

AlumniTimes

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine

Finding the courage to
chase new beginnings





We are all susceptible to facing tough, even extreme decisions that could change our lives forever. Do we go a new direction and face the unknown, or do we choose to stay where we are because it's comfortable, because it's convenient? If this new chapter ignites fear and confusion, don't throw in the towel just yet. Because odds are, it could rewrite the future in a way that exudes tremendous joy, honor and attainment for the many chapters to come.



4 From the Alumni President

Alumni News

5 College Initiates Academic Integrity Scholarship

Details on the Academic Integrity scholarship.

6 Mark Your Calendar: A Recap & Look at the Year Ahead

Mark your calendars for this year's alumni events.

Features

8 Life After Refuge

An alumna's journey from asylum to college graduate.

14 Alumni Perspectives

A conversation with two alumni who searched for their new beginnings in health care.

18

Campus News

Extending Our Value of Caring Across Campus & Beyond

A handful of ways the campus community added hope to the holiday season.

20

Capstone Project Summary

23

Career Fair for Health Professions: March 23

An opportunity for new beginnings through a different job or networking with peers.

24

Class Notes

Alumni Class Updates & In Memoriam

28

Awards & Recognition

College Promotes Marketing Director of Seven Years as New Vice President of Operations

29

Medrano Receives Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrar's & Admissions Officers Rising Star Award

The honor highlights leadership and commitment.

29

Ralston Retires after 17 Years as Library Services Director

30

Clarkson College Receives Record National Recognitions in 2016

Reflecting on the past year.

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On the Cover

Alumna Mary Edward Toe encourages students by sharing her journey to become a nurse. 18

PHOTOGRAPH BY Glenn Simonsen

Where did 2016 go?

As this new year continues to take shape, I hope you get the opportunity to reflect on the previous year. So often, we rush and rush through life without taking a breath to really appreciate all we have done, the experiences that have been available to us and—most of all—the lives we have touched.

I recently received a card from a student that said, “thank you for taking the time to work with me as an intern. You are the reason I have applied to the Master’s in Health Care Administration (MHA) program [at Clarkson College].”

We must remember
that our interactions
can impact others in
unexpected ways.

I read that letter ten times before I caught my breath. Me? How could I possibly have made that kind of life changing impact for this student? After I told myself that he was just being nice and that I was not even remotely an influence on this young man’s life, I looked up and saw an e-mail from him. He learned he had just been accepted into the MHA program and thanked me once again for inspiring him to apply. Words cannot express how taken aback I felt in this moment.

The realization I made from all of this was that while working in health care and serving others gives us joy and fulfillment, we must also remember that our interactions can impact others in unexpected ways.

If your service in health care has or someday does inspire the life of someone else—a patient, a patient’s family member, or a friend or relative of your own, we invite you to share your story with us. As fellow health care providers, we can draw on the experiences of others to take pride in the difference we’re making in the lives of not only those who need us but also in the lives of those who aspire to be like us.

Wishing you great health and happiness in 2017!

Nicole Hardin



Nickki Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R)(M) (CIIP)
(‘95, ‘97), Alumni Association President



College Initiates Academic Integrity Scholarship

A new way to donate and assist current students

Clarkson College includes integrity as one of its core values, defining it as, "Adherence to moral and ethical standards in personal, professional and organizational actions." These moral and ethical standards are of utmost importance for Clarkson College students who work with vulnerable populations within diverse health care settings. Thus, to honor this Value, the Academic Integrity Scholarship was created.

Each semester, the Alumni Association will select one graduating student who exemplifies and works actively to uphold integrity as a cornerstone of their personal, academic and professional lives. This scholarship is available to both undergraduate and graduate students, and applicants must be graduating at the end of the semester in which they are applying for the scholarship. The student must also have zero academic integrity violations on their academic record.

Applicants apply for the scholarship through a written essay describing what integrity means to her/him and how s/he best exemplify the Clarkson College Value of integrity. The \$250 scholarship is intended for academic purposes only, such as board exam costs, licensure fees, application against outstanding tuition or book fees.

Giving back in rewarding ways

People give for many different reasons. They desire to see change, make a difference or take care of their community. And sometimes, a cause strikes a chord and you feel compelled to contribute to its success. That's precisely what happened to Carol Gottsch, Accommodations and Testing Coordinator at Clarkson College. Carol is vested in the College Value of integrity and decided to fund the scholarship for two semesters. The Alumni Association thanks Carol for her generous contribution.

How you can give back to your alma mater

Giving back to your alma mater can assist current Clarkson College students with their educational costs. Donations are accepted year-round and are a great way to make a positive impact in others' lives. Contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu to learn about donation opportunities.

Mark Your Calendar: A Recap & Look at the Year Ahead

Look forward to the scheduled events and fun in 2017

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



December

Holiday Lights Tour Recap

The annual Alumni Association-sponsored Holiday Lights Tour provided a welcomed break from the hustle and bustle of a full December. Held on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 8, guests enjoyed seasonal trivia, music, treats and festive light displays during the two-hour tour. Beautifully decorated Omaha homes in the Dundee, Fairacres and Linden Estates neighborhoods were met with excited "ohs" and "ahs" from the alumni gazing at them from inside the trolley. Attendees proudly displayed their ugly Christmas sweaters and enthusiastic cheer for the seasonal trivia and holiday lights. The tour wrapped up with a drive through the Midtown, Turner Park and Gene Leahy Mall areas, capping another evening of festive fun.

Missed out on this December event? Not to worry. Another Holiday Lights Tour is in the works for December 2017.



March

Decorated Table Trivia Brunch

Enjoy laughter, creativity, brunch and trivia at the Alumni Association-sponsored Decorated Table Trivia Brunch scheduled for March 4 at 10 a.m. on the Clarkson College campus in Howard Hall. Tables sell for \$80 each and can accommodate up to eight alumni, friends and/or family members.

A host(ess) is needed for each table to form a team and determine the table's theme. Decorated tables should include decorations, tableware and items that fit the selected theme.

Participating teams have a chance to win the Best Decorated Table award or the Highest Cumulative Trivia Score award.

Year after year, the Decorated Table Trivia Brunch proves to be one the Alumni Association's most fun and entertaining events. Start forming your team now, and register your table no later than Feb. 23.



June

Wine Tasting

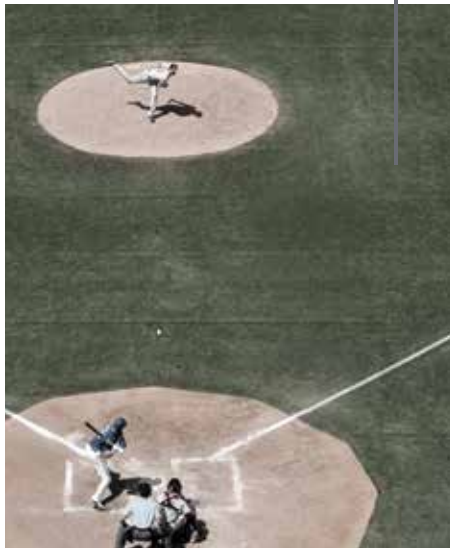
Relax and enjoy a Nebraska summer sunset at the Soaring Wings Vineyard. Date and time to be determined when the Vineyard's event schedule is released.



July

Baseball Game

Take yourself and family out to the ball game for an evening with alumni the Omaha Storm Chasers on July 30 game at 5:05 p.m. Tickets are \$16 each, and attendees should RSVP no later than July 18.



September

Alumni Weekend

Each year, Clarkson College and the Alumni Association is pleased to honor the 50th, 40th, 30th and 25th anniversaries of our graduated classes. This year's Alumni Weekend will highlight the classes of 1967, 1977, 1987 and 1992, and all alumni are invited to attend this annual tradition slated for Sept. 14–15.

The Alumni Association will host a brunch and campus tour the morning of Thursday, Sept. 14. The afternoon will feature a Heritage Garden Walk and reception to show appreciation to those who made a brick dedication this past year. The day will wrap up with a fun, historic Omaha city tour on Ollie the Trolley.

Day two of Alumni Weekend will commence with a continuing educational event in Howard Hall. That evening, alumni and guests will reconvene for a special dinner and entertainment at the Omaha Players Club.

Anniversary classes

Keep an eye out for additional information about the fall reunion festivities in the mail, on the Alumni section of the Clarkson College website and in the spring Alumni Times issue.

If you have any questions about the 2017 Alumni Weekend or would like to discuss the possibility of hosting an anniversary celebration for your graduating class, contact Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet.

Life After Refuge

An alumna's journey from asylum to college graduate

In the nearly 125 years the United Kingdom (UK) occupied Myanmar (formerly Burma), the British fought endlessly to exploit the religious, cultural and linguistic peculiarities that distinguished the country's majority Burmese population from its minority ethnic tribes, such as the Karen.

By the time Burma obtained independence from the UK in 1948, internal prejudice had reached inexorable levels, and the country broke out into a civil war that remains to this day.







Mary relied on hard work, college resources and her drive to accomplish her nursing dream throughout the ups and downs of her educational journey.

Over the decades, the dominant Burmese military has burnt down countless ethnic villages, especially in the Karen States. Hundreds of thousands of civilians presumed to have connections to the armed opposition have been persecuted and displaced. To escape the constant fear of being raped, tortured or killed in what has been described as one of the world's longest-running civil wars, the first Karen refugees arrived in Thailand in 1984.

For the first 16 years of her life, undergraduate Nursing alumna Mary Edward Toe ('16) never set foot beyond the barbed wire fence surrounding the refugee camp in Thailand where her Karen-born family resided. She spent her days fantasizing about what existed on the other side—and praying for the chance to someday see it with her own eyes.

Mary's parents, Hto Toe and Mu Naw, were among the first Karen people who sought refuge in 1984. They settled at Kamaw Lay Ko refugee camp where they birthed and raised four children—Mary included. In 1995, the Burmese military attacked and demolished Kamaw Lay Ko. Fortunately, Mary's family survived the invasion and relocated to the Mae La refugee camp.

The number of children in the Toe family reached six by 1998. They all attended school at the camp and began learning basic English at an early age. Surrounded by what seemed like endless despair, Mary felt an inherent desire to someday become a nurse—a

farfetched dream for a young girl trapped in a world where a career and a college education were unthinkable. There was hope, though.

In 2006, Mary's family applied to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Due to the countless refugees in the Toes' same position, there was no telling if or when they would ever experience life beyond that barbed wire fence. Finally, after a year-and-a-half of constant prayers and wishful anticipation, the Toes received word from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that their application was approved.

About three months later, Mary, along with her parents, grandfather, two brothers and three sisters, stepped outside of the Mae La refugee camp for the first time together. "I felt like a bird free from a cage," shares Mary. "As I exited the camp, I was thinking about my dream, freedom and a better life."

The Toes boarded a plane and set off for their journey to the U.S. They first arrived at L.A. International Airport. After clearing the security checkpoint, they stayed overnight in a hotel. The next morning, the family took a connecting flight to Houston, Texas and then headed to their final destination—Omaha, Neb. "We didn't choose to come to Omaha, but we believed that God sent us here for a reason."

As she disembarked the airplane and soaked in the unfamiliar reality that

surrounded her, Mary had a moment of solace. "I could feel that this was a place full of opportunities and hope, and I knew for sure that I could fulfill my dream of becoming a nurse."

Mary attended Omaha South High School and overcame any language inhibitions she had by taking English as a Second Language lessons. "It took me four years of living in the U.S. before I felt I was fluent," she says.

After graduating high school, she enrolled in the Pre-Nursing program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Partway through the program, she began researching nursing schools in the area. "It didn't take me long to decide that Clarkson College would prepare me to be the best nurse," Mary says.

"We didn't choose to come to Omaha, but we believed that God sent us here for a reason."

She enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in fall 2013. The following year, she received the exciting news that she was selected as a Gateway to Success Minority in

Nursing Scholarship recipient, which awarded her \$10,000 each academic year she remained in the BSN program, as well as a summer internship experience at Nebraska Medicine.

"I am forever thankful to the Gateway Scholarship committee and mentors for opening the door for me to enter a career in health care," says Mary. "I wouldn't have achieved my dream without this scholarship."

In her final semester in the BSN program, Mary took on her preceptorship, working the night shift on 6 West at Nebraska Medicine where she cared for trauma, bariatric and general surgical patients.

Many mornings after completing her shift, she walked to campus to attend

**"Nursing is not just
a career for me—
it is a calling."**

class and pass the day studying. "Clarkson College was like my home," she says. "I was always so glad to be a student there."

Mary acknowledges that completing her BSN degree was more difficult than she could have anticipated. "The journey was full of challenges and obstacles that seemed impossible to overcome, like learning how to think critically and answer questions in a limited amount of time." With English being her second language, much of the medical terminology was particularly difficult to learn. "But with the hard work and the resources that Clarkson College provides, I was able to overcome those challenges," she states proudly. "Against all odds, I made it and I finally accomplished everything that I worked so hard for."

On Saturday morning, Dec. 10, 2016, Mary crossed the stage at the Clarkson College commencement ceremony and graciously accepted her diploma. This was a surreal moment for a young woman whose dream of becoming a nurse for so many years existed only in the times she looked high into the infinite sky and imagined life being different.

Just weeks before graduating, Mary shared her story with a mixed race class of fourth graders at a midtown Omaha elementary school. She told them that despite the disadvantages or discouragement they may feel sometimes, the trajectory of their education is largely in their hands. "I feel like if I can

do it, anybody can do it," Mary says. "Being an ESL student doesn't mean you can't accomplish your dreams. Anything is possible to those who believe in themselves and work hard."

Following Mary's presentation, the ESL resource teacher at the school overheard one of the students say to another, "I want to be just like her."

After passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, Mary's short-term goal is to gain more experience on the medical-surgical floor for the next two or three years. "My long-term goal," she says, "is to work in my community (the Karen Community) here in Omaha."

Mary expresses her gratitude to all those at Clarkson College who helped her realize her lifelong dream. "Nursing is not just a career for me—it is a calling," she says fervidly. "I feel I was born with a passion to make a difference in peoples' lives and would like to thank all of my instructors for their support and good work, kindness and patience and for calling me by name when they saw me. I will never regret that I chose to come to Clarkson College."





1 / Mary in the Simulation Lab on campus. 2 / Mary with two fourth grade students at a local elementary school.

Mary would like to dedicate this article to her late grandfather, Edward Pway Taw. When Karen resistance against the Burmese army arose on Jan. 31, 1949, he was among the body of Karens who fought for freedom and equality. "He dedicated so much of his time protecting Karen people and lost everything the day he stood up against the Burmese Army." Pway Taw died in a bombing attack in 1958 carried out by the Burmese Air Force.

"This career is something I can do for the rest of my working life."

Alumni Perspective

A conversation with Brian Juhl

The few minutes it takes to complete an aptitude test may shape the course of your life—or at least so they did for Exira, Iowa native and former stockman Brian Juhl, who swapped out his tool belt for a pair of medical scrubs.



Brian Juhl

Radiologic Technology ('13)
& Medical Imaging ('16)

Where did you work prior to enrolling at Clarkson College?

After graduating high school in 1994, I attended Iowa State University for a half of a semester and decided it wasn't for me, so I discontinued my involvement and went to work full-time for a construction company. My first job involved putting up steel buildings for about two years. I then worked for another construction company for approximately three years doing concrete work. I then moved on to another company in Des Moines, Iowa, also concrete work, and remained there for about two years before joining the union working as a concrete finisher. I continued to work at this job for roughly one year before starting to work for a boar stud (hog confinement).

At what point in your career did you begin to consider changing your profession?

I worked for the hog confinement for about five years and knew I wanted something more in regards to a long-term career, which led to me taking an aptitude test.

How did you decide on radiologic technology (RT)?

Radiologic technology was one of the professions that came up on my aptitude test results, so I completed a job shadow and thought it would be something to pursue. Before applying to Clarkson College, I took classes at Iowa Western Community College and received an Associate's degree in Biological Sciences.

Did you have any reservations about returning to school?

I did. In fact, I quit after the first semester at Clarkson College because I was trying to work, go to school, pay bills and find time for family, which simply wore me out. I went back to work at the hog confinement for about one year until I decided to contact Shelli Weddum [RT and Medical Imaging Assistant Director] about re-enrolling in school and what the process would be. I soon received a call from Ellen Collins [RT and Medical Imaging Director], stating that Clarkson College would allow me to begin taking classes from where I had left off. I quit my job and decided to dedicate my attention to school and completing the RT program.

Why did you choose to attend Clarkson College?

I chose Clarkson College over the other schools I researched because it allowed me to do all of my classwork in the first year and then complete my clinical rotations my second year in Atlantic, Iowa, which is close to home.

How did your education at Clarkson College set you up for success?

After completing my clinical rotations, I was hired at Cass County Memorial Hospital upon graduation in 2013. I later received my Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging in 2016. I am currently certified in X-Ray, CT and MRI and am the lead technologist in the MRI department, which means I am

involved in each modality on a weekly basis. One of my greatest career accomplishments so far has been assisting with starting a new MRI suite at the hospital.

Does your current career path fill any voids that your former one did not?

This career is something I can do for the rest of my working life. I also enjoy helping people when they are most vulnerable and feel as if I am a crucial part of the recovery process.

Who or what helped make your career change possible?

I would like to give a special thanks to the staff at Clarkson College, as well as Ellen Collins for believing in me and helping me reach my goals as an RT and beyond. I also extend a huge thanks to my family for all of their patience and help.

"I wanted a career that would allow me to spend time with family and give back to my community."

Alumni Perspective

A conversation with Susan Gillum

Alumna and Omaha, Neb. native Susan Gillum is living proof that it's never too late to start over. After 26 years of working in various management positions in the corporate world, she took her career into an entirely new direction and couldn't be happier because of it.



Susan Gillum

Physical Therapist Assistant ('15)

Where did you work prior to enrolling at Clarkson College?

My first job was as a courtesy clerk at Hy-Vee. I continued to work at Hy-Vee as a shift manager while attending Creighton University. After graduating with an Accounting/Finance degree, I decided to go full-time with Hy-Vee. During my career with Hy-Vee, I moved to Kansas City, Kan., Lincoln Neb. and finally returned to Omaha to be close to family. During this time, I helped open many stores for Hy-Vee. I worked for Hy-Vee for 26 years in various management positions, working my way up to store director.

At what point in your career did you begin to consider changing your profession?

After having my second child, Sara, I took some time off to be with my family. During this time, I did some soul searching. I wanted a career that would allow me to spend time with family and also give back to my community.

How did you decide on physical therapy and the physical therapist assistant (PTA) program?

Another parent in my oldest child's kindergarten class was a graduate from Clarkson College and informed me about the PTA program. After doing some research, I found that Clarkson College was known for its PTA program. I went to a physical therapist for a back problem and was very impressed with the process. I figured this would be a great way to make a difference and decided to apply to the program.

What reservations did you have about returning to school?

I knew this would be a big life changer. I had two young children, and I was also pregnant with my third child. I was inspired by my mom, who went back to school when I was a young child and had seven children. I wanted to follow my dream and was passionate about meeting my goals. My husband was very supportive about me going back to school.

What types of challenges did you face balancing motherhood and school?

I recall being nine months pregnant when I attended New Student Orientation. I was one of the older students in my class and received a lot of support from the other students and faculty. I remember waking up in the middle of the night to feed my newborn baby and would have my notes ready to study as I rocked her. My older kids became my volunteers for me to practice what I was learning in school.

Overall, how would you describe your "going back to school" experience?

I had an excellent experience. I was honored to be elected President of the Clarkson College PTA Student Association. This was a very fulfilling experience. We also gave back to the community by volunteering for different events, such as the Special Olympics, Healthy Kids and MS Forward.

I felt like Clarkson College did an excellent job preparing me to be a successful PTA. After graduating and passing my boards, I started out doing home health and accepted a full-time job with Hillcrest Health and Rehab, where I have been working since March 2015.

Does your current career path fill any voids that your former one did not?

I am very excited about being a PTA at Hillcrest. It has been very fulfilling, and I have an excellent team that I work with in the therapy department. Hillcrest has the work culture that I was looking for and has been very supportive of my family life. The company also provides many opportunities to continue my education in my field.

Is it ever too late to go back to school?

I feel very fortunate that I've had this opportunity to have a second career and would recommend it to anyone who has the passion to make a life change. It has been fulfilling going home each day knowing I made a difference in my patients' lives.



Extending Our Value of Caring Across Campus & Beyond

Caring is one of our five core Values at Clarkson College. In every instance, we encourage empathy, compassion and respect for those with whom we interact and serve, and this philosophy especially holds true during occasions celebrated by many as times of togetherness and jubilee. We are humbled to share the various ways Clarkson College faculty, staff and students have partnered together to offer their caring hearts to those less fortunate this holiday season.

PTA 5K Reaps Record Participants & Donations

On Saturday, Oct. 29, second-year Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students and faculty hosted the fourth annual PTA 5K event. This health awareness and fundraising event came into fruition in fall 2013 as part of an assignment for the PTA 215 Therapeutic Exercise II course and aims to achieve three main objectives: To celebrate October as National Physical Therapy Month; 2) to promote physical activity and wellness among the Clarkson College and local communities; and 3) to obtain food donations for the Open Door Mission.

This year, the event set new records in both participation and food donations. Ninety-four faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends ran or walked the 3.1-mile trek along the Field Club Trail in midtown Omaha and donated 195 pounds-worth of nonperishable food items.

Alumni Study Hall

As the fall semester winds down, student stress levels rise to heightened levels. In an effort to ease the strains of final projects and exams, the Alumni Association hosts study halls for students to focus in a quiet space on campus.

A highlight of the two study halls includes visits from Love on a Leash therapy dogs. This semester, four pups visited campus for an hour on Dec. 6, giving more than 60 hard-studying students a welcomed study break.

The therapy dog visits and light snacks provided at the Alumni Association study halls are made possible through the generosity of alumni donations.



