and staff, departed from campus following the Heritage Garden Walk. The city tour featured stops at several sites significant to the institution's history, including Kiewit Tower and Trinity Cathedral. The Cathedral is the oldest church in Omaha and the state of Nebraska that is still in operation, and visitors listened in awe as Dean Loya shared the building's history. The group spent a moment in silence at the north end of the church where Bishop and Meliora Clarkson are entombed. The tour also made a stop at Joslyn Art Museum for group members to take a stroll through the outdoor sculpture gardens.

### Day Two Recap

Friday began in Howard Hall with an educational event focused on "Workplace Violence in the Health Care Setting." More than 100 health care professionals registered for the event, and attendees learned about internal and external workplace threats, and explored strategies to keep clinicians safe. Organizers received positive reviews from the alumni and current Clarkson College students who participated in the educational event.

Alumni Weekend concluded with dinner and entertainment at the Players Club on Friday. The evening provided anniversary class members more time to share their college spirit and visit with one another. The group TheyImprov provided entertainment, and guests enjoyed a Family Feud-inspired game show that pitted teams of five against one another. The Radiography group members were victorious, and they exuberantly celebrated their win. Following the game, Mark Weber played guitar and his wife, Trish ('95, '08, '11), joined him to sing songs from each anniversary class' graduation year.

With the close of another successful Alumni Weekend, guests parted ways, reminded of the College spirit and its special place in their lives.







1 / Historical trolley tour guests gather on the altar at Trinity Cathedral. 2 / '93 classmates Sandra Skillstad Jech, Kristi Miller and Sherri Porter Vrabel with Dean Loya. 3 / '78 classmates Janice Nowak LaPatka, April Kositzky Klutman, Susan Bristol, Darrell Kuster, Terri Meier Link, Judy Larson Major, DeLois Meyer Laverentz, Cindy Stearns Butler, Mona Faris Hohman. 4 / Musician Mark Weber shares his talents Friday evening. 5 / '68 classmates Cindy Hoy Berkland, Susan Westerholt, Linda Roth Brown, Kathy Soll, Diana Denker, Susan Matson Pinguoch, Lynnea Wheeler Fertal, Linda Roth Brown, Linda Hensley, Candice Murcek, Dianne Keasling Keller, Susan Brown Wallingford and Nancy Boyd Thomas. 6 / A closeup of the School of Nursing charm bracelet. 7 / Recalling fond memories during Friday's dinner celebration.



# Expanding Campus, Earning Honors & Enhancing the Clarkson College Student Experience

An annual outlook and summary from Dr. Tony Damewood, Clarkson College President

The 2017–18 academic year was another strong and impressive one at Clarkson College. The institution achieved accomplishments through hard work, discipline, dedication from our students, faculty and staff, and the support of our Board of Directors.

Looking back, the 2017–18 year resulted in exciting achievements, including national recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* for the seventh year in a row and several other highlights.

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## Accreditation

As mentioned above, our academic programs continue their success, which is reinforced by successful board pass rates and above-average employment rates compared to national averages. Many programs updated their curricular

components to meet and exceed their profession's accreditation standards, such as:

- › The College continues preparations for our upcoming Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation visit in March 2019. Throughout the past year, teams of employees surveyed the five criteria outlined by the HLC, gathered supporting evidence to demonstrate the institution's adherence to the criteria and completed 19 projects to meet identified gaps.
- › The Radiography program earned full re-accreditation during the fall 2017 visit by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). The final campus visit report received no citation marks, which is a rare accomplishment.

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## Academic Programs & Services

- › The commitment to quality education at Clarkson College is evident in the high overall licensure exam pass rate of 98 percent and an employment rate of 97 percent.
- › The most prevalent program changes this year were the advancement of our Doctor in Health Care Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees.
- › The College implemented Interprofessional Education (IPE) 301, a new learning module available for all students in fall 2018.
- › The College met its goal of a 20 percent increase in its graduation rate with the help of the HLC Pathways Quality Initiative Project and its data integrity resolution. The graduation rate increased from the 47 percent

assumption in 2013 to 66 percent for undergraduate programs and 71 percent for graduate programs.

- › Clarkson College received the 19th largest Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) grant at \$412,992 for nurses who complete the Ed.D. or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nursing Education program option. The institution also implemented the Nursing Workforce Education Grant for nurses who complete the Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or RN to MSN program options.

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## Finances & Personnel

- › The 2017–18 academic year closed favorably with a positive budget variance with credit going to College directors for fiscal discipline throughout the year.
- › New positions approved include a Community Health and IPE Director, DNP Director and Nurse Aide instructor.
- › The organization conducted the Employee Opinion Survey in January 2018 with 86 percent participation (117 employees), resulting in an excellent positive engagement score of 87.5.

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## Enrollment & Facilities

- › The College met its 2017–18 enrollment goals, with 556 new students admitted to the College and 1,217 students attending overall.
- › The institution completed several capital improvements, including an investment in IT infrastructure, new

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The commitment to quality education at Clarkson College is evident in the high overall licensure exam pass rate of 98 percent and an employment rate of 97 percent.

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classroom chairs, an upgraded lobby area in the lower level of the main building and a renovated visit room to meet with prospective students on campus.

- › Current capital projects completed this summer include a \$600,000 science lab renovation and a \$226,000 water intrusion project in the Residence Hall.

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These examples give the College community great confidence in where we have been as an institution. They are also a strong indicator of where the College is headed as a Mission-led organization with a positive culture that is dedicated to preparing students for their health care professions.



## College Acquires Clarkson Family Medicine Building

Clarkson College continuously searches for new opportunities to expand its offerings for employees and students. In July, the organization announced its acquisition of the Clarkson Family Medicine building located at Douglas and 42nd Streets, and College administrators are eager to utilize the space and meet the institution's changing needs.

Within recent years, College administration recognized the need for more space to accommodate the influx of students and staff on campus. Building assessment of the Clarkson Family Medicine space will begin in early 2019, and its results will help the College Master Facilities team determine how to utilize the area efficiently.

"We are extremely grateful and eager to acquire the family practice building, as it will allow the College more classroom, office and student study space," said Vice President of Operations Jina Paul. "Since moving into our current campus location in 1992, we've experienced a student

growth rate of 137 percent, and we welcome the additional space the neighboring building will provide us."

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The new building will allow the College more classroom, office and student study space.

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The Clarkson Family Medicine facility will move to a building near 13th and Leavenworth Streets in downtown Omaha later this fall. The new clinic location will meet the need for accessible health care in that area and provide a variety of health care services, including primary care, pharmacy and behavioral health.



## Nursing Students Rush to the Rescue

Students use their skills to save drowning child

An afternoon by the pool turned into a medical emergency for a family and two Clarkson College Nursing students. Courtney Stahl and Miranda Schilling, both enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, used their skills to save a three-year-old girl who was unresponsive at an apartment complex pool.

The students were spending time at the pool with several classmates when they noticed a commotion near the water. A mother began yelling and making her way toward her daughter who was unmoving at the bottom of the pool. Upon noticing the unresponsive child, the students jumped into action.

Stahl pulled the girl from the water, and Schilling helped lay her on the pool deck. "When I heard the commotion, I immediately wondered what was going on, and then I wondered how I could help," said Schilling. "Once we made it to the water, I really wasn't thinking. I was just going through the motions of what I had been trained to do."

The young girl was unresponsive, and neither student could find a pulse. Schilling began chest compressions, and the child coughed up water shortly thereafter. Another student eyewitness called 911 while Schilling continued with two cycles of chest compressions until the child began breathing on her own. The girl was awake, alert and comforted by her mother when emergency technicians arrived.

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"We acted on instinct and knew we needed to help however we could."

COURTNEY STAHL, BSN STUDENT

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"I've never been in a situation like this before," said Stahl. "It was our first real-life experience with CPR, but we acted on instinct and knew we needed to help however we could."

Current Undergraduate Nursing students Courtney Stahl and Miranda Schilling. Photo courtesy of Nebraska Medicine.





## Mural Welcomes Students & Guests to Residence Hall

College employee shares her artistic talent with community

The students' quick actions made all the difference in the minutes it took paramedics to arrive. "I felt confident in the skills we used to help the little girl, and I knew that we needed to do whatever we could to help her until EMS arrived," said Schilling. "Courtney and I have completed several simulations in school, which I think helped our ability to communicate with each other and work together."

Local news station WOWT picked up the story and interviewed the students about their experience. Both women shared the event details and how their training enabled them to assist. "This experience has given me more confidence in my skills," said Schilling, "It reminded me why I am studying to become a nurse and reinforced the fact that I chose the right career path."

"I felt incredibly lucky to have my nursing friends with me because it takes a lot of hands in a situation like this," said Stahl. "We all knew what we had to do and did it. We worked so well together."

The Residence Hall serves as a home away from home for many students, and making it a welcoming space is a priority for Residence Hall and Student Activities Coordinator Susie Rand. She created a mural representing the student's journey at Clarkson College, and the Residence Hall study space's artwork serves as a welcoming gesture for occupants and visitors.

The artwork's idea, plan and creation were a community-wide effort. Rand worked with Facilities and Marketing department team members to determine the space requirements and project's subject matter. Sketching and painting began in January 2017, and Rand completed the project in March 2018. Overall, she spent nearly 200 hours working on the piece.

Showcasing her talents and creating a piece to impact the student body

appealed to Rand, both as an artist and a Clarkson College community member. "I loved being able to create the mural," she said. "I think it adds a sense of community to the space and reflects the diverse skill sets at Clarkson College, both in students and employees."

The mural depicts a student's journey to become a health care provider. Rand painted a studying student surrounded by science and medical-related elements that represent a health care education. Opposite the student is a man seen running into the distance. "The man runs off into the horizon, his health ensured by the hard work and dedication of the student in the image," said Rand.

## Academic & Service Departments Gain New Leadership

New directors eager to lead departments and meet new goals



Clarkson College appointed two new directors in the academic and service departments this summer, and each leader brings a passion for sharing the Clarkson College spirit with students and the broader community.

### **DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY HEALTH & INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

#### **Sarah Flanagan**

The College named General Education Associate Professor Sarah Flanagan, MSW, MPA, LCSW, as the new Director of Community Health and Interprofessional Education (IPE) in July, and she eagerly looks forward to growing both programs at the College.

Flanagan's teaching career at Clarkson College began in 2010, and she taught various courses in General Education and Health Care Services—renamed Community Health in fall 2018—programs before beginning her new leadership role. A lifelong academic, she earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Creighton University and went on to earn Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Administration as well as a graduate certificate in Gerontology, all from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Flanagan will serve as the first Community Health Director since the institution renamed the program. Her familiarity with the curriculum and dedication to helping students find success makes the position a perfect fit for her. "Directing the Community Health program provides me with the opportunity to continue learning

and growing, while also leading in a new capacity," Flanagan said. "I love building relationships with students, faculty and colleagues, and this position allows me to do that, so I can continue to make a positive difference in others' lives."

Flanagan hopes to develop the program as it serves students who are looking to pursue graduate degrees in public health, social work, community counseling or other related fields. "My goal is to foster the continued growth and development of our program so that we recruit, educate and graduate students who are able to make an immediate impact in their community," she said.

Along with coordinating the Community Health program, Flanagan also directs the IPE initiative that requires all Clarkson College students to complete interdisciplinary experiences as part of the new IPE education requirement. The practice allows students to apply the IPE course skills and familiarize themselves with working on interdisciplinary health care teams. Flanagan will work with faculty, students and outside organizations to coordinate IPE activities while tracking and reporting assessment data for the initiative.

Flanagan appreciates the growth and expansion opportunities in both the IPE and Community Health programs. "This position feels like a perfect fit given my experience as a faculty member," she said. "I have exciting ideas on how to grow and move these programs forward."

### **DIRECTOR, MARKETING** **Alex Maltese**

Leading the Marketing department in expanding the reach of Clarkson College is Alex Maltese, B.A., who became part of the College community in July.



1 / Sarah Flanagan. 2 / Alex Maltese.



Maltese is originally from West Virginia, and he earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from West Virginia University in 2004. After moving to Omaha in 2009, he gained experience at several advertising agencies in various roles such as Project Manager, Director of Account Services and Director of Marketing. His experience gave him the opportunity to work with a variety of clients, develop marketing strategies and explore the agency business.

His agency experience also exposed him to a number of higher education

institutions, which inspired him to explore the field. "Every time I was on campus, I was taken in by the students' energy and the faculty and staff members' drive," he said. "I knew that I wanted to put my talents to use in an environment where people were truly interested in bettering outcomes and making a difference."

Maltese looks forward to learning more about higher education during his time at Clarkson College and applying his talents to making the College as successful as possible. Along with managing day-to-day project flow, he will focus on the overall

marketing strategy for the institution and maintaining a strong brand presence both on and off campus.

Achieving his goals requires Maltese and his team to rethink external and internal communication when spreading awareness about the College and its Mission. "My overall goal is to expose more people in the region to the uniqueness of Clarkson College," said Maltese. "I plan to do this by being cohesive and efficient with external marketing messages and by sharing the stories that start within these walls."

## August Capstone Project Summary

Each semester, Master's degree-seeking students prepare their Capstone projects, which are a culmination of their research investigating a question of practical importance. They combine critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies and theories learned throughout their course of study to produce a scholarly, evidence-based document for use by practitioners or administrators. This semester's students presented their projects on Aug. 3 in Storz Pavilion on the Nebraska Medicine campus.

The Alumni Association Board standing subcommittee utilizes a standard rubric to review the Capstone abstracts and ranks each one accordingly. The committee then presents certificates to selected winners following the Capstone presentations.

In first place was awarded Robert Buot for his abstract *Sensorial Disturbances of Prefilled Saline Flushes*

*and Their Impact on Cancer Patients* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Tedda Cahill earned second place for her abstract *Incentive Spirometry: What is the Bedside Nurse's Role?* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Michelle Manternach received third place for her abstract *Evaluation of the Use of Polyethylene Wrap on NICU Admission Temperature of Pre-term Infants Prior to and After Educational Sessions* (advisor Dr. Mae Timmons).

### ***Sensorial Disturbances of Prefilled Saline Flushes & Their Impact on Cancer Patients*** by Robert Buot

By 2035, the number of cancer cases will reach 22 million worldwide with many of these cancer patients receiving intravenous chemotherapy (National Cancer Institute, 2016). Normal saline

*continued on page 24*

### **AUGUST 2018 Graduate Capstone Projects**

**KATIE ADAMS** *Retrospective Review of CLABSI Data Post-Central Line Maintenance Bundle Change & Post-Nurse Competency Requirement*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**SHIRLEY BRODSTON** *Is There a Benefit of Benadryl Administration in Conjunction with Toradol for Migraines?*, advisor Dr. Margaret Lorimor

**KATIE BURROUGHS** *An Investigation of the Optimal Timing for Nurses to Receive the Influenza Vaccination*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**LORENA CANNON** *Injury Resulting from Repetitive Neonatal Heel Puncture: A Pilot Study*, advisor Dr. Valerie Palarski

**HAILEY CLARK** *Comparison of Symptom Presentation & Time to Diagnosis in Myasthenia Gravis*, advisor Dr. Laura Smith

### August Capstone Project Summary

*continued from page 23*

intravenous (IV) flushes are a standard practice pre- and post-chemotherapy administration procedures. Unfortunately, patients complain of sensorial disturbances during the saline IV flush procedure, but cancer patients are especially hypersensitive to taste and smell changes. Kolcaba's theory of comfort conceptually aligned with the study on saline IV flush sensorial disturbances causing patient discomfort. The quasi-experimental study conducted at an Atlantic coast cancer institute explored the effects of prefilled saline syringes compared to non-prefilled saline syringes pre-chemotherapy administration on the chemotherapy patient's sensorium. Equivalent group study participants (N = 30) were blinded to the assigned type of IV saline flush administered. A two-tailed t-test analysis concluded a significant p-value of 0.0194 of sensorial disturbances between the groups receiving chemotherapy with prefilled saline syringes compared to the non-prefilled saline syringes. Study recommendations include a nursing assessment of the adult chemotherapy patient's past history of sensorial disturbances with prefilled or non-prefilled saline flushes before IV administration. Future research recommendations for a randomized clinical control trial of adult chemotherapy patients receiving prefilled and or non-prefilled saline syringe IV flushes pre- and post-chemotherapy administration is appropriate.

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#### ***Incentive Spirometry: What is the Bedside Nurse's Role? by Tedda Cahill***

One important post-operative treatment during the medical-surgical patient's hospital stay is incentive spirometry. The incentive spirometer device facilitates the patient's breathing exercises, enhancing lung expansion

to measure the sustained maximal inspiration (Celso, Carvalho, Paisani, & Lunardi, 2011). Long deep breaths, clearing mucous secretions and providing adequate oxygenation are the goals of incentive spirometry for the prevention of post-operative pulmonary complications (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2018). Bedside nurses overlook the incentive spirometer and its importance for the hospitalized patient. Orem's self-care deficit nursing theory guided the study. This descriptive study explored medical-surgical nurses, (N = 60), employed at a midwestern academic health care center, perceptions of the utilization of the incentive spirometry at the patient's bedside. Significant study findings include 40 percent not identifying the need for a physician's order for incentive spirometry, 23 percent uncertain of proper patient positioning at a 45–90° angle during the incentive spirometry treatment, 62 percent identifying coughing while 68 percent identifying oxygen management as precautions to not complete incentive spirometry, and 3 percent identifying documentation of the patient's achieved incentive spirometry inspiratory volumes on the patient's white board and not within the patient medical record. Recommendations include developing an incentive spirometry-teaching module for yearly competency testing of the medical-surgical nurses. Future research should examine the relationship and frequency of utilizing incentive spirometry treatments at the bedside for medical-surgical patients and the incidence of pulmonary complications.

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#### ***Evaluation of the Use of Polyethylene Wrap on NICU Admission Temperature of Pre-term Infants Prior to & After Educational Sessions by Michelle Manternach***

A plethora of scholarly evidence has been published to demonstrate specific interventions for prevention

of hypothermia that are appropriate to perform immediately after the birth of very preterm infants (28 to 32 weeks of gestation) and extremely preterm infants (< 28 weeks of gestation) who are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Because of an influx of newly-hired caregivers and medical personnel over the last year at the institution of study, premature infants' NICU admission temperatures and one hour after admission were documented as lower than the acceptable recommended temperature range according to the World Health Organization (WHO) (1997). Therefore, a Quality Improvement (QI) project was instituted to review/inform all NICU personnel to ensure use of polyethylene-lined cap as well as full-body wrap for all premature infants of 22 to 33 weeks of gestation to prevent hypothermia. Demographic data as well as NICU admission and one hour later temperatures were collected and compared on one group of 30 preterm infants who obtained a polyethylene-lined cap only prior to educational sessions and another group of 30 infants who were provided with both a polyethylene-lined cap and body wrap after the educational sessions. Based on data analysis, statistically significant differences between the admission and one hour later temperatures prior to and after the educational sessions were computed. Therefore, using both the polyethylene-lined cap and body wrap maintained approved NICU admission temperatures in the low birth weight preterm infants. Based on these findings, recommendations were made to maintain this intervention and design studies using a bundle approach of interventions to determine effect of NICU admission temperatures.



## Graduate Capstone Projects

**JENNIFER CLARK** *Outpatient & Inpatient Palliative Care: Hospital Readmissions*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

**REBECCA CROSBY** *Formal Heart Patient Transitional Care & Patient Readmission*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

**BROOKE DANNEN** *Difference in Febrile Non-Hemolytic Transfusion Reactions & Use of Premedication Prophylaxis for Packed Red Blood Cell Transfusions*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**ANNA ELLIS** *Self-Awareness of Professionalism in the Associate Degree Nursing Student*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**KYLEE FITCH** *Effects of Antimicrobial Prophylaxis on Surgical Site Infection Rates in Adult Patients Post Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA)*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**BRANDON FLEHARTY** *Relationship Between Nurse Managers' Organizational Embodiments, Leader-Member Exchanges & Staff Nurse Affective Commitment to the Organization*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**CARLEY FOREMAN** *The Effects of Perioperative Warming on Postoperative Temperature & Pain*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

**ASHLEY FROST** *Pediatric Emergence Delirium: The Effects of Education for the PACU Nurse*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

**MEGAN GRANDGENETT** *Nursing Education & its Effect on Morphine Administration in End-of-Life Patients*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

**TRENT GRAVES** *Correlation of Emergency Department Diagnosis & Caregiver Fatigue*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

**KATIE GURSKIS** *The Effects of Pain Management Support Group Participation on Depression Scores*, advisor Dr. Kimberly Brown

**LINDSEY HANSEN** *Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis Refusal & Patient Education*, advisor Dr. Kimberly Brown

**HOLLY HOOYER** *Effectiveness of Education on Nurse Knowledge on Use of the Teach Back Method*, advisor Dr. Valerie Palarski

**AMANDA IMPELLUSO** *Immunization Rates in Two-Year-Old Children at a Health Care Center in a Midwestern State*, advisor Dr. Mary Vogel

**LAURA JOHNSON** *Development of Criteria for an Education Program to Prepare Camp Counselors to Help Children Diagnosed with Type I Diabetes Control Their A1C with Exercise*, advisor Dr. Mary Vogel

**ELIZABETH KALLSEN** *Occupational Stress in Inpatient Nurses*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

**RYAN KOCER** *Reducing Urinary Tract Infections by Implementing a Catheter Management Bundle*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

**ANGELA KWAPNIOSKI** *Perioperative Nursing Shortage: Intervention for Recruitment*, advisor Dr. Chris Seckman

**JESSICA LESHEN** *Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale for Emergency Room Patients*, advisor Dr. Margaret Lorimor

**KAYLA MARFISI** *Comparing Fatigue in Day Shift Nurses Versus Night Shift Nurses Using the Occupational Fatigue Exhaustion/Recover (OFER) Scale*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

**ERIN MCBRIDE** *Diabetic Education Effect on Hemoglobin A1C*, advisor Dr. Kimberly Brown

**BRITTNE MORRIS** *Understanding Indications & Complications Associated with Midline Catheters*, advisor Dr. Sandi Woods

**ELIZABETH PFLUEGER** *Comparison on Hemoglobin A1C Levels & Online Patient Portal Enrollment Status*, advisor Dr. Sandi Woods

**ROBYN RAFTER** *Labor & Delivery Nurses' Compassion Satisfaction & Fatigue: Effects of Mindfully Directed Self-Care*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

**BROOKE RANEY** *Effects of a Medically Integrated Exercise Program, Compared to General Exercise, on Blood Pressures of Adults with Cardiovascular Risks*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

**JARED RICKABAUGH** *An Evaluation of the Sensitivity & Specificity of Systemic Inflammatory Response*

*Syndrome Criteria to Identify Patients with Severe Sepsis or Septic Shock*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

**KRISTINA ROACH** *Postpartum Depression Education for the Primigravida*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

**SARAH TACKE** *Nurse Perception of the Clinic Orientation Process: Is There a Need for Preceptor-Based Orientation?*, advisor Dr. Kathy Harrison

**CHRISTINA TERVEEN** *Education on Oral Cares Relating to Mucositis in the Oncology Patients*, advisor Dr. Kathy Harrison

**VALERIE VANZANDBERGEN** *Difference in the Rate of CT Scans in Pediatric Patients with a Chief Complaint of Head Injury Based on the PECARN Algorithm*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**LAUREN WARNER** *Are Door to Electrocardiogram Times Reduced by Utilizing Dedicated Personnel in Emergency Departments?*, advisor Dr. Sandi Woods

**ZACHARY WATT** *Does Depression in Elderly Cardiac Surgery Patients Cause Increased Intensive Care Days?*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

**BROOKLIN ZIMMERMAN** *Exploration of Fluid Management in Chronic Hemodialysis Setting*, advisor Dr. Laura Smith



Mark Ervin and Chuck MacDonell demonstrate self-defense techniques.

# College Hosts Campus Safety Week

**Community makes a commitment to continue our secure campus environment**

Creating a safe campus where students, staff and guests can connect with one another is a priority for Clarkson College. To honor this commitment and celebrate Campus Security Awareness Month, the Facilities department hosted Campus Safety Week from Sept. 3–7. The week featured safety-related events and campaigns to teach College community members useful practices and procedures for emergency situations.

Clarkson College hosted the event alongside the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) who coordinates campus security. Director of Facilities Chuck MacDonell developed the idea for Campus Safety Week after he attended a safety conference in February. "Our number one focus has always been safety," he said. "Attending the conference gave us ideas on how to better promote safe practices for students and staff who are on our campus."

One of the highlights of Campus Safety Week was the self-defense class held Sept. 5. Clarkson College General

Education Instructor Mark Ervin is a five-time black belt in taekwondo with more than 30 years of experience, and he led participants in learning a few self-defense basics. Attendees learned both offensive and defensive tactics as well as methods to help develop more mental and personal awareness.

The week concluded with a town hall meeting where community members heard from the UNMC Security team on Sept. 7. "We decided that one of the best ways to promote a safe campus was to bring our community together with our UNMC partners," MacDonell said. "This gave everyone the opportunity to ask questions, gather information and become educated on safety procedures."

The Facilities department also shared tips about safe practices and procedures throughout the week via social media. Community members learned about different resources that are available to them such as the Campus Security phone line and emergency text alert system.

## 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.*



# August 2018 Clarkson College Graduates

## Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Chanessey Cooper Σ  
Jesse C. Haywood, Jr.  
Mahriah Plugge  
Keisha Roseangely Serrano

## Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Christine Abraham  
Sarah Renae Brown Σ\*  
Ashlie Burton  
Robert J. Chab  
Hannah Elizabeth Crutchfield Σ\*\*  
Makanna Helen Davis \*\*\*  
Jason Allen DeLong  
Derreck Donovan  
Thomas M. Ferrarone  
Meagan Eileen Fitch Σ\*\*\*\*  
Megan Cristine Harris \*  
Bridget Hoeft \*\*  
Kyra Christine Kerber  
Alexa McDonald Σ  
Maggie McKernan Σ\*\*  
Edwin Aquino Mendoza Σ  
Anthony Milone  
Taylor Lynn Morrow \*\*\*  
Amy Marie Nuckoles \*\*\*\*

## Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Tatum Delaney Allensworth λ\*  
Kinsey Jade Bush λ\*  
Amber Ann Foote λΣ  
Michelle Marie Garvey λΣ\*  
Rachel Marie Griffith λ\*\*  
Brooke Ann Hast λΣ\*  
Joli Hopping λΣ\*\*\*\*  
Joshua Krentz  
Leslie Marie Leach \*  
Jennifer Nguyen λ\*\*\*\*  
Carree Proffit λΣ  
Abigail Tvrdy  
Amy Rebecca Welniak  
Kayla R. Wulfekuhl \*\*\*\*

## Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology & Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Joleigh Cadell λΣ\*\*\*\*  
Chanessey Cooper Σ  
Paige Marion Pinson  
Higginbotham Σ  
Sam Jackson II Σ  
Katlyn Kay λΣ\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business

Kourtney Leslee Frederick Σ  
Michael Paul Green \*\*\*\*  
Stephanie Martin \*\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Health Care Services

Rebecca Anne Cotant Σ\*\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Jesse C. Haywood, Jr.  
Mahriah Plugge \*

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Akemi Adams  
Kirisha Nicole Afuh  
Diana Jolene Albers \*\*\*\*  
Liane Anderson Σ  
Chelsi Erin Renea Balentine  
Kimberly Behnk  
Bradley James Benes  
Cadie Mae Christiansen  
Nicholas Colangelo \*\*\*\*  
Jessica Craft  
LeeAnne Eardensohn  
Rebecca Ehrig †\*\*\*\*  
Gabrielle Garcia Σ  
Jessica May Graff  
Denise Hendrickson \*  
Shelby Lynn HOLETON †\*  
Hallie Mae Hunt  
Abby Johnson \*\*\*\*  
Zeynep Kalkan †\*\*  
Claire Lapke  
Adam John Longacre  
Samantha Maynes  
Eli Raymond Moseman †\*\*\*

Onyedikachi G. Oliver  
Sierra Romero  
Melissa Ann Roybal Σ  
Sarah Lynn Schieffer †\*\*\*\*  
Charles Lyon Stewart \*\*  
Misty Timothy †\*\*\*\*  
Ashley Dawn Tomjack Σ  
Jennifer Vidlak \*  
Nikki Jo Welch  
Danielle Weskamp †  
Tyler Willnerd †\*\*\*  
Lauren Ann Wirt  
Mary Yager  
Seohyung Yang Σ

## Master in Health Care Administration

Laura Cotte  
Brandon S. Fleharty

## Master of Science in Nursing

Katie Marie Adams  
Shirley Hugues Brodston  
Robert Dave Enriquez Buot †  
Katie L. Burroughs  
Tedda L. Cahill  
Lorena E. Cannon  
Hailey A. Clark  
Jennifer L. Clark  
Rebecca Crosby †  
Brooke Dannen  
Anna Marie Ellis †Σ  
Kylee Fitch  
Brandon S. Fleharty  
Carley Foreman †  
Ashley Frost  
Meagan Grandgenett  
Trent Graves  
Katie A. Gurskis  
Lindsey Hansen  
Holly Hooyer  
Amanda Gail Impelluso Σ  
Laura Ann Johnson †  
Elizabeth Kallsen  
Ryan J. Kocer  
Angela Kwapnioski  
Jessica Leshen  
Michelle Manternach †  
Kayla Kristine Marfisi  
Erin Nicole McBride

Brittne L. Morris †Σ  
Elizabeth E. Pflueger  
Robyn Anne Rafter  
Brooke Aletta Raney  
Jared William Rickabaugh  
Kristina Lyn Roach  
Rochelle K. Schuka †  
Sarah Tacke  
Christina Marie Terveen  
Valerie Angela Van  
Zandbergen  
Lauren Bethany Warner  
Zachary Charles Watt  
Brooklin K. Zimmerman

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

Eric Holste

## Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Mary Ann Mercedes Be Σ  
Rhonda L. Dennis Σ  
Kyla Jerrick  
Courtney R. Senn  
Christine Ann Shank  
Jarie Ella Sones  
Janelle M. Wood Σ

## Doctor in Health Care Education & Leadership

Amanda Mohr

## Doctor of Nursing Practice

Jaquelyn Davey Tresemer



Employees lend a hand in the Open Door Mission's kitchen. Clockwise from top left: Sarah Flanagan, Jen Renken, Chris Mason, Jeri List, Nicole Shives, Luke Sieburg and Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly.

## Community Spends a Day of Caring at Open Door Mission

### Employees pack lunches for residents in need

Clarkson College employees gather for a Day of Caring twice a year to spread the spirit of caring and dedicate time in service to others. Faculty and staff gathered in the Open Door Mission's kitchen in May and made more than 1,000 sandwiches and packed over 500 sack lunches for the Metro community.

The Open Door Mission distributes the sack lunches to Omaha residents in support of the organization's efforts to break the cycles of poverty and homelessness. Their facilities offer more than 800 beds to homeless men, women and children from Omaha and the surrounding area. Organization employees and volunteers serve over 2,000 hot meals and provide preventative measures to more than 275 people living in poverty each year. The Open Door Mission also offers education, rehabilitation and job assistance programs for area residents.

Altogether, nearly 60 Clarkson College employees volunteered at the Open Door Mission this year during the Day of Caring events in January and May. Each hour spent at the facility demonstrates the College community's adherence to the Value of Caring and commitment to serving others.

## In Memoriam

### Jean Margaret Gayer

Died Sept. 3, 2018 surrounded by her family at her home in Omaha, Neb. Jean was a RN and a former nursing instructor at Clarkson College.





## Mystery Photo

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

This alumnae brings an infectious energy  
and enthusiasm to her profession.  
Did you happen to catch her name?

Send your responses to Rita VanFleet  
at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).

# Alumna Presents with Group at National Nurse Residency Meeting

Group's project chosen among hundreds of applicants

Five Nebraska Medicine nurses, including Clarkson College alumna Cassandra Kaczmarek ('16), presented a poster at the Vizient American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) Nurse Residency Annual Meeting held mid-March in Savannah, Ga.

Kaczmarek graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in 2016 and is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at the College. She and her fellow group members work in the Cardiovascular Progressive Care Unit (CPCU) and Heart and Vascular Unit (HVVU) at Nebraska Medicine and are recent graduates of the Nurse Residency Program. All new nursing graduates must complete the one-year program that concludes with the completion of an evidence-based project.

Kaczmarek, along with Micah Agoncillo, Kayla Crawford, Jenna Peterson and Krystyna Simon, presented on infiltration, which occurs when a patient with an IV experiences a vein pop, and extravasation, which occurs when the IV medication damages the skin. Both instances can cause harm or complications for patients, and the group's goal was to evaluate and improve the knowledge and comfort level of CPCU and HVVU nurses as they manage these issues. Together, they created an educational handout that will be provided to all inpatients at Nebraska Medicine.

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Organizers received  
200 group applications  
and selected only  
37 to present during  
the annual event.

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The group's research was the subject of their presentation at the AACN Nurse Residency Annual Meeting. The event brings together professionals participating in nurse residency programs from across the nation and provides the opportunity to network with and learn from one another. Organizers received 200 presenter applications for this year's meeting and selected only 37 groups to present during the annual meeting.



Alumna Cassandra Kaczmarek (pictured third from left) with her cohorts at the AACN Nurse Residency Annual Meeting. Photo courtesy of Nebraska Medicine.



# Radiography Student Attends National ASRT Conference

Student earns spot in leadership development program

Radiography and Medical Imaging student Carree Proffit demonstrated her passion for her profession when she attended the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) national conference in June as a Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP) participant.

The Cedar Creek, Neb., native is pursuing an Associate's degree in Radiography and a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging at Clarkson College. She chose health care as a second career and decided to pursue radiography because the field offers her diverse opportunities to help and care for others. Becoming a SLDP participant allowed Proffit to push herself out of her comfort zone. "I wanted to set a goal for myself by applying to the program and prove to myself that I could achieve it," she said.

Acceptance into SLDP is available to individuals enrolled in an accredited medical imaging or radiation therapy program. Along with providing a recommendation from their program director, students must complete an essay that discusses how they

will grow professionally from their participation in the program. "The development program will educate me on current modalities, inspire career choices and allow me to be a student advocate while holding myself and other students accountable for quality patient care," Proffit said. "I will grow professionally, rooted in knowledge by networking with radiology professionals."

After learning of her acceptance into the program, Proffit had the opportunity to attend the ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting from June 21–24. The event took place in Las Vegas and offered attendees the opportunity to explore the work that ASRT does for the radiography and medical imaging fields, join educational sessions and network with professionals. Conference guests also listened to numerous speakers discuss a variety of topics within the health care and imaging professions.

The event was an eye-opening experience for Proffit, who attended the conference along with Assistant Director of Radiography Shelli Weddum. "I really enjoyed connecting with my peers and learning more about our profession," she said. "I met so many like-minded students and professionals whom I could relate with in a meaningful way."

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Becoming a SLDP participant allowed Proffit to push herself out of her comfort zone.

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MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

## Strong Origins

With a strong foundation rooted in excellence, Clarkson College hasn't strayed far from its beginnings at 1716 Dodge Street. These buildings served as both the hospital and nurse accommodations for Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital and its School of Nursing in the late 1880s.

### Ruth Muchemore ('53)

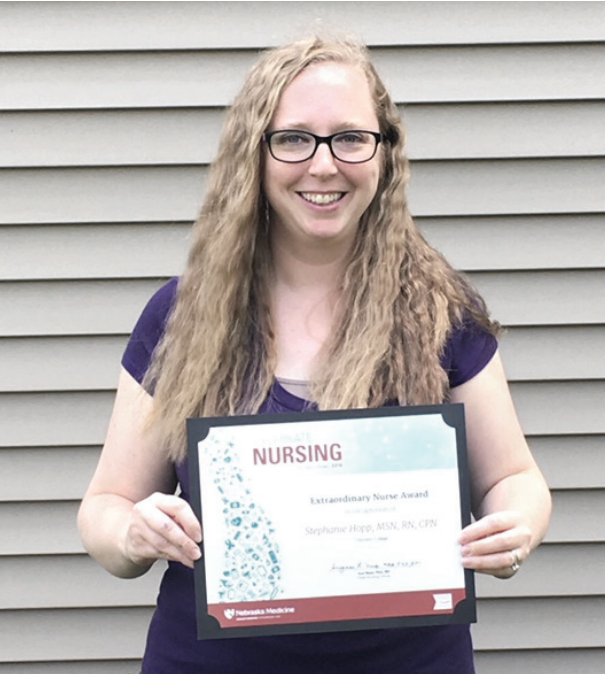
The picture is the first building to house Clarkson Hospital. Somehow, I think it was located at about 24th Street and St. Mary's Ave. The mystery photos in each issue are fun.

### Mary Kreczek ('67)

The mystery photo in the Alumni Times is the Children's Hospital at 17th and Dodge Streets.

## Faculty Member Earns Extraordinary Nurse Award

College community members recognized by Nebraska Medicine



Stephanie Hopp, MSN, RN

Nebraska Medicine honors caregivers within the organization who demonstrate extraordinary leadership and commitment to care each year during Nurses Week, which occurred May 6–12. Clarkson College Assistant Professor Stephanie Hopp, MSN, RN, received the Extraordinary Nurse Award and was among the hundreds of nurses recognized at the May 9 celebration.

Colleagues and organization leaders nominate individuals who honor the nursing profession through their dedication and commitment. "Receiving this recognition is a huge honor, and being nominated by my colleagues

is very humbling," said Hopp. "The Clarkson College team entrusted with educating future health care providers is an amazing one, and I feel that every one of us qualifies for this award."

Hopp continues to display her dedication to the nursing field and her career, which began over 12 years ago when she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Lincoln. She went on to earn a Master's degree in Nursing Education from Nebraska Wesleyan and spent much of her career as a pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Hopp joined Clarkson College as a faculty member nearly eight years ago and currently teaches courses in nursing concepts and clinicals in pediatrics and fundamentals.

Her passion for teaching is one of the many reasons her colleagues nominated her for the Extraordinary Nurse Award. "I love being part of our students' learning process," she said. "Guiding students on their journey is a very challenging, rewarding process. I absolutely love being a nurse, and I try to portray this enthusiasm to my students."

Nebraska Medicine recognized several other Clarkson College community members along with Hopp during the Nurses Week awards ceremony. Alumnae Camille Birk ('01), Janelle French ('85), Ann Gohr ('87), Linette Jahn ('99), Brianna Norris ('15), Nyasha Nyamatore ('17), Megan Pierce ('08), Judy Placek ('94, '99), Carla Ramirez ('13), Brenda Smidt ('06), Jane Stopak ('80) and Lisa Tostenson ('15) received nominations for the Extraordinary Nurse Award, and alumna Nicholette Kavan ('14) received the Rita VanFleet Rising Star Award.

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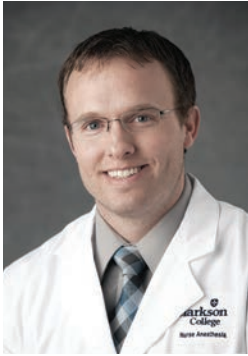
"The Clarkson College team entrusted with educating future health care providers is an amazing one, and I feel that every one of us qualifies for this award."

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# Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Receives Top Honor

Graduate Nursing program awards the Tim Sauvage Award



Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia alumni Jeff Johnson ('18), CRNA, earned the Tim Sauvage

Award for achieving academic distinction while enrolled in the program.

College Nurse Anesthesia faculty present the annual award to a senior student who displays didactic and clinical excellence. Recipients must demonstrate integrity and willingness to serve as a mentor and role model to other students. Faculty members selected Johnson as this year's recipient based on didactic and cumulative test scores as well as peer and clinical reviews.

"The award was very unexpected, but I am grateful to have received it," said Johnson. "I am certain that any one of my classmates could have been considered top candidates."

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"My experiences with the nurses in Uruguay inspired me to become a nurse."

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Johnson enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia program option in 2015, but his health care career began before then. Originally from Ogden, Utah, Johnson spent two years with a church mission group in Uruguay after high school. He worked with nurses and other providers who led him to the health care field. "My experiences with the nurses in Uruguay inspired me to become a nurse," he said. "I was amazed at their autonomy and knowledge of their profession."

He returned to the United States where he earned his Associate's degree in 2007 and his Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2010. Before deciding to return to school and earn his Master's degree, Johnson worked in a variety of areas including dialysis, intensive care and cardiovascular units. These experiences in critical care motivated him to continue his nursing education and become a nurse anesthetist.

His career prepared him for the rigorous clinical component of the program, and Johnson drew on his professional experiences during his time at Clarkson College. He graduated in spring 2018 and earned a position at Nebraska Medicine where he currently practices.

The award's namesake, Tim Sauvage, is a supporter and guest speaker for the Clarkson College Nurse Anesthesia program. Sauvage is also the co-founder of the Valley Review, a course that covers topics within the National Certification Exam, which is the required certification for nurse anesthetists practicing in the United States.

## Faculty Rank & Promotion

New titles were effective during the summer semester

Each year, qualified faculty members have the opportunity to apply for rank and promotion at Clarkson College. The process incentivizes instructors to maintain academic and professional excellence within the academic field and the College.

### Qualification Criteria

Eligible faculty members must be a full- or part-time employee or administrator who teaches credit-hour courses at the College. The following criteria must be met to apply for rank and promotion:

- › **Assistant Professor:** Applicants must have three years of teaching experience at the university level, two years of experience as a Clarkson College instructor and hold a Master's degree.
- › **Associate Professor:** Applicants must have five years of experience at the university level, three years of experience as an Assistant Professor at Clarkson College and hold a Master's degree.
- › **Full Professor:** Applicants must have seven years of teaching experience at the university level, five years of experience as an Associate Professor at Clarkson College and hold a Doctoral degree.

All applicants must provide a letter of eligibility from Human Resources, meet with their program director and receive eligibility confirmation from the

*continued on page 35*



### Program Director Receives the 2018 Honorary Alumni Award

Radiography and Medical  
Imaging Director honored for  
her dedication to the College,  
students and alumni

Radiography and Medical Imaging  
Director Ellen Collins (center) joyfully  
poses with Alumni Association  
President Jen Anderson ('10) and  
Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet  
( '67, '94, '06) after receiving the 2018  
Honorary Alumni award.

Each year, the Clarkson College Alumni Association recognizes an individual who exemplifies the qualities of a Clarkson College graduate with the Honorary Alumni Award. Director of Radiography and Medical Imaging Ellen Collins, M.S., R.T. (R)(M), received this year's award and celebrated with peers during the annual Alumni Weekend events.

"Earning this award is such an honor," said Collins. "I did not expect to receive it, and I am very thankful to the Alumni Association for their dedication to the College and its community members."

Collins earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education and her medical specialization in radiography with post-primary certification in mammography. She began working at Clarkson College in 1998 as the Clinical Coordinator for what was then known as the Radiologic Technology program. Throughout her career, Collins focused on encouraging her students to be their best and serving as an advocate and professional role model on her clinical site visits.

Spending more than two decades at Clarkson College ignited her involvement and desire to enhance the institution. "Being employed at the

College for almost 21 years makes me feel like an alumna at times," she said. "Getting to know everyone here and becoming involved with our alumni is truly a special experience."

Collins is a strong supporter of the College and its Alumni Association. She regularly attends alumni events and encourages her students and program alumni to connect with the Alumni Association. She maintains contact with graduates and cares deeply about their professional practice careers.

As this year's Honorary Alumni Award recipient, Collins joins former winners who exemplify the qualities of a Clarkson College graduate in their professional and personal lives. Award winners have a strong commitment to the College and have made significant contributions in support of its Mission and goals.

#### Selection Criteria

Alumni submit nominations for the Honorary Alumni Award to the Alumni Association Board based on the nominee's demonstration of strong commitment and leadership within the College community. Monetary contributions are not considered as nominee criteria. Potential award candidates must:

- › Contribute significantly to the betterment of the students and alumni of Clarkson College.
- › Show extraordinary loyalty, involvement and identification with Clarkson College.
- › Distinguish him/herself by a special service to the College or to the community in which they reside.
- › Manifest qualities of strong moral principles worthy of recognition.





Award nominees Jayne Cromer, Erin Sillman and Dawn Fichter.

## Faculty Nominated for Positive Image in Nursing Award

Three faculty members honored by the Nebraska Nurses Association

Three Clarkson College community members received nominations for the Positive Image in Nursing Award given by the Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) during the annual Celebrate Nursing! Breakfast and Awards ceremony held April 28 at Scott Conference Center in Omaha, Neb. The College nominees included Director of Nurse Anesthesia Jayne Cromer, DNP, CRNA, and Nursing Instructors Dawn Fichter ('96), MSN, RN, and Erin Sillman ('12, '16), MSN, RN.

Organizations, colleagues and students may appoint individuals for the Positive Image in Nursing Award. Along with the application form, award applications must include a short statement explaining how the nominee promotes what it means to be a nurse on a daily basis through their interactions with patients, students and the community. All three Clarkson College candidates received nominations from College community members. "I was fortunate to be nominated by two students," said Sillman. "It makes me feel like I am being the best educator that I could be."

"I was so honored to receive a nomination," said Fichter. "I love my career as a nurse and being able to share my passion with nursing students is a wonderful opportunity."

The Clarkson College faculty members attending the ceremony connected with fellow nursing professionals during the event. "It was amazing to be recognized by my peers for doing something that I love," said Dr. Cromer. "Nursing is such a challenging, rewarding career field that attracts individuals of the highest caliber."

NNA hosts the annual award to honor outstanding professional registered nurses whose dedication and commitment exemplify a positive image in nursing. Presenting the award to deserving professionals allows the organization to fulfill its mission to support and advance the nursing profession as a whole.

### Faculty Rank & Promotion

*continued from page 33*

Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA). They must also complete a portfolio that includes, but is not limited to, three chapters on teaching excellence, scholarly activity and service. A peer review panel assesses each candidate portfolio and makes final recommendations to the VPAA.

### This Year's Recipients

College administration announced the faculty candidates who earned promotions during the May Community meeting.

#### Assistant Professor

- › Janet Henriksen, Ph.D., MBA, BSN, RN, teaches in the Master of Science in Nursing program.
- › Jennifer Renken, MSN, RN, teaches in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

#### Associate Professor

- › Katie Fulton, M.S. R.T. (R) (VI), teaches in the Radiography and Medical Imaging programs.
- › Sarah Flanagan, MSW, MPA, LCSW, teaches in the General Education and Community Health programs. She was appointed to Director of Community Health and Interprofessional Education in July.
- › Jeri List, M.S., teaches in the General Education program.



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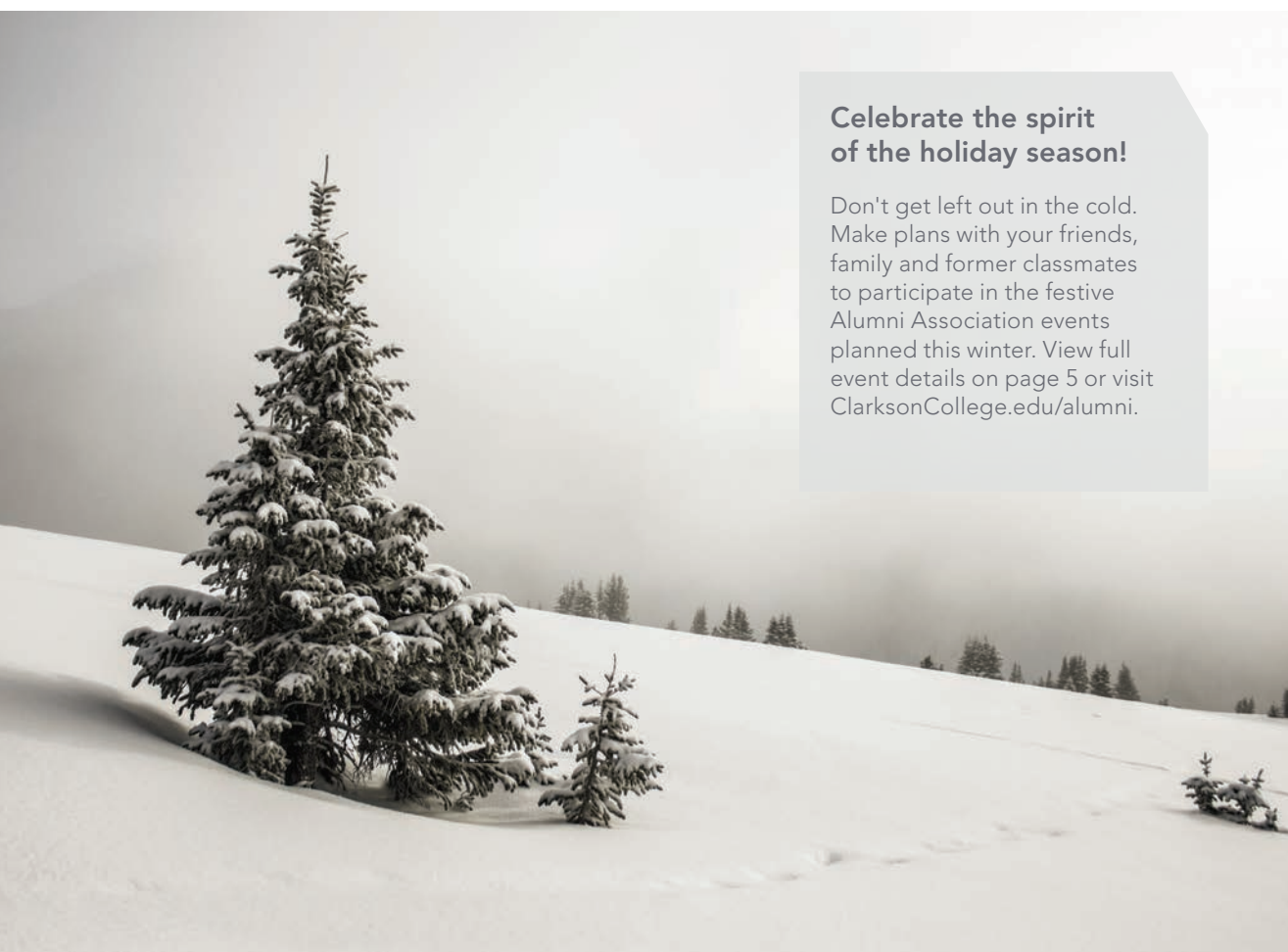
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### Celebrate the spirit of the holiday season!

Don't get left out in the cold. Make plans with your friends, family and former classmates to participate in the festive Alumni Association events planned this winter. View full event details on page 5 or visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni).