

Spring
2017 Issue

AlumniTimes

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Prepare to be the best.

**Integrity: Being
your best in
every instance**



Do the right thing. As hard as we try to follow these words of wisdom, we are bound to encounter situations where knowing what the right thing is may not be so clear. This is when we pause, dig deep down within and search for the answer. From there, we let our moral compass be our guide—and that right thing is likely waiting for us right around the corner.



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On the Cover

The role integrity plays in preparing students to be the best. 9

PHOTOGRAPH BY Andrew Marinkovich



Costumed participating teams in the Bowling Tournament included:
1 / Shady Lanes. 2 / Lightning Strikes. 3 / OMG (Oh My Gutter).
4 / I Wanna Rock 'N Bowl. 5 / Wrecking Balls. 6 / We Love Softballs. 7 / Strike Force. 8 / King Pins.

If It's Not Broken, Don't Fix It

A recap of the Alumni Association's two most popular annual events

The combination of good company, competition and costumes seems to be a winning one, given the ever-growing popularity of the Alumni Association's annual bowling tournament and Decorated Table Trivia events. The bowling event began in 2011. This year marked the sixth year alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered on campus to test their trivia knowledge and artistry in table decorating. Winners, losers and everyone in between are often too wrapped up in the fun to care where they place in the end. Money raised from both events supports the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, making them not only entertaining but also worthwhile.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to attend the bowling tournament or Decorated Table Trivia events, read on to see if they sound like they're up your alley—the Alumni Association would love for you to join in the fun next year!

Bowling Tournament

Seven years and going strong. The Alumni Association hosted 11 teams for its annual bowling tournament on Saturday, Jan. 21 at Scorz Sports Center in Ralston, Neb. The bowlers were quite an energetic and fun-seeking crowd!

Several of the teams donned costume attire to showcase their team names. Taking several honors this year was the team captained by Natalie Vrbka, Nursing Student Advisor Coordinator and Honorary Alumna. Her team, "I Wanna Rock 'N Bowl," jumped into action as the band KISS. Their innovative name and costume work paid off, as they took first place in two prize areas—Best Costume and Best Name.

Second place for both of those categories was Carla Dirkschneider's ('07) team, "Wrecking Balls." Hard hats and fluorescent orange vests weren't the only things that made them stand out.

The Wrecking Balls were also able to take the Grand Champion prize and add another trophy to the three they've won at past alumni bowling tournaments.

Team members of "OMG (Oh My Gutter)," continued their all-time winning streak for Last Place Champions. For the seventh straight year, Nursing faculty Joan Blum ('81, '86, '01), Mary Dishman ('85, '91, '09), Kassie McKenny ('07) and Renee Ruhkamp ('09) raised their prize ribbons high!

For the fourth year in a row, Matt Anderson of the Wrecking Balls earned the Highest Men's Combined Score prize. The highest score champion on the women's side was Undergraduate Nursing Assistant Professor Sue Leutzinger ('89, '09).

The Alumni Association hosts the annual bowling tournament every January. If you think you can break the records for Highest Men's Combined Score or Last Place Champions, or if you're just looking for a good excuse to get together with your former classmates, start spreading the word and forming your team now!

Decorated Table Trivia

Competition levels reached an all-time high at the annual Decorated Table Trivia event on March 4. The across-the-board creativity of the table themes and the shrewdness of the players during each round of trivia made all six teams top-prize contenders.

As attendees trickled in, they strolled around Howard Hall to admire one another's table decorations and costumes. Once seated, each table had the opportunity to discuss its theme

and the work put into to creating it. With all of the themes being so unique and well-executed, gaining some background knowledge on each one helped each event participant cast their votes.

The Seven Dwarfs table leader Carla Dirkschneider ('07) explained how it took 600 yards of fabric and several hours to make the floor-length yellow toile skirt that draped her team's table. Devout Decorated Table Trivia participant Jen Anderson ('10) always spends hours upon hours decorating her table, and she did not stifle in her efforts this year. Her team's Under the Sea table theme featured a coral reef centerpiece made out of pool tubes. She used spray foam to make the plants attached to the reef and had a beautiful oyster shell hidden among the tubes. Complimenting her team's dinner plates were brown turtle heads, tails and feet.

Noteworthy

On Valentine's Day, students were treated to goody bags distributed on behalf of the Alumni Association of Clarkson College. Annual membership dues help make student-centered events like this possible. Renew your membership today on page 5.



A new group partaking in the event this year chose a Lucky Charms theme. Hosted by Carrie Bunderman ('11), each guest wore a shirt featuring a moon, star, heart, clover or other charm signature in the "magically delicious" cereal, and one "lucky" team member even dressed up as the mischievous Lucky the Leprechaun.

Susan Bristol's ('78) guests were arguably the most comfortable of anyone's at the event. Fitting for her table's "A Day at the Spa" theme, team members wore pajamas, robes and slippers. What's more, they all came with freshly-polished nails, and a fine array of luxury spa supplies adorned their table.

Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet's ('67, '94, '06) "Pink Pirate" theme was a tribute to all of her friends who have battled and survived breast cancer. The seven women on the team appeared rather "criminal" with their eye patches on and skull and crossbones scarves draped around their necks and heads. The addition of a parrot to perch on one player's shoulder was a fun final touch.

Ken Zeiger, MSN Program Advisor Coordinator, had his "Let's Get

Quizzical" table all enthused about their exercise routines and vibrant 90s workout attire. From the windbreakers and spandex they sported, to the boom box centerpiece and hallmark workout videos like Buns of Steel that sat atop their table, this team certainly stretched its creativity to a gold medal level.