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1 / The costumed PTA 5K walk/ run participants and pups.
2 / Students welcome an enthusiastic "hello" from Boomer, Love on a Leash therapy dog. 3 / SGA leadership members finish wrapping the brand new clothing, toys and book donations.

Employees Raise More than \$11,000 in Choose to Give Campaign

Clarkson College held its sixth 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 record total of \$11,312. Last year's donations combined with alumni contributions funded three undergraduate scholarships. The 2017 Endowed Scholarship recipients will be selected in early spring.

Nearly 100 Gifts Donated to 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. The dozens of paper ornaments hanging from the tree listed the name, age and short wish list of each of the young boys and girls at Children's Square USA, a life education center in Council Bluffs, Iowa that provides services to children and families in the community.

In just a couple of weeks, the caring community at Clarkson College cleared the Giving Tree of its ornaments. Thanks to their generosity and the more than 100 presents they purchased, the boys and girls at Children's Square USA had an average of three gifts apiece to open and enjoy during the holiday season.

RT Students Personally Deliver Joy to Local Families

Since 2008, Clarkson College Radiologic Technology (RT) students have partnered with the Calling the Hope Revolution into Service (CHRS) organization to provide families in the community with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, presents and more.

This year, the Radiologic Technology Student Association (RTSA) and the Lambda Nu Honor Society members raised enough funds to adopt two families. The Monday before Thanksgiving, the students delivered food used by the families to prepare their own Thanksgiving meals. Over the winter break, the students spent a full day buying and wrapping Christmas gifts requested

by the families. That same evening, they delivered the gifts and surprised the families with a visit from Santa Claus.

Omicron Epsilon & Nebraska Medicine Raise Funds for Family

For the second year in a row, 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 adopt a family in the community. The honor society more than doubled last year's donations by raising \$300 to purchase gifts for this year's adopted family.

Campus Diaper Drive Participation Benefits Omaha Community

Clarkson College faculty and staff were ecstatic to donate a total of 1,249 diapers to the 12th annual Channel 94.1 diaper drive, held Dec. 16–18. Altogether, Omaha businesses and residents donated a record 1,000,000+ diapers to the Open Door Mission's Lydia House. The College community is proud to have shared so much compassion with one of our service partners, the Open Door Mission.

December Capstone Project Summary

The graduate students preparing for their upcoming graduation presented their Capstone projects on Friday, Dec. 9. This was one of the largest groups presenting to date. The Capstone project is a research project based on a culmination of learnings obtained throughout their program. The Alumni Association once again reviewed the abstracts following the established rubric. After review, three were chosen to receive certificates of merit from the Alumni Association.

Misty Wahab earned first place for her abstract *Palliative Care Effects on Hospital Readmission Rates for Congestive Heart Failure & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Second place was awarded to Shane Durham for his abstract *Frequency of A1C Testing for Emergency & Direct Admission Patients with Elevated Blood Glucose Levels* (advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier). Amy Mitchell received the third place award for her abstract *A Prospective Study: Ketamine Use in the GI Setting to Decrease Respiratory Depression in Morbidly Obese Patients Undergoing Colonoscopy* (advisor Dr. George Rogers).

Palliative Care Effects on Hospital Readmission Rates for Congestive Heart Failure & Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Patients by Misty Wahab

Chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure (CHF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are costly, debilitating and life-threatening for the affected patient. Frequently CHF and COPD patients of all ages are readmitted to the hospital to continue with aggressive treatments. The CHF and COPD patient needs alternate treatment options, but health care providers fail to offer

or offer inconsistently the option of palliative care consultations. The research question was: In diagnosed CHF and COPD patients does an inpatient palliative care consultation compared to no inpatient palliative care consultation reduce readmission rates? Watson's theory of human caring guided the palliative care focus and humanistic altruistic value of the study. The retrospective design of reviewing medical records identified consecutive CHF and COPD male and female patients (N = 1479) admitted to a Midwestern hospital from Jan. 1, 2016 through Feb. 29, 2016. Patients 49 years of age or older receiving a palliative care consultation (n = 77) had no readmissions through May 31, 2016. Patients without a palliative care consultation (n = 1402) had 799 readmissions; a 57 percent readmission rate. The study implications support palliative care consultations for admitted CHF and COPD patients at any stage of their disease. Future research is recommended for a longitudinal study of the effect of palliative care on readmission rates of the CHF and COPD patient.

Frequency of A1C Testing for Emergency & Direct Admission Patients with Elevated Blood Glucose Levels by Shane Durham

Patients presenting to the emergency room (ER) with an elevated blood glucose (hyperglycemia) may or may not have a diagnosis of diabetes. Estimates are 33–55 percent of hyperglycemic patients' have prediabetes, while 30–46 percent of these patients have a probable diagnosis of diabetes (Katsnelson et al., 2013). The American Diabetes Association (ADA, 2016) recommendation for a hemoglobin A1C (A1C) laboratory blood test—determining the average blood glucose

value over two to three months—on ER patients or direct admit patients is inconsistently ordered by health care providers. The descriptive study reviewed electronic medical records (EMR) at a Midwestern hospital to determine the frequency health care providers ordered a A1C on ER patients or direct admits with hyperglycemia or a history of Type II diabetes. Of the 50 charts reviewed, the admission blood glucose ranged from 86–898 mg/dl, 16 patients (32 percent) with blood glucose ranges of 101–898 mg/dl had a A1C drawn during the hospitalization, while 34 patients (68 percent) with blood glucose ranges of 86–330 mg/dl did not have a A1C checked at any time during the hospitalization. The A1C values ranged from 5.3 to 13.2 percent, with the average A1C at 8.3 percent. A normal fasting blood glucose is less than 100mg/dl, and a normal A1C is less than 5.7 percent (ADA, 2016). Guidelines for the hyperglycemic ER and direct admit patient are needed in addition to further experimental studies.

A Prospective Study: Ketamine Use in the GI Setting to Decrease Respiratory Depression in Morbidly Obese Patients Undergoing Colonoscopy by Amy Mitchell

Morbid obesity is an epidemic facing Americans and changing the way anesthesia is delivered. In order to provide efficient yet safe anesthesia to morbidly obese patients, anesthesia providers must tailor their anesthetic to decrease the respiratory depression common in this population. The intent of this study is to determine whether the use of combined ketamine and propofol for sedation is more effective than administration of propofol alone in preventing respiratory depression

continued on page 22

Graduate Capstone Projects

HAYLEE BARSBY *The Effects of Intravenous Crystalloid Fluid on Emergency Room Patients Ages 65 Years & Older Diagnosed with Sepsis*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

CHRISTINA BENSON *The Effect of Music on Anxiety in the Preoperative Patient*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

AMANDA BOARDMAN *Nurses' Perceptions on Bottle Feeding Systems Used for Premature Infants*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

KIMBERLY BRAKE *A Feasibility Study to Maximize Reimbursement for the Laboratory Department at a Critical Access Hospital in Rural Missouri*, advisor Carla Dirkschneider

MEGAN BROE *Perceptions of Registered Nurses' Knowledge Levels of Post Sedation Recovery Procedures*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

JENNIFER BRUCK *Does an Adolescent's Self-Perception of Weight Correlate with Bullying?*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

NATALIE BURKEY *Midlevel & Nurse Interdisciplinary Professional Relationships in the Emergency Department: The Nurse's Perspectives*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

FAY CALL *Detection of Postpartum Depression at One-Year Well Child Checks*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

STEFFANY CHEDEL *Use of a PowerPoint Presentation to Enhance Didactic Student Nurse Anesthetists'*

Knowledge of an Emergent Intraoperative Airway Event, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

JAIME DEPUE *The Effects of the Presence of Parents in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit on the Pediatric Surgical Patient*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

ALLYSON DOERR *An Assessment of Postoperative Pain Management with the Use of Intravenous Acetaminophen in Spine Surgery Patients at a Midwest Spine Hospital*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

HALEY ECKERT *SRNA Knowledge of the ASA Difficult Airway Algorithm*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

ALAN ENGBRETSON *Nitrous Oxide Administration & the Incidence of Postoperative Nausea & Vomiting in General Anesthesia Procedures*, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

MARIE FARKE *Nurse-Led Health-Related Lifestyle Program: Does It Make a Difference?*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

STEPHANIE FISCHER *Effects of Delayed Umbilical Cord Clamping on Bilirubin Levels at Hospital Discharge of Term Infants*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

KRISTIN FLEMING *The Effects of Nursing Incentives on Nurse's & Patient's Satisfaction Level*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

SARAH GIERHAN *Role of Diabetes Educators in Family Practice Medicine Diabetes Management*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

DENISE GORDON *A Retrospective Investigation of Timing of Antiemetic Medications on Incidence of Postoperative Nausea & Vomiting in Patients Who Received General Anesthesia*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

LACEY GOTTULA *Nurses' Knowledge of Indwelling Urinary Catheter Maintenance & CAUTI Prevention*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

MATTHEW GROSS *Effects of Exercise Capacity on Detection of CAD*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

JESSICA HANSEN *Calliative Care Knowledge Among Critical Care Nurses*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

VANESSA HEASLEY *Physical Restraint Use & Patient Outcomes*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

EMILY HOLSTEIN *Retrospective Study of Smoking Cessation Following a Cerebrovascular Accident Surgery*, advisor Dr. Martha Sanders

MARK HUBER *Effectiveness of Fluid Bolus Therapy on Septic Patients as Evidenced by Length of Hospital Stay*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

ASHLEY JASPERS *Colstridium Difficile Infections: Implementing a Nurse-Led Education Program to Increase Awareness & Knowledge*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

ADAM JOHNSON *A Federal Mental Health Institute*, advisor Justin Avery

TRACY JUNGMAN *Vaccination Status at Age Five According*

to Insurance Payer Type, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

MELISSA KENNEY *The Comparison of Two Techniques for Dexamethasone & Ondansetron Administration to Prevent Postoperative Nausea & Vomiting in High Risk Patients*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

MARY KIRKPATRICK *Effectiveness of a Forced Independent Double Check on Continuous Heparin Infusion Medication Errors*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

SARAH LAIRD *A Retrospective Chart Review of Young Children with Acute Otitis Media*, advisor Dr. Martha Sanders

JENNIFER LEITING *Nurses' Perceptions of Patients' Understanding of Chest Pain Discharge Instructions*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

STEPHANIE LOTH *Bedside Reporting: A Suburban Midwest Hospital Nursing Perspective*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

NICHOLE MARCH *The Utilization of the Local Anesthetic Lidocaine Just Prior to Peripheral Intravenous Catherterization in the Preoperative Setting Within a Large Urban Academic Health Care Facility*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

NATALIE MCCAWLEY *Nebraska Law Enforcement: Readiness to Intervene in Pediatric Medical Emergencies*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

December Capstone Project Summary

continued from page 20

in morbidly obese patients undergoing colonoscopy. A non-experimental prospective research design was used using a consecutive sample of all morbidly obese patients over age 18 with a BMI of 40 or greater undergoing colonoscopy. This resulted in 17 total participants.

A statistical t-test was performed on the amount of propofol given to patients comparing the amount given alone and the amount given in conjunction with Ketamine. The t-value indicated that the amount of propofol given in conjunction with ketamine was significantly less ($M = 263$, $SD = 122$) than the propofol given

alone ($M = 426$, $SD = 185$) at p-value 0.04 ($p < 0.05$). A Chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the relation between ketamine use and airway interventions in the morbidly obese patient. The relation between these variables was not significant, 2 (1, $N = 17$) = 1.63, $p = 0.20$. The research project concluded that there was a decrease in the overall amount of propofol used during each procedure with the addition of ketamine to the sedation regimen however, there was no significant reduction in airway interventions with the addition of ketamine.

Learn more and read up

To read an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester, visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at <http://bit.ly/2fF2YdH>. In the search box, type a few keywords or the author's name and hit enter. The Power Search option 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.

DECEMBER 2016 Capstone Projects

KRISTIN MCQUISTIN

Interpersonal Influences that Lead to an Adult Participating in Colorectal Cancer Screening, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

ELIZABETH MEYER *Effects of Education on Nursing Knowledge about Newborn Hyperbilirubinemia*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

VINCENT MUMA *A Comparison of Analgesic & Pain Scores of IV Acetaminophen & Ketamine During the Perioperative Period: A Retrospective Study*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

SHELLY NAGEL *Video-Monitoring: Reducing Falls in the Acute Care Setting*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

MEGAN O'NEAL *Current Intensive Care Unit Culture in Regards to Early Mobilization*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

JOSEPH PITTS *A Retrospective Study: Intraoperative Intrathecal Buprenorphine: Reducing Post-Operative Opioid Consumption*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

JANELLE PLOURDE *Registered Nurse Knowledge & Confidence Levels of PICC Care & Maintenance*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

LUKE POORE *Critical Access Hospital Emergency Room Coverage: A Business Plan*, advisor Dr. Gretchen Jopp

KYLEEN POULICEK *The Effects of Bedside Reporting on Nurses' Perception of Nurse Preparedness*, advisor Dr. Pam Holtz

DUSTIN SCHUUR *The Effect of Intraoperative Ketamine on Time to PACU Discharge Among ASA II Patients Undergoing Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy*, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

LACI SCOTT *Intimate Partner Violence Awareness of Rural Health Care Providers*, advisor Dr. Amy Clark

AMANDA SOULLIERE *Human Trafficking: Patient Identifiers & Screening Questions for Emergency Nurses*, advisor Dr. Martha Sanders

JACQUELYN STAJCAR *Does In-Service Education Regarding Sepsis Identification Increase the Completion of Sepsis Checklists by Registered Nurses in a Rural Medical Center Emergency Room?*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

CRYSTAL STARBUCK *Pressure Ulcer Development: Braden Scores & the Effects of Repositioning Interventions in COPD Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

JOHN SWANHORST *Social Work Counseling Office in Rural Nebraska*, advisor Bill Koile

MELISSA TANGEMAN *The Effect Alternative Therapy Education has on Provider Consideration for Treating Chronic Low Back Pain*, advisor Dr. Renee Ruhkamp

AMANDA VANDENWYNBOOM *Effectiveness of Fever Management Education for Primary Caregivers of Children Ages Six to Eighteen Months*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

KATIE WAHLER *Knowledge, Attitude & Confidence Towards Advance Directives Following Intervention in*



Career Fair for Health Professions

Whether you're looking to network or begin your job search, this annual event is a great place to start

Primary Care Staff, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

MARSHA YEMBI *Students' Perception of their Clinical Experience in Long-Term Care*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

ALEXIS ZECY *Examining the Differences of First-Year & Second-Year Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists Ability to Recognize & Respond to Intraoperative Venous Air Embolism*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

Clarkson College will host its sixth annual Career Fair for Health Professions on Thursday, March 23 from 1–3:30 p.m. in Howard Hall. This event is designed to introduce students and alumni to a wide variety of career opportunities in health care. Even if you're not actively looking for a new career, it's a great opportunity to network with many different health care organizations throughout the region. Last year, we had more than 240 attendees, and we look forward to the event's continued growth.

What to expect at the event

More than 50 health care organizations are expected to attend this year's career fair. Positions range from entry level to advanced, offering something for both experienced and upcoming health care graduates. Expect an e-mail with more information pertaining to the exhibitors and positions available approximately two weeks prior to the event.

Along with attending the career fair to network and seek out job opportunities, Clarkson College alumni can also support the event as an exhibitor. If your organization is seeking highly qualified health care candidates, the Career Fair for Health Professions is a great place to assist with your search. To register as an exhibitor, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/career-fair.

Learn more about the Career Fair for Health Professions

If you would like more information or have any questions regarding the Career Fair for Health Professions, contact Jon Clay at 402.552.2944 or clayjon@clarksoncollege.edu.

Interested in posting open health care positions online?

Assisting our students and alumni find employment is important to us. Are you looking for a great employee to join your organization? Let us know! Visit ClarksonCollege.edu/CareerServices. Employers may submit an open position on the right-hand side of the page.

Employers frequently express a preference for Clarkson College students and graduates, and the Career Services webpage quickly and conveniently connects them to a professionally prepared group of potential applicants. As a jobseeker or a hiring manager, we hope you take advantage of this service as a means to drive your professional growth and further your organization's success.

See potential opportunities by visiting ClarksonCollege.edu/CareerServices.

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

2000s

Cynthia Privitera ('01)

Since graduation, I've commuted nearly 300 miles every Friday and Sunday night to Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. I have taught almost every course—a UNLV BSN, Apollo AND, ITT/Breckinridge AND, and NCI LPN programs; Private Practice Endocrinology; Republic Service Employee Clinic; set up and managed Westcare LNHCL with 2 other NPs and DON; adjunct and preceptor to PA students from Taro University; and Evolution Health Mobile Integrated NP.

I was widowed Nov. 3, 2003 and remarried Dec. 23, 2005. My daughter teaches special education, is working on her Master's degree in English as a second language and has two daughters and two sons. My son is a Director of Radiology and many other departments at Centennial Hills Hospital. He just completed his Master's. My son lives in Seattle with one daughter. I have a total of six grandchildren, three girls and three boys.

In Memoriam

Martha Loft Tallman ('38)

Died Feb. 9, 2015 at the age of 97.

Her daughter Eileen Ellis wrote, "She was among the six students that had most of her training at the Covenant Hospital in Omaha. The Covenant closed down just before the students had completed their training and six of the 18 transferred to Clarkson [School of Nursing] for the last couple of classes. This was very generous

of the school to accept the students and allowing them to graduate from Clarkson School of Nursing."

Rosella Mae "Sally" Frohn ('14)

Died Oct. 29, 2015. She lived in Lincoln, Neb.

Royal Fun & Gratitude

The summer mystery photo fun continues with an additional response submission and a message from the featured alumna.

Venita Edie ('92)

The identity of the mystery photo is Sue Houghton Evans. She is from Red Oak, Iowa, and I have lived there for a number of years. We worked together when she was in high school. We see each other occasionally, and it is fun to visit with her.

Sue Houghton Evans ('73)

I would like to extend my gratitude to the friends and classmates who responded to the mystery photo published in the summer 2016 Alumni Times. I greatly appreciated being recognized by my peers after so many years and was moved by the kind words shared. I loved reading all of them.



Mystery Photo

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

Each day is an opportunity for a fresh start, but this many new beginnings is uncanny! Recall the story of these fashionable women and their newborns to earn brand-new bragging rights.

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

MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

Legacy Wrangler

This rancher at heart left many legacies in the health care and academic arenas. Dr. Louis Burgher's accomplishments, skill, leadership and natural modeling skills prove that the strongest legacies are those sewn in kindness and humor.



Georgina Anderson Draur Hopkin ('86)

Louis Burgher, M.D., of course. What's bad is that I remember him looking this young!

Peggy Kozier ('86)

The "cowboy" in the picture is Dr. Louis Burgher, my old boss.

Susan Bristol ('78)

The mystery photo is no mystery at all! It's Dr. Burgher at the Clarkson fashion show. We used to think he looked a lot like George Peppard, only younger. I remember "working" at the Clarkson fashion show, handing out goody bags to people. They were awesome bags, and we usually received one, too! It was fun to see the people from the hospital—doctors, nurses and managers—model in the show. There were little kids, too. A real family affair at times. It was a wonderful event.

Sharon Mantz, Clarkson College Clinical Education Compliance Coordinator

The mystery picture is Dr. Burgher.

Brian Arens ('94)

The photo challenge is not really difficult. It's our infamous leader, Dr. Burgher.

Kathy Kabes Hoelbelheinrich ('77, '93)

That's Dr. Louis Burgher, and he hasn't aged a bit! I believe that runway and overhead lights are at the now razed Peony Park Ballroom. The hospital auxiliary sponsored fashion shows and featured VIP models from amongst hospital medical staff.

Pam Jones, Clarkson College Professional Development Specialist

It is Dr. Burgher. Looks like he is strutting his stuff down a runway.

Teresa Shepherd, Clarkson College Administrative Assistant

Is this Dr. Burgher?

Ellen Collins, Clarkson College Radiologic Technology & Medical Imaging Director

Dr. Burgher. I think he was on a runway modeling! Yee-haw!

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 Bedsole*
Mandy Cowley
LaTriekca J. Foster***
Abigail Freyermuth
Tolé Kounsivannarat λ***
Ryan Parise****

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Allison Arnold***
Kayla Marie Bailey***
Natalie Ruth Becker
Stacy Ann Beller
Paige A. Chaney
Jamie Lynn Crouse****
Hannah Rae Fennessy**
Laura M. Foster Σ****
Kristina Gelecki Σ***
Jesse Grimes****
Alex Halbur*
Katie Elizabeth Heeren Σ****
Chelsee Lynn James****
Jordan Lee Jennings**
Brandon S. Ladwig***
Megan Anne Leach****
Joseph J. McMahon***
Nicole Schuller Mitchell****
Cayla Mackenzie Reid Σ
Alecia L. Steed
Shelby Strubel**
Kareena Torres***

Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Becky Eisenbraun

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Michaela Lee Chatfield
Abigail Mar Freyermuth
Stacey Hawley
Kaylee Marie Kane
Hannah Marie Keenportz λΣ
Tolé Kounsivannarat λ***
Jennifer MacDonald Σ
Sydney Lynn McCaw λ****
Lauren Amelia Sievers
Heather Marie Speck λ****
Camille Delores Steffensmeier
Benjamin Tessin λ***
Ashley Lauren Witkowski λ*

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alexis M. Alexander
Mark Phillip Atcher
Roxana Barbosa
Rochelle J. Bartley****
William H. Beal
Lisa Anne Blair
Autumn Botdorf
Lisa Lyn Costanzo
Krystina Daubman
Betsy Edstedt****
Mary EdwardToe †Σ**
Justus Charles Farruggia †**
Bridgette Fitzsimmons Σ
Brittany Flattery****
Sarah Ford*
Amanda D. Foster Σ
Sherry Ann Glenn Σ
Stephanie Ranae Haiar*
McKenna Jayne Henze †Σ**
Danielle Marie Herbolzheimer †Σ
Amy Lyn Lewis*
Krystina Daubman
Crystal L. Mick ****
Brandi Danielle Netzel
Lindsay Nicole Perales †Σ*
Alexis Suzanne Petersen Σ***
Laura Lynn Pettit**
Michaela M. Sedlak
Jennifer A. Staats
Courtney Lyn Virgl †Σ**
Ashley Amanda Vore
Regina Rae Wagner †****
Michelle M. Winegar Σ****

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business Management

Valerie Zezulka****

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Services

Jessica Niemann****
Bryan Tran Σ*

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Information

Jenny Joy****
Nicole Erin Smith

Master in Health Care Administration

Regina M. Antonio
Kimberly J. Brake
Adam J. Johnson
Luke Davis Poore
John Swanhorst

Master of Science in Nursing

Donna Angela Baker †
Christina Joy Benson
Amanda Brooke Boardman
Megan Broe
Natalie Blake Burky
Fay Coleman Call
Steffany Chedel
Kelsey Lynn Crowder
Jaime Lynn Depue
Allyson Kristine Doerr
Shane Durham †Σ
Haley Eckert
John Wayne Elsaesser
Alan Michael Engebretson
Marie Suzanne Farke
Stephanie Fischer
Kristen Elizabeth Fleming Σ
Sarah L. Gierhan
Denise N. Gordon
Lacey Gottula
Emily A. Holstein †
Mark W. Huber
Ashley L. Jaspers †
Tracy Jungman
Melissa Marie Kenney
Mary Stephanie Kirkpatrick †Σ
Sarah Jane Laird
Jennifer Marie Leiting
Stephanie Loth
Xiangying Luo
Natalie Jean McCawley †
Nichole Cheri March
Elizabeth Joy Meyer
Amy Lynn Mitchell
Vincent Kinanga Muma
Shelly M. Nagel
Megan O'Neal Σ
Joseph Carl Pitts
Janelle Marie Plourde
Teresa A. Powers
Laci K. Scott
Dustin Schuur
Stephanie Marie Simon
Natalie Ana Smith

Amanda Elizabeth Soulliere
Jacquelyn Stajcar
Crystal Starbuck
Melissa M. Tangemen †
Amanda Vanden Wynboom
Misty Wahab
Katie Marie Wahler
Marsha Yembi †Σ
Alexis Kristina Zecy

Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Jessica Marie Bachman
Kelly Jean Godfrey
Tonya Johnson McLeay
Stephanie Ann Moon
Amor Raparla
Sangmee Shin Richardson



College Promotes Marketing Director of Seven Years as New Vice President of Operations

Effective Jan. 1, Jina Paul, M.B.A., Clarkson College Marketing Director of seven years, assumed the Vice President of Operations position. Ms. Paul transitioned into this role with more than 12 years of leadership experience. Some of her accomplishments at the College include successfully implementing a rebranding project in 2010, supporting the strategic plan by leading Critical Success Factor teams and authoring the annual recruitment strategies plan.

Prior to joining Clarkson College, Ms. Paul served as the Vice President of Marketing and Communications within a financial services company where she led the communications and strategic efforts for 127 bank locations across the Midwest. She has international experience working with National Australia Bank and Bank of New Zealand corporate headquarters training in customer experience, global perspectives, organizational development and leadership.

After several years of experience in the corporate financial services world, Ms. Paul yearned for a career with a greater purpose. "The family-like atmosphere and Mission and Values of Clarkson College quickly resonated," she says.

"To this day, I remain grateful and proud to be a part of this organization and look forward to the bright future ahead."

Ms. Paul recently completed her Master's degree in Leadership and Executive Coaching at Bellevue University.

Ms. Paul is responsible for providing a high standard of vision, leadership and direction for all Student Services departments within the College, including but not limited to: Admissions, Student Accounts, Student Financial Services, Registrar, Success Center, Bookstore, Testing Center, Marketing, Facilities, Information Technology, Library Services, Student Activities, Residence Life, Student Code of Conduct, Parking, Health and Safety, Student Government Association and Campus Security. Under the general direction of the President, she co-leads the annual College-wide strategic planning meetings and formation of Critical Success Factors teams to address areas where opportunities have been identified. Any changes in College policy, procedures or programming are also implemented under her direction.

"I remain grateful and proud to be a part of this organization and look forward to the bright future ahead."

Medrano Receives Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrar's & Admissions Officers Rising Star Award

The Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (NACRAO) presented Clarkson College Admissions Coordinator Jocelyn Medrano with the Rising Star Award at its annual fall conference, held in York, Neb. Nov. 9–11. This award is given to one NACRAO member each year and recognizes demonstrated commitment to professionalism and significant contributions to the organization.

Medrano is unsure who nominated her for the Rising Star Award but believes her nomination came as the result of a presentation she gave on diversity and cultural competence at the New Counselor Workshop she attended in Kearney, Neb. last August. "This was a hard task because no one had ever presented on that topic at this workshop before, so I basically had to start from scratch," says Medrano. Presenters at the workshop oftentimes repurpose presentations given the previous year, but Medrano wanted

to make hers new and relevant. She received permission to use Center for Teaching Excellence Dr. Ricardo Varguez's module for Diversity and Cultural Competence as a foundation. "It is a topic I am passionate about and one that is very important for admissions counselors, so I hope the attendees learned a lot from it."

Just prior to announcing Medrano's selection as this year's Rising Star Award recipient, NACRAO representatives shared the names of all nominees—one being Medrano's fellow Admissions Coordinator, Becca Gordon. "We were sitting next to each other when they announced that Becca was nominated," Medrano says. When they announced Medrano was the recipient, she was in a state of shock. "I think my mouth fell open," says Medrano jovially. "There are so many rock star admissions representatives around the state, so I was honored that they chose me."

Medrano earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2013 from Midland University, where she proceeded to work as an admissions counselor for two years following graduation. She joined the Clarkson College Admissions staff in summer 2015.

"I can't take any credit for the short distance I have come since graduation," she says. "I have a God who is the orchestrator of every good thing in my life (including this job and this award), so all the credit should naturally go to Him."

Ralston Retires after 17 Years as Library Services Director

The Clarkson College community bid a bittersweet farewell to Library Services Director Nancy Ralston at her retirement reception on Dec. 6. Since April of 1999, Nancy has been responsible for equipping the Library with updated learning resources and ensuring services provided support student academic success.

Nancy shares how her years at Clarkson College have been both challenging and enlightening. "When I took the director position, the library world was just then moving from CD access to web access for databases, and there weren't many options for full text," she says. "I gained a better technological awareness, confidence in my ability to build an attractive collection of resources and a better appreciation for contributions made by other library professionals."

Overall, Nancy found her experience very rewarding. "I am pleased to say that I worked at Clarkson College and that I've never worked with a more capable and talented group of library professionals anywhere."

Nancy majored in art and taught art classes in South Carolina prior to becoming a librarian. Now officially retired, she looks forward to spending more time working on paintings and art projects and also hopes to travel.





Clarkson College Receives Record National Recognitions in 2016

Reflecting back on 2016, Clarkson College could not be prouder of the numerous national awards and recognitions the institution and its academic programs received this past year. Here is a snapshot of the various honors earned in the categories of educational value, affordability and online instruction:

Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant & Radiologic Technology Programs Recognized for Excellence

Community for Accredited Online Schools, an organization dedicated to helping college-bound students find high-quality, accredited online schools, released its annual ranking for the 2016–2017 school year and recognized Clarkson College as offering the No. 1 Best Radiologic Technology program and the No. 8 Best Physical Therapist Assistant program in the nation.

Clarkson College Nurse Practitioner Program Ranked Among Top in Nation

Affordable Colleges Online, a leading resource for online learning and college affordability information, ranked Clarkson College No. 28 in the nation in the category of Best Online Nurse Practitioner Programs for 2016–2017.

Clarkson College Named Among Top Nebraska Schools for Online Education & ROI

Affordable Colleges Online, a leading resource for online learning and college affordability information, ranked Clarkson College No. 3 in Nebraska for return on investment of a college education and 6th in the category of Best Online Colleges in Nebraska for 2016–2017.

Clarkson College Nursing Leadership Program Ranks 14th in U.S.

The Best Master's Degrees ranked the Clarkson College online Master's degree in Nursing Health Care Administration (NHCA) program 14th in the nation out



of 96 accredited schools in the category of the most affordable online MSN in Nursing Leadership programs.

Clarkson College Ranked Among Top 10 Online Health Informatics Bachelor's Degree Programs

Clarkson College ranked fourth among the top 10 online Health Informatics Bachelor's degree programs in the U.S. by Health Informatics Degree Center. The ranking was published on the organization's website in September.

Clarkson College MHA Program Ranks 4th in National Online Ranking

Online Colleges ranked the Clarkson College Master's degree in Health Care Administration (MHA) program fourth in the nation in the category of Best Online Colleges for Healthcare Administration.

Clarkson College Medical Imaging Program 6th in National Online Ranking

Online Colleges ranked the Clarkson College Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging sixth in the nation in the category of Best Online Colleges for Radiologic Sciences.

Clarkson College Online MHA Program Ranks 18th in U.S.

Top Master's in Healthcare Administration ranked Clarkson College 18th in the nation in the category of 20 Best Online Master's in Health Administration (MHA) Degree Programs.

Clarkson College Ranked 22nd Best Online College in U.S.

Best Colleges ranked Clarkson College 22nd in the nation and as the only higher education institution in Nebraska on its Best Accredited Online Bachelor's Degree Colleges of 2016 list.

Best Online Master's Degrees in Health Administration

Affordable Colleges (AC) Online, a leading education and industry resource for online education information, ranked Clarkson College 3rd in the category of Best Online Master's in Health Administration degrees for 2015–2016.

Best Online Master's Degrees in Nursing

Affordable Colleges (AC) Online, a leading education and industry resource for online education information, ranked Clarkson College 3rd in the category of Best Online Master's degrees in Nursing for 2015–2016.

Online Graduate Nursing Program Ranked Best in Nebraska

U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College 39th out of 147 eligible institutions in the nation in the category of 2016 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, making it the top ranked school in Nebraska.

Read more and keep up-to-date by visiting ClarksonCollege.edu/awards.

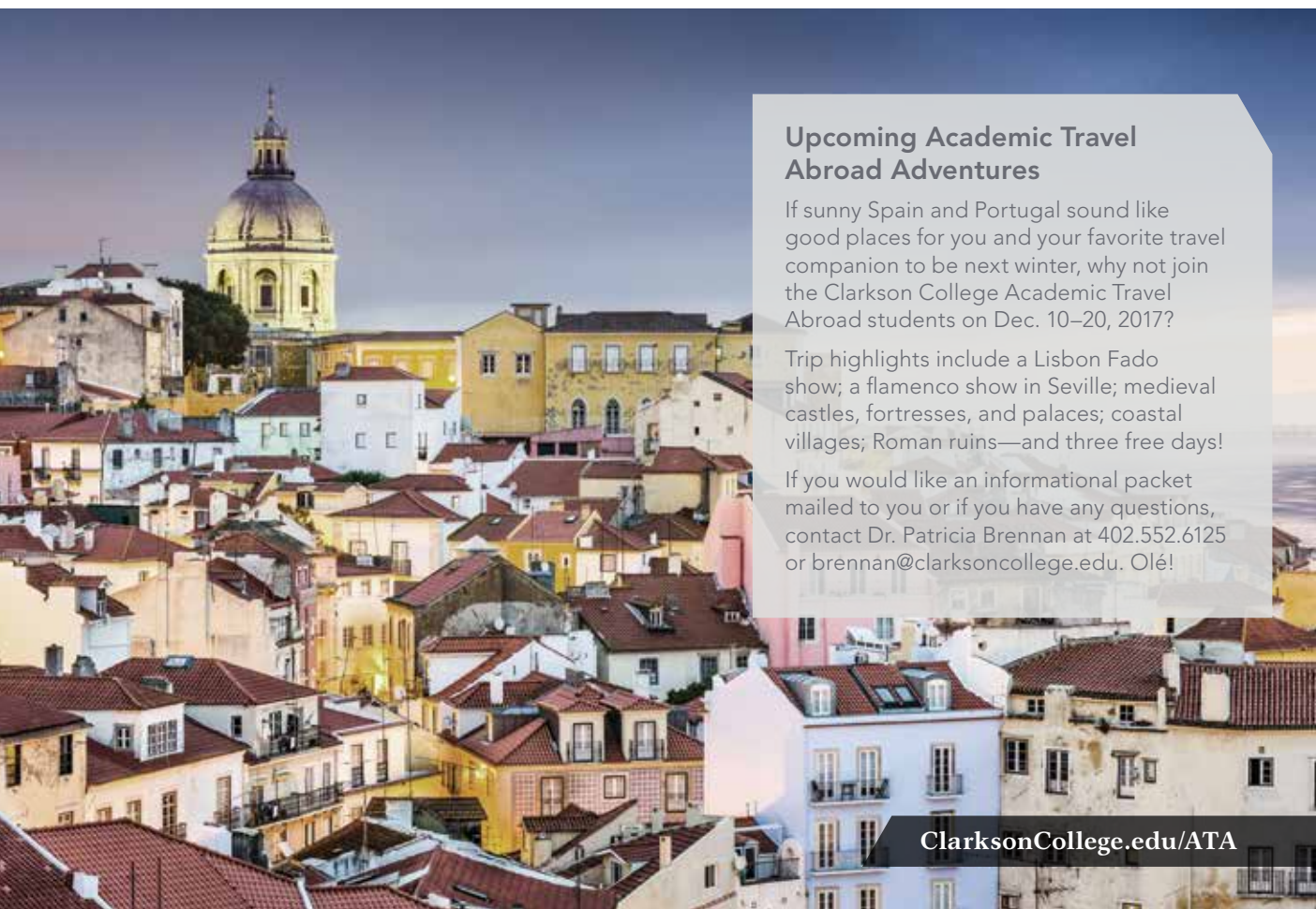


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Upcoming Academic Travel Abroad Adventures

If sunny Spain and Portugal sound like good places for you and your favorite travel companion to be next winter, why not join the Clarkson College Academic Travel Abroad students on Dec. 10–20, 2017?

Trip highlights include a Lisbon Fado show; a flamenco show in Seville; medieval castles, fortresses, and palaces; coastal villages; Roman ruins—and three free days!

If you would like an informational packet mailed to you or if you have any questions, contact Dr. Patricia Brennan at 402.552.6125 or brennan@clarksoncollege.edu. Olé!

ClarksonCollege.edu/ATA