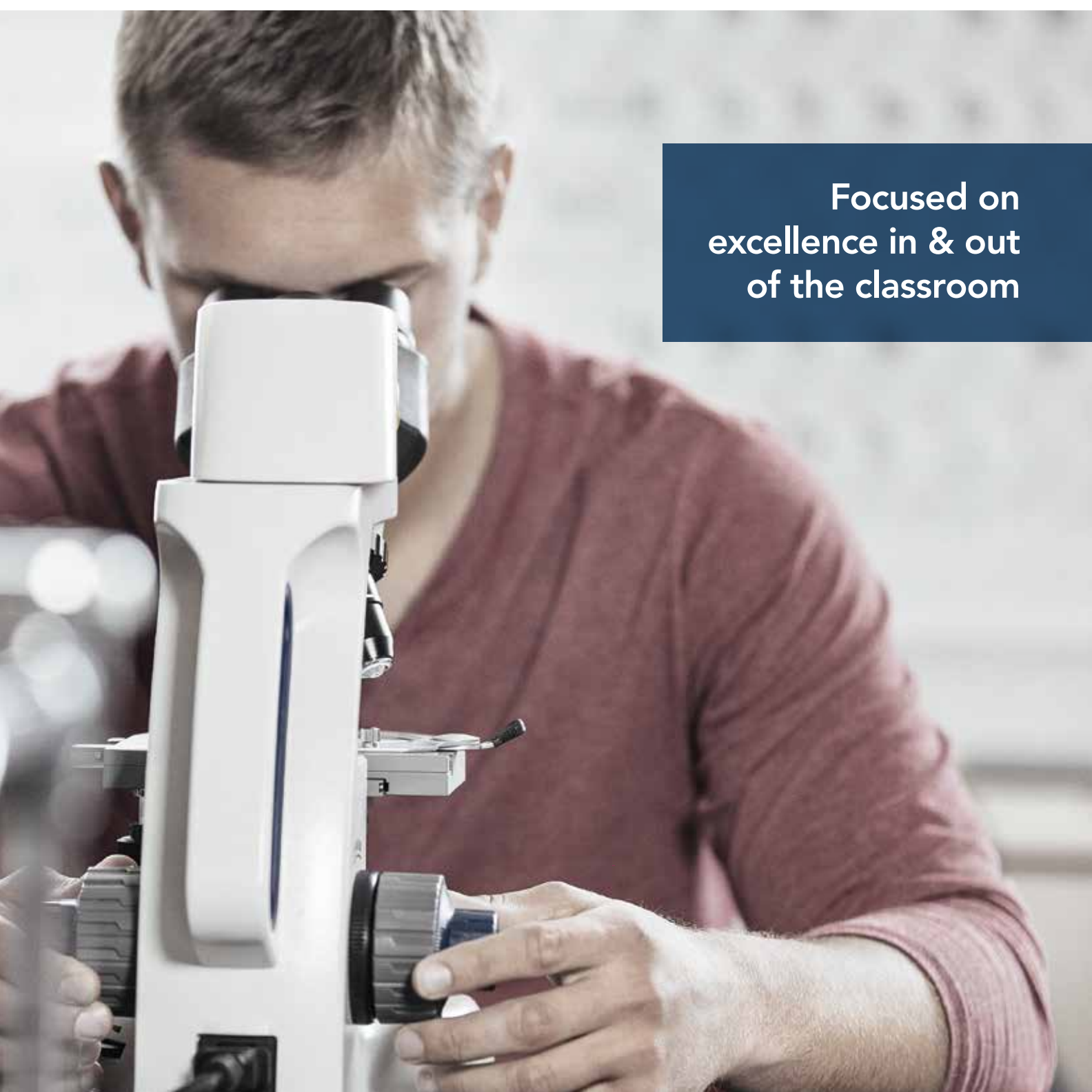


Summer
2017 Issue

AlumniTimes

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine

A man with short brown hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, is looking through a white and blue compound microscope. His hands are visible, adjusting the microscope's controls. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

**Focused on
excellence in & out
of the classroom**



As we rise, we can lift each other up to create a culture of shared excellence. Our impact trickles in all directions—horizontally as we mentor others and vertically as we reach into our organizations' ranks. Whether it's a transformational or simple fix, our collaborative, innovative solutions have the power to reshape the lives of the people we serve and lead. These are the transformations that mean the most.



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EXECUTIVE EDITOR Rita VanFleet
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The Alumni Times is a quarterly publication distributed by the Alumni Association of Clarkson College, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Direct all story and photo submissions, changes of address or publication inquiries to Rita VanFleet, at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu.



On the Cover
Focusing on our commitment to share excellence. 11

PHOTOGRAPH BY Chris VanKat

How do we share excellence in a health care setting?

It is part of the Clarkson College vision to build exceptional health care employees, capable of transforming the nation's health care landscape. This effort requires a high level of engagement among health care leaders across all organizations. As the media has been recently reporting, health care systems are challenged with how to operate with declining reimbursement models. So how are we, busy health care professionals, to carve out time to help solve the industry's biggest problems? What can we really do to help?

Sharing our experiences through storytelling is a powerful way to convey our knowledge and expertise.

We can start by sharing stories of lessons learned with others in the health care field. Sharing our experiences through storytelling is a powerful way to convey our knowledge and expertise. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the industry will be short 12.9 million health care workers by 2030. A recently

released WHO report warns that its findings—if not addressed now—will have serious implications for the health of billions of people across all regions of the world.

So what is contributing to this shortage? For starters, an aging health care workforce choosing retirement and medical staff leaving for better paying jobs while not being replaced. On the flip side, not enough workers are entering health care professions or being adequately trained.

In addition to the decrease in the number of people entering health care careers, there are increasing demands placed on workers, including risk of exposure to communicable diseases like Ebola and risk of personal injury from the job's physical strain. These risk factors contribute to health care professionals working far fewer years in certain fields and push employees to switch professions prior to retirement age.

We have employees across the spectrum of care, in all different phases of their careers. We can help those choosing health care careers by teaching, guiding and mentoring as much as possible. A lesson shared with others is far better than a lesson learned through an error made to a patient.

Nicole Hardin



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

Noteworthy

Share your stories and encourage others to achieve excellence in their health care career by attending Alumni Weekend this September. Save the date and submit the event registration form on page 9 to attend.



Join Us: Annual Heritage Garden Walk

An opportunity to commemorate and share excellence with others

Each Alumni Weekend, the visiting alumni and Clarkson College community gather together to celebrate the Heritage Garden Walk. This year, the annual tradition is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m. in the College Courtyard.

Paving the Future

A brick, bench or amphitheater seat donation is an opportunity to celebrate your legacy, special memories or to create a memorial for a loved one. Your gift supports the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund, which provides scholarships for Clarkson College students.

Heritage Garden Donation

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

Brick Selection & Information

☐ 4.5" x 4.5" Small Brick: \$100

Two lines of 10 characters per line

☐ 7" x 4.5" Medium Brick: \$250

Three lines of 14 characters per line

☐ 7" x 10" Large Brick: \$500

Seven lines of 16 characters per line

☐ Amphitheater Seat: \$2,000

Print the message you would like to have engraved below using one capital letter, comma or space per box. The maximum number of lines and characters allotted is listed in your brick selection above.

Completed Donations due by Aug. 14

Return your completed donation form with payment to Clarkson College Alumni Association, attn: Kim Erickson, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Needed: Memory Book Submissions

Final call to submit announcements for September's Alumni Weekend

Information is requested from graduates of the classes of 1967, 1977, 1987 and 1992. This information will be used to compile a remembrance booklet distributed to each reunion class member at the Alumni Brunch held on Thursday morning, Sept. 14 in Howard Hall at Clarkson College. These booklets will contain class rosters, pictures, miscellaneous information and announcements submitted by each graduate. Announcements may include engagements, marriages, births, career honors, work history, volunteer work, hobbies, travel, etc. Anything you would like to share with your fellow graduates is welcomed. A photo of yourself to accompany the information would also be appreciated and enjoyed by your former classmates.

Send your Memory Book submissions to Rita VanFleet by e-mailing vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu no later than Aug. 11.

Alumni Association Board Members Take Their Seats

New alumni leadership prepares for the upcoming year

Every summer, the Clarkson College Alumni Association Board begins a new year of leadership. All paid Alumni Association members have an opportunity to nominate and vote for Board candidates, and the new representatives assume their roles beginning June 1.

This year, no position was contested, and all nominees readily accepted their positions. It is with pleasure that the new group is introduced.

The 2017-18 Alumni Association Board of Directors is comprised of leaders dedicated to the betterment of Clarkson College, its students and its alumni. The alumnae are eager to continue making the Alumni Association an active, responsive body that maintains ties between alumni and the College.



PRESIDENT

Jen Anderson, M.H.A., RHIA

Jen graduated with her Master's degree from the Health Care Business program in 2010. She is the Service Leader for the Health Information Management Department at Methodist Health System in Omaha, Neb.



DIRECTOR

Sue Leutzinger, M.S.N., R.N.

Sue graduated with her B.S.N. from the College in 1989 and with her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in 2009. She currently teaches freshman and sophomore Undergraduate Nursing students at Clarkson College and enjoys her career as an Assistant Professor.



VICE PRESIDENT

Carla Dirkschneider, M.S., RHIA

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



DIRECTOR

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

Jackie graduated from Clarkson College with her B.S.N. degree in 1993 and her M.S.N. degree in 2009. She is currently the Director of Practice Operations for Methodist Physicians Clinic-Heart Consultants Pulmonary Medicine Specialists in Omaha, Neb.



SECRETARY

Trish Weber, M.H.A., R.T.(R) (CT)

Trish graduated from the College with an Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology (RT) in 1995, a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging in 2008 and a Master's degree in Health Care Administration in 2011. She is currently an Associate Professor in the RT program at Clarkson College.



DIRECTOR

JJ Kassmeier, B.S.N., R.N.

JJ (Jeanette) graduated from Clarkson School of Nursing in 1972 with her diploma and from Clarkson College in 1986 with her B.S.N. degree. She is an Orthopedic Certified Nurse enjoying her first year of retirement while residing in Omaha, Neb.



TREASURER

Nicole Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R) (M) (CIIP)

Nicole graduated with her Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging from Clarkson College in 1995. She earned her Master's degree in Healthcare Services Management from in 1997. She currently serves as the Radiology department manager at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Neb.



DIRECTOR

Kimberly Grimes, P.T.A., B.S., CKTP

Kimberly graduated from the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program in 2012. She is a Certified Kinesiotaping Practitioner and works as a PTA for Hillcrest Health Services in Bellevue, Neb. She also teaches part-time in the PTA program at the College.



DIRECTOR

Joan Blum, M.S.N., F.N.P.-BC

Joan graduated from the Clarkson School of Nursing diploma program in 1981 and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Clarkson College in 1986. She received her Master's degree in Nursing Administration from Drake University and obtained her certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner in 1998. Joan is currently an Associate Professor in the Undergraduate Nursing program at Clarkson College.



Annual September Events are Around the Corner

Join us to catch up with your classmates
and celebrate with your alma mater

Each September, the Alumni Association hosts its annual Alumni Weekend events. During this celebratory time, the anniversary classes of 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years are also honored. Join your fellow alumni in renewing friendships, networking with other professionals and helping the anniversary alumni celebrate their milestones.

Classes interested in hosting a 10- or 20-year reunion should contact Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516, and she will happily include your group in the anniversary plans.

Reservations due by Aug. 11

Submit the reservation form on page 9 to Clarkson College Alumni Coordinator, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131 no later than Aug. 11.

Thursday, Sept. 14 Alumni Weekend Kickoff

We're starting off our Alumni Weekend festivities with an annual all-alumni brunch. Other activities planned for the day include the annual alumni meeting, bricks and boulders dedication ceremony during the Heritage Garden Walk and an afternoon trolley tour of historic Clarkson School of Nursing and Omaha sites.

Friday, Sept. 15 Alumni Weekend Day Two

This year's continuing education event is "Cultural Awareness Impacting Refugee Health Care." Dinner, entertainment and cocktails are on the menu for the annual alumni dinner held at Champions Run at 6:30 p.m.

Plan to Attend

Alumni attending this year's events should complete and submit the event registration form by Aug. 11. Full details for the continuing education event can be found on page 10. Event registration for the Friday morning event is open until Sept. 5.

Register to Attend: Alumni Weekend

Whether to catch up with former classmates or network with others, take advantage of this opportunity to catch up and connect. All alumni are invited to attend the events on Sept. 14–15.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

CLASS(ES) OF _____

PROGRAM(S)/DEGREE(S) OF STUDY _____

Participation & Assistance

- ☐ I am unable to attend this year's events.
- ☐ I would like to make a donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Reserve a seat for Alumni Weekend

I plan to attend the following events:

- ☐ **Alumni Brunch:** Thursday, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.
- ☐ **Alumni Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 14 at 12 p.m.
- ☐ **Heritage Garden Walk:** Thursday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m.
- ☐ **Ollie the Trolley tour:** Take a tour of Clarkson School of Nursing and Omaha history on Thursday, Sept. 14 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- ☐ **Continuing Education Event:** Friday, Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. to noon. This year's topic is titled "Cultural Awareness Impacting Refugee Health Care."
- ☐ **Dinner & Entertainment:** Enjoy dinner, cocktails and entertainment at Champions Run on Friday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- ☐ I will assist with my class' anniversary activities.

Payment Information

Make checks payable to "Clarkson College Alumni Association."

- ☐ **Continuing Education Event:** \$20 for Nifty Fifty and paid Alumni Association members, and \$40 for all other health care providers. \$ _____
 - ☐ **Dinner & Entertainment:** \$45 per person, with _____ individuals attending. \$ _____
 - ☐ **Alumni Scholarship Fund donation** \$ _____
- Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Cultural Awareness Impacting Refugee Health Care

Continuing Education Event

Friday, Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus in Omaha, Neb.

Event Agenda

- 7:30 a.m. Check in and welcome
- 8 a.m. Nebraska Refugees
Kristin Gall, Nebraska Refugee Health Coordinator
- 9 a.m. Refugee Resettlement
Jaleel Oladipo, Refugee Resettlement Coordinator at Lutheran Family Services
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Cultural Awareness Concerning Refugee Populations
Tanya Howard, R.N., B.S.N., CHI University Clinic
- 11:30 a.m. Q&A session, evaluation and wrap up

Continuing Education

Health Care Business: 4.0 education hours awarded.
Mental Health Practitioners: Programs approved by the Midwest Multistate Division are acceptable for continuing education for clinical psychologists and licensed mental health practitioners by the State of Nebraska.
Nursing: 4.0 nursing contact hours awarded. Clarkson College is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. Clarkson College is approved Iowa provider #345. 4.8 Iowa nursing contact hours.
Radiologic Technology: This activity is approved for 2.25 Category A credits by ASRT.
Social Workers or Certified Master Social Workers: This program meets the criteria of an approved continuing education program for certified social workers or certified master social workers for 4.0 contact hours.
Physical Therapy: 0.4 continuing education units corresponding to 4.0 contact hours approved by the Continuing Education Committee of the Nebraska Chapter American Physical Therapy Association.

Requirements for Successful Completion

Pre-registration is required. Participants are required to sign in on an attendance roster at the beginning of the event. Attendance at the entire event is required to receive continuing education credit. No partial credit is provided.

Registration

Please print clearly.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

Payment Options

- ☐ Clarkson College paid Alumni Association member: \$20
- ☐ Clarkson College student: \$10
- ☐ Other health care provider: \$40

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

Phone & Online Registration

To make a credit card payment, call 402.552.6148, 402.552.3396 or 800.647.5500 or visit <http://bit.ly/2uzk2lz>.

Mail Registration

Send your completed registration form and payment to Alumni Association, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Registration Deadline

Event registration deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Parking & Event Location

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

Questions

Contact the Clarkson College Professional Development office at professionaldevelopment@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.6148, 402.552.3396 or 800.647.5500.

Helping Their Peers Achieve Academic Excellence

Our students are focused and set to succeed in their profession. As future health care experts, they’re also driven to care for, lead and assist others. This outward-focused mindset is the heart of a recent peer-led effort to improve student success in challenging courses and achieve academic excellence.





At the start of the fall 2016 semester, Clarkson College implemented a supplemental instruction (SI) program aimed at improving student retention and graduation rates. Along with being an emerging intervention offered at colleges and universities nationwide, SI uniquely involves student-led study sessions focused on courses that are statistically proven most challenging for students.

A critical first step in coordinating the SI program was finding strong student candidates to plan and conduct the peer-led study sessions. These individuals, known as SI Leaders, had to meet the following criteria:

- › Active participation, compliant behavior and acquisition of a “B” or higher in the course of inquiry.
- › Strong study skills.
- › Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- › Personable and approachable personality with the ability to connect with a diverse student population.
- › High level of professionalism and academic integrity.
- › Excellent time management and organizational skills.

To seek out eligible candidates, Clarkson College Student Success Coordinator and SI Supervisor Brooke Clements reached out to faculty for student recommendations. All qualified students received information about the SI program, including the following list of key responsibilities the position would entail:

- › Attending pre-semester and ongoing SI Leader training.
- › Attending SI Leader group meetings and one-on-one SI Supervisor meetings.
- › Assisting students with course content and academic development.

- › Attending at least 80 percent of lectures to understand instructor expectations and to build student rapport.
- › Planning and facilitating two 50-minute SI sessions outside of class.
- › Planning and facilitating two extended Exam Prep sessions, leading up to mid-term and final exam weeks.
- › Promoting the SI sessions to the class. Continuous promotion is essential to increase student attendance in the sessions.
- › Helping students refine learning skills, such as note taking, test preparation, problem solving, organization and group studying.
- › Maintaining attendance records, submitting required paperwork and developing a partnership with instructor.

As compensation for their time and services, those selected would receive a \$1,500 scholarship awarded each semester they served as an SI Leader.

Upon reviewing the required applications, transcripts and essay responses of those who applied, Clements arranged interviews with the top candidates. Six students were selected to lead weekly study sessions for four designated courses.

Among those selected was undergraduate Nursing student Lydia Martin, who provided SI for a second-year course that focused on best practices for adult patient care. Martin said assisting her peers has not only fulfilled the primary goal of aiding in their academic success; it has also given her the chance to build her leadership skills. “In the past, I have wanted the opportunity to teach to some degree, and doing SI has given me that,” she said. “[Being an SI Leader] has forced me to think of things differently and become more flexible and innovative to what the students may need when they attend my sessions.”

Megan Milanuk became an SI Leader in spring 2017, assisting first-year students enrolled in the Fundamentals of Nursing course. “Since this is the first time these students will be introduced to nursing, I wanted to be another supportive resource in helping them realize their potential and achieve

“It’s an amazing experience to be a part of when difficult material finally ‘clicks’ with students.”

REBECCA EHRIG, NURSING STUDENT & SI LEADER

success during their nursing education,” she said. To achieve that objective, Milanuk emphasized the importance of arriving to every SI session with a complete understanding of the material. “I must be prepared so I can further explain and answer any questions the students may have.”

Similarly to her fellow SI Leaders, Rebecca Ehrig considers helping students achieve their academic goals as the most rewarding aspect of her role in the program. “It’s an amazing experience to be a part of when difficult material finally ‘clicks’ with students,” she said.

Along with spending two hours each week conducting study sessions, SI Leaders must complete a series of other weekly duties, including attending the actual course around



which their sessions revolve (three hours); planning their sessions (two hours and 30 minutes); meeting with the course instructor to identify concepts to cover 30 minutes); meeting with the SI Supervisor to discuss weekly progress (30 minutes); and completing miscellaneous tasks, such as holding exam prep sessions or additional meetings.

"The on-going training, both individually and in group setting, is key to SI success," said Clements. "We want students to keep things fresh and continue to grow as SI Leaders." Meeting with faculty members to plan sessions is also an opportunity for the SI Leaders to develop professionalism skills.

Faculty members are instrumental in the success of SI. "[They] can give new ideas or help the SI Leader identify concepts that might be good to cover in the SI Sessions," Clements said. "It is also a growth opportunity for our SI Leaders to develop professionalism skills as they work with the faculty member."

An assessment completed at the culmination of the fall 2016 semester revealed a 20 percent positive deviation in pass rates for Clarkson College students who participated in SI compared to those who did not attend the sessions. While additional formal analysis of the effectiveness of SI at the College is in the works, the overall high student attendance at the sessions throughout both the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters has validated the need and interest for the program.

Impact on Their Profession

Sharing Academic Excellence

The backbone of any successful organization consists of a team of individuals who are dedicated to the company's mission, vision and values. Each individual is a passionate, driving force who supports the daily operations of the business. The community of dedicated faculty and staff members at Clarkson College is no different. All employees contribute to the success of our students, Mission and institution, and each person has a vital role to play.

In the classroom, our faculty excel in academia, leadership and service. They are instrumental to their fields of study, and many have been honored on the state, national and international arenas.

Here, we explore a handful of accomplishments achieved by Clarkson College faculty over the last year. We're continually grateful for their dedication to share excellence both on and off campus.

Kris Smith ('94, '95), M.S.N., A.R.N.P., FNP-C

This spring, Assistant Professor Kris Smith presented "A Unique Collaboration for Autism Spectrum Disorders Early Detection and Intervention" during the Iowa Governor's Council for Public Health. In the presentation, Smith reflected on the increasing number of children diagnosed with autism. She stressed that because the cause is not

yet understood, early detection and intervention are key factors in treatment. "With this in mind, I—along with my colleagues—decided to take an innovative approach in effectively detecting and treating children with autism," Smith said. "We are passionate in our work to create the best outcomes possible and have challenged ourselves to work with our community for excellence in care."

Smith is a two-time alumna and is currently serving her 11th year as a faculty member at the College.

Nancy McMahon, M.S.N., R.N.

Associate Professor Nancy McMahon received the 2017 Nebraska Nursing Association's Positive Image of Nursing Award. The award annually honors one professional registered nurse whose commitment and dedication exemplifies a positive image of the nursing profession.

McMahon has played an active role within the Clarkson College community since joining the Nursing faculty in 2008. In the classroom, she is a Graduate Nursing preceptor and a theory and clinical instructor in the Undergraduate Nursing program. She chairs the Interprofessional Education and Collaboration Critical Success Factor (CSF) and the Faculty Senate Bylaws committees, and serves as a board member and secretary for Sigma Theta Tau, Omicron Epsilon chapter. She is also

a member of the Undergraduate Nursing Evaluation and Assessment committee and the Nursing Assembly Faculty/ Student Issues committee. Outside of Clarkson College, McMahon serves the Omaha community at the Open Door Mission, Project Harmony, Pope Paul Institute and St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Katherine Kirkpatrick, Ed.D.

Dr. Katherine Kirkpatrick is an Associate Professor of General Education at Clarkson College. She holds a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Interdisciplinary Leadership and a Master of Arts in English Literature from Creighton University. Last fall, she defended her dissertation titled, "Online Doctoral Students Writing for Scholarly Publication: Archival Analysis of Course Discussion Boards at a Midwestern Jesuit University."

In 2016, Dr. Kirkpatrick presented "Embracing Evolution by Igniting a Fire in the Center" at the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA) Conference in Denver. Her presentation titled "Covert Actions to Ensure Incremental Change in the Writing Center" was accepted for this year's IWCA Conference, which will take place in November.

"I use my work and research with writing centers to provide an empathetic writing culture at Clarkson College," said Dr. Kirkpatrick. "Our primary goal is to make students more comfortable and confident as writers. My dissertation research provided avenues for undoing the anxiety and fear many doctoral students experience when first writing for publication."

Dr. Kirkpatrick also serves on the Midwest Writing Centers Association Executive Board and is the Writing Lab Coordinator on campus. She has been with the College for more than eight years.

Katie Fulton ('04), M.S., RT (R)(VI)

Katie Fulton, Radiologic Technology (RT) and Medical Imaging Assistant Professor, attended the 86th annual Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists (NSRT) annual conference this spring. Her presentation focused on "Dose Creep," an inadvertent increased radiation exposure levels for patients and technologists. In prior clinical experiences, Fulton was involved in the implementation of these technologies and currently teaches the Digital Imaging class at Clarkson College. It is a topic that she states is very timely and crucial for technologist to understand.

Sarah Flanagan, M.S.W., M.P.A., & Trish Weber ('95, '08), M.H.A., R.T.(R) (CT)

Assistant Professor Sarah Flanagan and RT Associate Professor Trish Weber presented during this year's NSRT conference, discussing "Resilience and Grit in Healthcare: Building Skills for Success and Well-Being." The pair also presented the topic "More Than Diet and Exercise: Building Campus Well-Being" during the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences annual conference held in St. Louis, Mo.

"Having an opportunity to share enthusiasm and passion for this topic with educators from across the country was a great honor," Flanagan said. The duo's work on well-being and resilience stems from their role as co-founding members of the Clarkson College Student Support Team.

During this summer's National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium in Richmond, Va., Flanagan discussed the topic, "Putting the Grit Back into Grief: Fostering Resilience in Grieving Teens." "Grief and bereavement remains close to my heart," she said. "I am always learning new things to incorporate into my classes at the College."

Karen Abboud ('05, '12), P.T.A., M.H.A., CLT, & Kelly Jackson ('05), P.T.A., M.A.

In the upcoming year, Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Assistant Professors Karen Abboud and Kelly Jackson will collaborate to author a new textbook titled "Tests and Measures for the PTA." The publication proposal was accepted in early 2017. "Writing this textbook relates to the Clarkson College Value of excellence to strive for extraordinary quality," they said. "We are able to challenge our abilities as PTAs and faculty while identifying a need in PTA academia."

The book will allow Abboud and Jackson to share their expertise, enhance PTA education and create a helpful resource for PTA educators. "Our efforts will prepare future students to be the best clinicians they can be," Abboud and Jackson said.

Shelli Weddum ('05, '11), MHA, RT(R)

Two-time alumna Shelli Weddum is the Assistant Director and Clinical Coordinator for the Clarkson College the RT and Medical Imaging programs. Outside of the classroom, Weddum shares leadership excellence by serving as NSRT President through April 2018. In this role, she is also a NSRT delegate for the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) through June 2018.

"The opportunity to network with other medical imaging professionals at the ASRT annual conference and House of Delegates meeting in June was priceless," she said. At the events, Weddum mentored, networked and collaborated with industry peers, shared classroom and clinical experience ideas, and served as a voting delegate ASRT bylaws and imaging practice standards.

She believes her roles are an opportunity to become an active NSRT and ASRT member. "When you're an active member, you build relationships based on mutual interest, trust and respect," she said. "Face to face interactions are what sharing excellence is about, and without my initiative to run for a NSRT Board position, I would still be in my cubicle—not a growing, active member of our societies."

Following her tenure as President, she will serve as Chair of the NSRT Board of Directors. Weddum has been a Clarkson College faculty member for 15 years.

Kelly Eaton ('06), B.S., RT(R)(CIIP)

RT and Medical Imaging instructor Kelly Eaton serves as the Nominations Chair for the NSRT Board of Directors through April 2018. "In this role, I am able to show my current and future students everything that the NSRT has to offer for our profession and growth in a leadership role," she said.

Eaton will earn her Master's degree in Instructional Technology this December, and she began teaching at Clarkson College in 2009.

Daniel Aksamit, Ph.D.

Dr. Daniel Aksamit wears many hats within the General Education program at the College as Assistant Professor and resident history expert. During his five years at the College, Dr. Askamit has assisted in updating the institution's historical information. Off campus, his passion for history has taken him around the region and world.

Earlier this year, Dr. Aksamit delivered the Thompson Scholars Guest Lecture entitled, "Health and Healing in Colonial America" at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He also presented "Defining the Deserving Poor: The Legacy and Historical Memory of the War on Poverty" at the Missouri Valley History Conference.

Dr. Aksamit also traveled to England to present, "How the Pathology Became Tangled: Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the Liberal Explanation of Poverty since the 1960s" at the University of Oxford. He then converted presentation into

an article that was published in PS: Political Science and Politics by Cambridge University Press this past April.

"All of my accomplishments were made possible only through the generosity of my Clarkson College colleagues—such as Dr. Katie Kirkpatrick and Will Montgomery—who kindly offered their expertise as I drafted each of these pieces," Dr. Aksamit said.

Amberly Wagner-Connolly ('04, '11), DNP, M.S.N., R.N.

Alumna Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly, Nursing Assistant Professor, began as an adjunct instructor in 2007 and joined the Clarkson College faculty full-time in 2010. "As a two-time alumna, I have been able to learn from the best for many years," Dr. Wagner-Connolly said. "I am now on a mission to do the same for others—I have a lot of 'paying it forward' to do."

Earlier this year, Dr. Wagner-Connolly payed it forward as a presenter during the 22nd annual State of the Art Nursing Conference held at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Neb. She presented "Pursuing My Dreams as a Nurse, Educator, Student, Mother and Cancer Survivor." Dr. Wagner-Connolly enjoys sharing her story, focusing on the value of quality mentors and how the nursing profession shaped her life. "I hope to inspire others to do the same and to never stop setting and achieving their goals," she said.

Siti Arshad-Snyder, Ed.D., M.S., CPHIMS, CPHIT

Health Care Business Associate Professor, Dr. Siti Arshad-Snyder, earned her Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Systems (CPHIMS) certification from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society in December 2016. She also successfully defended her dissertation in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Creighton University in April 2017.

"While the completion of my Ed.D. enhanced my skill and perspective on problem-solving, research and teaching practice, the attainment of a CPHIMS certification validates my knowledge and competency in the health care field," Dr. Arshad-Snyder said. "Both accomplishments reflect my personal commitment to my teaching profession and to prepare our students to be the best."

These achievements are a handful of the many ways dedication, commitment, professionalism and academic excellence are shared both in and out of the classroom.

"Hard work and dedication to a job goes a long way."



Alumni Perspective

A conversation with Natalia Page ('15)

Life moves quickly after graduation, and the series of events that follow contribute to unique stories of health care excellence. The story for alumna Natalia Page ('15) began with the support of her family at a young age that continued into her collegiate years while earning her Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology (RT) and her Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging.

Her hard work and dedication to her studies paid off, and she graduated as the Academic Excellence Award recipient for the summer 2015 RT class. During her time at the College, Natalia was a member of the Delta Chapter Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences and the Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) Honor Society.

Shortly after completing her last round of studies at the College, Natalia and her husband relocated to El Paso, Texas, and she jumped into a fast-paced role as a Staff Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist at the University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC). She excelled in computed radiography and digital radiography and rotated through inpatient exams, operating rooms and endoscopy units. From June 2016 through earlier this year, she worked as a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technologist trainee at the Northeast Clinic at UMC.

She acquired experience on a Siemens 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner and independently performed scans.

Upon moving and settling back into Nebraska life, Natalia shares her experiences with excellence, crediting both her success in the classroom and earning her dream job to hard work, dedication and the support of her family and educators at Clarkson College.

Share a little bit about your upbringing. What was significant that may have formed your career passions?

I was born and raised in Lincoln, Neb. and had an absolutely wonderful childhood. I was very involved in playing piano, and I loved math. My parents always made sure that I had everything I needed to be successful. That support enabled me to pursue my career interests as I entered adulthood.

At what point did you know the health care industry was in your future and how did Clarkson College help you meet your goals?

I always knew I wanted to work in the health care industry. Ever since I was a little girl, I had this image of working in a hospital setting and interacting with patients. Clarkson College helped me achieve my goals for my career through excellent instruction, clinical experience and mock interviews/situations.

What led you to your studies at Clarkson College? What impressed you the most?

I was accepted into the program in 2013. After doing some independent research on radiology technology programs, Clarkson College seemed like a great fit. I absolutely loved the College and my entire experience. The teachers are incredibly knowledgeable and caring, and the teaching methods truly work. Educators take the time to understand their students and how to advance them into the workplace. I felt very prepared

going into the workplace after graduation because this program instilled so much confidence in me.

In what ways did you find your first job personally fulfilling and professionally satisfying?

My job in El Paso was my dream job. Between my education and my most recent job experience, I feel very prepared for whatever opportunity comes my way. UMC El Paso was a Level 1 Trauma Center, and I worked primary in the emergency room and operating room. My training and practical experience advanced significantly in a short amount of time and it made me a very strong radiology technologist.

Any advice for alumni who are beginning their careers or expanding their current skillset?

If you find a job that you don't necessarily feel fully prepared or experienced for, apply anyway. Hard work and dedication to a job goes a long way.



Shannon Wallace

Clarkson College Welcomes New Marketing Director

Clarkson College welcomed Shannon Wallace as the new Marketing Director this past April. She replaces Jina Paul, who assumed the Vice President of Operations position.

Wallace has more than 20 years of experience working in a variety of marketing, advertising, web development and media buying roles in the Omaha area. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a double major in Marketing and Economics from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

A strong focus on post-secondary education in Wallace’s previous work experience sparked her initial interest in the Marketing Director role. “Clarkson College seemed to be the best fit where I could use my experience in branding and recruitment for post-secondary institutions that serve a wide variety of prospective students—traditional, transfer, non-traditional and graduate students—for on-campus and online programs,” she said.

Upon joining the College, Wallace expressed her excitement for playing a role in helping students find their path to serve others in health care. “He/she may save my life or someone I love someday.”

Out of her own personal interest in healthy living and the human body, Wallace is currently working on a Master’s degree in Health and Wellness Coaching and plans to graduate in August 2018.

Creative Arts Celebration Sees Continued Success

This spring capped off the seventh annual Celebration of Writing and the Creative Arts at Clarkson College. Entries included 21 pieces of diverse artwork in photography, colored pencil, quilting, sketching, short story and drama. All entries were produced into videos, including the artists and authors talking about their medium, their inspiration and their favorite aspect of the piece. A group of employees and students then judged the entries for categories, including originality, artistry, beauty, and power, among others.

The Alumni Association graciously sponsored educational grants for student winners, with first place going to Nursing student Nicole Waters for her colored pencil artwork, “Family Affair;” second place going to Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) student Kaitlin James for her photograph, “Raw Alaska;” and third place going to Nursing student Sydney Paden for her drawing, “The Life We’re Given.”

Human Resources graciously sponsored gift cards for employee winners, with first place going to Nursing Associate

Professor Nancy McMahon for her quilt, “Ring Cycles Quilt;” second place going to PTA Instructor Jennifer Memolo for her short story, “Like Falling out of a Tree;” and third place going to Health and Safety Coordinator Sharon Mantz for her photograph, “Surrounded.”

All entries were excellent and demonstrated the depth and breadth of creative talents at the College—a true cause for celebration! Find videos for all entries on the Clarkson College YouTube channel.

Spring Capstone Project Summary

The master’s degree-seeking students presented their Capstone projects in the Storz Pavilion on the Nebraska Medicine campus on April 28. Each semester, the Alumni Association Board subcommittee reviews the Capstone abstracts utilizing an established rubric and awards certificates to the three top abstracts. Alumni Association Board Treasurer Carla Dirkschneider presented the certificates to the winners at the end of the program.

First place honors were given to Darla Howe (advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp). Second place was awarded to Lauren Davison (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg) and Rona Johnson (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Diane Barone (advisor Dr. Steve Hardiman), Miranda Cook (advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers) and Angelina Giles (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg) tied for third place.

Improving the Management of Diabetes: Innovation in Care Collaboration by Darla Howe
Within 30 years, one out of every three adults will suffer from diabetes (Bluml, Watson, Skelton, Manolakis, & Brock, 2014). This alarming prevalence of diabetes requires a more effective model of care delivery in order to reverse this current trend. Effective diabetes care involves a systematic approach to managing care of the whole person, which is difficult to accomplish with a single medical provider. To determine the effect of care collaboration on poorly controlled diabetes, this retrospective, controlled study with a convenience sample of 50 diabetic patients measured the effects of managing diabetes through an interdisciplinary care team model in a community health center over the course of one year. The intervention group received coordinated and comprehensive care provided by an interdisciplinary care team while the control group received standard methods of care by a single

provider. Hemoglobin A1C levels were measured at baseline, midpoint and one year for both groups. The control group showed no statistically significant difference in A1C levels from baseline to program end ($f = 0.22$; $p = .809$), while the intervention group showed a statistically significant difference in A1C levels by program end ($f = 8.62$; $p = .001$). This research suggests that coordinated and comprehensive care improved diabetic outcomes. Additional research is necessary to determine health outcomes based on single-site clinics offering comprehensive, coordinated care with each patient encounter. This research may further enhance the knowledge for coordinated, team-based approaches for diabetes care, establishing best practices for the management of diabetes.

Alternative Models for Primary Care in Rural Clinics by Lauren Davison
Health care in the United States is continually changing, requiring changes in the delivery of health care services. Chronic diseases, including diabetes, utilize many resources increasing health care deficits. Management of chronic disease is a significant focus and concern in primary care. Primary care services can be challenging, especially in the rural area where there are fewer practitioners in comparison to the metropolitan areas. The patient-centered medical home (PCMH) was developed in 2007 to redesign primary care (American Hospital Association [AHA], 2010). Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also identified the need for increased disease management in primary care; creating the chronic care model (CCM). Both provide increased patient opportunities for primary care services while decreasing the financial burden of obtaining medical care. The purpose of this study was to evaluate if the implementation of the PCMH and CCM in rural clinics provided increased disease

APRIL 2017 Graduate Capstone Projects

MARGARET BAUMANN *Skin Bundle: Effectiveness of Hands-On Education*, advisor Dr. Steve Hardiman

MATHEW BEEMAN *An Evaluation of Education Methods Used to Train USAF Aeromedical Evacuation Crew Members on Aircraft Systems*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

LAURA BOON *Attitudes of Professional Health Care Students at a Midwest College Which Influence the Selection of a Primary Care Provider*, advisor Dr. Martha Sanders

MICHELLE BROWN *Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Efficacy of Pulmonary Rehabilitation*, advisor Brad Pfeifer

STEPHANIE BRYEN *Nurses’ Perceptions of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Central Line Dressing Effectiveness in Prevention of Central Line Infections*, advisor Dr. Steve Hardiman

BRIAN CRONSTROM *Exploration of the Factors Affecting Emergency Department Nurses’ Ability to Take Adequate Breaks*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

SIERRA DOVICO *HPV Vaccine: Assessing the Knowledge Level of Associate Degree Nursing Students at a Midwestern Community College*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

CARRIE GRINNELL *A Business Plan: Primary Care Physician Retention*, advisor Justin Avery

PAIGE HARRINGTON *Factors Influencing a Child’s Guardian’s Decision Regarding Vaccinations*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

CINDY KATHMAN *End of Life Education: The Effects on New Graduate Nurses*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

Spring Capstone Project Summary
continued from page 21

management for diabetics as evidenced by evaluating hemoglobin A1C results prior to and six months after enrollment. Patients with a primary diagnosis of diabetes were evaluated, and results revealed that 55 percent of patients had a downward trending hemoglobin A1C after enrollment into one of these models of care. These results are positive but inconclusive due to the small sample size. Future research is needed to evaluate the effects of the implementation of these models in rural clinic.

Integrating Palliative Care: Creating a Framework of Care for Alaska Natives and American Indians with Advanced Cancer by Rona Johnson
A diagnosis of advanced cancer can be harrowing. Integrating palliative care into the treatment plan for those with advanced cancer can enhance quality of life and reduce the burden of suffering. The retrospective survey assessed the knowledge, readiness and needs of rural interdisciplinary health care professionals (N = 48) for the provision of palliative care services to rural Alaska Natives and American Indians (AN/AIs) with advanced cancer. The Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) Hematology-Oncology Clinic electronic survey data identified an 83 percent awareness of palliative care, but only 26 percent of respondents had palliative care training. While 80 percent of the health care workers surveyed felt comfortable or somewhat comfortable caring for the dying, only 70 percent felt symptoms experienced by the seriously ill and dying were adequately managed. The most significant palliative care needs included family and caregiver education (70 percent), establishment of hospice services (67 percent), patient education (59 percent) and health care provider education and training (50 percent). Qualitative data revealed salient themes of the challenges of establishing palliative care and hospice services without resources, and the lack of education

and training for patients, caregivers and health care providers. Additionally, themes of family, community support and cultural acceptance provided a supportive baseline to tailor palliative care interventions for AN/AIs. The integration of palliative care services aims to increase the quality of life for rural AN/AIs while decreasing avoidable health care costs. Research recommendations include a query of the AN/AI patients and family members about future utilization of palliative care.

Malignant Hyperthermia Education: A Necessity for Ambulatory Surgery Center Nurses by Diane Barone
Malignant hyperthermia (MH) is a rare, often fatal, genetic disorder of skeletal muscle that causes a hypermetabolic state triggered by volatile anesthetic agents and/or succinylcholine. Many health care professionals lack preparedness in providing care for a patient in MH crisis because it requires the use of low-frequency, high-risk skills (Cain et al. 2014). For optimal patient outcomes, it is imperative that ambulatory surgery center (ASC) nurses are knowledgeable of the associated conditions, causes, signs, symptoms and treatment protocols for patients experiencing a MH crisis. The purpose of this study was to evaluate if a nurse-led MH education program would improve ASC nurses’ knowledge of managing a MH crisis. Participants (n=5) were recruited from metropolitan area ambulatory surgery centers. Data was collected via identical 12 question pre- and post-tests. The pre-test mean score was 6.60, indicating approximately half of the questions were answered correctly, a standard deviation (SD) of 1.82 was calculated. The post-test mean score was 11.20, suggesting 11 out of 12 questions were answered correctly after the presentation. The calculated SD of 0.367 suggested an increase in scores around the mean. These results suggested that the MH education program was

effective in increasing ASC nurses’ knowledge of MH crisis management. It is recommended that further studies utilizing larger sample sizes be conducted to add to the body of knowledge on the effectiveness of MH education courses for ASC nurses.

Impact of an Educational Presentation on Primary Care Provider’s Knowledge of Screening and Treatment Guidelines for Pediatric Obesity by Miranda Cook
One out of three children in the United States is overweight or obese (Klish, 2017). Research has clearly shown that youth who are obese are more likely to have high cholesterol, high blood pressure, pre-diabetes, bone and joint problems, sleep apnea, and psychological problems (Donahue, 2015). Studies show that the prevalence of childhood obesity is under-recognized and undertreated by health care providers (Patel et al., 2010). This research investigated if an educational presentation could increase primary care provider’s (PCP) knowledge of the current recommendations regarding the prevention, assessment and treatment of childhood obesity. Prior to the education presentation, 75 percent (n=6) of the PCPs surveyed reported that they were unfamiliar with the current practice guidelines. After the educational presentation, 100 percent (n=8) of all the PCPs reported that were aware of the current guidelines and 100 percent (n=8) reported they would assess pediatric BMI percentile and screen for associated health risk factors more closely in the future. Prior to the intervention, 37 percent (n=3) of PCPs reported they were “minimally confident” in identifying a child who is overweight or obese, and after the presentation, 62 percent (n=5) reported their confidence level as “very confident.” Findings indicate that PCPs are not aware of the recommended guidelines for childhood obesity and that a focused educational presentation can positively impact their knowledge

level. Further research is needed to evaluate use of the guidelines.

Educating Adolescents about Pregnancy, Self-Care and Infant Care by Angelina Giles
Pregnancy among female adolescents has become an increasingly widespread concern for today’s youth. Nearly all of teen pregnancies are unplanned (Cox & Ruedinger, 2012). In addition, teen mothers face critical social issues such as poverty, health issues, lack of education, recurrent pregnancies, emotional stress and lack of confidence as a parent. Implementation of school-based clinics has been shown to provide the support these mothers need to become successful parents (Cox & Ruedinger, 2012). Studies suggests that newborns of young adults are often born with low birthweight, developmental delays, demonstrate poor academic performance and experience financial hardships (Cox & Ruedinger, 2012). With additional focused support and education, many of the impacts of young adult pregnancies can be eliminated. The study employed a mixed methodology (quantitative/ qualitative) research design amongst a community-based educational effort focused on prenatal care, postpartum care and monitoring, family planning, and infant safety. The data collection consisted of identical pre and post-questionnaires and contained 25 multiple-choice questions. The pre-questionnaire score results ranged from 44–72 percent (mean 60 percent). The post-questionnaire scores were greatly improved, ranging from 84–100 percent (mean 96.7 percent). There was a significant improvement in all categories, with minimal questions missed overall.

TYLER KEMPF *Emergency Department Flow: Exploring Barriers in Patient Flow Transitions to Inpatient Floors*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

KELLY KIMBRELL *Comparison of Infection Rates for In-Home Clients Utilizing Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter Lines with and without the Use of Antimicrobial Discs*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

ELIZABETH KIRCHNER *A Comparison of the Rehabilitation in Post-Operative Total Knee Patients Using Continuous Passive Motion Machines verses Physical Therapy Alone*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

LUCA KRIZEK *Perceptions of Nurses Associated with Barriers to Reporting Medication Errors*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

AMY LYON *End-of-Life Decisions: Influence of Advance Directives*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

DAVID MARTINEZ *Nurse Job Satisfaction: A Survey of Adult Progressive Care Unit Registered Nurses at a Large Midwest Medical Center*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

JENNALEE OLSEN *The Effect of Multidisciplinary Education on the Readmission Rates of Adult Heart Failure Patients in South Dakota*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

ASHLEY PETERSON *The Effects of Safe Sleep Education on the Co-Sleeping Behaviors of*

Teen Mothers of Different Ethnicities, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

NICOLE PRIVITERA *Perceived Barriers in Recognition of Acute Coronary Syndrome Symptoms in Medical/ Surgical Nurses*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

JAREN QUIGLE *Introduction of a Pain Menu to Assess its Effect on the Perception of Pain Well-Controlled for Patients at a Midwest Cardiac Stroke Unit*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

AMANDA ROCKHOLD *Perceptions of Organizational Communication During Procedural Change Implementation Among Nurses Working in Clinic or Hospital Setting*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

SARAH SAPP *A Phenomenological Study of Rural Hospital Emergency Department Providers’ Perceptions and Experiences with Using a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

BLAKE SHELTON *Nurse Retention Strategies in the Hospital Setting*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

SHANNON SORENSEN *Assessing the Preparedness of a Critical Access Hospital to Transition from Cost-Based to Value-Based Reimbursement*, advisor Justin Avery

ERMIAS TAMIRU *Compassion Fatigue in Inpatient Organ Transplant Registered Nurses: A*

ANA TAYLOR *Assessing Health Literacy Needs of Homeless Diabetic Patients*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

MARKITA VALLIERE *Examining Barriers to Code Status Discussions in Critical Care*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

MINDI VANDEKAMP *Telemetry Alarm Nursing Educational Session Effect on Telemetry Alarm Management*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

ALYSSA WADDELL *Effects of Fluid Restrictions on Weight Loss, Percentage of Fluid Diuresed, Clinical Stability and Readmission on Acute Decompensated Heart Failure Patients*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

DANIELLE WEAVER *The Effect of Early Mobility on Length of Stay and Pain at Discharge Following Total Knee Replacement*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

ROSALYN ZACH *The Effect of Adjunct Single-Injection Paravertebral Block Anesthesia on Pain Following Breast Cancer Surgery*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

KARI ZIEMAN *Effects of Age, Gender, Weight and Pre-Operative Hemoglobin on the Transfusion of Red Blood Cells During Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen



National Representative Attends College Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Clarkson College Sigma Alpha Pi Faculty Advisers Karen Abboud (left) and Carla Dirkschneider ('07, right) with National Society of Leadership and Success National Chapter Support Manager Yaritza Corrales at the spring induction ceremony.

With its largest ever group of inductees, the Clarkson College Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) was excited to welcome National Chapter Support Manager Yaritza Corrales to campus for its induction ceremony on April 18. In this role, Corrales provides the necessary training and tools colleges and universities need to implement their own chapter of NSLS.

Sigma Alpha Pi faculty adviser Carla Dirkschneider said Corrales had the intent of visiting the Clarkson College chapter sometime this year. Upon learning the chapter would be inducting 122 new members at its spring ceremony, she contacted Dirkschneider and booked her flight to Omaha.

With the new wave of inductees, Sigma Alpha Pi now boasts 531 inducted members. An additional 381 active members have either partially completed or are working toward completing the full list of membership requirements. Dirkschneider attributes the rapid growth of Sigma Alpha Pi to the simple fact that more and more individuals on campus are growing familiar with the chapter via word-of-mouth and internal communications administered by the advisers and executive board. "I think the flexibility of the events has also helped

increase membership," she added. "We offered each event twice this past semester (Tuesdays and Thursdays), and we offer an online option [for distance students]."

The keynote speaker at the event was College Vice President of Operations (VPO) Jina Paul. "She gave a wonderful presentation regarding 'Her Path to Leadership,'" Dirkschneider said. The key points Paul emphasized in her presentation ranged from the importance of lifelong learning, hard work and a positive attitude to taking time to celebrate and always believing in oneself.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of honorary awards and memberships by the chapter executive board, which included:

- › Excellence in Teaching Awards, presented to Tracey Ozzello, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Jackie Kussman, Nursing instructor; and Debbie Gardner, General Education instructor.
- › Excellence in Service to Students Award, presented to Julie Brummer, College Counselor.
- › Honorary Memberships, presented to Dr. Andreia Nebel, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Jina Paul, VPO.

Dirkschneider said one of the most enjoyable parts of being an adviser for Sigma Alpha Pi is the interconnectivity it engenders on campus. "It is a true pleasure to see students from all programs come together and learn from one another."

April 2017 Clarkson College Graduates

Certificate in Imaging Informatics
Nicholas D. Acfalle

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging
Matthew Frerichs**
Leann Hamilton
Mark William McVey
Nicole Leigh Pika***
Riley Hamilton Wilson

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Administration
Michelle R. Ilsley***

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Alyssa Marie Anson Σ
Marissa Jean Arana****
Adrienne Raquel Ashley Σ*
Maddison Babe
Emily Christine Bachman †*
Rebecca Jean Benton**
Kirstin Jo Berray †****
Barbara Jane Brennan Σ
Sarah Christina Bugajny***
Rachel Lynn Cedar**
Sarah Clapp
Emma Cathryn Davies
Emily Duren***
Tayler Ashton Geer
Chelsea Gilreath †*
Megan Elizabeth Hillmer Σ***
Wanda Dee Hughes Σ
Lindsey Kelleher*
Dillon Kennedy Σ***
Dawn Marie Kleve****
Brandi Lee Klotthor Σ
Jaycie Lawless
Amanda Ariel Mossman
Ivy Anna Mueller †**
Angie M. Newman***
Anna Marie Nightser
Nyasha Nyamatore*
Andrea Olson †****
Jeny B. Orona
Jessica Jo Patterson
Amy Proskovec

Lori Riggs
Jonathan Robbins**
Jennifer Marie Ryan
Ryan Sheehy
Erin Shiffermiller*
Amanda Carrie Sipple
Paulina Kirstan Smith Σ***
Hilary F. Steinhoff †Σ*
Sara Elizabeth Watson
Danielle Nicole Winkle Σ

Master in Health Care Administration
Michelle Brown
Carrie Lynn Grinnell

Master of Science in Nursing
Diane Marie Barone Σ
Haylee Kaye Barsby †
Margaret Ann Baumann
Shirley Lorraine Beedon Σ
Mathew E. Beeman †
Laura Beth Boon Σ
Jennifer Nicole Bruck Σ
Stephanie Bryen Σ
Miranda Cook †
Brian W. Cronstrom
Lauren Rae Davison
Sierra Dovico
Angelina Marie Giles †
Matthew Allen Gross
Jessica L. Hansen
Paige Elizabeth Harrington
Vanessa Rae Heasley
Darla Reneé Howe Σ
Rona Janel Johnson
Cindy L. Kathman
Tyler P. Kempf
Kelly Kimbrell
Elizabeth Anne Kirchner
Lucas John Krizek †
Amy Jo Lyon
David Matthew Martinez
Kristin Jean McQuistan
Jennalee Ann Olsen
Ashley Wilke Peterson
Kyleen Renee Pouliceck
Nicole Marie Privitera
Jaren Ross Quigle
Amanda Rockhold Σ

Sarah Sapp †
Blake Owen Sheldon
Ermias Ketema Tamire
Ana Rose Taylor
Markita Jo Valliere
Mindi Kaye VandeKamp
Alyssa Jaxine Waddell
Rosalyn Maureen Zach
Keri Ann Zieman

Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing
Bridget Boeckman
Chantel Spring Collier
Ian Matthew Dawe
Masood M. Hussain
Erin Johnson
Heather Talbott

Doctor in Health Care Education & Leadership
Jesse Edward Florang
Kathy Ann Harrison Σ
Ashley Elizabeth Kennedy
Jane Miller

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.

Keep in Touch

We want to celebrate your life experiences and news.

The Clarkson College Alumni Association and your classmates want to hear about your career achievements, family updates and any personal or community pursuits. Class notes are published two times annually, and photographs accompanying submitted updates are always welcome.

Submit your note to:
Rita VanFleet
101 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Neb. 68131
vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu

1950s

Irene Gustafson Studenberg ('55)

Ours was the last class living in the dorm at 520 South 26th Street. We were students and friends for a lifetime.

1960s

Marcia Fitzgerald Weeks ('65)

Many of our '65 classmates are enjoying their 50th wedding anniversaries, and Paul and I joined them this year. I wanted to share a smile with a picture from our wedding day and a picture taken during our 50th celebration road trip.

We decided on a road trip to Willamette Valley in Oregon. It was so beautiful and refreshing. We were blessed to be able to go. I have tons of info and pictures to share if you ever want to visit Willamette Valley, and you may stay in our outside garden room in Mendocino, Calif. along the way!

I'm also celebrating three years post-diagnosis of ovarian cancer. You know, this "R" is just as good as it gets.

Karen Teply Sander ('66)

I'm enjoying my retirement. We have done both national and international travels.

1970s

Shawn Shields ('76)

I have been back in the Omaha area for the last year and enjoy being closer to my family. I love driving by the College and knowing what a wonderful institution it is!

1990s

Donna Garbacz Bader ('93)

I volunteer three days per week at the Lincoln Police Department taking fingerprints and entering FBI and local

arrest data. I am certified in forensic nursing, and I am a member of the American Board of Death Investigators.



2010s

Jeaniffr Snide ('13)

I received my M.S.N. from Clarkson College in 2013. After working for 21 years at Nebraska Medicine, I ventured into a new role as Chief Nursing Officer at Crete Area Medical Center (CAMC). This role has allowed me the opportunity to be a part of a senior leadership team that drives change toward improved outcomes for patients and staff. Our team of nurses, physicians and support staff are focused on meeting the health and wellness needs of the Crete community through the patient-centered medical home model of care. I find this work to be very rewarding, and I could not have reached this level of service to an organization without the support of my family, the leadership skills developed throughout my career and the education I received at the College.



Mystery Photo

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

Our history is full of milestones and moments of excellence shared with others. Remember the reveal of this celebratory occasion?

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



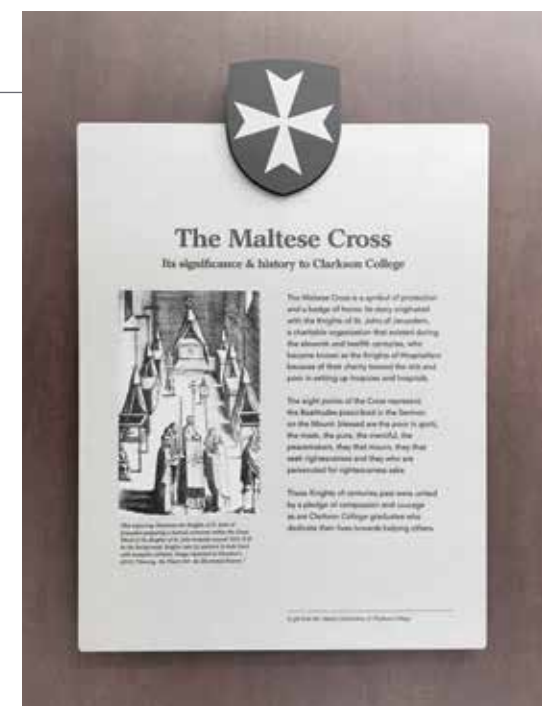
MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Valuing Integrity

There were no identifying responses to the spring edition's mystery photo, so it continues to remain a mystery.

Know more than we do? Let's hear it!

If you recognize either star captured in this image, let us know! Your insight helps us to keep the Clarkson College historical and alumni records current. Each moment is a key piece to our history, and we don't want to lose it.



Highlighting Our History

Minority BSN Students Honored at Annual Scholarship Celebration

"Pursuing Success" was the overarching theme of the 2017 Gateway Scholar Spring Celebration, held on April 7 in Howard Hall. Present to share in the celebration of the 20 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students who earned their selection as 2017-18 Gateway to Success Minority Nurse Scholarship recipients were numerous family members, College faculty and staff and Gateway alumni.

Upon their arrival, attendees passed the time mingling, reconnecting, enjoying a medley of hors d'oeuvres and gleefully watching the slideshow of photos from past Gateway Scholar Spring Celebrations that was projected at the front of the room.

Clarkson College President Dr. Tony Damewood kicked off the event with a welcoming message that acknowledged President Emeritus Dr. Louis Burgher's and Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña's efforts in developing and actuating the Gateway Scholarship program 17 years ago. He also commended the current scholarship

recipients for their drive to attain a college degree, despite the adversities many have faced, and thanked the alumni in attendance for all they have done to give back to the scholarship program.

Dr. Damewood's message segwayed into a panel discussion featuring alumnae Angela Felton-Coleman ('06), Adryanne Orduña ('14), Michelle Smith ('14) and Joyeon Wang ('16). The former scholars spoke about their personal experiences preparing for the National Council Licensure Examination, transitioning to professional practice and the importance of seeking continuing education, leadership and advancement opportunities. They also encouraged the current scholars to do what they can, as future alumni, to support the Gateway Scholarship program and undergraduate Nursing students all-around.

The celebration culminated with the recognition of the 2017-18 Gateway scholars. With spouses, significant others and parents watching from their seats, the students each received a certificate

that acknowledged their success in the BSN program over the last academic year. Personal notes about each of the recipients and their goals were read aloud as they accepted their certificates.

Undergraduate Nursing faculty Marilyn Russell and Jennifer Renken serve as the Gateway Program Faculty Mentors. Each year, they eagerly await the arrival of the Gateway celebration and expressed how meaningful it is to them to share in the accomplishments and pursuits of the scholarship recipients. "As a typical student, many of the scholars are focused on the busy tasks of their days and miss recognizing their academic successes," said Russell. "We put 100 percent of the focus on them to help them visualize what they are working toward and to continue to be inspired to be best." She added how the event also provides an opportunity for Gateway alumni to attend and represent the great minority nurses leading the way in the community. "Their attendance is truly uplifting and motivating to our current scholars, and I enjoy keeping in contact with them and seeing them at this event."

About the Gateway to Success Minority Nurse Scholarship

Clarkson Regional Health Services and Nebraska Medicine fund the Gateway to Success Minority Nurse Scholarship program to support a select number of minority BSN students each year. The scholarship awards recipients \$10,000 per academic year for up to a four-year period, provided recipients continue to meet the defined requirements. Each scholarship includes a summer internship at Nebraska Medicine, which provides \$5,000 in additional funds. To date, the Gateway program has graduated 56 undergraduate Nursing students, many of whom currently hold staff nurse and leadership positions at Nebraska Medicine.

Thanks to generous alumni donations, a little history was placed in the first floor lobby space of the main campus building this summer. The permanent installation highlights the Maltese cross and its historical significance to the health care field and Clarkson College. The addition features an acrylic cutout of the Maltese cross placed seamlessly above a grey printed dibond plaque that explains the Maltese cross history and its relevance to the College. A lithograph engraving also appears on the piece and illustrates the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem preparing a funeral ceremony within the Great Ward of the Knights of St. John hospital around 1650 A.D.

The installation completes phase two of the lobby enhancements. Phase one began in fall 2015 with the addition of portraits displayed on a wooden background, a modern seating area and an inspirational mural to greet guests. This update was featured in the winter 2016 issue of the Alumni Times.

Faculty of the Year & Distinguished Service Award Recipients Announced

Each year at the May Community meeting, the College presents the Distinguished Service Award and the Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award to two deserving employees who received nominations from their colleagues. This year's honorable recipients were Senior Database Engineer Lisa DeLair and General Education Assistant Professor Dr. Daniel Aksamit.

The Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes a member of the support or administrative/professional staff who exhibits leadership and outstanding service to Clarkson College.

DeLair joined Clarkson College in October 2015 and has established herself as a positive, respected expert and role model within the Information Technology

(IT) team. She consistently goes the extra mile for her customers, has a great appreciation for data and enjoys working with her colleagues to create efficient solutions for the IT team. The following comments were submitted about DeLair in her nomination forms:

- › She is an expert in her field and works hard to build her technical skillset.
- › She has a dedication that is hard to put into words.
- › She stays late to help customers, takes on additional responsibilities and is willingly there to listen to a problem.
- › Even in the most stressful of times, she says, "I love what I do."

"I feel honored to have been selected for this prestigious award, and it is a blessing to work each day alongside so many talented professionals," says DeLair. "I would like to extend a special thank you to Ryan Schurman, James Voge and the members of the PowerCampus Users Group for their assistance, hard work, encouragement and support over the last few of years. I truly feel appreciated for my contributions to our success!"

The Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award

The Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to education at Clarkson College. Nominees for this award must hold a faculty rank in an academic or professional development program and have at least three years of teaching experience at Clarkson College.

The College community welcomed Aksamit as a General Education faculty member in November 2012. He has a passion for history and enjoys sharing his insight with students by teaching new concepts in the classroom. He appreciates the students' insightful

questions that push him to understand and explain the course material in new ways, deepening his own understanding of the topic. A scholar at heart, Aksamit has presented and published his research regionally, nationally and internationally. The following comments were submitted about Aksamit:

- › He is a phenomenal professor and colleague.
- › He models what it is to be an excellent educator through his thoughtfulness and caring demeanor towards students, along with his innovation in the classroom through new technology and accessibility.
- › He has a passion for Clarkson College and its commitment to providing a quality education. He demonstrates this through service on multiple committees, frequent presentations at Faculty Development Day and his commitment to participate in College events.
- › As much as he loves history, he also values the present and the future.
- › He has been instrumental in the construction of new courses in humanities to educate future nursing, allied health and business students.

Aksamit was humbled to be nominated and selected as this year's Faculty of the Year recipient. "The people at Clarkson College have taught me so much about being an educator, academic and professional," he says. "Whether it was interacting with students in the classroom, sharing a mission with colleagues on a CSF, debating an issue in Faculty Senate or developing curriculum with fellow members of my department, I owe the professional I am today to the people at Clarkson College."



Dr. Daniel Aksamit and Lisa DeLair each received a plaque and monetary reward for being selected as this year's award recipients.

Thank you

A Heartfelt Thank You

Alumni Contributions Continue to Make a Positive Impact

Each fall issue of the Alumni Times highlights those who donated to the Alumni Scholarship Fund during Sept. 1 through Aug. 31. Total annual donations from College alumni and friends typically range from \$2,500–\$3,500. These funds are handled through an investment program under the direction of the Controller for the College.

The Alumni Scholarship recipients are selected annually when the other Endowed Scholarships are determined—usually during the month of February. Prior to selecting the recipients, a review of the investment fund is carried out to determine the amount available for distribution. This year, \$6,000 was available for distribution and divided among three \$2,000 scholarships. Recipients were Bachelor of Science in Nursing student Mindy Faubion, Nursing Health Care Administration student Stacey Salcedo and Family Nurse Practitioner student Amanda Wolff.

The College is very pleased to have such an active Alumni Association with donors who are dedicated to assisting those students in need. The Endowed Alumni Scholarship would not be possible without your generous contributions each year. A special thank you is extended to all.

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, Neb. 68131. Please make checks payable to Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.



Prepare to be the **best**.

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Celebrate with us!
Alumni Weekend
slated for Sept. 14-15

Experience a reunion like no other. Share, reminisce and reconnect with your classmates during Alumni Weekend Sept. 14-15 in Omaha, Neb. All alumni are invited to attend. Full event details and registration can be found on pages 8-9.

ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni