

Summer
2018 Issue

Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



130 years of
excellence



There is no greater testament to an organization's legacy than its ability to stay true to its founding traditions and mission. Remaining steadfast in our commitment to excellence for 130 years led us to where we are today, and it will continue to shape our tomorrow.



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On the Cover

The east side of the Clarkson College campus located at 41st and Dodge streets. 11

PHOTOGRAPH BY Andrew Marinkovich

Let’s talk about our history.

The institution that came to be known as Clarkson College was founded in 1888. That same year at State Emigrant Hospital in Ward’s Island, New York, Edith Eleanor McLean became the first baby to benefit from a revolutionary health care device: the incubator.

Health care certainly has changed since then. Today, there are typically five types of incubators in one neonatal intensive care unit. They not only regulate body temperature but also protect premature babies from infection, allergens, and excessive noise and light levels that can be harmful to their development.

As we reflect upon and celebrate our 130 year milestone, we can be proud of how far we’ve come and look ahead with hope.

Incubators can even regulate air humidity to maintain skin’s integrity and are equipped with special lights to treat jaundice. The machine’s advancement demonstrates that everything—even something as simple as the incubator—can evolve over time.

Every so often, it is important to reflect upon where we’re from, examine how we got to where we are today and remember that it is a privilege to be graduates of the first nurses’ training school in the state of Nebraska. While our campus expanded and our name changed over the years, we continue to stand by our commitment to excellence in health care. This unwavering dedication defines Clarkson College, and it is the reason we are still going strong after 130 years.

In my role as Alumni Association President, I have the opportunity to hear stories and learn about our alumni, accreditation process, academic program expansion, residence life and the outstanding, compassionate health care services each of you deliver every day. We remain committed to our Mission through it all and strive to instill in students the Success Skills of Communication, Critical Thinking, Technology, Professionalism and Diversity as they serve the local and global communities. As we reflect upon and celebrate our 130 year milestone, we can be proud of how far we’ve come and look ahead with hope as we plan to accomplish more in the future.

It has been an honor to serve as the Alumni Association President. I truly believe that our best years are ahead of us, and anything is possible when we work together. I look forward to our future as we continue to perform and work in our fields, sharing the best of our abilities.

Jen Anderson



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

Annual September Events
are Approaching Quickly

Each September, the Alumni Association hosts its annual events during Alumni Weekend, a two-day celebration that allows the College community to gather and reminisce with one another. The events are scheduled for Sept. 27–28, and all alumni are invited to attend. This year’s Alumni Weekend will honor the anniversary classes of 1968, 1978, 1993 and 2013.

Graduating the Best for 25 Years

The Clarkson College Radiography program is celebrating its 25th graduating class during the Alumni Weekend events. We invite all alumni to join us on campus as we celebrate this milestone and 25 years of graduating the best radiography students.

Thursday Sept. 27
Alumni Weekend Kickoff

Alumni Weekend kicks off with our annual all-alumni brunch on campus in Howard Hall. Attendees will tour campus following brunch, attend the Heritage Garden Walk ceremony and spend an afternoon touring historic Clarkson School of Nursing and Omaha sites on Ollie the Trolley. The College, in coordination with the Alumni Association, provides these events to all alumni at no cost.

Friday Sept. 28
Alumni Weekend Day Two

The continuing education event featuring “Work Place Violence in the Health Care Setting” will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday morning in Howard Hall. Guests may spend the afternoon taking in the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium or visiting other Omaha attractions on their own. The Alumni Weekend events will conclude with cocktails and entertainment during the annual alumni dinner at the Players Club beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Plan to Attend

Classes interested in hosting a 10- or 20-year reunion during Alumni Weekend should contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu, and she will happily include your group in the anniversary plans. Submit your completed registration form by Aug. 27 to Alumni Coordinator, 101 South 42nd Street Omaha, Neb. 68131.

A Message from Ellen Collins, Radiography
& Medical Imaging Director

I am proud to announce that 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class from the Radiography program. We invite all program alumni to campus during Alumni Weekend to join fellow classmates as we celebrate this milestone. We look forward to gathering as many radiography graduates as possible to reconnect, network and celebrate 25 years of preparing the best.

Register to Attend:
Alumni Weekend

Catch up with former classmates, network with fellow professionals and celebrate 130 years with the College community during our events on Sept. 27–28.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

EMAIL

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. 27 at 10 a.m.
- ☐ Annual Meeting or College tour: Thursday, Sept. 27 at 12 p.m.
- ☐ Heritage Garden Walk: Thursday, Sept. 27 at 1 p.m.
- ☐ Ollie the Trolley tour: Take a tour of Omaha history with a special stop at Trinity Cathedral on Thursday, Sept. 27 from 1:30–4:30 p.m.
- ☐ Continuing Education Event: Friday, Sept. 28 from 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m. This year's topic is titled "Work Place Violence in the Health Care Setting."
- ☐ Dinner & Entertainment: Enjoy dinner, cocktails and entertainment at Players Club on Friday, Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Payment Information

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

Alumni Association Board Members Ready for Another Year

Leadership prepares for their upcoming term

Every summer, the Clarkson College Alumni Association Board begins a new year of leadership. All paid Alumni Association members have the opportunity to nominate and vote for Board candidates to serve the organization in the upcoming year.

The 2018-19 Alumni Association Board of Directors assumed their roles beginning June 1, and they begin their term upholding the organization's dedication to the betterment of Clarkson College, its students and its alumni. Members look forward to making the Alumni Association an active, responsive organization that maintains strong ties between the College and its alumni.



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, MSN, RN

Sue graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree 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

Michelle Ilsley, RHIA, CCS

Michelle graduated from Clarkson College with her Bachelor's degree in Health Care Business and a concentration in Health Information Management in 2017. She is currently a Hospital Coding/Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Manager at Nebraska Medicine 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 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 Radiography program at Clarkson College.



DIRECTOR

JJ Kassmeier, BSN, RN

JJ (Jeanette) graduated from Clarkson School of Nursing in 1972 with her diploma and from Clarkson College in 1986 with her BSN degree. She is an Orthopedic Certified Nurse enjoying 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 in 1997. She currently serves as the Radiology department manager at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Neb.



DIRECTOR

Kimberly Grimes, PTA, 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, MSN, F.N.P.-BC

Joan graduated from the Clarkson School of Nursing diploma program in 1981 and earned her 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.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

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

Storm Chasers Baseball Game
Aug. 5 5:05 p.m. Papillion
\$16 per person

Join us for an evening taking in America's favorite pastime cheering on the Storm Chasers at Werner Park in Papillion, Neb. The evening game begins at 5:05 p.m., and the Alumni Association reserved seats directly behind home plate. Fun Zone tickets for children ages 10 and under are available for a discounted price of \$4. Attendees must RSVP to attend before July 24.

Alumni Weekend
Sept. 27-28 Omaha
All alumni are welcome

This year's Alumni Weekend events are scheduled for late September, and all alumni are invited to attend. The fall events will honor the anniversary classes of 1968, 1978, 1993 and 2013. See page 5 for more event information and to complete the registration form.

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



1 / Alumna Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11), right, invited her mother Glenda and daughter Haley to the event. 2 / Susan Bristol ('78) and her friend show off their work. 3 / The group of attendees proudly display their summer-inspired creativity.

Door Décor Painting Event Back for Its Second Round

Event's continues its success; third event slated for next spring

Creativity flowed during the second Alumni Association Door Décor Painting event held Saturday, May 19 in Howard Hall. Participants spent the morning gathering with College community members and decorating spring-themed door hangings for gifts or to brighten their own homes.

The Alumni Association sponsored the first Door Décor Painting event in October 2017 for all alumni, College staff and their guests. Nearly 25 people attended the fall event and spent time creating colorful, seasonal-inspired door hangings. After receiving multiple requests for a second event, the Alumni Association decided to host the activity again this spring.

More than 24 participants attended the spring event and chose to decorate a cross, camper or watermelon slice cutout. Painting supplies and one cutout per person were included as part of the registration fee, and participants had the option to purchase additional cutouts. The Alumni Association also provided a light snack for attendees.

Extending Gratitude: Scholarship Donations

Thank you for supporting the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund

Whether large or small, your donations make a significant impact on the Alumni Association's ability to provide scholarships for Clarkson College students. This year's donations allowed for a \$500 increase in the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship amount, providing three \$2,500 awards to deserving students. This year's recipients are Undergraduate Nursing student Amanda Glenn, Radiography student Brandon Herring and Graduate Nursing student Joel Polanco. The Alumni Association and recipients are grateful for everyone who helped make these scholarships possible.

The Alumni Association also partners with the Academic Integrity Education Committee to award the Academic Integrity Scholarship. The award aims to increase academic integrity awareness and recognize students who demonstrate adherence to the College Value. The spring 2018 scholarship recipient is Undergraduate Nursing student Ariel Lennard.

Community supports students during Omaha Gives! campaign

Clarkson College community members share a dedication to helping students achieve academic and professional

success on their journey to become compassionate health care professionals. To offer a unique way for our community to support students, Clarkson College participated in the sixth annual Omaha Gives! event on May 23 and raised donations for the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Organized by the Omaha Community Foundation, Omaha Gives! is a fundraising event for non-profit organizations in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area. Donors had the opportunity to visit the Omaha Gives! website at any time during the 24-hour event to participate and make a donation of \$10 or more to the non-profit of their choice. Organizations were also eligible to earn monetary prizes for reaching their fundraising goals, receiving the highest number of donations or gaining the most new donors.

All donations made to Clarkson College through Omaha Gives! benefited the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund that helps students meet the financial challenges of their Clarkson College experience. Undergraduate and graduate students who demonstrate a financial need, academic excellence and leadership qualities are eligible to receive these annual scholarships to assist with fees, books and tuition costs.

Making your contribution

We would like to extend a warm thank you to everyone who graciously donated to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Academic Integrity Scholarship Fund throughout this past year. Alumni and friends who have made scholarship donations between Sept. 1, 2017 through Aug. 31, 2018 will be acknowledged in the fall edition of the Alumni Times. The Alumni Association, College community and recipients are grateful to everyone who helped make these scholarships possible.

Scholarship donations 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. Checks may be made payable to Alumni Association Scholarship Fund and mailed to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Please mark your contribution as designated for the Academic Integrity Scholarship if you would like to donate directly to that scholarship.





130 Years & Going Strong

This year marks the 130-year anniversary of the institution now known as Clarkson College.

Its history is long and storied, but every part holds significant value for all who enter its doors. As we reflect on the journey that brought us to where we are today, we explore a handful of the many events and people that shaped us over the years.

Our History

A dedication to caring has defined our institution since Bishop Robert Harper Clarkson and his wife Meliora established the Children's Hospital in 1881. The institution adopted Bishop Clarkson's name following his death in 1884 and became the Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital in honor of his commitment to serving the people of Omaha. The hospital kept Bishop Clarkson's vision alive by establishing a relationship between the institution and the Episcopal Church. To solidify the partnership, they installed deaconesses from the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral as some of the hospital's first caregivers. A thriving nurse training school under Meliora's careful leadership emerged from this arrangement.

A young woman named Mary Olive Graham arrived at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital and entered the training program in 1888 as its first student. She left the institution two years later in 1890 as a trained nurse. Many sources list two graduates in the training

Clockwise / Meliora Clarkson. Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital located at 2100 Howard St. Evelyn and Peter Kiewit. Clarkson College campus from 41st and Dodge Streets. Bishop Robert Clarkson. The cornerstone for the Bishop Clarkson Hospital Student Nurses Home is placed.



Our Locations

school’s inaugural class, but the College discovered much later that early alumnae lists actually identified Graham twice: once by her maiden name and once by her married name, Mrs. J. Sykes. She was the first of thousands of health care professionals to receive training from the institution over the next 130 years.

The next decades proved significant in forming the school’s foundation and setting its standards for excellence. The institution graduated five nurses just 10 years after Graham completed her education, and that number grew to 12 graduates by 1930. The numbers continued to rise with 42 graduates completing the program in 1970 and 142 earning their diplomas in 2000.

Today, the College conducts one graduation ceremony each fall, spring and summer semester, and approximately 400 students from all academic programs receive their diplomas each year. Graduates continue to make significant strides in their professional practice, as they draw on the education that they received at Clarkson College.

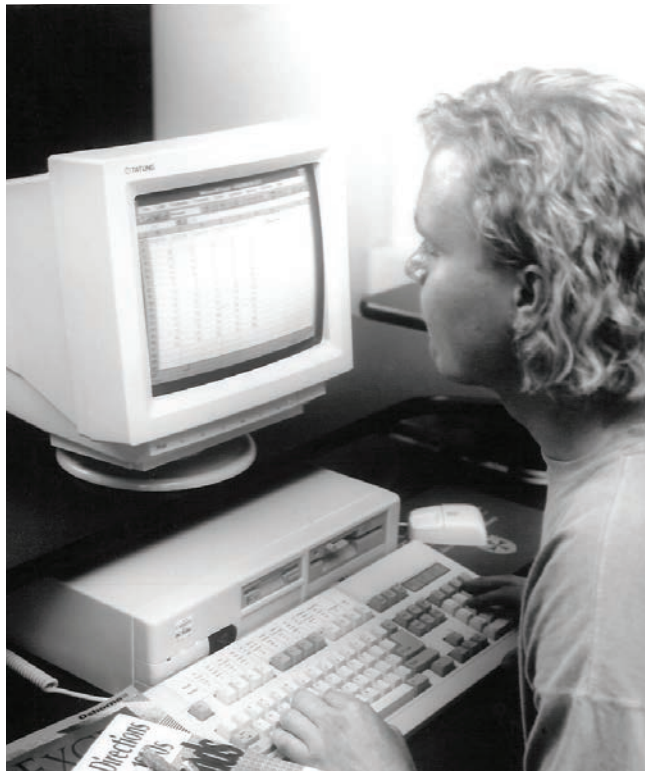
A small, wood-framed building at 1716 Dodge Street served as both the hospital and nurse accommodations when Bishop Clarkson and Meliora founded the organization in 1881. The hospital left these humble beginnings behind in 1883 and built a three-story building mirroring the Trinity Cathedral architecture where the program’s first graduate, Mary Olive Graham, lived and worked. Nursing students continued to live in one single room during the training school’s early years, but they moved to a small cottage in 1908 that was adjacent to the hospital’s new location at 2100 Howard Street.

Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital purchased the Lord Lister hospital building at 26th and Dewey Streets in 1936. The new accommodations provided more housing for student nurses and was closer to the University Hospital located at 42nd and Emile Streets where students obtained their pediatric and obstetric training. When the building became outdated and fell into disrepair in 1944, the hospital broke ground on a new dormitory at 518-528 South 26th Street, which still stands today.

Students continued to live in the new building until the hospital suspended admission to the school of nursing in 1953. The training school graduated its last class in 1955, the same year the organization built a new hospital at 42nd and Dewey Streets. After remaining closed for five years, the school received a generous donation from Peter and Evelyn Kiewit to construct a new building north of the hospital. The Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing reopened its doors on Sept. 12, 1960 and graduated its first class of 35 students in 1963. Many students resided in the new Kiewit Hall dormitory and attended school thanks to a \$30,000 scholarship donation from the Genevieve Armstrong estate.

The Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing moved to its current location at 42nd and Dodge Streets and changed its name to Clarkson College in 1992. Student housing moved one year later to the Villa apartments after Kiewit Hall became part of The Nebraska Medical Center (now Nebraska Medicine) campus. The current campus continued to take shape in 2004 when the College built a 140-bed, apartment-style Residence Hall and Student Center complete with a Bookstore, Howard Hall and Success Center.

No tradition is more significant to our history than the underlying philosophy of compassion and caring exhibited by Bishop Robert and Meliora Clarkson.



Clockwise / Health Care Business. Radiography. The 1910 Alumni Association constitution and bylaws. Minerva Ryley. Physical Therapist Assistant.

Our Academic Programs

Academic changes began in the first part of the 20th century when nurse training moved from a two- to three-year program in 1903. The school continued to offer the three-year program under the hospital's direction until the last half of the 20th century when nursing education aligned with the Baccalaureate degree. When the shift occurred, the school stepped out of the hospital's shadow in 1991 and became Bishop Clarkson College.

The College received State Board of Nursing approval to become a four-year nursing educational program in 1980 thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Patricia Perry and her faculty. Their success continued the following year when the institution received approval from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission to become a Baccalaureate degree-granting program. The College reached a crucial point in establishing itself as a leader in higher education when it appointed its own Board of Directors in 1987 and named Dr. Perry the first President of Bishop Clarkson College.

The institution decided to expand its educational offerings by establishing the Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Health Services Management and Associate of Science degree in Radiography program options in the early 1990s. The College implemented the Physical Therapist Assistant program in 1994 and added the Health Information Management, Health Care Business and Community Health programs in the next two

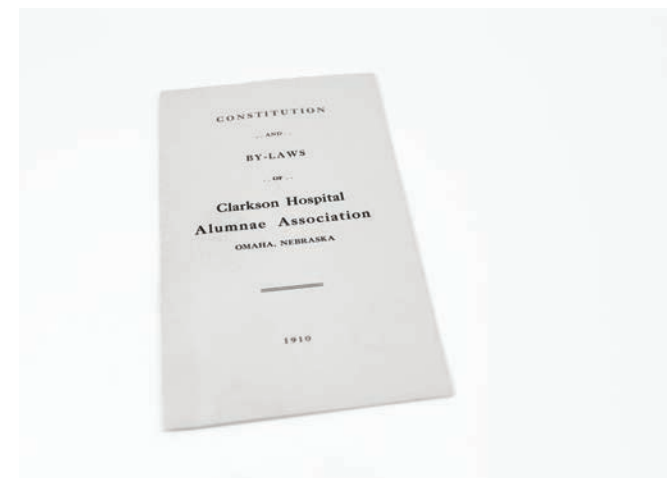
decades. The first doctoral-level degrees offered by the College came into existence in 2012 when the Higher Learning Commission approved the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor in Health Care Education and Leadership degree options.

While venturing into a wide range of health care fields, the College never forgot its roots and continued to expand its Nursing offerings. Bachelor's and Master's degree options for registered nurses, Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia and Post-Master's certificate in Nursing options continue to offer opportunities for nurses at all levels.

Our Alumni

Minerva Ryley graduated from the Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing in 1898 and was instrumental in forming the Alumnae Association in 1910. She created the organization to promote the training school's advancement, increase interest in the nursing profession and establish a fund to benefit active members with physical afflictions. Ryley was known as the oldest living graduate for many years and remained an active College community member by participating in ceremonies and events until the 1960s. Her vivacious personality, dedication to education and love for the nursing profession made her an excellent role model for students and her fellow health care professionals.

The Alumni Association grew over the years and remained active between 1955 and 1960 when the school closed. Its expansion allowed the Association to broaden its original objective, and its members now have the opportunity to provide student scholarships, plan alumni activities, support student programs and offer educational events.





Our Traditions

Clarkson College is proud of its many traditions. While some have been lost over the years, others continue to prevail. One tradition that remains is our proud display of the Maltese Cross, a symbol that represents the heart of the College. The Cross is composed of eight distinct points that represent the eight Beatitudes given in the Sermon on the Mount. Originally worn by the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem who dedicated themselves to charity toward the sick and poor in hospitals, the Maltese Cross remains a symbol of protection and badge of honor.

The shield that surrounds the Maltese Cross is a nod to the former Nebraska Health Systems (NHS) logo, which was created when the Clarkson and University hospitals merged in 1996–97. When the first Clarkson College logo was created in the early 1990s, the institution wanted to pay homage to its educational partner by incorporating the NHS shield element into the College logo. This tribute continued during the College 2010 rebrand, which produced the logo as we know it today.

The annual crowning of Ms. Clarkson is another tradition that continues to persist since its inception in 1943. Anna Marie Baltensperger ('43) was the first student to receive the honor, and after male students began to enroll at the College, Darrell Kuster ('78, '85) became the first Mr. Clarkson in 1978. The crowning of Mr. and Ms. Clarkson continues to this day as a way for students to honor their peers who exemplify the Clarkson College Values of Learning, Integrity, Commitment, Caring and Excellence.

While maintaining our established customs, the College community continues to institute new traditions that honor our rich history and uphold our Values. Beginning fall 2018, the College will implement Spirit Week, a new tradition that will celebrate each of our five Values. Each day of Spirit Week will highlight one Value. Community members will have the opportunity to participate in events and activities that reflect that day's chosen Value. The first Spirit Week will take place during the last week of September 2018 and will culminate with the Alumni Weekend events.



Left / An early crowning of Ms. Clarkson. Right / The first Ms. and Mr. Clarkson, Anna Baltensperger ('43) and Darrell Kuster ('78, '85).

Our Service

No tradition is more significant to our history than the underlying philosophy of compassion and caring exhibited by Bishop Robert and Meliora Clarkson. Service played a significant role in the history of the College, but there are two periods that exceptionally demonstrate our students' unwavering dedication to caring.

When World War I broke out, the Red Cross required 200 nurses to travel overseas and care for the wounded. Five Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing students volunteered to serve their country and help meet the demand for qualified health care professionals. After being placed on alert, they received their diplomas and entered the armed forces before graduation. Their departure created a nursing shortage at the hospital, so their fellow nursing students stepped in to take on vacant staff roles. When France needed nurses later during the war, seven more students answered the call and departed to serve the wounded in Europe.

The onset of World War II prompted another nursing shortage, and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of

Nursing students were once again encouraged to join the Cadet Corps to care for the wounded in Europe. Thirty-one students followed their predecessors' example and joined the Corps in 1942 where they had the opportunity to offer their caring services to the wounded of all nations.

Generations of Clarkson College students have been called to a life spent in service to others, a commitment upheld by Bishop Robert and Meliora Clarkson since the institution's earliest days. Our academic programs weave service learning into the curriculum, and students' commitment to caring begins the moment they enter the classroom. Along with College faculty and staff, students complete nearly 8,000 hours of community service every year, a true testament to Clarkson College and its legacy of caring for others.

These historical snapshots offer a glimpse into a vast history that led the organization to where it is today. As each day passes and new events shape our story, we continue to build upon this strong foundation as it guides us to a prosperous future.

Top / Dr. Patricia Book Perry celebrates with a student. Dr. Perry's uniform features the Maltese Cross on the left arm. Bottom / Instructor Penny Wilcox honors a student while wearing her Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing pin.



College Implements Interprofessional Education Learning Requirement

IPE 301 promotes teamwork and collaboration in health care settings

Clarkson College leaders, faculty and staff remain dedicated to staying on the forefront of health care education. Interprofessional education (IPE) is becoming the new standard among health care disciplines, which is why Clarkson College will require all incoming degree-seeking students enrolled in on-campus or online programs to complete an IPE learning requirement beginning fall 2018.

IPE promotes teamwork and improves collaboration skills for positive health care outcomes. Clarkson College students will optimize their roles within an interdisciplinary team by completing IPE 301, a course designed to provide an overview of health care professionals' roles and responsibilities. The online course focuses on teaching effective communication, collaboration and leadership skills to promote teamwork and cooperation within an interdisciplinary health care team setting. Students practice how to provide ethical, client-

centered care, while understanding the importance of personal accountability and professionalism.

IPE 301 is a zero-credit, pass/fail course that students must complete before graduation. The course consists of four online modules to be completed at the student's own pace during their first semester at Clarkson College. The fifth module requires students to participate in three IPE events to practice their skills and familiarize themselves with working on interdisciplinary teams.

"IPE helps students understand the importance of effective collaboration to promote positive patient outcomes within any team, not only while in school but also when working in a job setting," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Andrea Nebel. "IPE activities allow students to build better communication and leadership skills and understand the various roles and responsibilities of interdisciplinary team members."

IPE in Action

IPE events bring together students and professionals from multiple fields to encourage partnerships and cooperation in health care. Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students saw firsthand the benefits of developing interprofessional skills during an IPE event with University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) students in April.

Twenty-two Clarkson College PTA students and eight UNMC medical students traveled to St. Joseph Villa Homecare and Hospice in Omaha, Neb., for the IPE event. Participants kicked off the activity by gathering in groups of two to three PTA students and one medical student. Several groups toured the rehabilitation facilities while others completed case studies. The groups then switched to ensure that everyone would have the opportunity to participate in each activity.

Attendees spoke with physical, occupational and speech therapists in the rehab center to learn about different patient intervention treatments. PTA students demonstrated the proper technique to fit a patient for a walker, and they utilized a gait belt during the hands-on activity segment. Similarly, medical students shared patient medication insights as well as how medications could affect treatment outcomes.

PTA Assistant Professor Karen Abboud helped organize the event and witnessed the collaboration between the students. "It was very educational when the medical students discussed the different medications with our PTA students," she said. "On the other hand, our students educated the medical students about the differences between physical therapists and PTAs and what role they play in areas such as rehab."

The student participants completed case studies to conclude the IPE event. Each small group identified and discussed the different roles of physicians and PTAs during patient treatment. The activity challenged students to consider how each would provide patient care individually and when to collaborate with peers in order to ensure the best patient outcomes. "No matter where they are in the program, every one of our PTA students learned something during the event," said Abboud. "We look forward to continuing to partner with UNMC for this event and others and incorporating more IPE learning into our curriculum."

1 / Clarkson College PTA students share insights from their field of study. 2 / PTA and medical students collaborate during the case study sessions. 3 / Students learn about different patient intervention treatments.

Academic Travel Abroad Appoints New Faculty Escorts

New ATA escorts set to accompany students around the world



Twice a year in December and May, Clarkson College students and faculty travel the globe as part of the Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) program. They experience foreign cultures and learn about different countries' health care infrastructures. This year, the College announced Karen Abboud, Assistant Professor in the Physical Therapist Assistant program, would take over as the new ATA faculty escort for the December 2018, 2019 and 2020 trips, and General Education Assistant Professor Sarah Flanagan would become the faculty escort for the December 2019, 2020 and 2021 trips.

A passion for travel and the opportunity to assist students as they experience new cultures inspired Abboud to apply. "Over the years, I discovered a love of traveling to new places, experiencing different cultures, trying local cuisine and learning about a city's history," she said. "I love traveling and learning, and the ATA program allows me to share these passions with others."

Flanagan shares Abboud's love of travel and looks forward to providing students with the opportunity to create memories that last a lifetime. She understands the significance of these experiences—they are what inspired her to seek the position in the first place. "I was fortunate to have an opportunity to travel abroad during my undergraduate college experience," she said. "My six months in Ireland were absolutely life changing. I gained a new perspective on life and a new appreciation for cultural diversity."

General Education Professor and ATA Coordinator Dr. Patricia Brennan has accompanied students on nearly every ATA trip since the program's creation in 1998. She recently decided to accompany solely the program's May excursions following the December 2018 trip. College leadership set out to appoint two new escorts to replace Dr. Brennan and selected Abboud and Flanagan from the applicant pool.

Full- and part-time faculty who currently teach in a Clarkson College academic program were eligible to apply for the position. The selection committee required applicants to have either a health science degree with experience in a clinical or hospital setting or a liberal arts degree with a background in humanities. Faculty submitted an essay outlining the strengths and benefits they would bring to the College, ATA and students, along with the program application to apply for the position.

Abboud was fortunate to experience the program's benefits firsthand when she traveled to Italy with ATA in December 2014. Students and their favorite travel companions experience new cultures, explore health care systems overseas and participate in a convenient, cost-effective travel experience. "The trips are affordably priced and extremely well-planned," she said. "Students would pay a lot more to plan the trip on their own, and they may not get to experience as many excursions or local opportunities."

These perks initially draw students to ATA, but Flanagan notes that many travelers experience even more benefits once they arrive at their destination. "Being able to see, experience and interact with others from different ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds helps students gain a better sense of perspective," said Flanagan. "They learn to see the similarities we share with others, in spite of some obvious differences."

"Being able to see, experience and interact with others from different ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds helps students gain a better sense of perspective."

1 / Karen Abboud.
2 / Sarah Flanagan.

Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society Inducts 68 New Members

The Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) welcomed 68 new members during its induction ceremony on April 17 in Howard Hall. The event drew family, friends and College community members to honor and celebrate the newest inductees.

NSLS President and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student Paige Kallsen began the event by welcoming attendees and introducing keynote speaker Kodjovi "Ralph" Abalo ('11). Abalo earned a Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging and an Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology from the College in 2011 and served as a NSLS executive board member from 2014-15. He is currently completing his Master's degree in Perfusion Science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Abalo discussed his journey to become a medical professional during his keynote presentation. Originally from Togo in West Africa, Abalo reflected on the people in his life who inspired him to pursue his career goals. He recalled the Nebraska Medicine hospital administrator who served as a mentor and encouraged him to attend Clarkson College. Abalo reminded students about the importance of making connections—especially during their time at Clarkson College—and leveraging them to achieve their goals.

Following Abalo's address, the ceremony continued with the awards presentation by the chapter executive board. General Education

Assistant Professor Denny Owens and General Education Associate Professor Nicole Shives received the Excellence in Teaching awards, and Librarian Amy Masek received the Excellence in Service to Students award. These NSLS awards honor College community members who demonstrate dedication to service and helping students achieve their academic goals.

Sigma Alpha Pi Faculty Advisor Carla Dirkschneider led the induction ceremony following the awards presentation. NSLS invites undergraduate and graduate students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher to join the organization each fall and spring semester. Conducting a formal induction ceremony allows the College community to honor students for their academic achievements and introduce them to NSLS and its benefits. "NSLS offers students the opportunity to personally reflect on their leadership skills," Dirkschneider said. "It then provides them with tools to develop their leadership skills by setting and working toward their personal goals."

NSLS has been helping students achieve their goals since its implementation at the College in 2012. The College chapter strives to bring students from all academic programs together to build meaningful, lasting relationships that play a part in members' personal and professional success.



Omicron Epsilon members in attendance on April 9.

Nursing Honor Society Celebrates 20 Years of Excellence

Omicron Epsilon marks two decades of supporting Clarkson College nursing students

The Clarkson College chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma) nursing honor society, Omicron Epsilon, celebrated its 20-year anniversary on April 9 at the Players Club in Omaha, Neb. Current and past members, nursing faculty, family, and friends marked the momentous occasion with a night of reminiscing and celebration.

Guests enjoyed dinner and the chance to connect with fellow organization members as they reflected on their time at Clarkson College and in the nursing profession. Current Omicron Epsilon President, Associate Professor Dr. Jane Langemeier, and President Elect, Associate Professor Nancy McMahon, attended the celebration along with Cyndi McCullough ('81, '93), the first Clarkson College Sigma President. Former Omicron Epsilon Presidents, Rose Wray and Judi Dunn, and original charter members, Mary Margaret Schaffner and Ann Van Hoff, also attended the event.

Former and current Presidents discussed the organization's history and its impact on Clarkson College students during the event. Guests also viewed a video slideshow and enjoyed a display of the chapter's past awards and honors. In appreciation of their dedication to Omicron Epsilon and nursing education, organization members presented lavender roses to the Presidents in attendance. The event concluded with a Nightingale Tribute to honor Sigma members who have passed away.

Clarkson College established the Omicron Epsilon chapter of the Sigma honor society in 1998. More than 1,000 student nurses have become members since, and the organization remains committed to supporting their learning, knowledge and professional development. Membership is available to nurse leaders and nursing students of all academic levels who meet academic achievement requirements, maintain high levels of academic integrity and demonstrate leadership qualities.

April Capstone Project Summary

Master's degree-seeking students prepare a Capstone project each semester that reflects their investigation into a question of practical importance. They utilize 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.

An Alumni Association Board subcommittee utilizes an established rubric to review and rank the Capstone abstracts. Following the Capstone presentations on April 27 at Storz Pavilion on the Nebraska Medicine campus, Alumni Association Vice President Carla Dirkschneider presented certificates to selected winners.

Kiley Oberhauser earned first place for her abstract *Effectiveness of Procalcitonin Algorithms on Antibiotic Prescribing for Primary Care Patients* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Second place was awarded to Megan Gombold for her abstract *Hemostatic Disk or Antimicrobial Patch: A Description of Central Line Dressing Change Occurrences in Critically Ill Neonates* (advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman). Sally Eppenback for her abstract *Relationship of Diabetes Education program on Hgb A1C for New Diabetics* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg) and Kamille Skrdla for her abstract *Clostridium Difficile Education & Nursing Knowledge* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg) tied for third place.

Effectiveness of Procalcitonin Algorithms on Antibiotic Prescribing for Primary Care Patients by Kiley Oberhauser

Differentiating between viral and bacterial respiratory tract infections remains important in preventing

antibiotic resistance (Zoorob et al., 2012). Procalcitonin, a blood protein, rises in response to inflammation and is associated with bacterial endotoxins (Michaelidis et al., 2014). A procalcitonin value of $< 0.1\mu\text{g/L}$ represents a very low likelihood of bacterial infection; discouraging antibiotics. In contrast, a procalcitonin value of $> 0.25\mu\text{g/L}$ represents a high likelihood of bacterial infection; recommending antibiotics. This retrospective study explored the procalcitonin values in primary care patients presenting with symptoms of a respiratory tract infection ($N = 30$). A physician-designed algorithm determined antibiotic necessity based on the procalcitonin value. SPSS version 25 software facilitated the data analysis. The Mann-Whitney U test, comparing the sum of the ranks between procalcitonin levels, and the number of antibiotic prescriptions indicated statistical significance with $p = .007$. Additionally, an independent t-test of unequal variances revealed statistical significance with $p = .011$. A positive Pearson coefficient ($r = .555$) illustrated a perfect positive correlation between procalcitonin levels and antibiotic prescriptions with $p = .001$. Study findings suggested procalcitonin values decreased antibiotic prescribing by 70 percent for primary care patients with symptomatic respiratory tract infections. Recommendations include utilizing a physician-designed algorithm for determining antibiotic necessity for patient's experiencing symptomatic respiratory infections. Future research should examine implementation of procalcitonin algorithms in hospitals, determining antibiotic utilization for major infections and any subsequent clinical mortality.

Hemostatic Disk or Antimicrobial Patch: A Description of Central Line Dressing Change Occurrences in Critically Ill Neonates by Megan Gombold

Neonates receiving care in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) often require the insertion of a central venous line (CVL) or a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC). Maintaining line dressing integrity and minimizing line manipulation are recognized as key factors in decreasing the risk for a devastating and costly central-line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) (Carter et al., 2016; The Joint Commission, 2012; Timisit et al., 2012). In one Level IV NICU, dressings covering freshly-placed lines were becoming non-occlusive due to oozing from the insertion site, potentially increasing CLABSI risk. A hemostatic topical disk dressing was introduced to promote dressing integrity by decreasing oozing from line insertion sites. Previous research found that hemostatic products stopped bleeding in adult patients and reduced the need for dressing changes (Blough, Hinson, & Hen, 2010). The purpose of this retrospective chart review was to describe dressing change occurrences when a hemostatic disk or a standard antimicrobial patch was placed at a neonate's line insertion site. Data from 141 neonates were reviewed. Average dressing dwell time for all lines included in the review was 4.5 days. Dressings with an antimicrobial patch ($n=114$) remained intact for an average of 4.2 days and dressings with a hemostatic disk ($n=40$) remained intact for an average of 5.3 days ($p<0.05$). Within the scope of this study, hemostatic disk use resulted in significantly longer dressing dwell times. Future research should

continued on page 24

APRIL 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*

NICOLE ANTHONY *An Exploration of the Use of the Prevalon Turning & Positioning System for Patients on Extracorporeal Membranes Oxygenation & Incidences of Decubitus Ulcers, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp*

MELISSA BERUBE *Differences in Adult Patients Age 18+ Who Received Antibiotic Treatment with a Diagnosis of Shigellosis, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen*

TIFFANI BRADBURY *Effect of Outpatient Clinical Nasal Suctioning on Children Age 2 Years & Younger with a Diagnosis of Bronchiolitis, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen*

SAMANTHA BRANDENBURG *The Effect of Prenatal Education on Car Seat Safety Knowledge, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock*

KRISTIN CEDAR *Evaluating the Admissions Impact When Telepsychiatry is Used in the Rural Emergency Department: A Retrospective Chart Review, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell*

DONELLA CHADWICK-KERMEEN *Improving Readmission Rates of Congestive Heart Failure Patients, advisor Dr. Katherine Kirkpatrick*

JORDAN CHAPMAN *Post-Tonsillectomy Pain Management in Pediatrics: Are Narcotics Effective?, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz*

RODNEY CLARK *Exploring the Workplace Environment Among Surgical Services Nurses, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz*

April Capstone Project Summary

continued from page 23

aim to explore relationships between dressing dwell time, dressing type, patient activity level, line location and the incidence of CLABSI.

Relationship of Diabetes Education program on Hgb A1C for New Diabetics by Sally Eppenback

A new diagnosis of diabetes is a lifelong process that requires different information and resources throughout every stage of life. The World Health Organization estimates that 333 million people will have diabetes by 2025, which is triple what it was in 1995 (Kosti & Kanakari, 2012). The purpose of this research proposal was to provide evidence that in order to decrease the burden of this disease, providers should be referring newly diagnosed type II diabetics to an informal diabetes educational program from day one of diagnosis and that the Hgb A1C level over six months will be better controlled compared to those not participating in the programs. The theoretical framework guiding this proposal was Kolcaba’s Theory of Comfort. Just a 1 percent decrease in an A1C level can result in a 21 percent decrease in deaths related to diabetes, a 37 percent decrease in microvascular complications and a 14 percent decrease in heart attack (Romero, 2016). Any intervention that looks at lowering the A1C of a diabetic is advantageous for society and should demand attention. This study found that 71 percent of the newly diagnosed patients who completed an educational program at a Midwestern Diabetes Center not only lowered their Hgb A1C level but actually met the American Diabetes Association recommendation of less than 7 percent. Thus, the result of this research adds to the body of knowledge and implications for health care professionals by providing more evidence that supports educational

intervention for newly diagnosed type II diabetics.

Clostridium Difficile Education & Nursing Knowledge by Kamille Skrdla

Clostridium difficile infection (CDI) is the most common health care associated infection in the United States and currently the leading cause of gastroenteritis-associated death in the United States (Lessa et al., 2015). It can result in longer hospital stays, increased costs to patients, hospitals and health care systems, and even death (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2016a). Nurses have the most direct contact with patients and therefore need to be competent when caring for patients with infectious diseases. Nursing knowledge is a key factor in preventing the spread of disease. Educational interventions designed to increase preventive actions can play an effective role in preventing CDI. The purpose of this research study was to determine the effectiveness of an infection control education program on overall nursing knowledge regarding CDI and prevention. Pre- and post-surveys were utilized to understand practicing nurses’ knowledge of CDI and prevention strategies prior to and after an education program. The pre- and post-surveys consisted of nine questions with the average score of 54 percent on the pre-survey and 91 percent as the average score on the post-survey. Overall, the results demonstrated that nursing knowledge was enhanced by the educational intervention. Further quantitative and qualitative research on the utilization and effectiveness of nurse-led infection control education on improving nursing knowledge is encouraged to add to the body of knowledge and nursing practice.

APRIL 2018
Graduate Capstone Projects

KAITLYN COBLER *Opioid Use in Post-Operative Pain: A Retrospective Comparison of TAP Block Patients with Non-TAP Block Patients*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

AMY CREASON *Increasing Patient Awareness of HPV & Prevention with Gardasil 9 Vaccine*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

JENNIFER DIAZ *Relationship Between Breastfeeding & Bottle-Feeding & Oral Health*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

BRITTANY ELHAWI *Compassion Satisfaction & Compassion Fatigue Among Level 3 Trauma Center Emergency Department Nurses*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

SALLY EPPENBACK *Relationship of Diabetes Education Program on Hgb A1C for New Diabetics*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

KATIE FRY *Comparing Medical Omissions in Open-Heart Surgery Patients Prior to & After a Quality Improvement Project*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

MALLORY GIBREAL *Community Perceptions of a Rural Nebraska Critical Access Hospital’s Labor & Delivery Services*, advisor Dr. Siti Arshad-Snyder

BROOKE GIVENS *Effect of Continuity of Care on Pediatric Vaccination Rates at 30 Months*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

JOANNA GODBEY *Using Teach-Back to Determine Patient Outcomes: A Quality Improvement Project*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

MEGAN GOMBOLD *Hemostatic Disk or Antimicrobial Patch: A Description of Central Line Dressing Change Occurrences in Critically Ill Neonates*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

COOPER GROSS *Multimodal Analgesia in the Orthopedic Knee Arthroplasty Patient Population*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

JENNIFER GUEVEL *The Influence of Nurses’ Critical Thinking Capabilities on Job Satisfaction*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

BRITTNEY HILL *Exploring Hemoglobin A1C in Type I and Type II Diabetics*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

TYLER HILL *The Effectiveness of Bowel Preparation for Colonoscopy*, advisor Dr. Chris Seckman

LISA HORNER *Exploration of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Program in Iowa: A Retrospective Chart Review*, advisor Dr. Chris Seckman

ANNA JACOBI *Strategies to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in the Primary Care Setting*, advisor Dr. Katherine Kirkpatrick

KARI JOHANSEN *Factors Contributing to Occupational Stress Among Emergency Department Nurses: A Meta-Analysis*, advisor Dr. Siti Arshad-Snyder

GEORGINA JOHNSON *Hospital Infection Rates & the Implementation of Preoperative Chlorhexidine*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

JENNIFER KARP *Scheduled Gastric Residual Volumes: Insights on Nursing Autonomy*, advisor Dr. Katherine Kirkpatrick

KIRBY KNUTH *Perceptions of Rural Healthcare Providers in Nebraska About Telehealth Delivery Systems*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

GLORIA KOKES *Folic Acid Knowledge of Women of Childbearing Age Enrolled in the First-Year of Undergraduate Health Professions Program: A Descriptive Survey Study*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

ANGELA KONRAD *Comparison Study of Two Blood Sampling Methods Utilizing Peripheral Intravenous Sites for Effects on Hemolysis Rates in the Emergency Department*, advisor Dr. Sandi Woods

TRACI KREIFELS *The Effect of Mepilex on Preventing Pressure Injuries on Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure Patients*, advisor Dr. Sandi Woods

BROOKE LONG *Registered Nurses’ Knowledge Levels of Family-Centered Care in the Intensive Care Unit*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

CHRISTINA MCDORMAN *Investigating the Learning Modalities of Adults with Type II Diabetes*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

STEPHANIE MURPHY *Staff Perceptions of the Role of Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department Identifying Strategies for Improving Teamwork & Collaboration*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

DANIELLE NICHOLS *The Effect of Education Related to Nurses’ Perception About Spirituality at the Bedside*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

KILEY OBERHAUSER *Effectiveness of Procalcitonin Algorithms on Antibiotic Prescribing for Primary Care Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

JESSICA PETERSEN *Organ Donation Educational Session’s Effect on Inpatient Nursing Knowledge*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

STEPHANIE POPPE *Fibromyalgia, Inflammation, Depression & Anxiety: A Retrospective Study*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

SIAKA SANNEH *Door-to-EKG Time of Patients Ages 55+ Who Present to the Rural Emergency Department with Complaints of Chest Pain*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

ROCHELLE SCHUKA *An Exploration of the Impact of Education on HPV Vaccination Rate*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

KAMILLE SKRDLA *Clostridium Difficile Education & Nursing Knowledge*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

RYAN TENNANT *Assessing for Transfusion-Associated Circulatory Overload Prior to Blood-Product Transfusion*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

ALYSSA TUEL *Nurses’ Perceptions on Rest Time for Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Patients*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

KRISTIN UHER *Exploring Important Factors Describing Experienced Nurses’ Job Satisfaction in Their Current Positions*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

WESLEY WARD *Barriers for Regular Mammogram Screenings for Women in Rural Idaho*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

NICHOLAS WARREN *Development of a Checklist for Perioperative Nurses to Improve Accuracy of a 12-Lead Electrocardiogram*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

LATOYA WILLIAMS *An Assessment of Preferred Practices for Multimodal Non-Opioid Treatments Administered to Post-Operative Orthopedic Patients*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

CHRISTIN ZBYLUT *The Child Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems Survey Results & the Direct Impact on Quality & Safety Measures at a Midwest Pediatric Hospital*, advisor Dr. Siti Arshad-Snyder

ADDITIONAL CAPSTONES
Read unpublished abstracts from this or a previous semester on the Clarkson Service League online catalog at bit.ly/2l2yiUc. In the search box, type the author’s name or a few keywords and hit enter. The Power Search link can be used to conduct a more advanced search.

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



Career Fair Highlights Opportunities in Health Care

Clarkson College held the seventh annual Career Fair for Health Professions on April 5 in Howard Hall. Nearly 50 employers and more than 150 students gathered during the event to network and discuss the different opportunities a health care career has to offer.

Event organizers made several changes this year to improve attendees' and employers' experiences at the Career Fair. After past attendees completed surveys identifying which organizations they wanted to attend the Career Fair, organizers created an invitation-only event to ensure the presence of the in-demand employers. This change guaranteed that students from every academic program had the opportunity to speak with employers in their field.

"One of our biggest goals was to make sure that the range of employers represented every program available at Clarkson College," said Academic Success Director Dr. Julie Taylor-Costello.

"We make an effort to connect attendees with organizations that they may not have considered, which makes the event worthwhile for both students and employers."

Also new this year was the addition of more premium booth locations for employers. Previously, only seven prime spots were available outside Howard Hall. Organizers expanded the opportunity this year by moving registration into the Success Center and offering three additional premium spots in the space.

Coordinators offered additional opportunities for students to learn about the job search and Career Fair process prior to the event. Dr. Taylor-Costello and College staff members offered a series of career preparation programs in the months leading up to the Career Fair. The informational sessions covered a variety of topics such as how to write a resume and how to effectively network at a career or job fair. Students gained insight into the

job search process and worked on their resumes before attending the Career Fair. "We wanted to offer students as many resources as possible to help them prepare for their job search and get ready to attend the event," said Dr. Taylor-Costello.

Connect with us next year

The next Career Fair for Health Professions is March 21, 2019. If you would like to participate in this event, contact Dr. Taylor-Costello at taylorcostellojulie@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.2693.

Clarkson College Earns HRSA Loan for Nurse Educators

Clarkson College has been awarded more than \$400,000 through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to assist nursing educators as they pursue an advanced education.

The NFLP will be available in fall 2018 and apply to nurses enrolled in the Clarkson College Doctor in Health Care Education & Leadership (Ed.D.) program or the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nursing Education program option. The program aims to assist registered nurses as they complete their graduate education to become qualified nursing faculty. Recipients are required to teach for at least four consecutive years following graduation to be eligible for loan forgiveness through the NFLP. Upon completion of each year of teaching, a percentage of a student's loan will be forgiven—with a total of 85 percent being forgiven upon completion of their fourth year of teaching.

The award allows Clarkson College to provide students with opportunities for financial assistance while completing an advanced degree. "Earning this loan allows us to provide another level of financial support to students pursuing careers as nursing educators," said Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña. "This opportunity further allows us to contribute to the Clarkson College Mission of preparing students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services."

The NFLP's purpose is to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty by providing funding to accredited schools of nursing. It aims to fill faculty vacancies and increase the number of trained nurses entering the workforce by supporting institutions that prepare students to serve as nursing faculty. Nurses interested in earning an advance degree can take advantage of the NFLP as they pursue career opportunities educating health care professionals. "Receiving this award is just one of the ways that we demonstrate the quality educational experience that Clarkson College offers its students," said Dr. Orduña.

Radiography Program Members Shine at NSRT Conference

Program members receive recognition at the annual conference

Alumnae, faculty and students attended the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists (NSRT) annual conference in April where several Clarkson College community members received recognition. Three alumnae presented during the conference, and Radiography and Medical Imaging Director Ellen Collins, M.S., R.T.(R)(M), earned the Sr. Francis Salesia Memorial Award.

The NSRT annual conference was held April 19–21 in Grand Island, Neb., and College community members had the opportunity to connect with radiography professionals and students from across the state during the event. Radiography and Medical Imaging Assistant Director Shelli Weddum, MHA, R.T.(R), serves as NSRT President, and she kicked off the conference by welcoming attendees on Thursday. Event participants listened to guest lecturers present on a variety of topics related to the radiography and imaging fields.

“We are so proud of our graduates and are thrilled that they are being recognized for their hard work.”

ELLEN COLLINS, RADIOGRAPHY & MEDICAL IMAGING DIRECTOR

Clarkson College alumna Ashlyn Pudenz, B.S., R.T.(R), (‘17) lectured on Thursday and presented “The Heart of the Matter: Adult and Pediatric Cardiac Interventional Procedures and Case Review.” Pudenz works at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center located in Omaha, Neb.

Alumnae Chelsea Boring, MHS, R.T.(R) (MR), (‘06, ‘12) and Kourtney Rahder, R.T.(R), (‘12) lectured during the conference’s general session on Friday. Boring currently works at Fusion Medical Staffing, and she discussed “Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Deficiency” during her lecture. Rahder works as a provider at Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital. She presented on “How to Survive Surgery: Students to Seasoned Techs” during her session.

“Our graduates did an amazing job,” said Collins. “We are so proud of them and are thrilled that they are being recognized for their hard work.”

Conference organizers held an awards luncheon in between educational sessions on Friday where Collins received the Sr. Francis Salesia Memorial Award. NSRT presents the award each year to honor technologists for their commitment to advancing both the radiography field and the organization. Sr. Salesia was a national leader in the radiology field and was the first person from Nebraska to become a Fellow in the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). Her dedication to the profession continues to inspire technologists and educators today.

“I am honored to receive this award and be recognized for doing a job



Ellen Collins, M.S., R.T.(R)(M)

that I love,” said Collins. “This profession allows me to teach both the science of radiology and the art of giving high quality, compassionate care to patients. I believe in the importance of what I teach and hope I can continue to have a positive impact on the way we care for our patients.”

Sr. Salesia dedicated much of her career to serving and mentoring others while providing outstanding patient care. This same commitment drives Collins as she educates the next generation of technologists. “I always tell students that patients will rarely remember what you did to provide them with an image or scan, but they will always remember how you made them feel,” Collins said. “Patient care is more than just a warm blanket and a clean bed. It’s a smile, a conversation or a positive attitude that makes all the difference.”

The Radiography program is celebrating its 25th graduating class this September and you’re invited to join. Complete details can be found on page 5.

April 2018 Clarkson College Graduates

Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Jamesion Lambert
Kevin Mings
Tammy Opp
Jared R. Thompson

Certificate in Long Term Care Administration

Robert A. McCumsey

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business

Lindsey Elson Σ
Heidi Teahon Σ**

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Selva B. Hobart *
Tiffany Kei
Briana Polt λΣ****
Ashley Schaben λ****
Melissa M. Struble ***
Brett Michael Temme
Jared R. Thompson

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Nasrat J. Al-hussein
Bailey Jo Baker Σ***
Brett Gerald Becker *
Maxwell Boll
Jordan Brunner
Angela Carrillo
Elizabeth Chandler †***
Kyle Lee Chandler ***
Mariah Elizabeth Clark †Σ*
Erika Marie Debungie
Abigail DeWitt †Σ****
Kathryn Ann Drost Σ
Madison Leigh Ervin
Mindy J. Faubion Σ
Lisa Sue Foy †Σ*
Catalina Garibay
Yaovi Tony Gbogbo
Lacie Denay Gooch †Σ*
Kylie Moriah Gunia
Jenscena Rose Hansen †Σ****
Chelsey Lee Hoffman
Stephenie LeAnn Hoffman
Alicia Kaitlin Iversen Σ
Kristina Jensen ***

Allison Mae Jepsen Σ
Shannon Jean Joerger Σ
Allyson Sue Johnson †Σ**
Emily Johnson ***
Puja Kandel
Arika Marie Kitten *
Madison Jeanne Kologenski
Allison Brooke Lawrence †Σ****
Ariel Alexandra Lennard *
Heidi Lynch
Jayme Renee Matney
Herminia Jasmin Mejia
Lauren S. Montgomery
Monica Lauren Morss
Amanda Renee Nordmeyer †*
Maria Guadalupe Pena
Tara Rae Phillips
Mary Plumb
Stacey L. Poldervaart †Σ****
Anthony Portillo
Sarah Nichole Price †*
Camille Righter
Hannah Lauren Spenceri Σ
Stephanie Ann Sprinkel
Makayla Starostka *
Candice Staudenmaier ****
Salena Selva Stone
Allison Mae Tanner
Melanie R. Watson ****
Samantha Workman

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate – Health Information Administration

Dennis Dinh
Nadine Ghulam Mustafa
Sadiq-Ali Σ

Master in Health Care Administration

Mallory M. Gibreal
Kari Johansen
Christin L. Zbylut

Master of Science in Nursing

Nicole Marie Anthony
Melissa Paige Berube †
Tiffani Lynn Bradbury †
Samantha Brandenburg †
Kristin Kay Cedar

Donella Chadwick-Kermeen Σ
Jordan Clay Chapman
Rodney James Clark
Kaitlyn Grace Cobler
Amy Lynne Creason
Jennifer Salonga Diaz
Sally Eppenbach
Katie Marie Fry
Brooke J. Givens
Joanna Renee Godbey
Megan Elizabeth Gombold
Cooper Buford Gross
Jennifer Guevel
Amanda Hackfort
Brittney Lynne Hill Σ
Tyler Hill Σ
Lisa M. Horner Σ
Anna Jacobi
Georgina Lynn Johnson
Jennifer J. Karp †
Deanna Margaret Kaup
Kirby Knuth
Gloria Kokes Σ
Angela Konrad
Traci Renee Kreifels
Brooke Renee Long
Christina M. McDorman
Stephanie Murphy
Kiley Oberhauser
Jessica Petersen
Stephanie Darlene Poppe
Siaka Sanneh †
Kamille Skrdla
Ryan Lawrence Tennant
Alyssa Rachelle Tuel †
Kristin Uher Σ
Wesley R. Ward
Nicholas Lee Warren
LaToya N. Williams

Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing

Gina Michelle Latham Σ
Jacqueline McDuffie
Shelly Ann Retikis

Doctor in Health Care Education & Leadership

Samantha R. Mohn-Johnsen

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

1970s

Nikie Hooker Herrera ('70)

2020 will be 50 years! Great memories from Clarkson School of Nursing. I enjoyed my nursing career and am still taking classes. I'm enjoying my grandkids and traveling. These years just go fast!

Kandice Emery ('77)

I worked 27 years as an operating room nurse in a variety of settings (from trauma to outpatient). I have three children, Jake, Dan and Hannah.

Susan Bristol ('78)

I'm retired from nursing and am busy writing and doing book signings for the "Voices from the Plains" anthology and "Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Amazing Mom." I will teach a non-credit memoir class at Metro Community College this fall. Traveled to Chicago several times to visit our oldest son and to Oregon where our youngest son lives. Blogging, journaling and wasting time on Facebook!

1980s

Shelley Koperski Brannen ('81, '87)

Shelley Koperski Brannen celebrated 40 years at Nebraska Medicine where she serves as a NICU Lead Nurse.

Diane Staroscik Carrig ('85, '86)

Nursing has been an awesome career. The cardiac rotation was my favorite—to witness an organ giving off an electrical

rhythm per an ECG fascinated me, and it still does. It's as if the heart "talks back to you." I have been working in the cardiac rehab field for 30 years, and it has been rewarding to assist patients in their heart procedure recovery and help them make healthy lifestyle changes.

1990s

Patricia Ann Claussen ('92)

Patricia Ann Claussen's thesis project is in use by the research librarian at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

Donna Garbacz Bader ('93)

I volunteer at the Lincoln Police Department in the Identification Unit

where I take fingerprints and assist with other duties. I retain my Nursing License by maintaining continuing education and giving flu shots in the fall.

Mary Dobleman ('94)

I volunteer duties in field and am active in Parish Nursing at St. Wenceslaus. I was a first responder for the MRC for 10 years.

2000s

Captain Mathew Beeman ('07, '17)

Captain Mathew Beeman, United States Air Force (USAF), had his Capstone project, "An Evaluation of Training

Methods for USAF Aeromedical Evacuation Crew," accepted for publication by *Air Medical Journal*.

Mystery Photo

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

We've seen a lot of change during the last 130 years, but we've never strayed from our strong, foundational roots. Recognize the historical significance of this scene?

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



MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Moving Toward Success

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 the alumna 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.

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED: WINTER 2018 ISSUE

The winter 2018 Alumni Times mystery photo was recently cleared up thanks to alumna Dawn Allsman ('92). Dawn recognized the alumna taking an oath during Commencement as classmate Colonel Teresa Duquette-Frame ('92) and noted that she will be retiring from her military career soon.

In Memoriam

Doris Jirak ('49)

Died June 6, 2018. She lived in Omaha, Neb.

Faculty of the Year & Distinguished Service Award Recipients Honored

Recipients demonstrate outstanding commitment to the College

Each 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 nominated by fellow faculty and staff members. This year's honorable recipients were Senior Systems Engineer James Voge and Assistant Professor William Montgomery.

The Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service award recognizes a support or administrative/professional staff member who exhibits leadership and demonstrates outstanding service to Clarkson College. All part- and full-time, non-faculty staff are eligible to receive the award.

Voge joined Clarkson College in November 2015 as a member of the Information Technology (IT) team. His

fellow employees enjoy working with him because of his commitment to finding new technology solutions and going above and beyond to complete projects in a timely, efficient manner. Staff members submitted the following comments about Voge:

- › He is able to take on a brand new subject and work so diligently that he becomes an expert in a matter of weeks.
- › He is a true professional and conducts himself in a calm, professional manner day in and day out.
- › His motto is, "Let's do it right, or let's not do it at all."
- › His standard of excellence helps raise the quality of work for those around him and sets an example for what it means to be the best.

"After being part of Clarkson College these past few years and seeing firsthand the level of professionalism that everyone exudes on a daily basis, I am incredibly honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award," said Voge. "I am thankful for the opportunity to be a member of an organization composed of people who truly care about the work being done and the students we serve."

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 the College. Nominees must hold a faculty rank in an academic or professional program and have at least three years teaching experience at Clarkson College.

Montgomery began working in the Registrar's office at the College in 2008. He moved to a full-time faculty role in 2013 where he currently teaches courses in history, health care ethics and medical sociology. His creative, effective approach to teaching resonates with his students, and it prompted his peers to nominate him for the award. The following comments were submitted in his nomination form:

- › He collaborates with other instructors to implement lessons that require students to synthesize theories and ideas.
- › He highlights Clarkson College in the community by presenting at professional organizations about a variety of historical topics.
- › He is an exceptional committee member and always arrives prepared to provide positive and valuable ideas.
- › He is extremely well respected by his peers, and his motivation, ingenuity and intellect are awe-inspiring.

"I am very excited yet humbled to receive the Faculty of the Year award," said Montgomery. "I feel that there are more than 70 other full- and part-time faculty who are just as deserving of this honor. My colleagues are exceptional, and I only hope to rise to their level."

PTA Student Earns Mary McMillan Scholarship Award

Program continues tradition of student scholars

Clarkson College students become part of a strong tradition of excellence when they enroll in their program. Amy Nuckoles continued the tradition when she became a recipient of the 2018 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Mary McMillan Scholarship Award for Student Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA) in April, the sixth from Clarkson College since 2004.

APTA awards the Mary McMillan Scholarship to students in the last year of an accredited physical therapist or PTA program who demonstrate superior scholastic performance and potential for future contributions to the profession. Because each program may only submit one candidate for the award, program faculty must complete a selection process to determine which student will compete for the national scholarship. Along with meeting the eligibility requirements, students must submit two letters of support—one from a student body representative and one from a faculty member.

Clarkson College faculty selected Nuckoles to represent the program, and she submitted her application to APTA for consideration. She received word that the organization selected her as a scholarship recipient based on her display of professionalism and academic excellence in the PTA field. The scholarship committee also invited her to attend the awards ceremony at the NEXT 2018 Conference and Exposition in Orlando, Florida held June 27–30.

"I enjoyed attending the conference and being honored for my commitment and dedication," she said.

"I have worked hard to excel in the PTA program, give back to the College community as a leader in different student associations and become an active APTA member."

Winning the APTA Mary McMillan Scholarship is particularly significant for Nuckoles because of McMillan's dedication to the physical therapy field. McMillan was a pioneer in the profession and became the first president of the Physical Therapy Professional Association in 1921. "To have my name affiliated with an award that honors such an amazing woman gives me a great sense of accomplishment," said Nuckoles.

Nuckoles is the sixth Clarkson College PTA student to receive the scholarship since 2004

The Alumni Association supported Nuckoles by assisting with the conference travel costs. She wrote a nice thank you to show her appreciation for the Alumni Association's assistance.

Nuckoles is set to begin her last year of the Clarkson College PTA program and begin her career as she continues to explore the field that she loves. "Earning my degree is challenging, but it has been worth every minute."



James Voge and William Montgomery each received a plaque and monetary reward for being selected as this year's award recipients.



Owens & Fuller Receive Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award

The Faculty Senate presents the Excellence in Teaching Faculty Awards each fall and spring semester. During the Faculty Senate Meeting held May 24, the Senate announced General Education Assistant Professor Denny Owens, M.Ed., MA, M.S., and Undergraduate Nursing Assistant Professor Kate Fuller, MSN, RN, as the spring 2018 award winners.

The award recognizes two faculty members who exemplify the Clarkson College Values of Learning, Caring, Commitment, Integrity and Excellence in their interactions with College community members. Current students and faculty submit nominees who demonstrate an ability to:

- › Encourage contact between students and faculty
- › Develop collaboration and cooperation among students
- › Encourage active learning
- › Provide prompt feedback
- › Communicate high expectations and serve as a role model
- › Emphasize timeliness for academic and professional success
- › Respect diverse talents and learning styles

Kate Fuller, MSN, RN, and Denny Owens, M.Ed., MA, M.S.

Denny Owens became an adjunct professor at Clarkson College in 2001 and an Assistant Professor in 2008. He currently teaches General Education courses in a variety of areas, including psychology and sociology. After 17 years at the College, he still recognizes the privilege of educating tomorrow's health care leaders. "It is an honor to work alongside the excellent Clarkson College faculty and students every day," he said.

Students praised Owens for his innovative teaching approach and willingness to help them achieve their goals. They submitted the following comments on their nomination forms:

- › Mr. Owens goes far above and beyond all students' expectations as an instructor. He is accommodating and very understanding. He encourages individual student ideas by offering more assistance from an outside source, which has even more information to guide his students. He works with individual student interests and does everything in his power to point them in the right direction to follow their dreams.
- › Mr. Owens is wonderful about striking up a conversation in the classroom to enhance learning and retention of the material. He strongly encourages teamwork in and out of the classroom, whether it be study groups, going through a study guide with a peer or a group assignment to further enhance what we learned in class that day.
- › Mr. Owens is by far the best instructor that I've ever encountered. He is knowledgeable in his field and uses his experienced background to better help his students. He pushes all students to be their best, and he strives to be his best as well. Mr. Owens has gone above and beyond for me, as well as my

peers, and I can't think of another person who deserves to be recognized for their actions as much as he does.

Kate Fuller strives to bring her best to the classroom environment. Her teaching experiences varied since joining the College in 2011, and she currently teaches Undergraduate Nursing courses in fundamentals theory, fundamentals clinical and medical surgical clinical. Earning the Apple award from among her distinguished peers is a highlight that will inspire her as she educates future nurses.

"Being recognized when so many others are just as deserving of this award is a true honor," she said. "I strive to be a successful nurse and educator, and I was brought to tears by my Excellence in Teaching Award nomination."

Colleagues submitted the following comments about Fuller on their nomination forms:

- › Kate keeps her students as her highest professional priority. When she is not in class and clinical, she spends much of her time meeting with students to review exams, discuss assignments and answer questions. She drives to campus and spends long hours helping students and promoting their learning.
- › Kate utilizes a variety of learning styles to accommodate different types of learners. She may start a presentation with lecture, but when she finds students are requiring a more visual example, she transitions with ease. She is very cognizant of how well her class is following along and grasping new concepts and ideas. She changes her method of instruction based on student needs.
- › Kate promotes active learning in the nursing fundamentals skills lab by leading students in activities and encouraging involvement. She demonstrates a skill using her experience and insight to enhance the students' learning. She then encourages students to practice the skills, monitors their progress, and offers guidance and assistance.



Nursing student Raven Lance, center, pictured with SNA leadership Becky Allen and Valerine King.

BSN Student Named Image of Nursing Chair During Annual Conference

Student attendees make connections during event

Clarkson College Student Nurses Association (SNA) members and faculty traveled to the annual Nebraska Student Nurses Association (NSNA) convention held Feb. 17 in North Platte, Neb. They connected with nursing students from across the state and watched conference attendees select one of their peers, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student Raven Lance, to serve as the Image of Nursing Chair on the State Board.

Conference attendees elected Lance and her fellow board members to assist the needs of nursing students throughout the state. The NSNA State Board representative role allows Lance to share her passion for nursing with her fellow students and the general public. "I absolutely love everything about nursing, and I want to share that with others," she said. "Nursing school is definitely not easy, and I am excited to be in a position that allows me to help my fellow nursing students remember why they started this process."

Many of Lance's responsibilities as Image of Nursing Chair revolve around promoting the profession in a positive light. She will work to educate the public about the changing roles of nurses, teach students about professionalism and communicate ways they can positively impact the field opportunities for the state convention. Lance also collaborates with her fellow Board members on fundraising and networking opportunities.

Having the opportunity to work with the dedicated State Board members is what drew Lance to the position. "I loved seeing passionate students from all over Nebraska run for the State Board," she said. "It was incredible to attend the conference and see all of the amazing work that students have done for their communities over the past year."

continued on page 37



1 / The current Gateway Scholars.
2 / Guests gather before the spring celebration begins.

Minority Nursing Students Honored at Gateway Scholar Spring Celebration

The Clarkson College community gathered on April 13 in Howard Hall for the Gateway Scholar Spring Celebration to honor the 2017-18 Gateway to Success Minority Nursing Scholarship recipients. Staff members, friends and family were present to share in the scholars' accomplishments.

"This event brings scholars and their key supporters together to celebrate their accomplishments for the academic year."

Attendees mingled, enjoyed lunch and watched a slideshow featuring photos from past Gateway Scholar celebrations. College President Dr. Tony Damewood began the event with a welcoming message that reflected on the nearly 20 years since the Gateway Scholarship program's creation. He also expressed his admiration for this year's recipients, commended them on their ability to achieve their goals despite adversities and thanked attendees for their support of the program and its scholars.

Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña addressed attendees following Dr. Damewood. Dr. Orduña was instrumental in developing the Gateway Scholarship program, and she has witnessed more than 60 minority nurses graduate from the program since its establishment. She offered the recipients advice and shared quotes from Dr. Maya Angelou to inspire students as they continue working toward completing their Nursing degrees.

The celebration continued as Dr. Orduña, along with Gateway Program Faculty Mentors Marilyn Russell and Jennifer Renken, recognized each of the Gateway scholars. Recipients received a certificate acknowledging their success in the Undergraduate Nursing program as their family and friends watched.

"Many of our scholars do not take the time to recognize their accomplishments because they are so busy with their lives as students," said Russell. "Many of them are first-generation college students, and their family and friends may not understand the many challenges they face on a daily basis. This event brings scholars and their key supporters together to celebrate their accomplishments for the academic year."

Following the presentation of certificates, Renken introduced Brenda Clark-Hamilton, a dynamic keynote speaker who provides perspectives on leadership, communication and team building. She discussed strategies

to keep moving forward despite struggles and challenges. Her engaging presentation focused on overcoming negative thoughts and the importance of remaining dedicated to achieving long-term goals.

Clark-Hamilton's presentation reflected the message that Renken and Russell aim to impart on the Gateway Scholars. Renken hopes the program and celebration remind students of their accomplishments and encourages them to lead a brighter future in nursing. "I believe that the Gateway scholars bring a different perspective to the nursing field and undergraduate education as a whole," said Renken. "The relationships and knowledge that I gain each year while working with these individuals allows me to provide better communication and guidance to all of my students."

About the Gateway to Success Minority Nursing Scholarship

Clarkson College offers the Gateway to Success Minority Nursing Scholarship

in partnership with Nebraska Medicine. The program provides increased opportunities for minority students pursuing an education in nursing.

Clarkson Regional Health Services and Nebraska Medicine fund the scholarship to support a select number of qualified minority students each year. Each recipient receives \$10,000 per academic year for four years provided that they continue to meet the scholarship requirements.

Upon successful completion of the recipient's first academic year in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the scholarship offers a summer internship at Nebraska Medicine, which provides \$5,000 in additional funds. To date, the scholarship program has graduated 63 Undergraduate Nursing students.

BSN Student Named Image of Nursing Chair During Annual Conference

continued from page 35

Students elect State Board members annually during the one-day conference that draws hundreds of nursing students together. This year, convention attendees also browsed the convention hall, visited with vendors and networked with employers. Motivational speaker and finalist on the *Survivor* television series, Holly Hoffman, addressed the group and offered inspirational advice to help students as they continue their health care career path.

SNA hosts the annual conference to provide guidance, support and diverse learning opportunities that encourage students' unique development as they become nursing professionals. Organization leaders establish activities and events to instill confidence, individuality and proficiency in group members as they transition from the classroom into the workforce.

These local chapter and statewide events allow Lance to fulfill her duties as Image of Nursing Chair and build lasting relationships with her fellow nursing students. "I am looking forward to doing more throughout the year in my position and creating more exposure for Clarkson College, SNA and the nursing profession," she said.

HIM Program Faculty & Students Achieve Excellence

Program members stand out at the national and state levels

Since the College implemented the Health Information Management (HIM) program nearly 20 years ago, its students and faculty have continued to achieve distinction among their peers. Clarkson College community members continue demonstrating their devotion to the profession by earning top awards and distinctions within the field.

Director Named NHIMA Distinguished Member

The Nebraska Health Information Management Association (NHIMA) recently named Health Care Business and HIM Program Director Carla Dirkschneider ('07) a 2018 Distinguished



Carla Dirkschneider

Member. Only 27 individuals have received the award since 1985, and Dirkschneider joins the list of professionals honored for their outstanding contributions to NHIMA and the HIM field.

Organization members nominate award winners based on their credentials, leadership skills and contributions to the profession. "Being named a NHIMA Distinguished Member means a great deal to me," said Dirkschneider. "When I look at the previous award winners, I can't help but think that they are a phenomenal group of HIM professionals who remain dedicated to advocating for the profession and moving it forward."

The award honors individuals who exhibit a strong commitment to the HIM profession and NHIMA by promoting the organization's goals across the state

of Nebraska. Dirkschneider has held numerous roles within the organization since becoming a member in 2003, including a term as President of the Board of Directors in 2015. She actively participates in state and national HIM conferences and remains dedicated to educating future professionals.

"I am honored to be a NHIMA member," said Dirkschneider. "I will continue striving to uphold the organization's values and live up to the expectations of being a Distinguished Member."

Sadiq-Ali Presents at HIMSS Conference

HIM student Nadine Sadiq-Ali presented a poster at the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) national conference held March 5-9 in Las Vegas, Nev. Sadiq-Ali's presentation examined health care interoperability, which allows providers to share patient information with one another to improve care and communication.



Nadine Sadiq-Ali

medical record systems, sharing patient information isn't seamless," she said. "It is important to educate the public about why organizations should support standardized communication systems for health care providers."

The subject is becoming increasingly crucial to the future of health care, which is why it was Sadiq-Ali's topic of choice. "I focused on this topic because despite having modernized

Sadiq-Ali had the opportunity to connect with other HIMSS members, network with information technology organizations, and attend lectures on cutting-edge HIM technologies and topics during the conference. More than 300 education sessions covered varied topics that included privacy and cybersecurity, data analytics, innovation and entrepreneurship, population health, and health information exchange.

HIMSS is a global voice and leader of health transformation through health information and technology. The organization aims to drive innovative thinking pertaining to information technology use in support of better patient care. Their more than 70,000 members lead efforts to improve health engagement and outcomes using information and technology.

Morgenroth Finishes AHIMA Term

Clarkson College HIM student Elizabeth Morgenroth completed her term on the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Student Advisory Committee (SAC) this year. She and her fellow committee members spent their term working to encourage and influence other HIM students in their professional pursuits.

Students must be AHIMA members and enrolled in a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) to apply for and join SAC. Morgenroth and peers planned educational events and webinars, advocated for the profession, and networked with HIM experts during their one-year term. Together, they developed their leadership skills and engaged with students across the country.

SAC collaborates with AHIMA leadership and members to create new resources and opportunities for HIM students. Their goal is to assist students as they transition from the classroom into the complex health information workforce and establish their careers.

New DNP Director Ready to Lead Program to Success

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program continues to advance to meet the changing needs of the nursing field. Leading the program through its transition is Amberly Wagner-Connolly, DNP, MSN, RN, who became the program's new Director in May.

Dr. Wagner-Connolly is a Clarkson College alumna who graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2004 and her Master's degree in Nursing in 2011. Her passion for the field inspired her to continue her education, and she went on to receive her Doctoral degree in 2016 from Creighton University. She became an instructor in the Clarkson College Professional Development department in 2007 and eventually moved to

The opportunity to work with future nursing leaders as the Director of DNP was too good for Dr. Wagner-Connolly to pass up. "I love the nursing profession and helping other nurses achieve their goals and dreams, and I knew that this position would be a great avenue to continue to do so," she said.

Her recent work with developing and implementing the BSN to DNP program option at the College gave Dr. Wagner-Connolly a solid understanding of the DNP curriculum. Her new role will allow her the opportunity to guide the direction of the program and work closely with students as they earn their terminal degree. "It is such an exciting time in the nursing profession and health care world," she said. "I feel blessed to be able to play a role in helping nurses at the forefront of this change."

Dr. Wagner-Connolly hopes to be an asset to current and future students so that they are ready to take on advanced leadership roles in health care. "My goal is to follow in the footsteps of the other Clarkson College programs to develop and sustain one of the best programs in the U.S."



Dr. Wagner-Connolly

"My goal is to follow in the footsteps of the other Clarkson College programs to develop and sustain one of the best programs in the U.S."

a full-time faculty position in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. In 2010, Dr. Wagner-Connolly became a Graduate Nursing faculty member working with students earning advanced degrees in the nursing field.

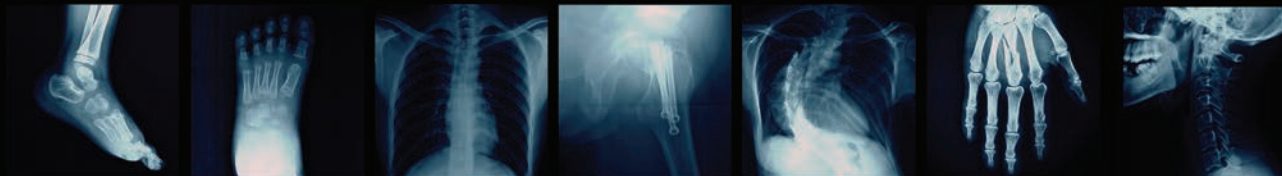


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