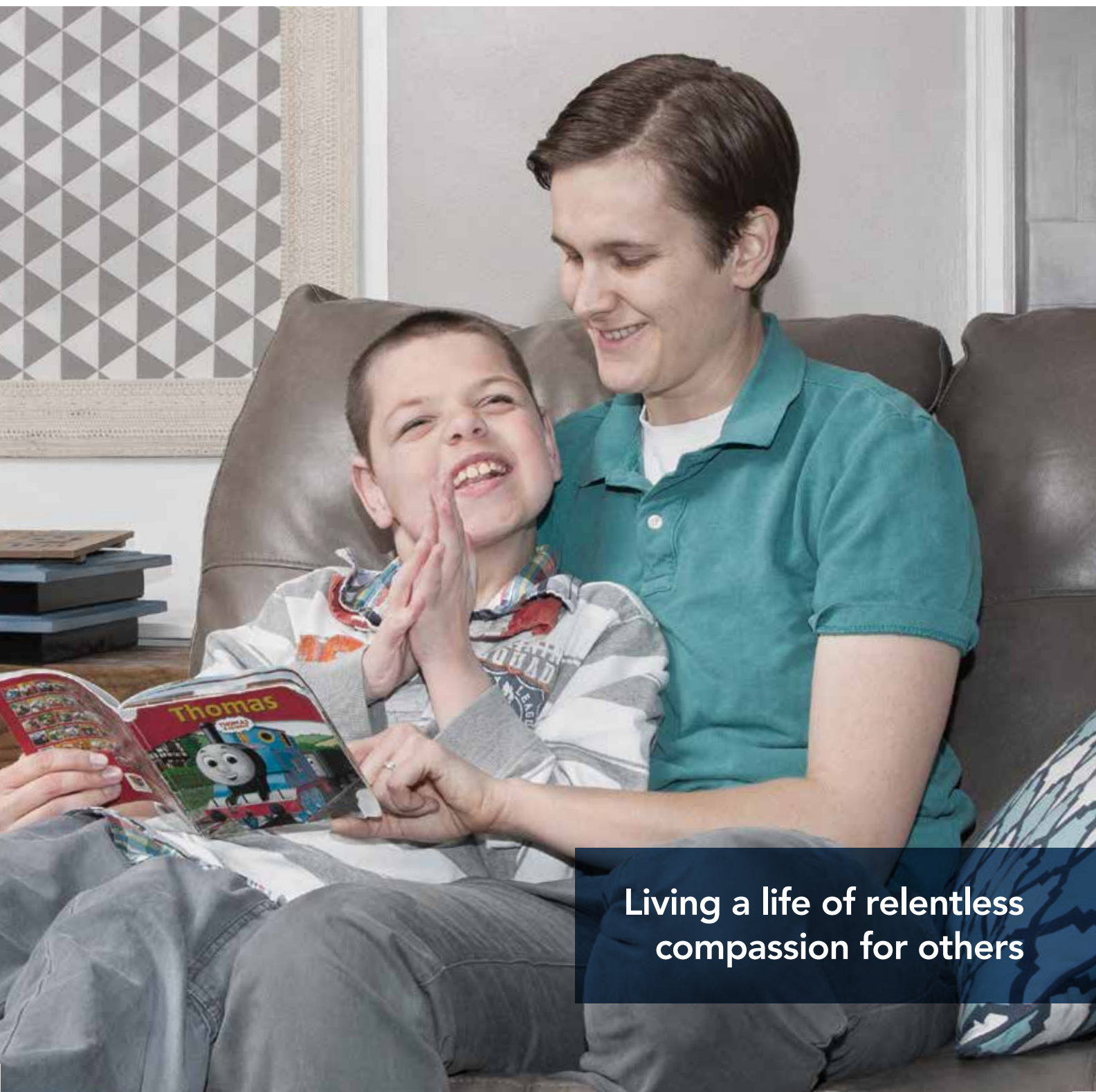


Winter  
2016 Issue

# Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Living a life of relentless  
compassion for others



Every time Clarkson College student graduates, we can feel the world around us growing that much more well-off. This all stems from our Mission—a Mission that fuels determination from within and depends on the commitment of our students, faculty and alumni to keep it alive. Individually, we are working toward a common goal. Together, we can see all the ways our shared efforts are making a difference.



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The Alumni Times is a quarterly publication that is distributed by the Alumni Association of Clarkson College. Direct all story and photo submissions, changes of address or publication inquiries to Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu), via phone at 402.552.3516 or via mail at 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.



**On the Cover**  
Alumna Robyn Horstmann and her son Detroit. **18**

PHOTOGRAPH BY Jeff Linowski



Making a difference one patient at a time.

Health care workers are often called heroes until something unexpected happens, and then the frame of reference changes. It is during adversity when one can really make a big difference. But making a difference is not about being a big hero—it is simply about leaving a patient feeling a little more cared for than when he or she first met you.

There are many diverse, noteworthy and heartfelt ways that health care workers make a difference for patients and families—every day. Often, these differences go unnoticed and many times forgotten. As you receive feedback

We all forget that just doing our job impacts the experience each patient remembers for a lifetime.

from patients and their families, take a moment, each time, to reflect upon the context and how it relates to your personal passion for working in the health care field. We all forget that just doing our job does impact the experience that each patient has and remembers for a lifetime. We move on to the next task at hand, but the patient goes home and reflects on every interaction that happened while in our care.

We have all heard the stories about how long the procedure took, how big the needle was, how close to tragedy the situation could have been, but we don’t give it another thought. We keep moving and take care of the next task, patient or family member.

When I see a letter of appreciation come across my desk, I am most interested in hearing what our patients say about the care they receive and how it made them feel. It has been my experience that families remember the little things that we do for them and how we made them feel important during a time when they had very little control. They remember the people who cared for them and the people who assisted with both the clinical and non-clinical aspects of being a patient.

We all make a difference with each interaction we have with a patient just by doing our job and being mindful of each unique situation. Being mindful takes effort. It is easy to get distracted, normalize situations and resort to working in autopilot mode. The Clarkson College Mission has always been to encourage lifelong learning. Professional growth and collaboration allow us to stay out of autopilot mode and to stop and reflect upon both the individual differences that we have made for patients, as well as the collective difference that we all have contributed to make health care a safe, reliable industry one patient at a time. How many patients and families have you impacted today? I would guess more than you realize!

Nicole Hardin



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

Noteworthy

Ready to get back in touch with your classmates? Check out this year’s alumni events on page 7 to make plans to attend and reconnect. We’d love to see you!

Nominate & Celebrate

Honorary Alumni Award

The Honorary Alumni award is given to individuals who are not Clarkson College graduates, have a strong commitment and extraordinary leadership to the College and have made significant contributions to its well-being in support of its Mission and goals. Up to three awards may be granted annually.

Selection criteria

- › Has contributed significantly to the betterment of the students and alumni of Clarkson College.
- › Has shown extraordinary loyalty, involvement and identification with Clarkson College.
- › Has distinguished him/herself by a special service to the College or to the community in which they reside.
- › Manifests qualities of strong moral principles worthy of recognition.
- › Monetary contributions are not considered as criteria.

Please print clearly.

Nominee information

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

Employer information

Employer

Employer Address

City/State/Zip

Position/Title

Education

Degree(s) earned (institution, degree type and year obtained)

Essay & application instructions

In 350 words or less, describe why this person should be chosen for the Honorary Alumni award. List the reasons according to the selection criteria. If available, attach his/her resume or C.V.

Nominator information

Name

Phone

E-mail

Signature

Award deadline

Nominations must be postmarked or received no later than Feb. 28.



## A Warm Welcome to Campus Visitors

Your donations helped revamp & give life to College lobby space

ARTICLE BY Rita VanFleet PHOTOGRAPHY BY Nicole Bonk

The Alumni Association, College Facilities and Marketing have worked together to enhance the first floor lobby space of the main campus building. A wall displaying the portraits of former Clarkson College President Dr. Patricia Perry and current President Dr. Louis Burgher on a rich wooden background greets visitors and warms up the lobby's entrance. Updated furniture sitting on a new area rug donated by the Alumni Association serves as a nice waiting space for students and visitors. The Clarkson College brand colors of midnight navy and spring green adorn the north wall mural opposite the entrance, bringing the space together and reminding all of what the College stands for with a statement that reads: "At Clarkson College, we not only prepare you for a career in health care; we nurture the caring spirit you were meant to share with the world."



## Holiday Lights Tour Helps to Spread Cheer of the Season

ARTICLE BY Rita VanFleet PHOTOGRAPHY BY Nicole Bonk

Many alumni and their friends took a break from the rush of holiday preparations to enjoy an evening of fun. On Thursday, Dec. 10, they boarded a motor coach for a two-and-a-half hour holiday lights extravaganza tour. The bus wove its way along some of the most beautifully decorated holiday light areas in Omaha. Nativity displays, Santa and his reindeer, Christmas trees holding hundreds of lights—all were aplenty as the bus toured several different areas. "Ohs" and "ahs" were heard as these brilliant displays were viewed. The festive atmosphere on the bus kept the spirit of the season alive. It was a truly enjoyable evening and one that the Alumni Association hopes to offer again next holiday season.

## Celebrating With Your Alma Mater in the New Year

Mark your calendars, grab a few pals and participate in this year's alumni events.

### March: Decorated Table Trivia Brunch

March 5 10 a.m. to noon Howard Hall

Pick your trivia-savvy friends to sharpen their wits and let imaginations loose during this fun annual event. Hosts are needed to sponsor tables of eight (\$10 per person/\$80 per table). Each table needs a theme with decorations and decor supporting the table theme. Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated themed table and the table with the most trivia victories.

### June: Wine Tasting

Come join us for an evening of music, wine and fun enjoying the great outdoors of Nebraska at Soaring Wings Vineyard this June.

### July: Annual Golf Tournament

Tee off with us at Pacific Springs Golf course in July for an evening full of mulligans and aces.

### September: Alumni Weekend

Celebrate with your alma mater as we honor the anniversary classes of 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1991 on Sept. 15-16 in Omaha, Neb. Alumni Weekend is a wonderful way to reconnect with your classmates and participate in the annual brunch, alumni meeting, campus tour, Heritage Garden Walk, Omaha trolley tour, continuing educational event, and an evening of dinner and entertainment.

Full details of our June, July and September alumni events will be included in the spring issue of the Alumni Times and on the Clarkson College website. If you have questions or would like to participate in this year's festivities, contact Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).



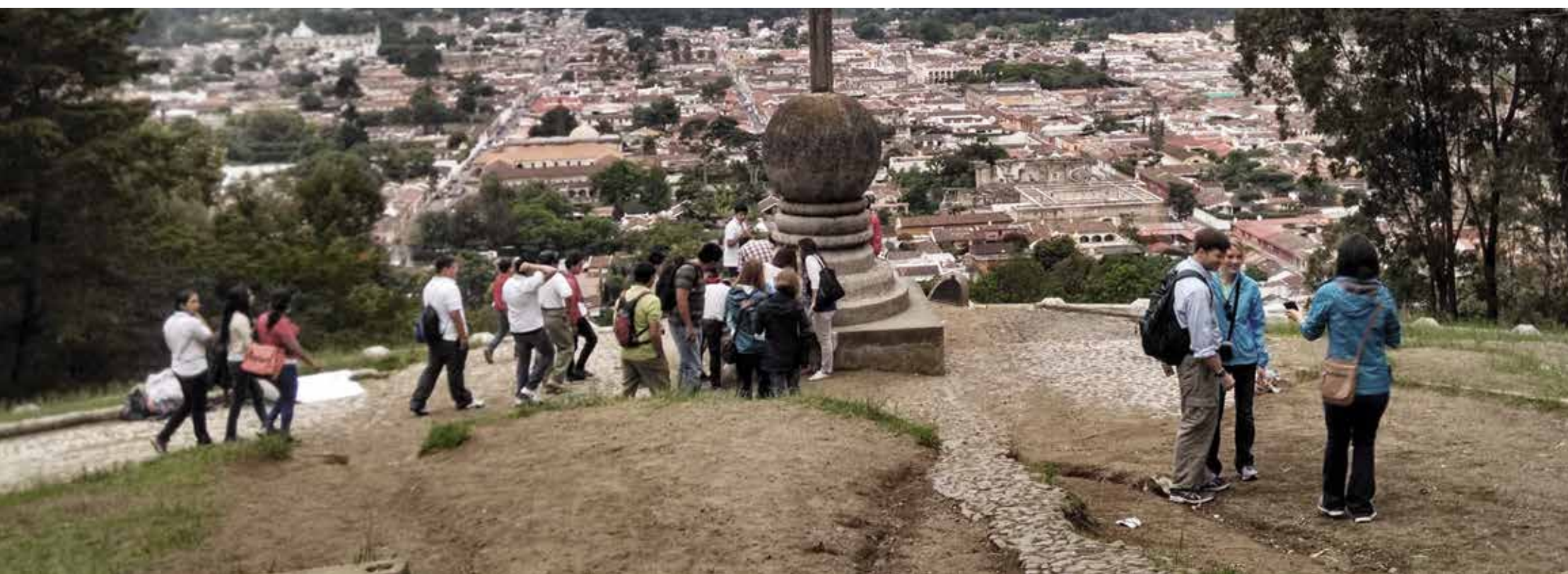


# Extending Their Gifts to Guatemala

Married nursing alumni make a difference far from home

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF Angela & Nicolas Delaney

Millions of people travel to Central America each year to visit the area's opulent temples, soaring cathedrals and serene sandy beaches. The escape from everyday working life and the opportunity to exert as little physical and mental energy as possible are typically on the travel itinerary. For married couple and Clarkson College BSN alumni Nicolas and Angela Delaney, the experience down south was different in all respects.







Angie, at far left, and members of her missionary team blessing a family through prayer.

**In June 2014**, Nic and Angie spent six days in Guatemala using their skills as registered nurses to aid many of the ailing townspeople of Chimaltenango, a city of some 120,000 people known for its specialization in textiles and pottery. They were two of the 10 health care professionals who attended as part of a group mission trip offered through their church in Houston, Texas.

Their team consisted of two medical doctors, one physician's assistant, four registered nurses, two medical technicians and one seminary graduate. "It was so cool to be a part of this team of people," says Angie. "We all had different gifts and abilities, and each person played a significant role as we served the people of Guatemala." During their six-day visit, the team offered free clinical examinations at three different locations in Chimaltenango and examined an estimated 420 people.

Local missionaries opened up their residence, called a "restoration home," to the Delaneys' church group. Angie describes the home as a "peaceful retreat perched on a plush hill overlooking the city, where travelers, church teams, friends and families could gather and get rejuvenated."

In preparation for the mission trip, the team of providers ordered medication and supplies, such as gauze, tape and blood pressure cuffs, from a company in the U.S. They used their stock to form "La Farmacia" at each clinical site, where they could prescribe antibiotics for common ailments like skin and upper respiratory infections, as well as treat gastrointestinal issues or pain from chronic arthritis.

Patients checked into the clinical sites by signing a piece of paper with their name and listing their chief complaint. As they waited their turn to be examined and diagnosed by the doctors and PA, the nurses obtained vital signs and offered their prayers. Patients who received an Rx could "fill" their prescriptions free of charge at "La Farmacia," where Angie was stationed the majority of the time.

Filling prescriptions involved counting out pills, placing them into Ziploc® bags and writing instructions for administration in Spanish on the outside of the bag. "Even though they were so gracious and patient with us," says Angie of the patients, "we were trying to be as efficient as possible so they didn't have to wait all day." A local man and assistant to the missionaries named Julio stepped in to help the short-staffed team. "You would have thought he was a pharmacist!" jokes Angie. "He dove right in to help us fill prescriptions and made sure everyone understood how to take the medication and what it was for—such a fun memory!"

Angie speaks minimal Spanish, and Nic knows the language well enough to conduct a basic head-to-toe assessment. A few of their church group members spoke fluent Spanish, and the local missionaries also recruited several translators to assist at the clinical sites. "We sure wished we would have been able to speak more and have a real conversation with the beautiful people we met," says Angie.

Toward the end of the trip, the mission group grew wary of running out of medication, particularly Tylenol, Ibuprofen and vitamins. "The amount we distributed seemed far more than what we had brought with us, but we somehow ended up having enough," says Angie. "It was neat to see how God fulfilled the need," she adds humbly.

"Their hearts of gratitude were absolutely incredible. They had such faith, love and joy even in the midst of poverty and sickness. I want to be more like them!"

ANGIE DELANEY, BSN ALUMNA

One limitation the group did have was the level of care they could provide. "We didn't have any diagnostic equipment like a CT, X-Ray, lab, etc., so the providers had to rely solely on their physical assessment skills even though there were a few patients they saw who clearly needed more medical care than we could offer," says Angie. The team referred such patients to a local physician at a nearby hospital.

As fulfilled as they felt at the end of each day, the Delaneys also witnessed some very difficult scenarios where a heartfelt prayer was the only form of prescription they could offer. Angie recalls a case involving a boy in a wheelchair, about 12 years of age, who they believed to have a severe form of cerebral palsy. "While it appeared he was loved and cared for by his mother and family members, it was evident they were overwhelmed by the amount of care he needed." The boy's pants looked as though he soiled himself, which Angie attributes not to intentional



neglect but to a lack of resources and challenging circumstances, including the difficulty in lifting or transferring him when needed. “Oh, how I longed to see this little boy leap out of his wheelchair!” she expresses. “My heart so broke for him and his family, and I wish we could have done more.”

The Delaneys were also humbled by the kindness and perseverance of their patients. There were times the mission group handed out bags of 15–20 Ibuprofen pills and felt badly that was all they could do, especially knowing some of the patients could benefit from so much more. “But the patients responded

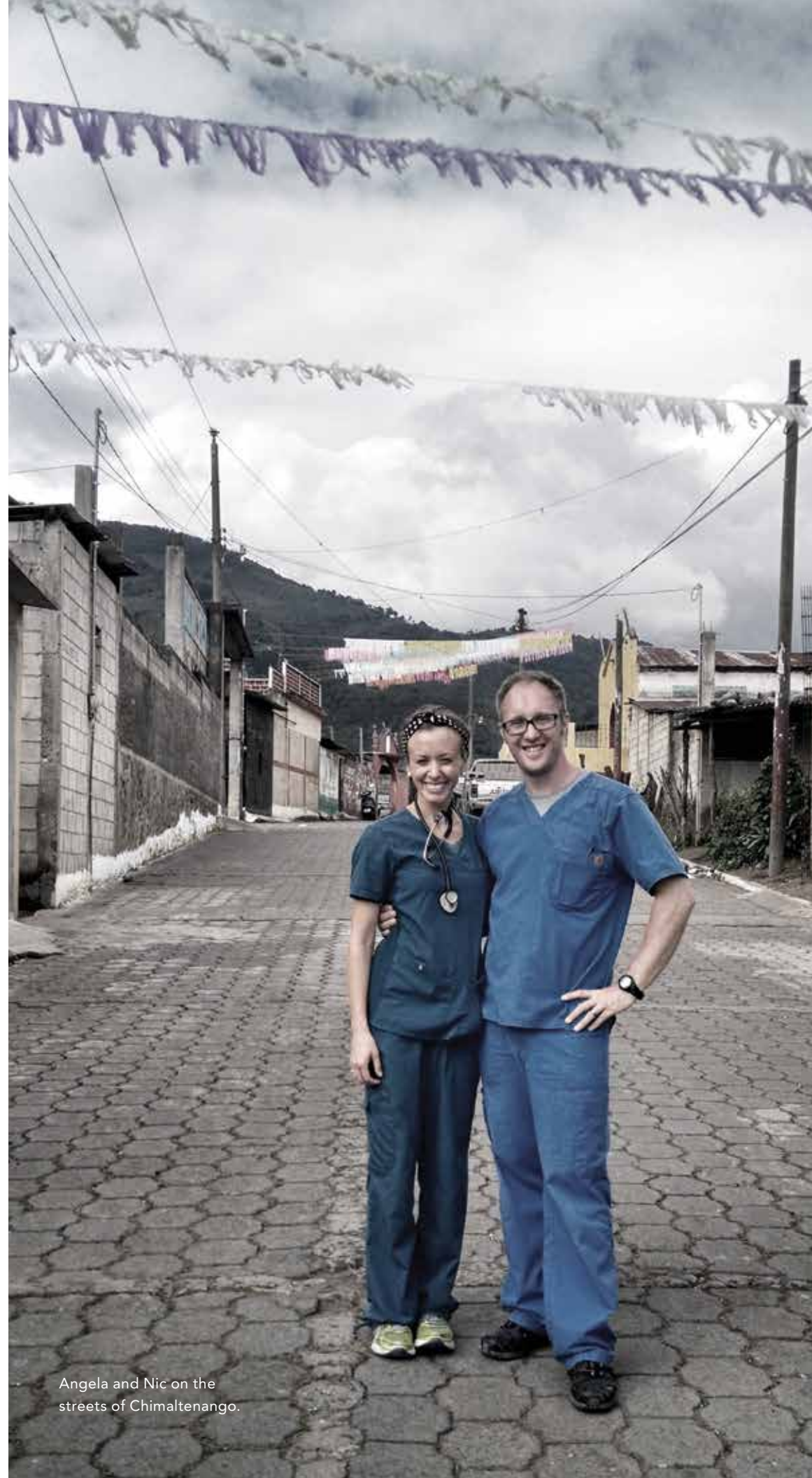
“It was a blessing to see the team excel and for the missionaries to be blown away by how many people we were able to provide care for.”

NICOLAS DELANEY, BSN ALUMNI

as though they were just given a thousand bucks.” Angie says in amazement. “Their hearts of gratitude were absolutely incredible, and they had such faith, love and joy even in the midst of poverty and sickness. I want to be more like them!”

Nic echoes Angie’s admiration for the Guatemalans’ unwavering gratitude. “So many times in the U.S. people take their care for granted and can even be downright rude to those caring for them,” he shares lamentably. “In the 420+ patients we saw, not a single person was ungrateful, and this touched many of our hearts.”

As the designated leaders of the mission trip, the Delaneys also learned how caring for their own team members translated into better care for the townspeople. “This being our first time [leading a trip], it was a blessing to see the team excel and for the missionaries to be blown away by how many people we were able to provide care for,” Nic shares. “This taught me a great lesson in terms of the impact of leadership.”



Angela and Nic on the streets of Chimaltenango.

One of the Delaneys’ greatest gains from the trip was the relationship they developed with Pat and Charlie, a retired, married couple originally from the U.S. “They were truly inspiring people,” says Nic. “They both had amazing stories and a genuine love for the people.”

Pat is the missionary of the restoration home where the church group stayed. She was inflicted with polio as a young girl, which has left her dependent on crutches and leg braces. Despite her physical impairments, she travels along cobblestone roads daily to visit her friends and neighbors.

“While Pat and Charlie could be living near their family and enjoying a quiet life in the U.S., they have chosen to spend their retirement years serving the beautiful people of Guatemala,” says Angie admirably. The couple operates a school in the town and has worked to provide educational and spiritual care for its inhabitants. The lack of medical care prompted them to invite the team of medical professionals to come provide a week of physical examinations.

Guatemala was not Nic or Angie’s first mission trip experience. Individually, they developed a passion for church-based, service trips early on in their lives, which led them each to pursue a career in nursing. Both in their former lives and now, they firmly believe that God seeks to express love and grace to the world through tangible acts of service, like providing health care to people who may not otherwise be able



The local newspaper ran an article discussing the clinics, featuring an image of Nic taking a patient’s blood pressure.



We would love to hear where your career has taken you. Share your story with us at by e-mailing [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).

to afford or have access to resources. This belief is what compelled them to go to Guatemala. "We had never been on a mission trip together," says Angie. "Every year, our church sends out several teams of people to different places for different missions, so when we heard about the Guatemala trip and that it had a medical focus we were immediately interested!"

The Delaneys highly recommend that anyone given the opportunity should experience a mission trip at some point in their lives, especially those involved in health care who, Nic and Angie feel, have such a skill to offer to others. "I can almost guarantee it will change you and challenge you," says Angie passionately. "We feel so very grateful and blessed by our personal experience in Guatemala. It is so amazing how you go on a trip like this with the intention of giving and serving people, but then you come away feeling more impacted and blessed by them than they are by you."

The Delaneys moved to Houston nearly four years ago when Angie received a job on a neurosurgery unit. Shortly after returning from Guatemala in summer 2014, she changed specialties and now works in labor and delivery. "I am loving it," she says enthusiastically. "Not many people can say they go to work where every day is a birthday party!"

Nic works in the emergency department at the Texas Medical Center. "We see anything and everything due to it being the largest medical center in the world, and we treat patients from every corner of the earth," he shares.

Nic and Angie added parenthood to their life résumés last May and say they are loving it more than they could have dreamed. With all of the genuine love in her heart, Angie says she and Nic hope to take little Sophia with them on their next medical mission trip, wherever that fortunate place may be.



Angela, fourth from the right, with a portion of the missionary team. Pat is pictured at far right.



A breathtaking view from the missionaries' restoration home during the Chimaltenango visit.





# Taking Her Expertise to Spain

## A conversation with Katie Kirkpatrick, General Education Assistant Professor

Day in and day out, Clarkson College faculty commit themselves to enlightening students to become well-rounded, caring health care providers. Every once in a while, that impact extends beyond the campus border—or even across seas.

General Education Assistant Professor Katie Kirkpatrick had the distinct honor of presenting at the 2015 International Leadership Association Conference (ILA) held in Barcelona, Spain Oct. 14–17. The conference’s theme, Leading Across Borders and Generations, explored how different generations perceive and experience the concepts of borders (literal and metaphorical) and leading. She gave an individual panel presentation titled “Doctoral Student Writing in Leadership Programs: Emerging Trends for Pedagogical and Curricular Best Practices” and co-presented “Scholar and Business Practitioner Collaboration: Opportunities and Best Practices.”

Katie has been expanding minds at Clarkson College since 2009 and is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies at Creighton University. Here, she shares how she and her work are contributing to the emerging topic surrounding this year’s ILA Conference.

### Was this your first time visiting the city of Barcelona?

In 2000, I traveled to Barcelona for the first time with a friend, and we backpacked across Europe for the entire summer on unlimited Eurail passes. It was an unforgettable experience. We saw many, many cities and countries, but I always remembered Barcelona as one of my favorite cities on the trip, so I was excited to visit the city again.

### How were you selected to present at the ILA Conference?

The opportunity arose via my current research endeavors, which focus on doctoral students in online leadership programs. I had two proposals accepted to the conference. I presented “Doctoral Student Writing in Leadership Programs: Emerging Trends for Pedagogical and Curricular Best Practices,” which focused on my preliminary review of literature. I also submitted a proposal to co-lead a workshop on scholar-practitioner collaboration with my colleague, Stephen Brody, from Greenleaf Financial Services.

### Can you describe the room on your presentation day?

I presented Thursday morning, Oct. 15 with Stephen Brody. We had a well-rounded audience from some rather big organizations. Some of them used our workshop to create collaboration opportunities for academic institutions, and some of them used our workshop to create collaboration opportunities for larger international businesses. The ILA attracts leaders from all walks of life, and it was interesting to see such an array of applications for the same concept.

I presented my individual panel presentation on Oct. 17 with a great panel of presenters—all on doctoral leadership students. Some discussed programmatic issues, some discussed progression issues. It was a great panel and discussion all around. We had a very full audience for that presentation, and most of them were from academic backgrounds, likely due to the topic.

Regarding the crowd, at last count, I believe there were over 1,000 attendees from approximately 53 different countries. I met individuals from the UK, Africa, South America, Canada, Australia, and of course Europe. The conference was in English, but I definitely heard accents from all walks of the globe.

### What was it like presenting in such an eclectic setting?

I enjoyed presenting in a different country with a different culture. The conference was in English, but hearing about how the same issues affect individuals from around the globe in different (and similar) ways is enlightening. I learned that the writing issues I am finding in American doctoral students are just as relevant in the UK, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

### Did this experience affect you or the way you view your profession in any way?

The main impacts on my profession were in relation to my current research. Before leaving for Spain, I had heard from a faculty member in my doctoral program that my topic was not germane to leadership studies, which had somewhat deflated me. However, after presenting

on my findings thus far, it became clear that many individuals in leadership studies were extremely interested in the topic. Multiple individuals approached me after my presentation wanting to exchange cards and receive a copy of my presentation. It was gratifying to know that my work is relevant, after all.

### What did you and your husband do in your free time?

Mark and I had a blast in our free time. Of course, we saw some of the sites, such as the Sagrada Familia [the city’s monumental cathedral and original creation of Spanish architect Antonio Gaudí], but we are more meanderers when we travel, so we did a ton of walking, did a little shopping, ate lots of delicious tapas, drank some lovely wine, and just enjoyed each other’s company and the company of everyone we met. Everybody was so nice! My husband also added to his tattoo collection while I was at the conference on Thursday.

### Have you had the opportunity to present in any other countries?

No, but I had a proposal accepted to Vancouver, Canada earlier this fall, but the opportunity in Barcelona arose, so I chose the latter. I hope my future holds at least a few more opportunities for international presentations. I would not hesitate to do it again.

### Do you have a final note?

It was a great opportunity. The ILA Conference was fascinating, and Barcelona is a beautiful, energetic city with tons of art, architecture, culture and just a plain good vibe.







ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# ROBYN HORSTMANN

ARTICLE BY Rita VanFleet  
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF  
Robyn Horstmann & Jeff Linowski

GIVING BACK CAN BE MORE THAN  
A SEASONAL ACT OF KINDNESS;  
IT CAN BE A LIFELONG ADVENTURE.

There are some people in the world who really make a significant impact on others. Clarkson College alumna Robyn Horstmann is truly one of those individuals.

Two major life events drove Robyn to pursue a future in nursing. As a small child, she accidentally pulled some industrial cleaning products off a countertop and was instantly covered in their deadly chemicals. She was transported via life-flight to an Omaha hospital. Due to her injuries, the medical staff expected Robyn to suffer from vision damage. Overtime, however, she fully regained her eyesight and accredits her remarkable recovery to the outstanding care she received while hospitalized.

Years following the chemical spill accident, Robyn's grandmother passed away due to a missed diagnosis. Her loss, which may have been prevented if caught and treated, was the final motivation behind Robyn's decision to pursue a nursing degree.

After investigating several nursing schools, Robyn chose Clarkson College. She felt the institution offered a clear path to obtaining her BSN degree, and she was confident her education would lead to a strong starting point in her nursing career.

Robyn and her adopted 9-year-old son, Detroit, enjoy one of his favorite pastimes, playing with Thomas the Train.



Now, nearly seven years since graduation, Robyn works as a pediatric RN for Craig Homecare and Ambassador Pediatrics in Omaha. She cares full-time for a ventilator dependent patient with spina bifida in his home. She enjoys her time with him, especially when they watch movies. "Shrek" is one of his favorites. They have fun giggling while they quote lines from the movie.

Robyn's nursing career is only part of what makes her so compassionate. In 2012, she adopted a little boy, Detroit, with CHARGE Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder involving a series of congenital anomalies that can occur together. Her son has congenital heart defects, developmental delays and is tube-fed but is high functioning for his diagnosis.

Robyn's initial contact with Detroit was when he was 3 years old. A trach and ostomy placed him in long-term care at the Ambassador, where she was his pediatric nurse. Robyn was deeply affected every

time Detroit went home from the hospital with his biological mother. She had a hard time envisioning him not in her life and missed seeing him daily.

Unfortunately, Detroit's biological mother was ill-equipped to care for him and was referred to Child Protective Services. Recalling how well cared for her son was during his time at the Ambassador, Detroit's mother asked Robyn if she would take her son in, who was 5 years old at the time. Robyn was extremely grateful she was given the opportunity to adopt Detroit. "I felt sad that this woman who obviously wanted the best for her son knew she couldn't be that," she relays. "I also felt honored that she could tell how much I loved him and knew I would take good care of him."

Detroit moved into his new home with Robyn and remained there as the adoption paperwork was processed. On Oct. 29, 2012, 6-year-old Detroit legally became Robyn's son. More than three years

have passed since that life-altering day, and Robyn describes the joy she's felt in watching Detroit grow. "He's a sweet and engaging little boy," Robyn says. "His giggles light up my days." They enjoy their trips to Target and Hy-Vee and swimming in the summertime. Disney movies are Detroit's favorite, and he is a fanatic about all things train related, especially "Thomas the Train." Detroit's bedtime is a special time for them. They have fun playing, and he giggles with the tickles and kisses she gives him.

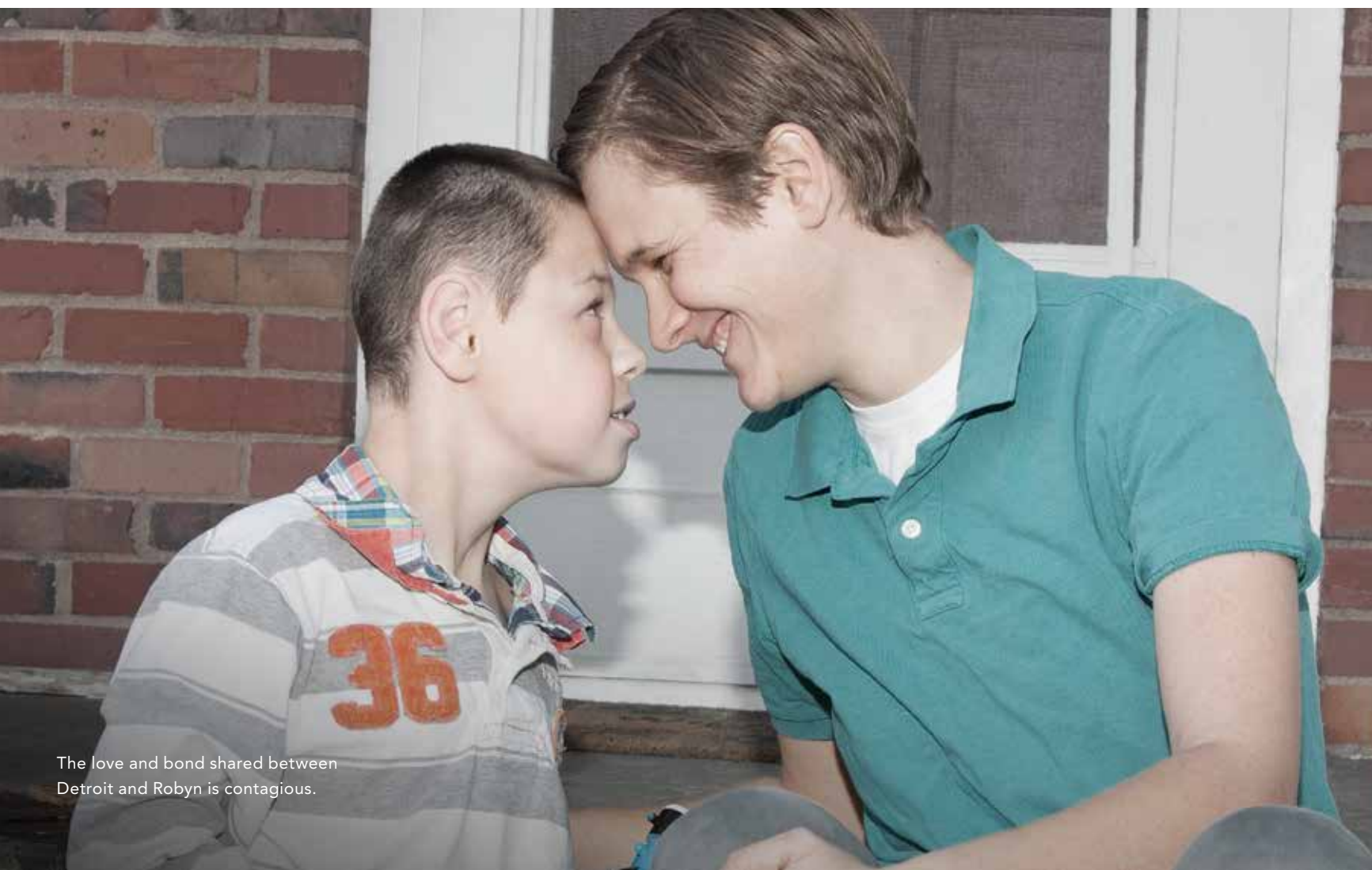
Robyn shares her experiences with other moms who have adopted special needs children. "If I could start all over again, I would certainly take the same path," she says. "When I was younger, I did not want to foster, adopt or work with pediatric patients. I kind of fell into the job with pediatric patients at the Ambassador, and now I can't imagine anything else."

Adopting a special needs child is not the only way Robyn is making a difference. While she was in school at Clarkson College, she also worked in the third floor transplant AICU unit at Nebraska Medicine as a patient

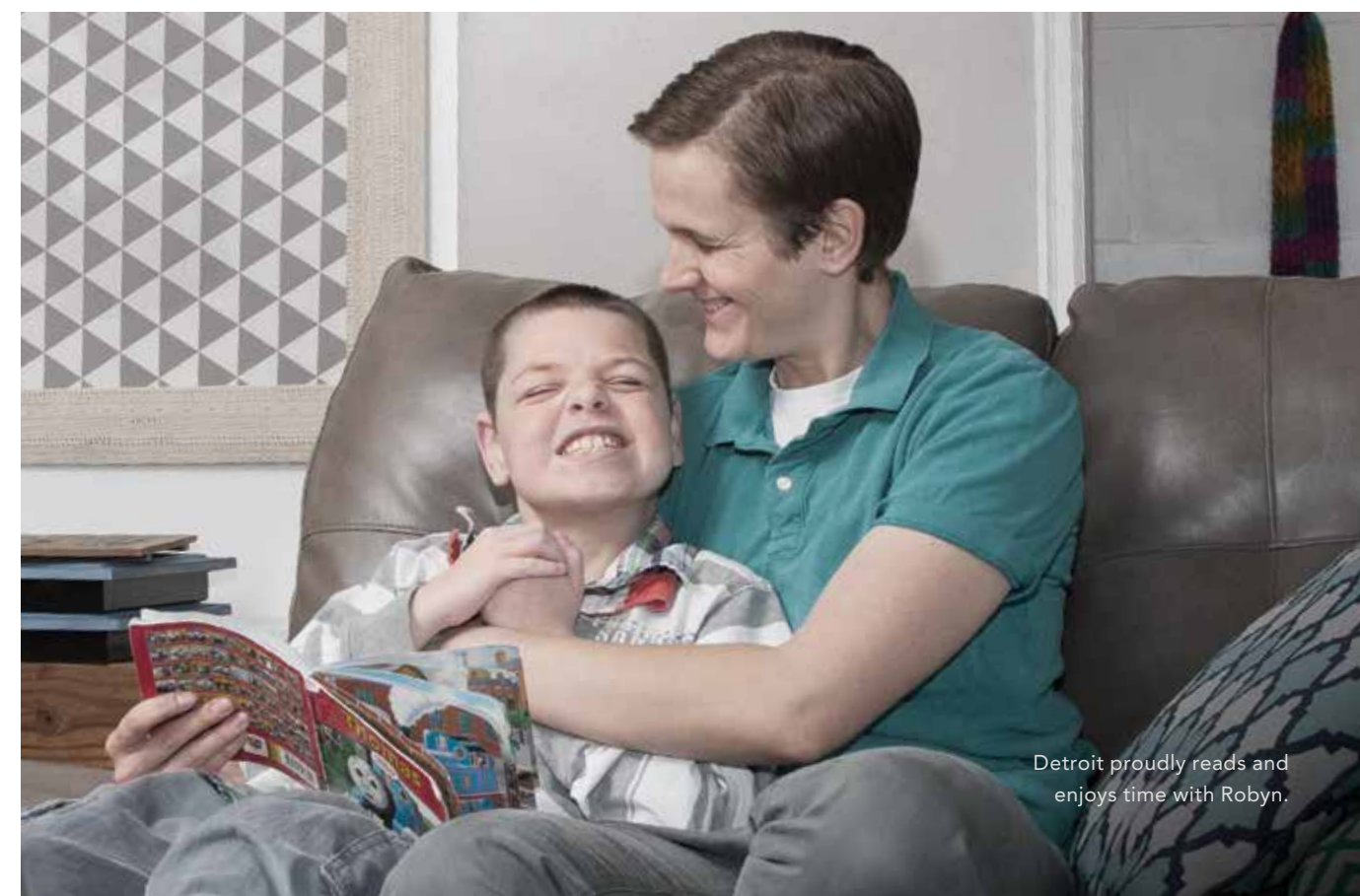
care tech. For years, Robyn had donated blood and platelets but wanted desperately to help those patients who were not fortunate enough to ever receive a transplant. A higher level of giving seemed like a logical next step for her.

"I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THE NEED TO  
HELP OTHERS...AND EXPLORE THE  
AREAS IN WHICH I CAN BEST SERVE."

To achieve this, she registered to become a bone marrow donor. When she was called upon to donate to a patient in Chicago, she readily accepted. She made her donation through a bone marrow donor center called Delete Blood Cancer DKMS. She credits her employer, Craig Homecare, for giving her great assistance in this endeavor. They paid for her time off and assisted in modifying her work hours to accommodate her travel and recovery.



The love and bond shared between Detroit and Robyn is contagious.



Detroit proudly reads and enjoys time with Robyn.



Prior to her actual donation, she underwent a series of tests to make certain she was as good of a match as they hoped and that she was healthy enough to donate. She also underwent counseling and was told that if she backed out within a week of donation, the recipient would already have received a round of radiation to wipe out his immune system and bone marrow, making his chances of living very, very low without Robyn's cells.

Robyn was given a general anesthetic for the donation procedure. The bone marrow was harvested from her pelvic bones. Following the procedure, she was given a transfusion of her own blood. All of the health care professionals she encountered after the procedure thanked her many times. She fondly recalls a nurse practitioner who told her, "you saved a life today," and then shook her hand. "That was the coolest thing," Robyn remembers.

Recovery was much quicker than Robyn expected. She had four or five small incisions on each side of the backs of her hips, making walking and rolling over in bed extremely painful for the first three days. She was given adequate pain medication, slept a lot for the next week and had very little energy. "Going to lunch after sleeping 12 hours exhausted me enough that I slept another three," she says.

Robyn's bone marrow was given to a 22-year-old male with lymphoma who resided in Europe. One year after her donation, he went into early relapse. Robyn didn't hesitate when asked to donate t-cells. She underwent a donation via an apheresis-type procedure and was hooked up to the machine for eight hours as blood was drawn from one arm, spun to extract the necessary amount of cells and returned through an IV in her other arm.

It was hard for Robyn to sit still through the procedure. She asked for Ativan to relax, and she was able to spend a lot of the time sleeping. For about six weeks following the t-cell donation, Robyn's pulse would sometimes rise above 100 beats per minute, causing her to feel dizzy. She was registered to run in the fall 2014 Omaha Half Marathon but had to scale back on her training to ensure she didn't pass out while on a run.

Despite some of the nuances with her recovery, Robyn would not hesitate to donate again. "It is an understatement to say that it was an intensely rewarding experience," she says. "I have always felt the need to help others. The focus Clarkson College has on service provided guidance and direction for that and encouraged me to explore the areas in which I can best serve."

The adoption was final Oct. 29, 2012 and was a life-changing day for both Robyn and Detroit.



Have a story to share? Contact Rita VanFleet to let us know how you're making a difference.

Robyn and Detroit on the front porch of their home.



# Earning Honors, Enhancing Programs & Expanding Campus

An annual outlook and summary from the Clarkson College President

ARTICLE BY Dr. Louis Burgher

The 2014-15 academic year brought many unexpected honors and accomplishments for Clarkson College. The College received several national academic recognitions during the year, which included:

- › *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Clarkson College 21st out of 133 eligible institutions in the nation in the category of 2015 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs. This is the fourth year *U.S. News* released a Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list and the fourth time Clarkson College achieved a high-ranking status in that sector.
- › *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Clarkson College 19th in the category of 2015 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs for Veterans. This is the third year *U.S. News* released rankings for this category and the third year Clarkson College made the list.
- › Bestcolleges.com ranked the Clarkson College Master's in Health Care Administration program 9th in the nation and first in Nebraska on the basis of acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates.
- › The Best Schools.org ranked Clarkson College 5th in the category of Best Online Associate in Health Information Technology (HIT) Degree Programs.

- › BestOnlinecolleges.org named Clarkson College one of the nation's best online graduate programs offering a Master's degree in Health Care Administration and ranked us 4th for Best Online Associate's in Health Information Technology degrees.
- › AffordableCollegesOnline.org ranked Clarkson College 10th in the category of 2015 Best Online Colleges in Nebraska and third for highest return on investment (ROI).
- › BestColleges.com ranked our RN to BSN program 19th in the nation on the basis of acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates.

We have begun work in preparation for our upcoming 2019 accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission and celebrated the launch of the previously accredited Doctor of Nursing Program (DNP) this fall.

## Academic Programs

As illustrated above, the academic programs all have had continued success. This is reinforced by the fact that our programs have successful board pass rates and employment rates compared to national averages. Many of the programs have updated curricular components to their programs, such as:

- › The Nurse Anesthesia program has improved curricular evaluation components both in the classroom and clinical sites.
- › Doctoral programs saw curricular improvements designed to increase marketability.

- › A research analyst was hired to assist research support for all graduate programs.
- › The Health Care Business program completed revisions of the undergraduate programs' curriculum to include transfer options for its bachelor's degree programs. Students transferring in with an accredited associate's degree can now earn their bachelor's degree in as little as two years. The new transfer option, also called the 2+2 program, was formed to increase job marketability for students and improve articulation agreements with various businesses and community colleges.
- › New courses were developed for the Health Care Services program, which includes gerontology, public health and human services concentrations.

## Finances

Once again, Clarkson College ended the year with a positive variance of \$1.2 million. Our budgeted tuition and fees will increase 4.3 percent. Even with the slight increases, the College remains as the second most affordable private college in Nebraska.

## Enrollment

Prior to the fall semester, Clarkson College expected a one percent increase in credit hours, which was three percent above budget projections. During the last year, our ratio of credit hours to FTE has decreased from 193 to 187, which we see as positive in terms of quality of instruction. The enrollment projection

of 1,250 students for the fall 2015 semester was right on the mark, resulting in 1,254 students setting another school record.

## Facilities

As an outcome of the annual strategic planning process, the College opened its second simulation lab last May complete with the latest model of tetherless and wireless maternal/fetal simulators for use in actual point of care training.

The vacation of the Ed-Tech building (Villas) was completed this fall, with plans for additional student parking in its place.

A major facilities project this past summer and early fall was the replacement of the main building roof, and we continue to update the window blinds throughout the facility. Looking ahead, the College has plans to acquire new space from Clarkson Family Medicine.

Clarkson College continues to be successful in achieving our Mission to prepare students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services. Feedback from graduates shows they feel prepared to be the best and are employed. Nebraska Medicine, our educational partner, continues to experience exciting growth, and we are proud to be a part of the success.



# Mark Your Calendar: Career Fair for Health Professions

ARTICLE BY Stefanie Green

On Thursday, March 31, Clarkson College will host its third annual on-campus Career Fair for Health Professions. In previous years, more than 40 employers have shared information about their organizations and their open positions with students and alumni, and this year's event is shaping up to be even stronger. Along with the three-hour career fair, a series of professional workshops will provide job-seekers with a wealth of career-related information before, during and after the fair. Topics to be discussed include interview and presentation skills, resume writing, professionalism, and social media strategies.

## Participate & attend

Clarkson College alumni are encouraged to participate in a few ways. First, alumni are invited to attend the career fair to seek out potential job and networking opportunities. A full list of exhibitors and available positions will be available one week before the fair at ClarksonCollege.edu/career-fair-info.

Another way alumni can support the event is to register as an exhibitor on behalf of their employer. If your organization is seeking qualified health care candidates, the Career Fair for Health Professions would be a great place to start the search. To register as an exhibitor, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/career-fair.

## Event background

Hosting the Career Fair for Health Professions is one part of a College-wide initiative to support students and alumni in their professional paths. As a jobseeker or a hiring manager, we hope you take advantage of this event as a means to drive your own professional growth and further the success of your organization. If you would like more information about the Career Fair for Health Professions, contact Stefanie Green at skrdlastefanie@clarksoncollege.edu.

NOTE: Workshops will be accessible online after the event.

## CAREER FAIR FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MARCH 31 1 – 4 P.M.

CLARKSON COLLEGE, HOWARD HALL  
101 SOUTH 42ND ST. OMAHA, NEB.

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Resume Writing Workshop

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
Interview & Presentation Skills  
& Tips for Creating an Effective Elevator Speech

3 – 4 p.m.  
Professionalism Workshop & Social Media Dos & Don'ts

The College continues to be successful in achieving our Mission.





1



2



3

1 / A handful of the students, staff and pups who participated in the PTA 5K walk/run. 2 / Radiologic Technology students discuss their gift wrapping game plans. 3 / SGA President Kalen Knight and his sister/Clarkson College alumna Danielle Knight load the Giving Tree gifts into "Santa's Sleigh" to take to Children's Square.

## The Giving Spirit Spreads Across Campus

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager  
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF Clarkson College Student Organizations

Several months leading up to the holiday season, the spirit of giving at Clarkson College flowed gleefully through the campus air. Calls for donations and helping hands appeared left and right, each one supporting a different cause or population. Combined, the goodwill of alumni, students, faculty and staff was significant.

### PTA 5K Walk/Run

On Saturday morning, Oct. 31, 69 Clarkson College students, employees and family members (and a few pups) completed a 3.1-mile trek along the Field Club Trail in midtown Omaha. The participants, many of whom were dressed in their Halloween best, were all voluntarily walking and running in the third annual PTA (Physical Therapist Assistant) 5K event.

The PTA 5K walk/run aims to achieve three main objectives: To celebrate October as National Physical Therapy Month; 2) to promote physical activity and wellness among students and the community; and

3) to obtain food donations for the Open Door Mission. This year, participants donated 224 pounds-worth of food, beating last year's record by more than 50 pounds.

The PTA 5K came into fruition in fall 2013 as part of an assignment for the PTA 215 Therapeutic Exercise II course, which students complete in their second academic year. "In the course, I teach physiology of exercise, and I wanted the students to see the application of those physiological principles first-hand," says Dr. Michelle Reilly, Assistant Professor and PTA 5K faculty coordinator.

Once all PTA 5K participants crossed the finish line, the event coordinators held a raffle drawing that included Chipotle and Starbucks gift cards, chocolate treats and a "Biggest Loser" gift pack.

### Choose to Give

Clarkson College held its fifth annual Choose to Give campaign in November. The fundraising effort invites College

employees to donate to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship fund. After three weeks of campaigning, faculty and staff members raised a total of \$10,528. Seventy-four (nearly three-fourths of full-time employees) contributed to the fundraiser, which is more than any other year. Last year's donations funded three undergraduate scholarships. The 2016 Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship recipients will be selected in early spring.

### SGA Giving Tree

Carrying on an annual tradition, the Student Government Association (SGA) set up a Giving Tree in the lower level of the Student Center and invited employees and students to select an ornament and purchase a gift for one of the young boys and girls at Children's Square USA, a life education center that provides services to children and families in the community.

"We honor this tradition because it is one of the ways SGA can get the entire Clarkson College campus to work together to make sure children have

a gift to open up on Christmas," said SGA President, Kalen Knight. Within a matter of weeks, the giving community at Clarkson College cleared the Giving Tree of its ornaments. On Dec. 3, SGA members delivered gifts for 73 children and infants at Children's Square.

### RTSA & Lambda Nu Adopt a Family

Since 2008, Clarkson College Radiologic Technology students have raised funds to provide a family in the community with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, presents and more. The students are paired up with a family through the Omaha-based Calling the Hope Revolution into Service (CHRS) organization. This year, the Radiologic Technology Student Association (RTSA) and the Lambda Nu Honor Society members adopted a family of eight—a great grandmother caring for her six great grandchildren and one granddaughter.

Together, the RTSA and Lambda Nu students donated and delivered Thanksgiving meals to the family on

Tuesday, Nov. 24. On Dec. 17, the RT students organized an entire day of shopping for and wrapping gifts the family had requested. That same evening, they personally delivered the gifts to the family and even surprised the children with a visit from Santa Claus. The students took photos of the children with Santa and mailed the family print copies a few days later.

### Omicron Epsilon Donates to a Family in Need

The Clarkson College chapter of Omicron Epsilon Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing partnered with the Social Work department at Nebraska Medicine to make a difference this year. Together, the groups adopted a family in the community. The honor society contributed \$125 that went toward gifts for the family.





## Extending Support During Finals Week

The College community makes a difference one semester at a time

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Clarkson College Residence Hall & Marketing Department

Those two weeks scrunched between Thanksgiving and fall graduation can be pretty painstaking for students faced with final semester projects and exams. Knowing stress levels are higher than normal, several groups and organizations throughout the College made an effort to show their support and offer students a breather from their long, mentally-draining study sessions.

For starters, the Alumni Association carried on the tradition of bringing therapy dogs from Love on a Leash to campus the first two days of finals week. For an hour on Dec. 7–8, the kind canines graced more than 140 hard-studying students with their warmth and affection. The few

minutes to step away from their textbooks, interact with the dogs and their owners and grab a light snack provided by the Alumni Association were very calming and appreciated by students.

The Student Government Association (SGA) took a less soothing approach to help their peers keep up the fight during finals week. On Wednesday, Dec. 9, the association hired a pancake and sausage catering company to offer students a comforting mid-day meal. More than 150 students shuffled in and out of Howard Hall to get their stack of freshly-made flapjacks—many of which were tossed at them in the air. Those in need of a caffeine jolt enjoyed a free specialty coffee

drink, while others chilled out with a smoothie—all made-to-order by Jo-on-the-Go Espresso Catering. Dr. Kris Hess, SGA Professional Advisor and Director of Student Services, said many students voiced their thanks for the study break and the free, all-you-can-eat provisions.

Parents of students living in the Residence Hall were able to deliver their support straight to their son's and daughter's dorm room. In early November, Residence Hall Council (RHC) members sent out letters to notify parents of the opportunity to make a donation to go toward a finals week care package for their student.

Those who were keen of the idea mailed in a check, and RHC members and Residence Hall Coordinator Susie Rand got busy purchasing a multitude of study snacks to fill the packages, which varied in size to give parents a choice. Many packages contained a Clarkson College Residence Hall cup and a note written personally by the students' parent(s) wishing them luck on their exams.

Rand believes it is important to offer the residents encouragement as they work their way through the final few weeks of the semester. "This is their home!" she said. "We want to make sure they feel safe and supported here."

A week before finals week, RHC also delivered smaller packages containing hot chocolate, candy and apple cider to all residents. Rand said the idea was the same: to offer a little boost for finals week, and a chance to warm up from the cold weather, too.

The hope of the Alumni Association, SGA and RHC was to encourage and bring a dash of cheer to students so anxious and eager to wrap up the fall semester. Judging by the smiles that filled campus that week, their efforts made a noticeable difference.

1 / Care packages ready to be dropped off at dorm rooms.  
2 / Students enjoy tail wags and a study break during finals week.  
3 / Breakfast for lunch served as the perfect mid-finals week treat.



## December Capstone Project Summary

Capstone projects were presented by the graduating master's degree-seeking students on Dec. 11. The Alumni Association continues to utilize an appointed subcommittee of the Alumni Board to review the Capstone abstracts and after evaluation of each one according to a prescribed rubric gives certificates for the three top abstracts.

This semester, first place honors went to Michelle Doty for her abstract *The Effectiveness of Using the LACE Index to Decrease 30-Day Hospital Readmission in Congestive Heart Failure* (advisor Dr. Pat Coyle-Rogers). Whitney Knuth's abstract *Implementation of the Pediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) Education & Nurse Action Algorithm* was awarded second place (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg), and third place was awarded to Leah Anderson for her abstract *Effects of Nebraska Legislative Bill 107 on the Nurse Practitioner Student's Intention of Independent Rural Practice* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier).

***The Effectiveness of Using the LACE Index to Decrease 30-Day Hospital Readmission in Congestive Heart Failure by Michelle Doty***  
Congestive heart failure (CHF) is a chronic disease that may put patients at high-risk for hospitalizations and hospital readmissions. Readmission rates are becoming an area of great concern for hospitals due to the decrease in payment that may be received due to government penalties. Many high-risk CHF patient readmissions may be avoided or reduced if patients are set up with the appropriate interventions upon dismissal. The purpose of this study is to validate the effectiveness of the use of the LACE Index as an indicator of high-risk patients with CHF and if the results assist in a decrease of 30-day hospital readmissions. A retrospective chart audit

was conducted on CHF admissions and 30-day readmissions on patients ages 21 and over. Chi-square analysis was used to interpret the data. The data revealed that the most significant finding is that readmissions were reduced when the discharge care coordinator identified a high-risk patient and arranged a dismissal intervention for the patient. The data also showed that there were no significant findings when using the LACE Index for low-risk CHF patients, indicating the LACE Index is best used when working with high-risk patients. The study also showed insignificant results in high-risk CHF patients that were not set up with an intervention at dismissal. The LACE Index may be beneficial to identify high-risk CHF patients and direct the discharge care coordinator to arrange dismissal interventions for these patients to reduce the risk of a 30-day readmission.

***Implementation of the Pediatric Early Warning Score Education & Nurse Action Algorithm by Whitney Knuth***

The care and treatment in oncology/hematology pediatric patients has significantly improved over the years. However, critical acute events, such as sepsis and treatment side effects, can still occur and cause serious complications and illness. Delayed recognition of these events and timely application of crucial interventions can be associated with poor survival and significant morbidity (Parshuram et al., 2011). The Pediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS) is a risk assessment tool that can provide forewarning time. It can alert the health care team and professionals to refocus their plan of care, avoiding situations such as Rapid Responses and Code Blues (Akre et al., 2010).

*continued on page 32*

### DECEMBER 2015 Graduate Capstone Projects

**JUANITA ALVAREZ-HALL** *Monitoring of Vital Signs for Patients Acuity Level 2, 3 & 4 in the Bellevue Emergency Department Per Protocol*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**DAWN ALLSMAN** *Clinically Indicated vs. Routine Rotation of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**NATALIE BARTELL** *Synthroid® vs. Armour® Thyroid Medication Treatment in Hypothyroid Women*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**BIANCA BRAXTON** *Scrubbing the Hub: Evaluating Nursing Practice in Utilizing the Proper Evidence-Based Guidelines in an Urban Hospital Setting*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**MEGAN CHANNELL** *Incidence of Administration of a Nondepolarizing Neuromuscular Blocker to Prevent Succinylcholine Induced Myalgia: A Retrospective Study*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**JOANNA COE** *Inter-Operative Intravenous Acetaminophen: Reducing Post-Operative Opioid Consumption*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**LAURA CONNETT** *Factors That Influence Job Satisfaction in Family Nurse Practitioners*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**RYAN DEUSHANE** *Postoperative Hypothermia: Effects of a Fluid Warming Device on Patients' Postoperative Temperature*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**GINA DITTA-DONAHUE** *Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: Primary Care versus Specialty Care Weight Loss Approach*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

**CLARE EHRISMANN** *A Self-Assessment of Student Nurse Anesthetist Awareness Levels*

*Regarding the Costs of Inhaled Anesthetic Agents*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**SAMANTHA FARNUM** *Teaching Adherence to Renal Dietary Restrictions Using Modeling Education in Hemodialysis Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**TRISTA GAEBEL** *The Impact of Transformational Leadership Style on Employees' Level of Engagement Following the Implementation of an Electronic Medical Record*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

**JULIE GIVENS** *Medication Literacy in a Rural Primary Care Setting*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**RACHELLE GOODIN** *Alzheimer & Dementia: Exercise Effectiveness on Undesirable Behaviors in Elderly Residents*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**STACY GOODY** *A Retrospective Chart Review of Receiving Traditional Wound Care Alone or with Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatments*, advisor Dr. Steve Hardiman

**ANDREA GRADY** *A Business Plan for Rural Physician Retention*, advisor Dr. Bill Koile

**JILL GREEN** *Education Regarding Optimal Timing of Taking Blood Pressure Medication & Its Perceived Importance*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**CYNTHIA HARMS** *An Educational Plan Regarding Established Service Level Agreements for an IT Service Desk*, advisor Dr. Tony Damewood

**MINDI HENRY** *Palliative Care & 30-Day Readmissions for the Hospitalized Congestive Heart Failure Patient*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**JEAN HINRICHSEN** *An Evidence-Based Brochure on the Benefits of Genetic Testing for Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 for Primary Care Providers*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

**KELLEE JINDRA** *Use of Chlorhexidine-Impregnated Dressings in the Pediatric Population*, advisor Dr. Steve Hardiman

**HEATHER KIRKPATRICK** *The Effects of a Smoking Cessation Algorithm on Nurses' Self-Efficacy & Behaviors Related to Patient Smoking Cessation Counseling*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**JACLYN LIEWER** *Palliative Care Knowledge Among Nurses of Different Specialties*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

**NICOLE LIVESAY** *Primary Prevention of Domestic Violence*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**BRIAN LOTHROP** *Evaluating the Level of Stress of Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists through Social & Personal Elements*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**ADELE LOVE** *Identifying Perceived Barriers to Accessing Palliative Care on a Progressive Care Unit*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

**AMBER MALCOLM** *Caregivers' Perceptions of Barriers to Children's Healthy Eating & Physical Activity Behaviors*,

advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**TYLER MARSHALL** *Perioperative Pain Management in Patients Undergoing Primary Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Study on the Effects of a Multimodal Analgesia Protocol on Perioperative Pain*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**SHAUN MCEUEN** *The Use of the STOP-Bang Questionnaire as a Tool to Determine the Relationship between Obstructive Sleep Apnea & Difficult Intubation*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**JOSEPH MITCHELL** *Healthcare Administrator's Perspectives on Factors of Success for Information Technology Implementations*, advisor Carla Dirkschneider

**TRACY MITCHELL** *Diabetes Education: Use of an Online Teaching Module to Enhance Diabetes Knowledge*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**EMILY NELSON** *Assessing Perceptions & Coping Mechanisms in the Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**EMILY OSTRANDER** *The Effect of Home Health Intervention on CHF Hospitalization Rates*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

**ERICA POPP** *The Flipped Format in a Medical/Surgical Registered Nurse Residency Program: An Active Approach to Developing the Professional RN*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**SHEILA REIFENRATH** *Satisfaction with Implementing Nurse-Driven Discharge Instructions for Heart Failure*

*Patients in the Emergency Department*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

**MINDI ROYSTER** *Sepsis: the Effects of Antimicrobial Therapy on Mortality & Length of Stay in the Adult Emergency Department Patients Who are Diagnosed with Sepsis & Meet the SIRS Criteria*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**KAREN SAXTON** *Nurse-driven Urinary Catheter Removal Protocols & Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection Rates in Trauma Patients: A Retrospective Study*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**ZACH SCHIFFERBAUER** *Assessing Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist Ability to Manage Intraoperative Emergencies Using Simulation*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**VALERIE SHAW** *The Perceptions of Student Nurse Anesthetists of Clinical Preparedness after Simulation Training*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**NATHAN SKERIES** *The Effect of Clinically Indicated Peripheral Intravenous Site Changes Compared to Routine Peripheral Intravenous Site Changes (96-hour) on the Incidence of Phlebitis*, advisor Dr. Aubrey Orduña

**KRYSTAL SUNDERMAN** *The Perceptions of Senior Nurse Anesthetist Students in their Preparedness to Manage an Episode of Malignant Hyperthermia*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**JOHN SWANHORST** *Effect of Overcrowding on the Emergency Nurse's Morale*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier



## December Capstone Project Summary

continued from page 30

The purpose of this study is to determine if the implementation of PEWS and nurse action algorithm could improve nurses’ skills in early identification and intervention of deteriorating pediatric patients in an oncology/hematology infusion center. The outcomes were determined by a pre- and post-survey completed by associate’s or bachelor’s degree prepared nurses who range in experience from one to 25 years and volunteered to participate. The descriptive analysis of the study found that the responses received from the responding staff to both surveys were primarily positive. Furthermore, the PEWS process did aid with their confidence and knowledge in caring for oncology/hematology patients by defining clear interventions and interpretations of assessment findings. Further recommendations for future studies include assessing the number of Rapid Responses and Code Blues with the implementation of PEWS, as well as auditing patient charts to determine the correct use and success of PEWS.

### Effects of Nebraska Legislative Bill 107 on the Nurse Practitioner Student’s Intention of Independent Rural Practice by Leah Anderson

The Nebraska Legislature passed

Legislative Bill (LB) 107 allowing nurse practitioners, following certification and 2,000 hours of supervised practice with a physician, to practice independently with full authority or practice with a nurse practitioner or physician collaboratively. With 32 million new Americans in the health care system following the Affordable Care Act, the demand for primary care providers increased (Schwartz, 2011). There are approximately 6,100 rural and urban designated primary care health professional shortage areas (U.S. Health & Human Services, 2014). The problem is rural areas lack physician availability, and independent nurse practitioners address these shortages. The study purpose investigated the plans of family nurse practitioner students to utilize LB 107 to its fullest potential of full practice authority and establish an independent rural or urban clinic. Following a synthesis of full-practice authority literature and LB 107, the researcher created a PowerPoint presentation. The quasi-experimental design tested the effects of the PowerPoint presentation with a pre- and post-test survey of Clarkson College family nurse practitioner students enrolled in the NS 832 and NS 844 courses. Significant findings were a 16 percent change of nurse practitioner students reporting a plan to practice in the state of Nebraska (N = 18, pre =

44 percent, post = 60 percent), and an 11 percent change of nurse practitioner students planning a rural practice (N = 18, pre = 12 percent, post = 33 percent).

### Learn more and read up

Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Simply visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at <http://bit.ly/1mfiVI3>. 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 calling 402.552.3387 or sending an e-mail to [library@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:library@clarksoncollege.edu).



## Mystery Photo

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

Making a difference in others’ lives isn’t something that can be taught. It’s the gentle touch, kind embrace, encouraging words and attentive caretaking that speak volumes. Do you know this compassionate nurse and where she was serving newborns and their families?

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

## DECEMBER 2015 Capstone Projects

**SHELLY TIBKE** *Sexually Transmitted Infections & Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Educational Perceptions of College Students*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**DAWN TINGWALD** *The Effects of Rapid Response Teams on Nurses Stress Levels in*

*the Emergency Department*, advisor Deb Boucher Payne

**SCOTT VIGNAL** *What is the Relationship Between BMI & Completion of Cardiac Rehabilitation for Post-Open Heart Surgery Patients?*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

**MAKAELA WAGNER** *Increasing Earlier Admission to Hospice*, advisor Bradley Pfeifer

**FELICIA WESSEL** *The Impact of Education on the Detection & Treatment of Perinatal Depression*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**JARED WHITING** *The Effect of Angiotensin Converting Enzymes (ACE) Inhibitors on Blood Pressure During Laparoscopic, Orthopedic & Spine Surgeries*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**CASSANDRA WILLIAMS** *Relationship Between Diabetic Neuropathy & Depression in Patients with Diabetes Type II*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock



### MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

## That's the Spirit

A heartfelt hurrah to College Facilities Director Chuck MacDonell. Your collegiate wisdom proves that Clarkson College pride never fades.

### Chuck MacDonell, Facilities Director

I think I might know those students in the “mystery photo” within the latest Alumni Times. Jen (Murtle) Sinos, Andrea (Brezinski) Birkel and Mike Hartman.



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

1940s

Florence Mortensen Cline ('44)

My husband Gene and I observed our 94th and 93rd birthdays this year and our 73rd anniversary Oct. 10. Yes, we eloped

and kept it a secret while I was in training and he was in the Navy.

1960s

Jane Hoesly Conley ('65)

I have three children and six grandchildren. I retired six years ago as a surgical nurse. My hobbies include horses, gardening, kayaking, biking and low tech-iPad and trak phone.

My daughter and I "did" NYC this past fall. We had a great time seeing plays and visiting museums.

Janey Hogg Walch ('66)

I'm retired and living in the Southwest. I enjoy watercolor painting, time with family and friends, a good game of Mah Jong and traveling in and out of the U.S.A.

Ruth Briggs Siefert ('66)

I wonder why the class of 1966 is so silent. I would love to hear from and about them.

1970s

Nikie Hooker Herrera ('70)

Retired October 2014 from Methodist Hospital where I worked for 21 years with Surgery West and then the Head & Neck Surgical Oncology department at Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center. Great experience. Clarkson School of Nursing prepared students well as we had great instructors. I am blessed with four grandchildren and spending more time with them. Two are in Denver and two are in Omaha.

Adele Kieffer ('75)

I feel very privileged to have attended Clarkson School of Nursing from 1972-75. It gave me a solid foundation for my military career and two nursing specialties in MS and Enterostomal Therapy. Thanks Clarkson School of Nursing.

Susan Bristol ('78)

Retired from Methodist Women's Hospital NICU in May. Working on my writing and first novel with the help of two wonderful writers' critique and one generative group. Dennis and I celebrated our 41st anniversary in June. He continues to work at ConAgra. Our three sons live in Omaha, Neb., Chicago and Salem, Oregon, so I plan to spend my retirement visiting them (Dennis will join me when he can) as long as my body holds out.

Diana L. Denker ('74)

Retired. I have two sons, Casey, 28, and Conor, 24. I served on the Board for Arvada Citizen Police Academy alumni, and I'm currently a member of Arvada Police Search Team.

1980s

Carol Engquist ('83)

Retired in 2008 from VA. Started in 2010 as full time nursing instructor and retired from there in 2014. Currently working as adjunct nursing instructor at Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne, Ind.

youngest daughter; then a trip to the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Montana with my oldest daughter and two grandsons; and I just got back from a really great trip to Ireland! Everyone said I should retire and travel, and I certainly have—but I still miss Clarkson Hospital and all the good people I worked with over the years! Retirement has been good but I never dreamt that I would be so busy.

Norma Hintz ('87, '88)

I have done quite a bit of traveling this past year. An educational trip to Washington, D.C. with 45 8th graders, including two grandchildren and my

2000s

Jennifer Flores Admire ('07)

During my time at Clarkson College, I learned a lot about community service and how to support a cause you believe in. In October, I decided to instill these values by running in the Lincoln Free to Breathe 5K Run/Walk for lung cancer

awareness and research. This is a cause that is very near and dear to my heart. My mother passed away from the disease in 2012. I'm glad I was able to run in her honor and raise awareness for a disease that affected 1,120 Nebraskans last year.

2010s

Jessica Thornton ('13)

I live in a small town in Iowa and work at a critical access hospital. At 1 a.m. Nov. 10, I awoke to my husband, Caleb, gurgling and shaking. He was unresponsive, appearing to be having a seizure, and there was no pulse. I immediately called 911 and began CPR until the local volunteer EMS arrived. At that time, I ran the code, and my husband was in V-tach (cardiac arrest). We delivered one shock, and he came back into NSR. I continued with the CPR process until he was loaded up and brought to the hospital where I work. From there, he was airlifted to Nebraska Medicine, where we stayed through November. He also received a new defibrillator device. You can read his full story at [gofundme.com/care4caleb](https://gofundme.com/care4caleb).

pursuing obtaining AED's in all of the local police cars because there aren't any available in our town. I've also began offering CPR classes to help prepare others when faced with similar life-threatening situations.

Taylor Niemann ('15)

I've just begun an MRI externship at Advanced Medical Imaging in Lincoln, Neb. I've already been offered a PRN position in x-ray, and a 24-32 hr/wk position in MRI. My manager also wants to cross-train me in CT as soon as I'm MRI certified. I feel like I've been offered my dream job. I love it and hope to spend my career here. I'm very excited about this opportunity, and I'm very proud that my Clarkson College education and hard work ethic gained from many clinical hours got me to where I am today!

I am so proud and thankful of my nursing education. Through this, I have started

In Memoriam

Jeannette Carder Tische ('43)

Died Sept. 23, 2015.

Estelle Nordmeyer Mortensen ('44)

Died Aug. 16, 2015.

Irene Jensen Thoreson ('44)

Died unexpectedly Sept. 8, 2015 in Monroe, Washington.

Ann Norene Lorenzen ('87, '92)

Died April 6, 2015 at Josie Harper Residence Hospice House in Omaha, Neb.



## Dunn Receives Nurse of the Year Award from Nebraska Nurses Association

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF Judi Dunn

The Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) presented Director of Professional Development Judi Dunn with the Nurse of the Year recognition on Oct. 2 during the association's two-day conference in Kearney, Neb. As described by the NNA, the Nurse of the Year Award focuses on outstanding achievement in nursing over a one-year period. The nominee must be directly involved in nursing through clinical practice, education, administration or research and have made a positive impact on the quality of nursing care or the nursing profession.

Dunn was recognized for her 10-year involvement with the NNA Continuing Education Approval Committee and, more recently, for her work as the Nurse Peer Review Leader for the

Midwest Multistate Division, a continuing nursing education unit of the American Nurses Association.

"I am humbled and grateful that the nomination committee sought to recognize not only myself, but all nurses involved in continuing nursing education," Dunn shared. "Although we might not be at the bedside, what we do is important to promoting quality nursing care and improving patient outcomes."

Other awards presented at the ceremony included Outstanding Nurse Educator, Excellence in Direct Patient Care, Notable New Nurse, Member Distinguished Service and Extraordinary Achievement in Nursing. Though different by descriptive

context, the purpose of each award is to recognize individual NNA members for their contributions to the organization and to the profession of nursing.

Dunn graduated with a BSN from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio in 1976. After working for a year, she began working on her master's degree at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colo. and graduated in 1978.

Her professional background primarily consists of community health nursing and pediatrics. "I have always been involved in some

form of education—whether it be for the community, individual clients or nurses," says Dunn. While in Colorado, she held a Center for Disease Control grant and was the statewide HIV/AIDS coordinator. In this role, she educated trainers on how to provide community and health care education related to preventing the spread of HIV and AIDs.

"Although we might not be at the bedside, what we do is important to promoting quality nursing care."

After moving to Nebraska in the late 90s, Dunn worked as a pediatric nurse for a few years but found herself gravitating back toward developing educational materials and the field of education, in general. "When I saw the advertisement in the Omaha World-Herald for the Coordinator of Continuing Education position here at the College (2002), I applied and was hired on," shared Dunn. "I was thrilled to be able to use my organizational skills in combination with providing quality educational opportunities."

Dunn's continuing education coordinator role quickly expanded to a director position that also oversaw a number of non-credit programs. She maintains that role today.



Judi Dunn, at left, stands alongside Terry Anderson, NNA President, during the 2015 Nebraska Nurses Association Nurse of the Year award ceremony.

## College Service Departments Welcome New Leadership

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager

### DIRECTOR, COLLEGE TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER SERVICES

Ryan Schurman, B.S.



Ryan Schurman joined Clarkson College in summer 2006 as a Systems Consultant Trainee. Upon graduating with his Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Nebraska—Omaha

in 2007, he was promoted to Systems Consultant. Just three months later, he advanced to Senior Systems Engineer, a role he carried out until this past September upon the retirement of his predecessor, Larry Vinson.

In addition to his more than nine years working with information systems and technology at Clarkson College, Ryan became a Microsoft Certified IT Professional in 2008 and a Cisco Certified Network Associate in 2009.

In his management role, Ryan aims to find new ways to tackle the ever-changing landscape of technology. "New technology comes out every day, and I enjoy finding ways to help the College use it in an effective manner."

Outside of work, Ryan enjoys spending time with his family at home or out partaking in fun activities.

### DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Ricardo Varguez, Ph.D.

Clarkson College welcomed Dr. Ricardo Varguez in summer 2013 as the Coordinator of Instructional Development in the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). Two years later,



Ricardo was encouraged to apply for the department's director position when it became open. The College offered him the position, which he accepted in September 2015.

Ricardo earned a Bachelor's degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, with a minor in French, from the Universidad de Quintana Roo in Mexico. He received his Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska—Kearney and his Ph.D. in Educational Studies, specializing in the area of Instructional Technology, from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

As a young professional, Ricardo taught English to high school and college students in Mexico. After relocating to the U.S., he supervised and trained teachers in the World Language department at Westside High School and trained language instructors across the country in his role as a world language and technology consultant for the Bureau of Education and Research.

Ricardo extends his gratitude to the Clarkson College faculty and staff who have given their support as he makes his transition to a managerial position. "I am looking forward to creating more opportunities for faculty to benefit from all the services we offer in CTE."

Ricardo spends his leisure time learning to play guitar, fishing and reading about new technology trends that could be applicable in the educational setting.

### DIRECTOR, STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Dale Brown, B.S.



Clarkson College hired Dale Brown as the Director of Student Financial Services (SFS) in June 2015. Dale entered his position with 16 years of experience coordinating

and operating financial aid funds and services in the higher education sector.

Dale received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Management from Wayne State College. He is a current member and former president of the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

In his six months at Clarkson College, Dale says he has enjoyed working with faculty and staff who truly care about the students and their fellow employees. "My vision is to help those with a passion for helping others, and I think Clarkson College is the place that can influence lives."

In his personal time, Dale enjoys jet skiing, boating and spending time with his family. He and his wife have side jobs as party clowns and have enjoyed entertaining families and children at parades and other specialty events for more than 15 years.



Academic Honors

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

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

Honor Societies

Honor societies at Clarkson College include:

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

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

Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Jamie Lee Alder λ\*  
Dylan Boyle  
Ashley Marie Paulson λ\*  
Shae Brianne Switzer λΣ\*  
Amanda Lynn Tomka\*  
Conner Thomas Young λ

Associate of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Technology

Hannah McHone

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Richelle Lynne Anderson  
Afoua Badaama  
Badjaglana\*\*\*\*  
Froylan Barrera Σ\*  
Matthew G. Burnett  
Kristin Regina Carroll  
Amanda Ellen Eaton \*\*\*\*  
Jenna Rose Engelken \*\*  
Terri Ann Hulinsky \*\*\*  
Ashley Lynne Hummel  
Sydney Irvin  
Amy Michelle Jacobs \*\*\*\*  
Timothy Kalantjakos \*  
Alyssa Marie McDowell  
Rebekah D. Murillo Σ\*  
Eva M.A. North  
Kayla Rose Paris  
Nicolas Jacob Phelps\*\*\*\*  
Brittany LeAnn Remington  
Krista Marlene Schneider  
Abbey Dawn Schueth\*\*  
Kimberly Johanna Stones\*\*\*\*  
Travis Lee Urbach\*\*\*\*  
Brooke Alleen Wyatt

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Jamie Lee Alder λ\*  
Abbie Nichole Boyda λ\*\*\*  
Dylan Boyle  
Kaelia Joy Carlsen λΣ\*\*\*\*  
Kaylee Dewald λ\*  
Stephanie Marie Drees λ  
Jamie Lynn Miller  
Taylor Kathleen Niemann λΣ\*\*\*  
Natalia A. Paige λ\*\*\*\*  
Ashley Marie Paulson λ\*

Douglas Reed Raymond λ\*  
Shae Brianne Switzer λΣ\*  
Amanda Lynn Tomka\*  
Nicole M. Uram λΣ\*\*\*  
Catherine Elizabeth Wieczorek λ  
Conner Thomas Young λ

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Anna Elizabeth Adams  
Benjamin Thomas Allen †Σ\*  
Taylor René Allen  
Ashley Lynn Barajas  
Kaci Leigh Beckmann  
Haleigh Marie Belter †Σ\*\*\*  
Michelle R. Breazier  
Kelly Jo Brownfield  
Dawn Marie Budd  
Casey Jo Burbach  
Donella Raye Chadwick-Kermeen Σ\*\*\*\*  
Jacqueline R. Clerc\*  
Lauren Rachel Cooper Σ  
Serena Davis  
McKenzie Deckard  
Laureen Elikem Dogbevia †Σ\*\*\*\*  
Darian Marie Erickson Σ  
Becky M. Finch Σ\*\*\*  
Carley Ann Foreman\*\*\*\*  
Leah Frauendorfer †Σ\*\*\*  
Katherine Ann Fricke\*  
Vinessa Lee Geise  
Kathryn E. Gerken  
Manda Hansen  
Teresa Louise Hansen\*\*  
Caitlin Elizabeth Heddens †\*\*\*  
Shauna Alison Hilbrands  
Brittney Lynne Hill Σ\*\*  
Tyler Andrew Hill Σ\*\*\*\*  
Kathleen Marie Houdek  
Kaylie Grace Huntley  
Lucy Karoki Kaburu  
Gabrielle Elise Keane Σ  
Alexandria Lynn Kohn  
Carrie Anne Lalley †Σ\*\*  
Jessica Marie Lee  
Sara Lynn Leinen\*\*  
Stephine Levesque  
Panhia Lor  
Rachel Lynn Marquis †Σ\*  
Kelsie Isabelle Martinez\*  
Ashley Nichole Matgen Σ  
Michelle René Matthews\*\*\*\*

Erin Renee McAtee  
Zoë Christine McCann †\*\*\*  
Taylor Michele McNair  
Joseph Michael McQueen  
Cami Nicole Mehl Σ  
Tiffany Dawn Mohs †\*  
Christopher Monk  
Tasha S. Moore Σ  
Jordan James Morrill\*\*  
Laura Kay Morris\*  
Quyen Nguyen †Σ\*  
Jennifer Rose Palmer\*\*\*  
Abigail Elizabeth Peeler  
Paige Nicole Peterson Σ  
Jennifer Marie Prokupek\*\*  
Ann Rathman  
Ashley Susan Rossman  
Siaka Sanneh †\*\*\*\*  
Amanda Stewart Settles  
Harley Shy †Σ\*\*\*  
Alex Lynn Smith  
Makayla Elizabeth Thompson †Σ\*\*\*  
Bethany Jane Timmons\*\*\*\*  
Cassandra Tischer\*  
Andrea Marie Vacha\*\*\*\*  
Lacy J. Wake\*\*\*  
Mallory Marie Weaver\*  
Jami Jean Wingert Σ\*\*\*\*

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Administration

Ashley Brooke Oetken Σ\*\*\*\*  
Michael Skarlat

Post-Bachelor’s Certificate in Health Information Administration

Kristopher John Apperson\*\*  
Meredith Layne Harsch λ

Master in Health Care Administration

Trista Lee Gaebel  
Andrea Michelle Grady  
Cynthia K. Harms  
Joseph Mitchell  
Makaela Dawn Wagner

Master of Science in Nursing

Juanita Daisy Alvarez-Hall †  
Leah Brianne Anderson †Σ  
Natalie Jeane Bartell †  
Bianca Lashey Braxton †  
Megan Michelle Channell  
Joanna Adeline Coe  
Laura Connett  
Ryan Scott Deushane  
Gina Ditta-Donahue  
Michelle Renae Doty †  
Clare Marie Ehrismann  
Stacie Jo Ethington Σ  
Samantha Augusta Farnum †  
Julia Givens  
Rachelle R. Goodin  
Stacy Elise Goody †  
Jill Marie Green †  
Mindi Lynn Henry  
Jean Ann Hinrichsen  
Kellee LaRae Jindra †  
Heather LeAnne Kirkpatrick †  
Whitney Knuth  
Jaclyn Marie Liewer  
Brian Franklin Lothrop  
Adele Ann Love  
Amber Eve Malcolm Σ  
Tyler Duane Marshall  
Shaun Ray McEuen  
Tracy Mitchell †  
Emily Joy Nelson  
Emily Ann Ostrander †  
Erica Tabitha Popp  
Sheila Ann Reifenrath  
Mindy Kay Royster †  
Karen Louise Saxton †  
Zachary James Schiffbauer  
Valerie Sue Shaw  
Nathan John Skeries  
Krystal Ann Sunderman †  
John Curtis Swanhorst  
Shelly Tibke  
Dawn Elizabeth Tingwald  
Felicia Monique Wessel  
Jared Shane Whiting  
Cassandra K. Williams  
Steven James Zeplin Σ

Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing

Tiffany Jean Gramblin  
Linda Magiste  
Felicita Tarisai Mavunga



Stephanie Hopp, Becky Allen and Layna Himmelberg at the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards honorary banquet.

Nursing Faculty Nominated for Nebraska Nurse of the Year Award

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager

Each year, March of Dimes, a national non-profit organization that works to improve the health of mothers and babies, awards 25 nurses from each state for their outstanding work, leadership and contributions to their community and the profession of nursing. This year, Clarkson College is proud to announce that Associate Nursing Professors Becky Allen and Layna Himmelberg and Nursing instructors Stephanie Hopp and Kris Smith were nominated for the Nebraska Nurse of the Year award.

Nominations for the awards occurred last July. Hundreds of nurses across Nebraska and southwestern Iowa were recognized on Nov. 12 during a ceremony held at the Hilton hotel in downtown Omaha.

Any nurse who has been employed by a Nebraska employer for at least one year was eligible to be nominated for the Excellence in Nursing Award.

Allen, Himmelberg, Hopp and Smith were each nominated by Clarkson College faculty. All felt tremendously honored for their nominations:

It is an honor to be recognized by peers who put in the nomination. It is a good feeling to know that what you do for the students and the school is recognized. – *Becky Allen*

It is an honor! What a blessing to be nominated for this award; recognizing someone who exhibits excellence in their field. I strive to do my best each day for the students, fellow faculty and Clarkson College. Working with such caring and devoted faculty and staff makes it all worthwhile. – *Layna Himmelberg*

It was an honor to be nominated for this award. I love being a nurse and I'm passionate about teaching others about this wonderful field! – *Stephanie Hopp*

I am very honored to have been nominated for the nurse of the year award. I so value my profession and could not do the job I do without my fantastic coworkers. – *Kris Smith*





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### Have an Overseas Adventure this December

Alumni and guests are invited to experience Christmastime in France Dec. 11-21. Trip itinerary and registration forms can be found at [ClarksonCollege.edu](http://ClarksonCollege.edu).

Travel highlights include stops in Limoges, Bordeaux, and Chartres; a wine tour and tasting; dining on the Eiffel Tower; and two free days in Paris! A university hospital visit is also planned.

If you prefer a direct mailing or have any questions, contact ATA Coordinator Dr. Patricia Brennan at [brennan@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:brennan@clarksoncollege.edu) or 402.552.6125.