After perusing the tables and exchanging some friendly conversation, participants fueled up for trivia with a full-plate brunch. Next, the rowdy trivia competition began. Among the seven rounds played, many seemed to appreciate questions pertaining to the 150th birthday of Nebraska. As interesting as this round was for the players, it also seemed to be one of the more difficult.

To add to the fun, participants acted out their table themes as they brought their answer sheets to the judges' table. It was fun to see all of the dwarfs from the Snow White table jump up, form a line and sing "Hi Ho, Hi Ho" as they marched over their responses. Jen Anderson, from her Under the Sea table, attempted to swim across the floor with one of their answer sheets, and members of the Let's Get

Quizzical team navigated their way via cartwheels and jumping rope.

Once the judges tallied up all of the votes and scored the trivia responses, they were ready to announce the day's big winners. Taking first place for the Best Decorated Table was Let's Get Quizzical, and runner up was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The Pink Pirates earned first place for the trivia rounds, with Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs coming in at a close second. Given the immense amount of creativity and enthusiasm that filled the room that morning, the Alumni Association's hope was that everyone left feeling like a winner.

Special Thanks

The Alumni Association extends thanks to Sharon Mantz, Jean Delfs, Nicole Hardin ('95, '97) and Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11) for assisting and helping to make these events a success.

1 / Let's Get Quizzical. 2 / A Day at the Spa. 3 / The Lucky Charms. 4 / Under the Sea. 5 / Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. 6 / The Pink Pirates.

INTEGRITY AS THE PILLAR OF BEING THE BEST

in-teg-ri-ty (in-teg'rə-tē) *n. pl. -ties* 1. Uprightness of character; honesty. 2. The condition or quality of being unimpaired or sound. 3. The state of being undivided.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS BY WAY OF TRUTH AND VIRTUE

INTEGRITY is one of the five organizational Values that encompasses the core identity of Clarkson College. As professionals, practitioners, students, teachers and stewards, we must recognize the importance integrity holds in our collective mission to “prepare the best” in health care.

To uphold its commitment to this principal Value, the College established an Academic Integrity Education Committee (AIEC) in 2014. “We monitor and report trends pertaining to academic integrity, as well as provide education based on those trends,” said AIEC chair, Carla Dirkschneider. “Our ultimate goal is to make Clarkson College 100 percent academic integrity violation-free.”

The AIEC sponsors various activities and initiatives that serve as subtle yet ongoing reminders to students that honesty and ethics in scholarship are critical to both academic and long-term professional success. The 2016–17 academic year’s efforts included a combination of on-campus and online initiatives, as well as a new partnership with the Alumni Association.

MIDTERMS MOTIVATION

During the weeks leading up to fall midterm exams, the committee held an “Academic Integrity Matters” campaign that relied on posters, e-mails and social media posts to remind students that honest and persistent dedication to their academics is far more meaningful than any one test score. With that, the communications prompted students to complete a three-question survey to learn how knowledgeable they are of the current Clarkson College Academic Integrity Policy.

During spring midterm exams, the committee surprised students with free offerings of hot chocolate and coffee. Attached to the cups were stickers that read, “Academic integrity matters” and a URL that directed students to a webpage where they could sign an online pledge to uphold their integrity. More than 550 students have signed the pledge since the committee initially launched it in fall 2014.

NEW \$250 SCHOLARSHIP

New this past fall, the AIEC and the Alumni Association collaborated to develop a scholarship that recognizes graduating students who have maintained a high degree of integrity throughout their course of study. Referring to examples from their personal, academic and/or professional lives, scholarship applicants must explain in 250–500 words what integrity means to them and how they exemplify the Clarkson College Value. The recipient may apply his/her \$250 award (funded by the Alumni Association) to cover academic-related expenditures, such as Board exam costs, licensure fees or outstanding tuition or book fees.

ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS

Separate from the AIEC is the Academic Integrity Committee, which is a standing committee that serves as an appellate board for all matters relating to academic integrity violations at the College.

A new committee is created for each violation, and its members include:

- › One academic dean or program director/coordinator (if necessary) who is outside of the student’s major or minor;
- › Two faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate President who teach outside the student’s major or minor and who have had at least two full-time semesters’ employment; and
- › Three students selected by the Student Government Association (SGA) who are enrolled outside the student’s major or minor and who have earned at least 24 semester hours at Clarkson College.

THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE

Ultimately, each role and responsibility of the AIEC is more than just a single-handed attempt to inhibit students from cheating or cutting corners on their studies. With each individual effort, the goal is for students to see that preparedness is a derivative of competency, and that competency comes with integrity. Whether today as a student or in the far future as a seasoned health care professional, the hope is that integrity continues to be the touchstone for every performed action, every tough decision made and every celebrated success.

**OUR GOAL
IS TO MAKE
THE COLLEGE
100 PERCENT
ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY
VIOLATION-FREE.**

"People put their lives in our hands, and we advocate and protect them."



Jackie Parmenter is a two-time Clarkson College graduate. She received her A.D.N. in 1972 from the University of South Dakota. Nearly two decades into her nursing career, she enrolled at Clarkson College and earned her BSN degree in 1992. Several years later, she returned to the College a final time and graduated with her MSN degree in 2009.

Jackie is currently the Director of Practice Operations for Methodist Physicians Clinic (MPC). She is responsible for two major areas: MPC Heart Consultants (18 providers) and MPC Pulmonary Medicine Specialists. Her job involves working directly with the physicians and their situations on a day-to-day basis, assisting with the strategic planning and budgeting for future projects and providing onsite oversight of the MPC Cardiovascular Imaging Center (outpatient tests).

When asked if she would share some of her experiences with integrity, Jackie was more than willing to provide information from her many years of professional nursing. Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet is a long-time colleague and friend of Jackie's, and they maintain contact as Alumni Board members. "Jackie is an exceptional nurse who has always had an extremely sincere and high sense of integrity and honesty," shares Rita. "Her responses to our questions were open, honest and heartfelt—see for yourself."

Alumni Perspective

A conversation with Jackie Parmenter, M.S.N., R.N.

In what ways do you think honesty and integrity are vital to your field of work?

People put their lives in our hands, and we advocate and protect them when they are vulnerable and when no one else can. It is the reason why on national surveys nurses are often the #1 most trusted/respected professionals. By and large, most of my peers and myself place our main concern around our patients—patients first! That is what a good nurse is all about.

Can you share an instance when doing the right thing was very difficult but paid off in the end?

Many years ago, I remember a time when I was involved with a team of people working on a surgical instrument project of very large magnitude (multiple missing instruments, wrong trays sent to the operating room, delayed cases, disappointed surgeons, etc.). It was a hot mess and took a huge commitment of time and financial support from the entire leadership team, operating room staff and surgeons, central supply and others to fix it! That team not only survived but thrived. No negative patient or family outcomes. The operating room is a center of excellence today.

Did you ever make a mistake that affected a patient or colleague(s)? Did ethics and integrity play a role in how you handled it?

It is a daily challenge to take the high road, but it is much easier to live with yourself and sleep at night when you do. I once worked with a nurse who suffered from drug dependency and was caught forging prescriptions for herself. I wish I would have seen that sooner, but I missed it. Physicians reprimanded me, but you live with it. And every time you see them, you look them directly in the eyes, and they respect you.

Do you feel your education at Clarkson College played a role in your continued commitment to providing high quality, ethical health care services?

Absolutely! The additional education gave me something I may not have developed—respect for the meaning of health care and its Golden Rule. Plus, I've met so many wonderful nurses, families, patients, medical colleagues, teachers and researchers and learned so many things along the way. I have worked in more than 15 specialties, from staff nurse to administration, in three different organizations and now in

a challenging clinic setting. One thing is still the same—patients need nurses.

Did you ever witness an instance where integrity and honesty were not upheld?

Staff stealing from the institution in, what they called, "no big deal—everyone does it" ways, such as taking supplies home and forging time cards. These actions made me feel sad and used. Now, it also makes me think about the cost of care and how each of us can conserve resources on a daily basis. Looking back, we were very wasteful.

Whether at work or in your personal life, why do you choose the high road over the easy route?

It really is about living with yourself. Happy or sad outcome, I go to sleep at night knowing I make a difference with patients and families.

"Without integrity and ethics, you cannot build a solid foundation with others."



Kim Lemmons is a 2008 graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. Prior to enrolling at Clarkson College, she received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and spent nearly a decade testing the waters in a variety of roles and work environments. She tried out massage therapy, held an administrative assistant role with the Lancaster County Health Department and worked as a Senior Geospatial Analyst for a satellite imaging company.

A lack of satisfaction with her career decisions prompted Kim to return to the drawing board once again. As a teen, she suffered a back injury and underwent physical therapy as part of her treatment. She reflected on how beneficial it was to her overall well-being and decided she wanted to have this same effect on others.

To this day, Kim's instructors recall what an honest, focused, hardworking student she was. As shown in the Q & A that follows, the dedication and moral standards Kim exemplified as a student continue to hold true in her work as a PTA at Methodist Physicians Clinic in Papillion, Neb. As she works with patients through their care plans, she applies manual therapy techniques, stabilization and strengthening exercises and a combination of balance and proprioceptive activities so they can return to work, activity and sports at their former level of function.

Alumni Perspective

A conversation with Kim Lemmons, P.T.A.

In what ways do you think honesty and integrity are vital to your work as a PTA?

They provide the basis for me to build trust with the patients I work with. Without trust, patients may not reap all of the benefits from physical therapy.

Can you share an instance when doing the right thing was very difficult but paid off in the end?

There was a situation where I had to fail a student. The student was on her final clinical rotation before graduation. This was a six-week rotation. The issue was she was late five times during this period. I tried to resolve it by talking with her after the first couple of times she was late. By mid-term, the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE) and I spoke with the student and drew up a contract that we all reviewed and signed. The terms of the contract were that she could not be late for the remaining three weeks of her rotation. If she were late—even once—she would fail the clinical. This was difficult, as it was her last clinical before she was to graduate from the program. In week five, she was late. She called me on her

way to the clinic, and I told her we would discuss the issue when she arrived. When she got here, I had to inform her that she had failed this clinical rotation. For her to pass and graduate with her class, she would have to work out something with the ACCE.

As much as I want to pass all of my students, I could not. I felt it would have been ethically wrong if I passed her. She couldn't fulfill the most basic requirement, which was to get to work on time. If I had passed her, I felt that I would have been condoning her behavior, which would put a burden on her future employer and colleagues. I also felt that it would undermine my role as a clinical instructor. I feel I'm fair, and there are certain requirements that need to be met by all of my students. If I had passed her, that would have called my credibility into question as far as following the rules and being fair and impartial by treating all of my students equally. I know that I would want someone who is reliable as an employee. Sometimes, all one has is their word. Without integrity and ethics, you cannot build a solid foundation with others.

Do you feel your education at Clarkson College played a role in your commitment to providing high quality, ethical health care services?

Yes, I do, especially my Ethics class. This class provided many scenarios where ethics came into play. It taught me that sometimes, regardless of my personal feelings regarding a person or situation, one must still remember the primary reason one got into health care—to help others. To do this, one must be able to push personal feelings aside and provide high quality care for all those entrusted to one's care.

Whether at work or in your personal life, why do you choose the high road over the easy route?

For me, it's plain and simple—it's the right thing to do. I know that the results I achieve are earned through hard work.



Diversity Council Campaign Celebrates Kindness On & Beyond Campus

Each year, the Clarkson College Diversity Council selects a nationally recognized campaign or initiative to draw attention to across campus. This year, the group put its own twist on National Random Acts of Kindness Day—observed annually on Feb. 17—and pegged the name “Kindness Matters” for its community-based campaign.

“[Our] goal is to expose students, staff and faculty to a diverse array of ideas, peoples and cultures, so as to spread compassion and perspective,” says

“...acts of kindness—no matter how small—really have an impact on your local community.”

Susie Rand, Diversity Council member and Residence Hall Coordinator. “Through this campaign, we hoped to engage the community by highlighting the good work that occurs on campus, and reminding everyone that acts of kindness—no matter how small—really have an impact on your local community.”

From Jan. 9 to Feb. 3, the Diversity Council sent multiple e-blasts, hung posters around campus and posted several messages across the College Facebook and Twitter pages to build awareness about the Kindness Matters campaign. The communications encouraged students, faculty and staff to submit acts of kindness on the Clarkson College Kindness Matters submission page. Each act of kindness—whether completed by the submitter or someone else—was to represent one of the five Clarkson College Values of Caring, Integrity, Commitment, Excellence and Learning.

“We felt ensuring participation was one of the more difficult parts of this campaign,” says Trish Weber, Radiologic Technology/Medical

Imaging instructor and Diversity Council member. “Sometimes, it can be difficult for people to recognize acts of kindness, even when they see them every day. However, this was also part of the goal of the campaign: the more we recognize the work that others do around us, the more we feel connected and loved in our community.”

The Kindness Matters campaign drove 15 acts of kindness submissions, the majority of which depicted the Value of Caring. “We really appreciate the encouragement and the overwhelming amount of love via positive comments from the Clarkson College community,” says Sharon Mantz, Health and Safety Coordinator and Diversity Council member. “We felt this was a great way to kick off the new year, and we hope everyone at the College enjoyed it, too!”

At the campaign's end, the Diversity Council selected one Kindness Matters participant to highlight on the Clarkson College Facebook and Twitter pages daily from Feb. 6–10. All submissions can be viewed on the Clarkson College #KindnessMatters submission page at ClarksonCollege.edu/kindness-matters.

Functional Dry Needling Course Attracts 27 Midwestern Physical Therapists to Campus

As defined by the American Physical Therapy Association in Description of Dry Needling in Clinical Practice: An Educational Resource Paper, dry needling is a “skilled intervention that uses a thin filiform needle to penetrate the skin and stimulate underlying myofascial trigger points, muscular and connective tissues for the management of neuromusculoskeletal pain and movement impairments,” (2013, p. 2). In summer 2016, the State of Nebraska Office of the Attorney General addressed a legal question posed by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding whether dry needling falls within the scope of practice of Nebraska physical therapists, occupational therapists and athletic trainers. In the viewpoint of the attorney general, “dry needling is a ‘mechanical modality’ or a ‘physical agent or modality’ and, therefore, falls within the statutory definition of physical therapy” (2016) but not that of occupational therapy or athletic training.

Shortly after the attorney general's office released its statement, Clarkson College consulted Kinetacore, a national leader in dry needling education, to organize a weekend training course on campus. “In the past, the closest certification courses were in Denver or Kansas City, so this was a great opportunity for [physical therapists] in the area to attend and not have additional travel expenses,” said Michael Witte, P.T., D.P.T., ATC/L, CSCS, PTA Program Director.

With the assistance of Judi Dunn, College Professional Development Director, Dr. Witte made arrangements with Kinetacore to host an intensive, 29-hour training course on campus the weekend of March 4. Next, he

reached out to the PTA program's clinical site partners and informed them of the upcoming opportunity to earn their certification in functional dry needling. “The demand was outstanding,” Dr. Witte said. “Due to course capacity, there ended up being a waitlist of more than 10 individuals.”

A total of 28 participants—Dr. Witte included—and four instructors from Kinetacore gathered in the second floor PTA Lab to complete the two-day training. Prior to attending, each participant completed pre-course modules and exams to prepare for the 18 hours of direct coursework and competency testing they would perform on other course participants. To pass the course and receive their functional dry needling certifications, the participants completed a post-training written exam.

All in all, the course turned out to be more than just a professional development event. “Most of the participants had never been to the campus, and we had several from outside Nebraska and Iowa that did not know much about Clarkson College,” Dr. Witte said. “This served as a great opportunity for them to see our wonderful campus and PTA Lab and to hear a little bit about what we do.”

Given the high participation rate, positive feedback and “thank-yous” Dr. Witte received following the training, he plans to speak with Kinetacore about hosting the dry needling or another manual technique course in the future. He stated, “We will continue to seek areas of continuing education that meet the needs of our clinical partners and alumni.”



Course participants gathered in the PTA Lab for the intensive 29-hour training.



Casino Night Recap: McKernan & Lim Crowned Mr. & Ms. Clarkson College

Student Activities Council (SAC) hosted the ninth annual Clarkson College Casino Night on Feb. 8 in Howard Hall. The affinity students have for Casino Night makes it one of the longest-standing events on campus, while the Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College crowning that accompanies it is a tradition that reigns on after more than 70 years.

The first ever Ms. Clarkson was Anna Marie Baltensperger, who received her crown in 1943. With the arrival of male students in the Nursing program, Darrell Kuster became the first Mr. Clarkson in 1978. The crowning ceased from 1992–2003 and resumed in 2004.

For the last several years, the student body, faculty and staff have cast their votes for Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College candidates toward the end of January and are encouraged to nominate students who demonstrate the Clarkson College Values of Caring, Integrity, Commitment, Learning and Excellence. This year's nominees were Kyle Chandler, Andrew Lim, Eli Moseman, Adrienne Ashley, Maggie McKernan and Kimi Miller.

The final vote cast at Casino Night ruled Lim and McKernan as the 2017 royalty. They jovially accepted their

sashes, crowns and bouquets (a flower arrangement for McKernan and a candy bar medley for Lim) and each received a \$100 scholarship.

Lim is originally from Indonesia and enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in spring 2016. He stays active on campus serving as a Student Ambassador, Public Relations Chair for the Student Nurses Association and IT Chair for the Clarkson College Sigma Alpha Pi chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. He plans to graduate in summer 2018 and later enroll in a BSN to DNP program to advance his career as a family nurse practitioner. He has a deep-seeded interest in public health and hopes to augment his career by conducting research and providing services at health clinics in low-income areas.

"It means a lot to me to be elected as Mr. Clarkson College because it tells me that the faculty and student body believe in my ability to represent the College and to be the best health care provider I can be," said Lim. "I hope to continue to represent the Values that Clarkson College espouses."

McKernan enrolled in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program in fall 2016. She is involved with Love Your Melon, an apparel brand dedicated to giving a hat to children battling cancer, and the Clarkson College Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) organization.

Given she is just a few months into her program, McKernan is uncertain which types of settings or populations appeal most to her as she ponders career tracks following her August 2018 graduation.

Honored to be elected as Ms. Clarkson College 2017, McKernan said seeing her classmates and friends cheering her on as she received her crown was an incredible feeling.

Lim and McKernan were not the only students to win big that evening. After cashing in their poker chips, students placed raffle tickets in the prize buckets of their choice. Giveaways included an Apple iPad Mini, a Roku 3, an Echo Dot and gift cards to Nebraska Furniture Mart, Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, Google Play and more.

"Without a doubt, the students enjoyed themselves and enjoyed interacting with faculty and staff in this relaxed environment," said Dr. Kris Hess, Student Services Director. "It was fun to provide this event for them and great to hear all their cheers and laughter!"

Student Activities Council extends thanks to JoAnn Acierno, Lori Bachle, Mary Dishman, Debi Gardner, Chuck MacDonell, Chris Mason, George Smith, Kris Smith and Trish Weber for staffing the game stations and helping carry on the fun tradition of Casino Night.



Current students discuss the RT lab with the evening's visiting guests.

Radiologic Technology Program Invites Accepted Students to an Exclusive On-Campus Event

At Clarkson College, preparing for every prospective student touchpoint often requires collaboration among various departments, program directors and faculty, as well as testing out new ideas and continuously modifying the strategy to not only make positive impressions but also to garner favorable outcomes. The Radiologic Technology (RT) and Admissions departments recently put this approach into action by holding an exclusive, on-campus event for the 24 students accepted into the RT program this past November.

"Since this was the first year to select students in November, I wanted to do something that would entice them to stay at Clarkson College," said Collins, aware the student may have also applied to and been accepted into other programs. "November to August is such a long time, and I hoped offering something like this would help our program stand out as one that values them as a student."

Eleven of the 24 students and their family members accepted the invitation to gather in LL7 on the evening of Jan. 10. Upon checking in and enjoying some appetizers, the attendees sat face-to-face with their prospective RT faculty, peers and Admissions staff. Program Director Ellen Collins kicked off the evening with a welcome and introductions.

Current RT students were also in attendance to share their own perspectives on the program and to provide a tour of the RT Lab and equipment.

"Our ultimate goal was to meet the students and show them our resources [and also] give them the opportunity to ask us questions they may have about our program," Collins said. Much of the discussion throughout the evening revolved around the sequence of the program, working on both the RT and Medical Imaging degrees concurrently, the length of the program and clinical requirements.

The event began at 5:30 p.m. and wrapped up around 6:45 p.m., with several students and their family members remaining longer to visit with faculty and students one-on-one. Participants and organizers of the event gathered after the event to discuss what went well and what they would do differently in the future. "One idea was to have a custom degree plan filled out for each student to show what classes could be brought in from their transcripts and how their sequence plan would look," said Collins. "Also, possibly pairing the parents with faculty and students with students."

President Update: Strategic Planning for the Year Ahead



Clarkson College completed its annual strategic planning retreat on Jan. 19.

The annual retreat involves participation of all current faculty and staff to help develop the strategic direction of the College for the upcoming year. Unlike most organizations, Clarkson College reviews the plan from the previous year and then creates new goals and strategies based on current opportunities. Taking this approach ensures the plan is focused and up-to-date.

Prior to the annual retreat, department and program directors completed an annual report and environmental assessment. Researching trends among the health care and higher education industries allows us to identify external factors that may impact the viability of our business and academic objectives.

During the strategic planning retreat, employees offered their input to carry out a thorough analysis of Clarkson College. Open discussion regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as turnkey items that could be improved with minimal planning, were shared and scribed on large presentation paper that hung around the room.

After the retreat, the Executive Leadership Team evaluated the feedback to create goals that fit into one of the following four categories: Academics, Student Services, Quality Improvement, and Multi-Year Goals.

The following Critical Success Factor (CSF) goals were established for 2017:

CSF A: We will evaluate and improve academic services.

1. Explore alternative clinical site placement and partnerships for all academic programs.
2. Complete development of a business plan for the BSN-DNP program.
3. Create a proposal for a science lab remodel that includes best practices, competition comparisons, costs, etc.

CSF B: We will address student and College concerns.

1. Determine unmet emergent student needs and propose solutions.
2. Evaluate the fitness center space and create a proposal to provide a better wellness experience.

CSF C: We will assess and improve the quality of the College.

1. Create an annual tradition for the College to celebrate its commitment and history.
2. Explore student scholarship needs, prioritize the use of potential additional dollars and create a process for each.

CSF D: We will implement multi-year goals.

1. Master Facilities Plan update with assessment of the College physical environment, finances and timeframes for scheduled completion.
2. Create, implement, assess and report on the College quality initiative project per HLC guidelines and timeframes.

Clarkson College has implemented the strategic planning process for the last 10 years. What makes this plan successful from year-to-year is the College-wide input provided during this retreat, and we are eager to see the results come to fruition as the year progresses.



After registering, students made their way upstairs to meet with featured organizations outside of Howard Hall.

Change Yields Positive Results at Annual Career Fair for Health Professions

Clarkson College held its sixth annual Career Fair for Health Professions on March 23. This year, more than 50 employers from the local area and beyond gathered to network with our students and alumni to provide information for future employment. A College-wide effort encouraged more than 215 students to attend and speak with all of the visiting organizations. Once again, employers were excited to attend and mentioned how impressed they were with the number of student participants and their overall preparation.

New this year and offered on a first come, first serve basis was the option for health care exhibitors to reserve a premium location at the Career Fair. Those who were fortunate enough to secure one of the seven available high-exposure spots outside of Howard Hall were deemed the event's featured organizations and included Nebraska Medicine, Madonna Rehabilitation

Hospital, Fusion Medical Staffing, CHI, TMS Services, UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's and Maxim Healthcare Services.

Another modification made to the Career Fair this year provided students and alumni the opportunity to attend Professionalism Workshops scheduled each day of the week leading up to the Career Fair. Deb Tomek, Clarkson College Director of Human Resources, provided information on resume writing. Dr. Aubray Orduña, Clarkson College Dean of Nursing, provided information on career etiquette and the art of negotiation. Alumnae Nicole Hardin ('95, '97), Director of Radiology at Children's Hospital, and Deb Kozeny ('77, '94), Nurse Practitioner, shared their advice on how to have a successful interview and how to best prepare for an interview. The workshop attendees felt each breakout session provided essential information and gave fresh insight in securing a health care position.

Academic Outreach Liaison Jon Clay traveled throughout Nebraska and Iowa last fall with the goal of building partnerships with health care organizations and Clarkson College. These efforts brought 17 new employers to this year's Career Fair. Students and alumni appreciated the diverse rural and urban organization options at the event.

Employers frequently express a preference for Clarkson College students and graduates, and the Career Fair for Health Professions quickly and conveniently connects them to a professionally prepared group of potential applicants. If your organization would like to participate in this event in the future, contact Jon Clay at clayjon@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.2944.

"...What makes this plan successful from year-to-year is the College-wide input provided during this single-day retreat..."



Anne Heimann, M.S., AHIP

Anne Heimann Joins Clarkson College Campus as Library Services Director

Clarkson College welcomed Anne Heimann, M.S., AHIP, as the new Library Services Director in January. She replaces Nancy Ralston, who retired from the College after 17 years of service.

Heimann holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Studies from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign.

Before joining Clarkson College, she served as the Director of Library Services at Bryan College of Health Sciences in Lincoln, Neb. for 10 years. During graduate school, she worked at the University of Illinois-Chicago Health Sciences Library and has experience working at a corporate library for a pharmaceutical company in Maryland.

Now four months in to her role at Clarkson College, Heimann feels fortunate to transition into a new setting she believes is a "good fit," based on her professional experience and personality. "My heart belongs in academics," she said. "I like the small college environment, the focus on health sciences programs and the privilege to play a part in student success."

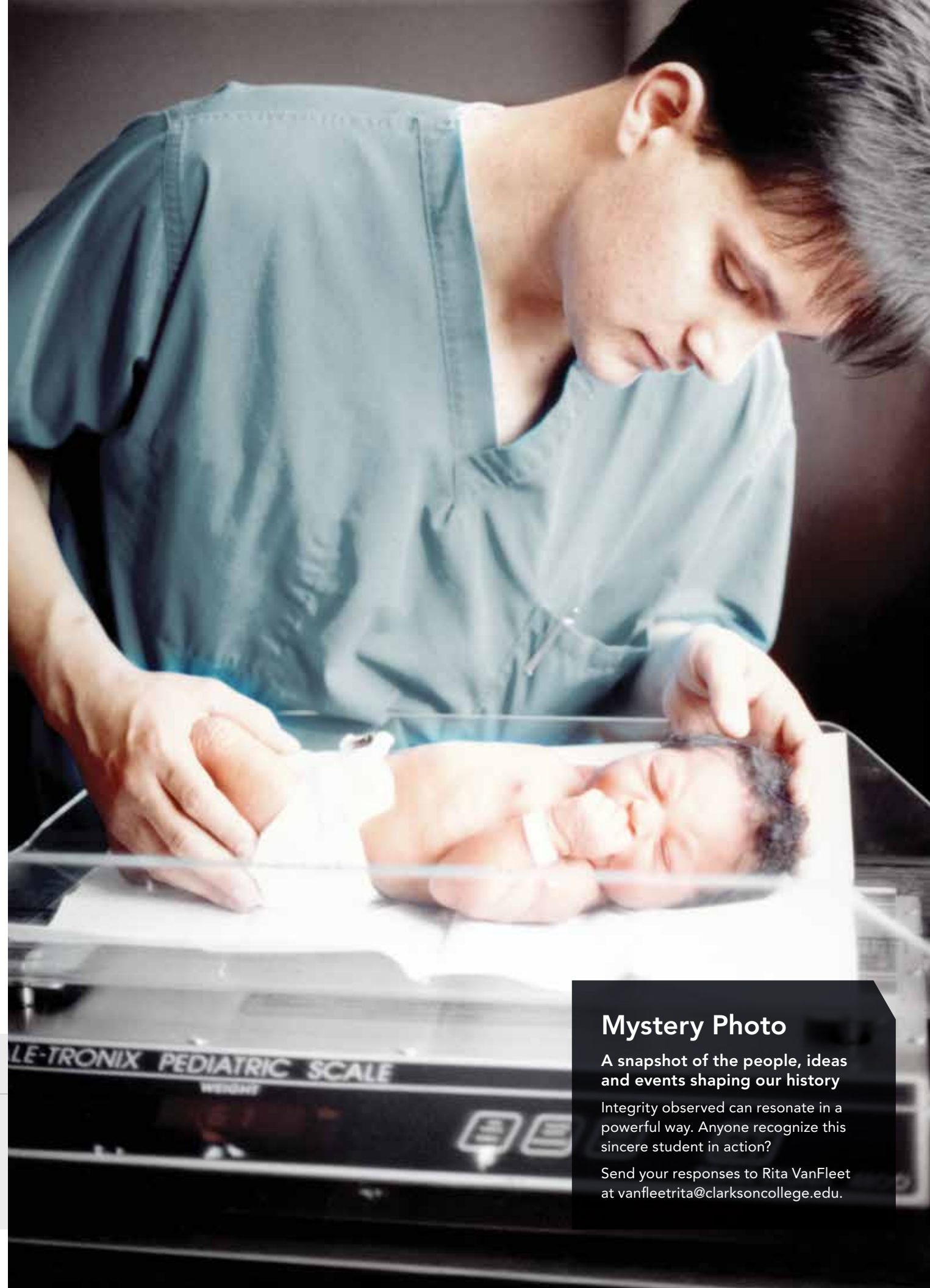
In Memoriam

Opal Marie Havens Cooper ('44)

Died on March 1, 2017, in Bentonville, Ark. after a short illness.

Beverly J. Zdan Wright Gleiter ('53)

Died Dec. 29, 2016 in Eau Claire, Wis.



Mystery Photo

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

Integrity observed can resonate in a powerful way. Anyone recognize this sincere student in action?

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

Shives & Vawter Named Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients

Earlier this year, the Clarkson College Faculty Senate announced Nicole Shives, M.S., B.A., Associate Professor of General Education, and Jill Vawter, M.S.N., R.N., Undergraduate Nursing Instructor, as the fall 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients.

This award (also commonly known as the Apple Award) recognizes two faculty each fall and spring semester who exemplify the “Seven Principles of Good Practice” (Chickering & Gamson, 1987), which include:

- › Encourages contact between students and faculty
- › Develops reciprocity and cooperation among students
- › Encourages active learning
- › Gives prompt feedback

- › Communicates high expectations
- › Emphasizes time on task, and
- › Respects diverse talents and ways of learning.

Nicole Shives’ inspiration to deliver her best as an instructor stems from the basic reciprocity that comes with teaching and learning. “Being in the classroom and seeing students understand and comprehend the material gives me the determination and drive to be the best person that I can be,” she says. “I honestly love what I do.”

The following were just a few of the many comments submitted about Shives:

- › I really, really appreciate her. She gives or shows you what you need to know. When you are done with her class, you feel as though you have accomplished so much—tough but very rewarding.
- › She expects you to better yourself by asking questions and working to understand things that come harder to you.
- › If a student asks her a question, she answers and asks you another question back to further your knowledge on the subject. Ex: ‘Is this the femur?’ She would say, ‘Yes it is. What muscles attach to it? What is its action?’
- › She deserves credit for being her best all the time. Very open with students and helps us improve. She tells you what to study (which is quite a bit) but makes the resources readily available and believes every student can do their best with hard work and determination.

Jill Vawter primarily teaches clinical in the hospital setting for students in the Undergraduate Nursing program. She holds the nursing profession in the highest regard and is amazed by the selflessness, diligence and compassion so many nurses bring to work every day. She says, “I want students to leave Clarkson College excited to make a difference for those they care for. This makes it so much easier to do my best within the clinical setting so students become great nurses of the future.”

Students praised Vawter with the following comments in their nomination forms:

- › Jill does a post-conference chat after every clinical group, and she encourages us to think about what was really going on with our patients. After hearing reports from each student, Jill asks specific questions as to why or what was going on with a patient and why that particular thing could have caused something else to happen. She does a super job at getting our “nurse” brains to start thinking critically and really thinking about the physiological processes of the human body.
- › She has such an uplifting spirit and is so friendly to everybody. There is nothing that I would be scared to talk to her about because I know that she isn’t going to judge me or give me harsh criticism for something that I may have done wrong. Instructors like Jill are the kind that make it easier to learn. When you’re not intimidated by your instructor, it makes you want to work harder and it makes your thought processes much easier because you’re not nervous.
- › She is calm and I believe that she truly loves to watch us learn and grow into the young nurses that we are, and that’s what makes me want to be like her someday.
- › Jill is a great teacher, clinical instructor and nurse! She is always encouraging me to look into jobs I think I will want and always has feedback for me.

About the award

Clarkson College began offering the Apple Award in 2003. Along with sponsoring the award, Faculty Senate is responsible for seeking nominations from colleagues and current students, reviewing the submissions and electing the recipients via a majority rule. The spring 2016 recipients were Linda Jensen, Ph.D., M.N., R.N., Nursing Professor, and Tracy Ozzello, Assistant Nursing Professor.



Fall 2016 Apple award recipients Nicole Shives and Jill Vawter.



MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Fresh Perspectives

Introductions are in order for this unique photo opportunity. Taken during National Hospital Week in 1970, the snapshot features nine Clarkson School of Nursing instructors who had babies within the previous year.

From left to right are Mrs. Baker and Bryan, Mrs. Esposito and Andrew Jr., Mrs. Opdyke and Laura Lee, Mrs. Worm and Christopher, Mrs. Imm and Michelle, Mrs. Cornwell and Julie, Mrs. Anthony and Kent, Mrs. Renz and Deborah, and Mrs. Weist and Karl Robert.

Gloria Griffith Triggs ('63)

I recognize two of the nine instructors. In the front row, first in line is alumna Laurel Bornemeier McReynolds ('63). The fourth person up the line is alumna Sarah Anderson Worm ('63).

Sarah Anderson Worm ('63)

The mystery photo was most likely taken in spring 1970, and most of the women pictured are instructors, with the exception of the staff member second from the bottom. Beginning from the bottom step is Laurel McReynolds ('63), Sandy Esposito, Linda Opdyke, myself, unknown, Joyce Cornwell, Carmie Anthony, Marlys Renz and Jean Weist.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Clarkson College Online Graduate Nursing Program Best in Nebraska

U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College 39th out of 147 eligible institutions in the nation in the category of 2017 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, making it the top ranked program of its kind in Nebraska.

This is the sixth year U.S. News released a Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list and the sixth time Clarkson College achieved a high-ranking status in the category, this year earning 77 out of 100 possible points. "This is such a competitive category, so we view both our eligibility and actual rankings year-to-year as a representation of our commitment to high-quality education," said Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers, Graduate Nursing Program Director. "The caliber of the students we accept into our MSN programs goes hand-in-hand with the dedication to excellence of our faculty, and this combination yields competent nurse leaders and practitioners."

The rankings recognize the best online graduate nursing programs based on five factors:

- › Faculty Credentials and Training (25 percent)
- › Student Engagement (20 percent)
- › Admissions Selectivity (20 percent)
- › Peer Reputation (20 percent)
- › Student Services and Technology (15 percent).

To gather the information necessary to create the 2017 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs rankings, U.S. News compiled a list of public, private and for-profit institutions granting Master's degrees in Nursing that were accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Next, U.S. News collected data from these schools by sending them statistical questionnaires. Respondents were asked if they would be offering online graduate-level nursing courses in the 2016–17 academic year.

Between the start of data collection in August 2016 and the October 2016 closing date, 144 schools—or 28 percent of the schools surveyed—said they would be offering online Master's in Nursing degree programs, while the rest either said they would not be or chose not to respond.

The Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program is accredited by the ACEN and began offering distance-learning courses in 1998. The program offers specialties in family nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing health care administration, and adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Post-MSN certificate programs are also available online. The curricula for each program prepare registered nurses to function as nurse educators, leaders, consultants, advocates and advanced practitioners.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is the only other school in Nebraska to receive a 2017 U.S. News Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs ranking. To view the complete list of this year's rankings, visit usnews.com/education/online-education/nursing. All unranked programs (those reporting fewer than 10 enrolled students) and Rank Not Published programs (those whose overall scores are in the bottom 25 percent) are listed but not numerically ranked.



Award recipient Dean Hurley (second from left) poses with Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet, his wife Diane and College President Dr. Tony Damewood.

Honorary Alumni Awarded

Each year, the Alumni Association Board selects an Honorary Alumni, an individual who displays strong support and commitment to the Mission and Values of Clarkson College and the Alumni Association. With great honor and appreciation, the Board presented the award to its 2016 recipient, the Very Reverend Thomas J. Hurley.

Reverend Hurley has been a tremendous friend of the College for many years. He served the congregation at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Omaha, Neb. for 17 years, entering retirement in early 2012. During his time at Trinity Cathedral, Dean Hurley hosted the Clarkson College Convocation events and participated in many College-related celebrations. As a representative of the church, he is a significant connection to the deep-rooted relationship between Clarkson College and the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska. Currently, he presides over the Clarkson College Board of Directors in his role as President. He enjoys participating in Clarkson College events and holds the students, faculty, staff and alumni dear to his heart.

Nominate and celebrate: Honorary Alumni award nominations

Know someone who exemplifies the qualities of a Clarkson School of Nursing or Clarkson College graduate? Nominate him or her for this year's Honorary Alumni award. Individuals who are not alumni, 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 are eligible for nomination. Up to three awards may be granted annually if acceptable nominations are received. Awards are announced during the September Alumni Weekend events.

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.

Call for Nominations: Honorary Alumni Award

Please print clearly.

Nominee information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Employer information

Employer _____

Employer Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Position/Title of Nominee _____

Education _____

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 nomination deadline

Nominations must be postmarked or received no later than June 30.





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Join your classmates for this fall's Alumni Weekend

Thursday, Sept. 14

Brunch at 10 a.m. followed by a campus tour. Heritage Garden Walk at 1 p.m. and an Ollie the Trolley tour from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15

Educational event from 8 a.m. to noon. Dinner and entertainment at Champions Run at 6 p.m.

Contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 for full event details and registration information.

ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni