

Winter  
2019 Issue

# Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine

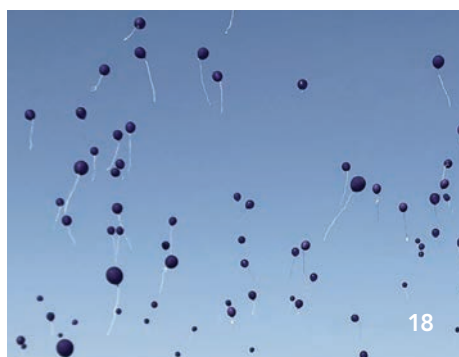
Impacting  
communities  
& exceeding  
expectations





Each connection you make in life—with coworkers, community members, friends and family—brings new possibilities. Fostering relationships with those who push your limits and empower you will not only bring happiness, it will inspire you to go beyond what is expected and explore every possibility for success.





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## On the Cover

Bruno Caro ('15) treats his sons, Foster and Javier, to an Omaha Fire Station 31 visit. **7**

**PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF**  
 Bruno Caro, RN, BSN

## From the Alumni President

**As students and professionals, we quickly learn that a strong group of supporters can be a major contributor to our success.**

When we in turn become members of these communities, it is important to remember that it is not enough to simply maintain the status quo. We must strive to make these groups better and exceed the expectations we set for ourselves.

When looking for ways to connect with your community, it is important to network with others to find inspiring role models, mentors and supporters who will help you become a braver version of yourself. In order to do this, you must first recognize what is happening within your personal life and your organization. Surrounding yourself with the right people can inspire you to speak bravely and recognize your talents and gifts.

People are happiest and most fulfilled when they grow and strive toward their highest potential, and making an impact within your community or organization may do just that. Once you recognize your gifts and talents, you can stop waiting for the community to serve you and instead become the change your community needs. This transformation begins by identifying the change you want to see and aligning yourself with organizations like Clarkson College that are continually working to help others.

The College participates in an annual giving campaign that provides additional financial support to the Alumni Scholarship fund, and it recently partnered with Kid's Chance of Nebraska to match a \$5,000 scholarship for underprivileged students to earn a post-secondary education. Students, faculty and staff also participate in numerous

annual efforts to donate food, clothing, gifts and supplies to local families in need.

In addition to giving back to the community, Clarkson College also supports its faculty and students as the institution goes through changes and updates. The organization recently completed a major Science Lab renovation in Aug. 2018 to meet the challenges of the continually advancing science and health care fields (learn more about that project on page 11). In Feb. 2019, the Clarkson College Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Dr. Tony Damewood as College President and appointed Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña as the interim President. Dr. Orduña will continue the work that the institution performs in preparing students to be the best (learn more about the transition on page 17).

Let us remember the importance of staying connected to each other and our organizations and utilizing our unique gifts to help others as we perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Together, we can create a ladder of success as we mentor others and open ourselves up to more opportunities to impact our community.



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



At top / A handful of the festive decor seen in the Omaha area.  
At left / Holiday Lights Tour guests gather in the College lobby.

## Cheerful Spirit Abounds During December's Holiday Lights Tour

The fourth annual Holiday Lights tour sponsored by the Alumni Association was held Dec. 6. Attendees enjoyed a brisk, relaxing evening spent celebrating the season with College community members.

The event began with coffee, hot chocolate and cookies in the lobby of the Clarkson College main campus building. While guests enjoyed refreshments, organizers quizzed them on their ability to name holiday tunes based on a list of substituted title words. Attendees correctly deduced

several song titles, including that "Quiescent Nocturnal Period" was "Silent Night."

Guests then boarded Ollie the Trolley to play a seasonal trivia game and take in a holiday lights tour of Omaha. The trolley windows and seats made trivia, conversation and holiday display viewing easy for guests as they enjoyed the festive Omaha neighborhoods. The light-hearted trolley atmosphere was joyful and cheery, and every guest enjoyed sharing the holiday spirit together.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Alumni Events

Challenge your routine, connect with your peers and take in an Alumni Association-sponsored event in the months ahead.

### Decorated Table Trivia

March 2 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Clarkson College, Howard Hall

Gather your expert friends and test your collective knowledge during the Decorated Table Trivia event on March 2. Brunch will be provided, and participants will enjoy seven rounds of trivia. Tables sell for \$80 each and seat up to eight trivia experts. Each table must have a host or hostess who will lead his or her guests in selecting a theme and supplying decorations. Decorated tables should include items and tableware that fit the chosen theme. RSVP to attend by Feb. 25.

### Door Décor Decorating Event

April 6 8 a.m. \$45 per person

Clarkson College, Howard Hall

Grab a friend or two and let your creative side shine during a craft-filled morning this April. Decorate seasonal-inspired wooden door hanging cutouts for your home or office décor from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cutouts are made in advance, and paid registration is required to attend.

Register to attend one or both events by contacting Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu) or 402.552.3516.



# Alumni Association of Clarkson College Seeking Board Nominations

Rise to a new challenge  
and leadership opportunity

The Alumni Association will seek nominations for Board member seats in the spring. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will all be open for nominations.

Please consider who you would like to represent you and your graduating program on the Alumni Association Board. Paid alumni members will receive a ballot in April where they may submit their nominations. Before submitting your suggestions, please discuss it with the nominee and obtain their approval. Please note, nominees for the President position must have served on the Board this past year.

Nominations must be sent by May 1 to Rita VanFleet at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).



## Alumni Weekend: Sept. 26–27

Celebrate Spirit Week and reconnect with your alma mater

Alumni Weekend planning is well underway, and the annual events are scheduled for Sept. 26–27. Each fall, the College honors the 50, 40 and 25 year anniversary classes. The classes of 1969, 1979 and 1994 will be honored during this year's September festivities. All Clarkson College alumni are invited to attend the events and celebrate with their peers and alma mater.

Alumni Weekend will kick off on Thursday, Sept. 26 with a brunch followed by a tour of the Clarkson College campus. The afternoon will begin with the Heritage Garden Walk and conclude with a historic Ollie the Trolley tour through mid- and downtown Omaha. On Friday, an educational event will take place in the morning, and alumni will gather for dinner and an evening of entertainment.

Thursday's events are a gift to you from Clarkson College, and there is no charge to attend them. The educational event and dinner scheduled on Friday each have an associated fee.

The Alumni Association of Clarkson College hopes you and your fellow classmates will join us on campus in September. Look for additional information about Alumni Weekend in the mail, on the Clarkson College website and in the spring edition of the Alumni Times. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the possibility of honoring your graduating class, contact Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu) or 402.552.3516.





# COMMUNITY CARE IN & OUT OF THE CLINIC

**Nursing alumnus takes his skills  
from the clinic to the fire station**

## **Overcoming challenges helps health**

care providers grow as individuals and allows them to serve patients in exciting, new capacities. Every day, providers like Clarkson College alumnus Bruno Caro ('15), RN, BSN, choose to confront the challenges they face and take action. Caro's decision to utilize his nursing skills to pursue a different career path—that of a firefighter—has led to his growth into a better, more competent nurse.





### From the clinic...

Born in San Diego, Cal., Caro came to Omaha in 2008. He earned the Gateway to Success Scholarship for Minority Nursing Students from Clarkson College and completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in 2015. Caro chose to return to his alma mater to earn his Master's degree in Nursing and hopes to complete the Family Nurse Practitioner program option in 2020. Following graduation, he plans to continue to provide care at One World Community Health Center in Omaha, where he currently practices.

Caro's involvement with One World began over ten years ago, long before he completed his nursing education. The organization provides a wide range

of health care services to individuals in Omaha and the surrounding area regardless of their income or insurance coverage. One World also treats a large number of underserved populations, including Spanish-speaking patients, a group that Caro, as a bilingual English and Spanish speaker, can serve exceptionally well.

Growing up as a bilingual speaker in a somewhat impoverished San Diego area instilled in Caro a determination to help others like him. Once he decided on a profession in the medical field, he found nursing to be a perfect fit. "It has always been inherent in me to help those in need," he said. "The nursing field seemed to align perfectly with my values and professional aspirations."

However, saving lives and others weren't the only aspects of the field that appealed to Caro. According to him, nursing offers an approach to medicine that other fields don't. "I chose the nursing field because of the profession's holistic approach to medical care," he said.

It is an approach that Caro has the ability to utilize every day with his patients at One World, many of whom have little to

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"It has always been inherent in me to help those in need."

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### ...to the station

no access to health care or community health resources prior to their visits. Working with these underserved populations allows providers like Caro the opportunity to address nearly every aspect of a patient's health, from treating symptoms to providing preventative care. It has also enabled him to hear and understand the struggles and challenges that his patients face. One such issue, that of language barriers, was a challenge that Caro decided to help alleviate.

Caro's experience with Spanish-speaking patients and his desire to help others and give back to the community inspired him to explore a career path with the Omaha Fire Department. "I noticed an immense disconnect between first responders and the Latino community while working in south Omaha at the One World Community Health Center," he said. "As a Latino and a bilingual nurse, I had a strong desire to be somebody that members of the community could identify with during an emergency call."



Bruno Caro (third from left) pictured with a handful of his One World Community Health Center coworkers.



Caro's nursing education and Latino heritage play a large part in his new role.



Caro educates young students on the importance of fire safety.

Caro began his training as a firefighter in January 2018 at Omaha Fire Station 31. Over the past year, he has volunteered and trained at the station while working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for the city of Omaha and caring for patients at One World. While seemingly overwhelming, Caro is grateful for the knowledge and experiences that each role offers. "I am fortunate to be part of two very distinct aspects of medicine, emergency care and chronic medical care," he said. "Coming into the profession of firefighting with a nursing background helped me tremendously in the medical treatment of patients out in the field."

According to Caro, his training as a nurse is invaluable as he transitions to his role as a firefighter. The skills that he learned as a nurse are directly applicable to the emergency response field, which bolsters his ability to help those he serves. "Being a nurse gave me the ability to think critically," he said. "When responding to a fire, that can mean the difference between life and death."

Similarly, training as an emergency responder benefits him as a health care provider, and he hopes to use his new skills to provide patients with more comprehensive care. "My training as an EMT and firefighter is preparing me to be a better nurse by allowing me to have a well-rounded knowledge of medicine as it relates to emergency medical care," he said. "As a future nurse practitioner, this will be a valuable asset when treating patients."

For Caro, it's all about the patients. Serving those in need, whether in the clinic or on the street, is a privilege that he gets to experience in each of his professional roles. He embraces every challenge as an opportunity to grow in his ability to provide the best possible care to those in his community.





# Constructing a New Future

Completing a significant Science Lab upgrade



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As an institution dedicated to health care education, science is one of our academic building blocks.

Clarkson College strives to provide the best instruction in anatomy, chemistry and physiology and requires facilities that are on par with the quality of this instruction. The Mary E. Balken Science Lab served as one of the institution's focal points for science education, and like other long-standing establishments, it began to face its own set of obstacles over time.

In early 2018, the College rose to the challenge of upgrading the Science Lab, creating a new space to meet its changing needs. The project's thoughtful planning and execution reflect the College community's dedication to learning and excellence, and the revamped lab welcomed its first classes during the fall 2018 semester.

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### Adapting to Changes

From 1997 to 2004, the Science Lab lived in the Arts and Sciences building located at 41st and Dodge Streets. The building also housed two General Education faculty offices, the Success Center and a classroom space. Campus facilities were reassessed in the early 2000s, and several renovations were implemented to enhance campus and the College student experience. The Arts and Sciences building was demolished and replaced with the Student Center and Residence Hall buildings in 2004. The Student Center space contains the campus bookstore, study spaces, J.W. Upright Success Center and Howard Hall, a multi-purpose indoor area created to hold events and meetings.





Mary E. Balken (center) teaching students in the Science Lab in 2013.

The new campus additions helped the institution flourish but brought additional challenges, including where to relocate the Science Lab. The lab, its classroom and office facilities were moved to its current location on the second floor of the main College building. Previously the bookstore, a community lounge and Student Government Association office space, the new Science Lab lacked the setup of traditional open floor plan science classrooms and learning spaces that encourage collaboration and cooperation. Incorporating offices, safety features, storage areas and lab stations while maintaining enough space for students and lab equipment became difficult in the updated area. However, the new location met the school's need for a dedicated science space, and faculty demonstrated their commitment to students by utilizing the lab as an education hub—all while planning for the future.

In 2017, the institution renamed the space the Mary E. Balken Science Lab to honor long-time General Education Associate Professor Mary Balken who passed away in 2016. The name change was the first of many planned transitions as the College prepared to implement new Science Lab updates.

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## Making Plans

Advancements in academics and science education require that students have access to the newest technology, methods and materials. Clarkson College faculty, staff and administration are dedicated to student success and knew that the best way to give students a truly remarkable

experience was to renovate the current Science Lab and create a thoroughly upgraded learning area.

The road to achieving this goal began in 2017 with the establishment of a Critical Success Factor (CSF). General Education Assistant Professor Jeri List headed the committee and led the group in determining the institution's needs for a new Science Lab and researching best practices.

Director of General Education and Associate Professor Lori Bachle was also a member of the CSF. She leads the team of dedicated science faculty members at Clarkson College, and both instructors and students were at the forefront of the minds of her and her fellow committee members.

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Each challenge offered an opportunity to think outside the box and create a classroom to uniquely serve the needs of instructors and students.

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The Science Lab renovations began in May 2018.



"The science faculty at Clarkson College are amazing," she said. "They are student-centered, and they continuously pushed themselves to find ways to make the old space work by utilizing different parts of the classroom. We knew we needed to find a way to help them perform their best."

According to Bachle, the initial planning process involved months of research to determine best practices. Committee members visited high school and college labs in the area and spoke with instructors about the benefits and challenges of the spaces. From there, the committee gathered a bank of information that allowed them to determine which aspects they needed to incorporate into the College Science Lab. They also consulted Clarkson College faculty members who gave input about the layout and type of equipment that should be available in the space.

One of the biggest challenges that organizers faced was creating one area to accommodate four different science courses: anatomy, chemistry, microbiology and physiology. The differing equipment and materials required by each course all needed to be housed in a single shared space. "We worked really hard to determine what we needed for each course and how we could accomplish teaching all four classes in one lab space," said Bachle.

Each challenge offered the committee an opportunity to think outside the box and create a classroom to uniquely serve the needs of Clarkson College instructors and its students.

## Building a New Home

Following months of research and preparation, College Administration approved the plan for the new Science Lab, and renovation began in May 2018. Administration chose to complete the project during the summer months because the College generally experiences fewer students on campus during that time. The institution closed its lab doors following the end of the spring 2018 semester as the community prepared for the four-month long project.

Bachle worked closely with College Administration to find a solution for science courses taking place during the summer semester. Without another lab space to accommodate students, the institution had to look outside the campus for help. Assistance came from the College of Saint Mary who agreed to rent their lab space to Clarkson College.

"We could not have asked for a more collegial, helpful relationship than we had with the College of Saint Mary," said Bachle. "We worked with their science lab manager, and he bent over backwards to make things work for us."

Clarkson College faculty and students spent the summer months commuting to College of Saint Mary to complete their science courses while construction continued on campus. The College Facilities department worked closely with an architect and construction group in every step of planning and renovation to ensure that the project stayed on schedule. Community members heard the tell-tale sounds of demolition and construction over the summer as the new Science Lab began to take shape.





## Moving In

By the end of August 2018, the Science Lab reopened its doors, and students used the space on the first day of the fall semester. New equipment, including microscopes and apparatuses, upgraded safety features such as an eye washing station and shower, and plenty of storage space greeted them as they entered the lab.

One of the space's most noticeable solutions is a new layout that encourages teamwork between students and faculty members. "Collaboration helps students with metacognition and critical thinking," said Bachle. "The current space allows students to sit three or four at a station, and faculty can easily maneuver the space to talk with anyone at any given time."

The open floor plan also allows faculty members to more conveniently utilize the space. The Science Lab now contains a closed-off area where faculty can prepare for the next day's classes by setting up experiments and materials ahead of time. Previously, instructors had to come in after hours or on the weekend to avoid disrupting another class while preparing the lab. "The convenience factor of the lab makes us much more productive," said Bachle. "The new space opens us up to a lot more capabilities."

Perhaps one of the best features of the new lab is its capacity for growth. The Science Lab is set up to easily incorporate new technologies and educational learning tools as they become available to the



The updated Science Lab teaching and faculty preparation spaces. Students complete an acid-based titration at one of the new lab stations.

College. These opportunities for advancement and other assets such as multiple whiteboards, cubby spaces for coats and bags, and dedicated laptops make all the difference when it comes to providing students with the best education possible.

Every Clarkson College student enrolled in a general education science course will spend time studying, learning and performing experiments in the Mary E. Balken Science Lab. For many, the space serves as the starting point in their health care journey, fueling their excitement for the medical field. This passion has always been recognized by those within the Clarkson College community, and the Science Lab now echoes the pride the institution takes in its commitment to preparing students to become the best.

## Nursing Programs Earn Recommendation for ACEN Accreditation

Faculty and administration spend months preparing for site visit

The Clarkson College Nursing department hosted a site review for continuing accreditation of its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and initial accreditation of its Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in October. The organization recommended accreditation for both programs following the two-day site visit.

Status as an accredited organization means the Nursing program meets nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality education for nurses as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation. Accreditation is a rigorous process, and Clarkson College administration and faculty welcomed it as a quality improvement mechanism.

"Earning ACEN accreditation is a measure of our excellence as a premier educator for nurses and reflects the Clarkson College commitment to our students," said Dean of Nursing Dr. Aubray Orduña. "We believe our students deserve the best education available in order to provide high quality, ethical and compassionate nursing care."

Preparation for the accreditation visit required teamwork from every College department throughout campus, including faculty and student services. In addition to the continual quality improvement processes of the College, Nursing program administration and faculty spent the last several years compiling data and evidence in preparation for the visit. The data

allowed the institution to present an extensive self-assessment of the programs' administrative capacities, faculty and staff qualifications, curricula, outcomes, student policies, institutional governances, and resources. The process also included an on-site survey conducted by ACEN site visitors who are actively involved in nursing care or nursing education.

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"Earning ACEN accreditation is a measure of our excellence as a premier educator for nurses and reflects the Clarkson College commitment to our students."

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ACEN presented their exit report to the College community on Oct. 18. Following their accreditation recommendation, the ACEN Board of Commissioners will determine the institution's final accreditation status, which is expected in April 2019.





## College Announces Leadership Change

The Clarkson College Board of Directors accepted the resignation of President Dr. Tony Damewood effective Feb. 19. He served as College President since 2016.

"My 20 years at Clarkson College have been very rewarding," said Dr. Damewood. "I am proud of where the College is currently, and expect it to continue to be a leader in preparing high quality, compassionate health care providers."

The Clarkson College Board of Directors appointed Aubray Orduña, Ed.D., as interim President. Working in multiple capacities at Nebraska Medicine since 1975, Dr. Orduña became a faculty member at Clarkson College in 1978. During her time at the College, she has held multiple positions including Director of Diversity Services, Director of the Practical Nursing Program and most recently, Dean of Nursing. Dr. Orduña was also instrumental in the implementation of the Gateway to Success Minority Nursing Scholarship and is a long-standing, awarded member of the academic and health care communities.

"The Clarkson College Mission is focused on our students," said Dr. Orduña. "That Mission and those who pursue an education here will be central to my efforts. By ensuring support for this institution and its faculty and staff, the College will continue to excel in preparing students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services."

## College Partners with Local Organization to Provide Scholarship

Kids' Chance of Nebraska and Clarkson College to provide \$10,000 award

Clarkson College recently partnered with Kids' Chance of Nebraska to provide a \$10,000 scholarship for children of Nebraska workers who have been severely or fatally injured in work-related accidents.

Kids' Chance of Nebraska is a non-profit organization that serves the dependents of individuals who suffered employment-related fatalities or injuries that caused significant adverse effects on family income. To help these dependents pursue their post-secondary education goals, the organization provides scholarships to eligible students. Clarkson College will match the current \$5,000 award offered by

Kids' Chance of Nebraska, bringing the scholarship fund total to \$10,000.

"We have been eager to find the perfect community partner for some time, and our search led us to Clarkson College, an organization whose values align with our own," said Dave Poppert, Kids' Chance of Nebraska Board of Directors member. "We are grateful to Clarkson College for taking a leadership role in partnering with Kids' Chance of Nebraska and are hopeful that it will encourage similar collaborative efforts with other higher education institutions. Many of our scholarship recipients enter the health care field due to their exposure to the industry during their parent's injury or illness, which makes this a valuable partnership."

Clarkson College Director of Admissions Ken Zeiger applauds the new partnership and hopes the institution continues to foster these types of relationships. "Any time we open a new avenue to allow students to explore a career in health care, it allows us to fulfill our Mission and live out our Value of Caring," he said.

Eligible recipients must be between the ages of 16 and 25 years old, be the dependent of a parent injured on the job and have a high school diploma or GED. Recipients may use the funds to pursue an advanced education at a vocational or technical school, junior college or university.

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"We have been eager to find the perfect community partner, and our search led us to Clarkson College, an organization whose values align with our own."

DAVE POPPERT, KIDS' CHANCE  
OF NEBRASKA BOARD MEMBER

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For more information about this unique scholarship opportunity, visit [kidschanceofne.org](http://kidschanceofne.org).



## College Community Gives Back in More Ways than One

Holiday season full of the caring spirit on campus

Being caring, compassionate individuals means recognizing the challenges others face while taking action to help overcome them. Clarkson College faculty, staff and students went above and beyond this year to spread the caring spirit across campus and the surrounding community.

### Employees Fund Scholarship Through Choose to Give Campaign

Clarkson College hosted its eighth annual Choose to Give fundraiser in November. The event invites College community members to donate to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship fund. Faculty and staff raised more than \$9,500 during the 2018 drive. The funds, along with alumni donations, provide assistance to students pursuing an education at Clarkson College. In appreciation of their donations, participants received an additional casual day and were eligible to win prizes during a gift card drawing.

### Annual SGA Giving Tree Spreads Holiday Cheer

Student Government Association (SGA) continued an ongoing tradition by

partnering with Children's Square this past holiday season to serve children in the Council Bluffs and Omaha areas. Student representatives set up a Giving Tree in the Student Center and decorated it with paper ornaments listing the age, gender and wish list of a child whom the organization serves. College community members purchased and returned the items for SGA representatives to wrap and deliver them to Children's Square in time for the holidays. The toys, clothing, supplies and books donated by community members brought cheer to hundreds of children and their families in December.

### Radiography & Medical Imaging Students Adopt Families

Each year, Radiography and Medical Imaging students partner with the Calling the Hope Revolution into Service (CHRS) organization to adopt local Omaha area families and provide food and gifts for the holiday season. Students adopted three families—including three adults and 12 children—this year who were in need of extra assistance and holiday cheer.





To raise money for their efforts, students sold coupon cards featuring discounts from several Omaha restaurants. One hundred percent of the money earned went toward purchasing meals, supplies, clothing and gifts for the children and parents. Student volunteers wrapped the gifts and delivered them, along with the food, to the families in December.

#### **Omicron Epsilon Members Walk for Alzheimer's Patients**

The Clarkson College Omicron Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing partnered with the Nebraska League for Nursing (NLN) to participate in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's held Sept. 23. Their efforts helped raise money for medical research and increase awareness for patient care and support.

College community members surpassed their fundraising goal and raised more than \$350 for the Alzheimer's Association to continue supporting patients and their families. Along with more than 1,800 other participants, six faculty members and their guests walked the two-mile route

in Omaha's Aksarben Village and took the first steps toward a world without Alzheimer's.

#### **Student Ambassadors Become Bell Ringers**

Clarkson College Student Ambassadors partnered with the Salvation Army this past holiday season to raise money for services supporting the less fortunate. The Ambassadors volunteered as bell ringers throughout the Omaha area and encouraged community members to donate their extra change to assist the Salvation Army in providing the physical, emotional and spiritual assistance for those in need.

Student Ambassadors strive to exemplify the Clarkson College Values and strengthen the institution's reputation as it prepares students to be the best in their field of study. Partnering with the Salvation Army allowed the Ambassadors to demonstrate their commitment beyond the clinical setting and within the community they serve.

1 / SGA members focus on gift wrapping and spreading holiday cheer in the Residence Hall's student lounge. 2 / Radiography student Chrissi Borzobohaty puts the final touches on one of the many gifts for the adopted Omaha area families. 3 / A balloon sendoff starts the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's event.



## Community Comes Together to Support Students

The end of the semester is often one of the most stressful and difficult times for students. To support the Clarkson College community during this busy season, the Student Support Team (SST) and Wellness Committee co-hosted relaxation stations on Nov. 6, and the Alumni Association sponsored study halls Dec. 3–4.

The goal of hosting relaxation stations is to help students facing the stress of final exams, papers and projects during the end of the semester. Providing fun activities in a relaxed atmosphere gives participants the opportunity to take a much-needed study break, refresh their minds and connect with their classmates. The College community has offered relaxation stations four times since 2017, and organizers recently expanded their efforts to offer them twice a year. "The idea was born from our efforts to support and foster resiliency in students, faculty and staff," said SST member and Director of Community Health and Interprofessional Education Sarah Flanagan.

Although activities vary each semester, the station set-up allows students to spend as little or as much time as they want at each individual station. Attendees chose from multiple activities this semester, including playing with Play-Doh, filling out pages from adult coloring books and crafting their very own stress ball. Another popular station allowed students to try their hand at the Zentangle method of drawing. This practice allows inexperienced artists to create intricate images by drawing structured patterns while promoting relaxation, focus and creativity.

Relaxation station attendees also enjoyed free massages provided by Nebraska Medicine therapists as well as healthy snacks courtesy of the Wellness Committee. "This type of event emphasizes self-care as a means to address stress," said Flanagan. "It continues to be one of our most popular events each semester."

1 / Students put the final touches on their personalized stress balls.

2 / Lacey the standard poodle greets a student during December's study halls. 3 / Students patiently pour sand into balloons to create their own stress balls. 4 / Sally enjoys a chin rub from a student.





Students also had the opportunity to utilize study halls sponsored by the Alumni Association during finals week. Attendees stopped by Howard Hall over the two-day period to complete homework, finish projects and study for finals. The Alumni Association offered healthy snacks and a relaxing environment to help students cope with finals week stress.

One of the event highlights included the canine guests from Love on a Leash. The organization brought in a poodle named Lacey and a Golden Retriever named Sally who interacted with students and provided much-needed stress relief. Students welcomed the study break and were grateful for the opportunity to play and interact with the friendly dogs. The Alumni Association-sponsored study halls have been held during the fall and spring semesters since 2011.



## Alumni Return to Campus to Share Their Insights

Current students learn about the job search process from recent graduates

Coming back to campus can often feel like coming home, and it gives alumni the opportunity to influence the Clarkson College community in meaningful ways. Joe McMahon ('16), Matthew Kilgore ('16) and Rebecca Ehrig ('18) recently returned to campus to share insights about their job search during an informative alumni panel event sponsored by the Success Center on Nov. 15.

Director of Academic Success Dr. Julie Taylor-Costello organized the session to offer current students career programming opportunities and prepare them for the application process. "Offering insights and ideas is great, but it is even better if students have the opportunity to hear about them from actual graduates of their programs," said Dr. Taylor-Costello.

McMahon and Kilgore are both graduates of the Physical Therapist Assistant program and currently practice in the Omaha area. McMahon works with patients at Stryker Orthopedics, and Kilgore practices at Excel Physical Therapy. Ehrig is a graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and she works on the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit at Nebraska Medicine.

During the panel event, each graduate shared their job search experiences following graduation. "We wanted attendees to hear from former students about the good and bad parts of the job application process," said Dr. Taylor-Costello. "Hopefully, this will help them be better prepared when it comes time for them to search for a job."

Attendees also had the opportunity to ask alumni about the professional workforce and their area of practice. Answers to questions like these help alleviate stress for many current students as they prepare to enter their chosen field. "We know that a lot of students experience nervousness and anxiety about the process of looking, applying and interviewing for jobs," said Dr. Taylor-Costello. "Events such as this give them guidance and confidence that we can provide them with all the tools they need to succeed."

## December Capstone Project Summary

Each semester, Master's degree-seeking students investigate a question of practical importance and present their findings in a Capstone project. They create a scholarly, evidence-based document that is available for use by practitioners or administrators using critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies and theories learned throughout their course of study.

A subcommittee of the Alumni Association Board uses an established rubric to rank each Capstone abstract. Alumni Association Vice President Carla Dirkschneider presented winners with their certificates from the Alumni Board following the Capstone presentation on Dec. 7 in the Storz Pavilion at Nebraska Medicine.

Michaela Abbott earned first place for her abstract *Impact of a Nurse-Led Educational Session to Identify & Respond to Non-Physical Aggression from Patients & Visitors*. Second place was awarded to Alex O'Hara for his abstract *Post-Operative Pain & the Retrobulbar Hemorrhage Rates with Topical Versus Regional Anesthesia for Trabeculectomy Surgery*. Two students tied for third place with awards going to Jennifer Kunz for her abstract *The Effectiveness of Hydroxyprogesterone Injections in the Prevention of Pre-Term Labor* and Kayla Martens for her abstract *Emergency Department Nurses' Experiences with Violence in the Workplace*.

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### ***Impact of a Nurse-Led Educational Session to Identify & Respond to Non-Physical Aggression from Patients & Visitors by Michaela Abbott***

Non-physical patient and visitor aggression (NPVA) remain the most consistently reported type of violence health care workers experience (Kvas & Seljak, 2015). Farrell, Bobrowski and

Bobrowski (2006) define NPVA as verbal abuse—although not limited to words—and actions including mistreatment in any form—spoken or unspoken—after which the victim feels humiliation, degraded or attacked either personally or professionally. Experiencing NPVA in the workplace influences every aspect of a nurse's life: physical, psychological, emotional, professional and social. The quasi-experimental pre- and post-test design investigation, conducted at a Midwest academic medical center, explored how a nurse-led educational session impacted the new graduate nurses' ability to identify and respond to NPVA. Kolb's experiential learning theory conceptually aligned the study, focusing on the graduate nurse's ability to translate the knowledge of NPVA and apply it within the practice setting. A two-tailed t-test analysis ( $n = 35$ ) concluded a significant t-score of 4.46 and p-value of 0.000085 for pre- and post-test change in the participant's ability to identify and respond to NPVA. Study recommendations include expanding the education to all nurse residency members, as well as experienced nurses employed within inpatient, outpatient and procedural departments at the Midwest academic medical center. Future research recommendations include studying the effectiveness of both patient and nurse safety NPVA interventions taught.

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### ***Post-Operative Pain & the Retrobulbar Hemorrhage Rates with Topical Versus Regional Anesthesia for Trabeculectomy Surgery by Alex O'Hara***

The retrobulbar block has long been the gold standard for pain control with trabeculectomy surgery, although it carries a risk of retrobulbar hemorrhage, which could be a sight-threatening complication. However, studies have shown the use of topical anesthesia

as an effective alternative, effectively eliminating the risk for hemorrhage. It was the aim of this study to determine if topical anesthesia provided a similar amount of post-operative pain control while reducing incidences of retrobulbar hemorrhage compared to patients receiving retrobulbar anesthesia. This study used a retrospective chart review of 100 charts (50 retrobulbar anesthesia, 50 topical anesthesia) to compare post-operative pain and retrobulbar hemorrhage rates in patients who underwent trabeculectomy surgery. The post-operative pain data were analyzed using a two-sample t-test ( $p < .05$ ) and found no significant difference in post-operative pain scores between the two intervention groups. Additionally, neither group had any incidences of retrobulbar hemorrhage. Thus, topical anesthesia provided a similar amount of post-operative pain control compared to retrobulbar anesthesia. Further studies could improve upon this data by analyzing post-operative pain at the one-day follow-up appointment and by examining sedation protocols.

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### ***The Effectiveness of Hydroxyprogesterone Injections in the Prevention of Pre-Term Labor by Jennifer Kunz***

Preterm delivery (i.e., delivery before 37 weeks' gestation) is a global public health issue that has physical, emotional and financial consequences. Preterm delivery complicates one in eight pregnancies and accounts for over 85 percent of all perinatal morbidity and mortality (Norwitz & Caughey, 2011). The purpose of this project was to determine if hydroxyprogesterone caproate injections (Makena™) was effective in preventing preterm delivery.

*continued on page 24*



## Graduate Capstone Projects

**CHRISTINA AGUILAR** *Certified Nursing Assistant's Knowledge of Fall Intervention*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**ANDREA ANDERSON** *An Assessment of Breastfeeding Initiation & Continuation*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

**SHASTA ASHCRAFT** *An Assessment of Patients Diagnosed with Crohn's Disease & Possible Extraintestinal Manifestations at a Rural Family Practice Clinic*, advisor Dr. Mary Lynn Vogel

**ASHLEY BARAJAS** *Identifying Barriers to Compliance with Best Practice to Decrease Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections in Patients*, advisor Dr. Kia Miles

**SPARKLE BARNES** *Diets & Portion Control: Attack Obesity*, advisor Justin Avery

**REGINA BARNETT** *Nurses' Conceptual Knowledge of Heart Failure*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

**MEGAN BEAVERS** *Relationship Between Emergency Department Re-Admission Risk Factors & Emergency Department Re-Admission*, advisor Dr. Janet Henriksen

**EMILY BUTTARS** *An Exploration of Vaccination Rates in a Midwestern Clinic*, advisor Dr. Margaret Lorimor

**MELISSA CARLBERG** *Financial Feasibility of Implementation for Health Care Organizations*, advisor Justin Avery

**NICHOLAS CONTRYMAN** *Detecting Limb Ischemia Due to Extracorporeal Cannula Placement with Near-Infrared Spectroscopy*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**JESSICA CURRIE** *Evaluating Alarm Fatigue in the Adult Emergency Room*, advisor Dr. Chris Seckman

**KAYLA DENGEL** *Effectiveness of the ERAS Protocol in Decreasing the Incidence of PONV in Abdominal Surgeries*, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

**REBECCA DUCHMAN** *Effectiveness of a Nurse Acuity Tool on Improving Job Satisfaction & Fatigue*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

**BECKY FINCH** *Comparison of Perioperative Nurses' Knowledge & Management of Malignant Hyperthermia Before & After an Educational Review*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

**AMBER GANTZ** *Mandated Continuing Education Competency to Reduce Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection*, advisor Dr. Margaret Lorimor

**MEGAN GERNSTEIN** *Bedside Nurses' Knowledge on the Roles of the Vascular Access Team*, advisor Dr. Laura Smith

**TATIANA GONZALEZ** *Medication Technology & Safety: Nurses' Perceptions on the Effects of Barcode Medication Administration & Knowledge-Based Medication Administration in an Inpatient Setting*, advisor Dr. Kia Miles

**CHAD HAYDEN** *Perioperative IV Acetaminophen Administration & the Incidence of Post-Operative Nausea & Vomiting in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**BRANDI JO JOHANSEN** *The Effect of Patient Hand Hygiene Education on the Reduction of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections*, advisor Dr. Chris Seckman

**VANESSA JUDD** *Prevalence of Autoimmune Disease in Individuals Delivered by Caesarean Section*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

**SHAWN JUNKINS** *Didactic Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist Knowledge Enrichment of Operating Room Fire Management Through an Educational PowerPoint Presentation*, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

**RACHEL KALLEMEYN** *Vitamin D as an Adjunct to Standard Therapy for Depression in Adults at a Rural Clinic*, advisor Dr. Valerie Palarski

**JASPER KAUFMAN** *Critical Care Nurses' Knowledge of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia & Viewpoints & Compliance of Ventilator Bundle Documentation*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

**RANDY KILNOSKI** *Comparison of Ondansetron Administration Preoperatively & Intraoperatively for Effective Prevention of Post-Operative Nausea & Vomiting*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**JARON LASSEN** *Efficacy of Intravenous Acetaminophen in Providing Post-Operative Analgesia for Total Hip Arthroplasty*, advisor Dr. Adrienne Rochleau

**ALEXANDRIA LEU** *Relationship Between Probiotic Therapy & Reduction of Antibiotic Associated Diarrhea*, advisor Dr. Katherine Kirkpatrick

**EDWARD MEDINA** *Triage for Detection of Metabolic Acidosis*, advisor Dr. Valerie Palarski

**ELIZABETH MILLER** *Behaviors of Float Pool Nurses in the Prevention of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

**NICOLE MIXAN** *Structured Educational Program for Nurses on Proper Evaluation & Documentation of Incentive Spirometry*, advisor Dr. Sandy Woods

**MICHAELA MOHR** *Enoxaparin Education for Surgical Oncology Nurses*, advisor Dr. Sandy Woods

**OLIVIA NIEMEYER** *Sepsis: How Early Identification & Antibiotic Administration Affects Patient Outcomes*, advisor Dr. Kim Brown

**MARY OVERTURF** *Mental Health Care Preparation of Primary Care Nurse Practitioners*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

**RACHEL PAWLOSKI** *Identifying Barriers to Improving Hand Hygiene Compliance Among Solid Organ Transplant Unit Healthcare Personnel*, advisor Dr. Sue Haddock

## December Capstone Project Summary

continued from page 22

In this retrospective study, the charts were reviewed for 21 individual patients with a history of at least one preterm delivery between the 22 and 40 years of age. Only one of these individuals experienced a premature delivery, while three delivered right at the cut-off for premature delivery (i.e., at 37 weeks). Most of the patients (n=17) delivered after the cut-off for premature delivery. Though the sample was small, this finding is significant and may lead to larger studies. The impact of these studies may be found in the reduction of respiratory and developmental delays in the infants, and reduction in financial burden for the parents or families that results from the consequences of premature delivery. Implications of this study on advanced nursing practice are on the strategies for preventing preterm delivery. Makena™ can be used starting week 16–20 to prevent preterm delivery. Implications for future research include a larger sample, perhaps from more than one site, and a sample that reflects a diverse population.

### **Emergency Department Nurses' Experiences with Violence in the Workplace by Kayla Martens**

Health care professionals are at high risk for workplace violence (United States Department of Labor & Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 2015). In a survey of over 6,500 nurses (Emergency Nurses Association & American Organization of Nurse Executives, 2015), 54.5 percent had experienced physical and/or verbal abuse in the past week. The purpose of this qualitative study was to survey emergency department (ED) nurses about their experience with workplace violence. Most responses were based on 25 individual responses to an online questionnaire with open-ended questions. Five themes emerged from this study that were consistent with the literature. Theme 1: There is no consistent definition of workplace violence among ED nurses. Theme 2: Nurses face violence most often from patients and family members but also from coworkers. Theme 3: Most ED nurses experience

physical and/or verbal workplace violence. Theme 4: ED nurses employ a security or law enforcement presence and/or de-escalation strategies to handle situations. Theme 5: Almost half of workplace violence events go unreported. Recommendations for nursing practice include the need for ED nurses to know that workplace violence is not just part of the job, and that these incidents should be reported and taken seriously. Future research should focus on the reasons nurses do not report these incidents, the long-term effects of workplace violence on job satisfaction and job retention, and education programs for health care professionals about responding to and handling workplace violence events.

### DECEMBER 2018 Capstone Projects

**LINDA POULSEN** *Efficacy of IM Ephedrine in Reduction of Hypotension in Women Undergoing Cesarean Section After Receiving a Spinal Anesthetic*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**JUAN RIVAS** *Reducing Emergency Department Use in a Pediatric Outpatient Clinic*, advisor Dr. Laura Smith

**PAIGE SAYLER** *Pre-Operative vs. Intra-Operative Administration of Intravenous Ondansetron*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**JAMIE SCHMEITS** *Obstacles to Compliance with Bedside Report in an Acute Care Setting*, advisor Dr. Kelly Polcher

**KAYLA SCHRECKENGOST** *Role of Support Groups in Individuals with Lyme Disease & Depression*, advisor Dr. Kathy Harrison

**CHELSEA SCHROEDER** *Impact of Follow-Up Weight Appointments & Education on Children's BMI Percentages*, advisor Dr. Kathy Harrison

**LAURA SPINDOLA** *Utilizing Early Warning Signs for Sepsis Protocol in Skilled Nursing Facilities to Prevent Hospital Readmission*, advisor Dr. Stephen Hardiman

**ALLISON STARK** *Improving a Nurse Residency Program Using Nurses' Perspectives & Evidence-Based Practice*, advisor Dr. Amberly Wagner-Connolly

**MACY STORK** *Nursing Perceptions of Language Barriers Effecting Emergency Care Provided to Non-English Speaking Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**MEGAN UHLARIK** *Exploration of the Relationship Between Serum Vitamin D Levels & Depressive Symptoms*, advisor Dr. Liz Rogan

**LINDSAY VANLANDINGHAM** *Exploring Perceived Barriers to Mentorship & its Impact on Nurse Retention in the Hospital Setting*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

**JENNIFER WATERHOUSE** *Postoperative Analgesia for Lumbar Spine Surgery: Effectiveness of Low-Dose Ketamine*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng





## Plan to Attend the Career Fair for Health Professions this Spring

Event enables students and alumni to explore career opportunities and connect with health care providers

The eighth annual Career Fair for Health Professions is scheduled for Thursday, March 21 from 12:30–3 p.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. The event offers current students, recent graduates and alumni the chance to connect with organizations from across the health care field and explore professional opportunities.

Organizers aim to bring a wide variety of professionals to the annual event. Students who are looking for their first position as well as professionals interested in a career change have the

ability to connect with representatives and discover the numerous careers that health care offers. The Career Fair for Health Professions also allows attendees to network with other professionals and build connections that will help them on their path as health care providers.

Last year, more than 150 students and alumni visited campus with nearly 50 organization representatives from the Omaha area and across the Midwest. Career Fair exhibitors were offered optional prime locations to maximize their exposure and increase their interactions with attendees. The prime booth locations will also be available in high-traffic locations during this year's event for employers to connect with as many students and professionals as possible.

We invite alumni to attend the Career Fair for Health Professions as a participant or an exhibitor. If you would like more information regarding the event, contact Director of Academic Success Dr. Julie Taylor-Costello at 402.552.2693 or [taylorcostellojulie@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:taylorcostellojulie@clarksoncollege.edu).

**AARON WILLIAMS** *The Effect of Intraoperative Ketamine Administration on Postoperative Opioid Consumption*, advisor Dr. Sophie Feng

**STEVEN WOOD IV** *Acetaminophen Administration Timing & Postoperative Pain Management After a General or Spinal Orthopedic Anesthetic Procedure*, advisor Dr. Ann Glow

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The event allows attendees to network with other professionals and build connections.

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## December 2018 Graduates

### 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

Randy R. Beck  
Amanda McBride

### Associate of Science in Health Information Technology

Kristi K. Danielsen

### Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Jason Christopher Amateis \*\*\*  
Abbey Elizabeth Clayton \*\*\*\*  
Amy Jo Coenen \*\*\*  
Shannon Daly \*\*\*  
Ethan Joseph Feltes \*  
Eduardo Gamboa  
Jessica Mae Hanson  
Olivia Jean Housholder \*\*\*\*  
Ashley Lynn Klitz  
Ciara Lansdon Σ  
Timothy Loberiza \*  
Amanda Nolan  
Natasha Ann Ogden  
Nolan J. Purcell \*\*\*\*  
Melissa Sue Beck Schulze \*\*\*  
Ashley K. Sellin Σ\*\*  
Jamie L. Thorson Σ\*

### Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Heather Michelle Knapp Σ\*\*\*  
Courtney Anne Overmire

### Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business

Bianca E. Hernandez Σ  
Dimaye E. Roig Morales

### Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Kinsey Jade Bush λ\*  
Sarah Cooper  
Michelle Marie Garvey λΣ\*  
Rachel Griffith λ\*\*  
Joli Hopping λΣ\*\*\*\*  
Margaret L. Novak \*\*\*  
Carree Proffit λΣ\*  
John Richard Shelley  
Stacey Marie Smith Σ\*\*  
Amy Welniak

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jennifer Barnes  
Caelan Lee Basnett Σ\*\*\*\*  
Janice K. Baxter \*\*\*\*  
Hannah Virginia Blythe Σ  
Molly Astrid Boyer \*\*  
Eboni Iman Brooks  
Brooklyn LaCheryl Christianson \*\*\*  
Taylor Page Culton \*\*  
Lathan Robert Dirks \*\*\*  
Alexis Claire Egr Σ  
Madison Lynne Frost †Σ\*\*\*  
Shameka Shontay Harris \*  
Jacy Renee Hendrickson †Σ\*\*\*  
Ashley Horvath \*  
Brenna Marie Juelsgaard †Σ\*\*  
Paige Elizabeth Kallsen Σ  
Ashley Marie Kaup \*  
Djenaba Marsh'e Kelly  
Haley Landon Σ  
Andrew Lim Σ\*\*\*\*  
Ashley Limbeck  
Seth Andrew Luther  
Courtney Linn Magnussen \*\*\*  
Morgan Matthies  
Amy Elizabeth Moore Σ  
Kylie Rae Murphy †Σ\*  
Heather Nicola Σ  
Kalli Lyn Nightingale \*\*  
Tiffany LeAnn Pardew †\*  
Shawn Patrick Prentice \*\*\*\*  
Andrea Reischl  
Karina Romero-Bravo Σ  
Alexandria Schneiderwind Σ  
Michael Schrage \*\*\*\*  
Sean Michael Severson \*  
Sierra Taylor  
Emily H. Thomas Σ\*  
Kate Thramer \*  
Brooke R. Williams Σ\*  
Megan Taylor Wolford Σ  
Kierstyn Erin Wragge Σ  
Laylo Yusuf Σ

### Master in Health Care Administration

Sparkle Barnes  
Melissa Hoeman Carlberg

### Master of Science in Nursing

Michaela Rose Abbott Σ  
Christina L. Aguilar  
Andrea Joy Anderson  
Shasta Ashcraft  
Ashley L. Barajas  
Regina Moore Barnett  
Megan Rae Beavers †Σ  
Emily Buttars  
Nicholas W. Contryman  
Jessica Amanda Currie  
Kayla L. Dengel Σ  
Rebecca Lorenz Duchman  
Brittany Elhawi  
Becky M. Finch Σ  
Amber Gantz  
Megan Leigh Gernstein  
Tatiana M. Gonzalez  
Chad Frederick Hayden  
Brandi Jo Johansen  
Vanessa Nicol Cannon Judd  
Shawn Junkins Σ  
Rachel Kallemeyn  
Jasper Nathaniel Kaufman  
Randy Ernest Kilnoski Σ  
Jennifer Kunz  
Jaron Lassen  
Alexandria A. Leu  
Kayla Martens  
Edward Medina  
Elizabeth Ann Miller  
Nicole M. Mixan  
Michaela Joanne Mohr †  
Danielle Marie Nichols  
Olivia Beth Niemeyer †Σ  
Alex Jordan O'Hara  
Mary Rachel Overturff  
Rachel Jean Pawloski  
Linda C. Poulsen  
Juan Carlos Rivas  
Barbara Paige Sayler Σ  
Jamie Elizabeth Schmeits  
Kayla Marie Schreckengost  
Chelsea Schroeder  
Laura Carolina Spindola  
Allison Stark  
Macy Mandeline Stork Σ  
Megan Marie Uhlarik  
Lindsay Marie Vanlandingham Σ  
Jennifer Waterhouse  
Aaron Michael Williams  
Steven Wood



**Post-Master's Certificate in  
Health Care Administration**

Jean Hayes

**Post-Master's Certificate  
in Nursing**

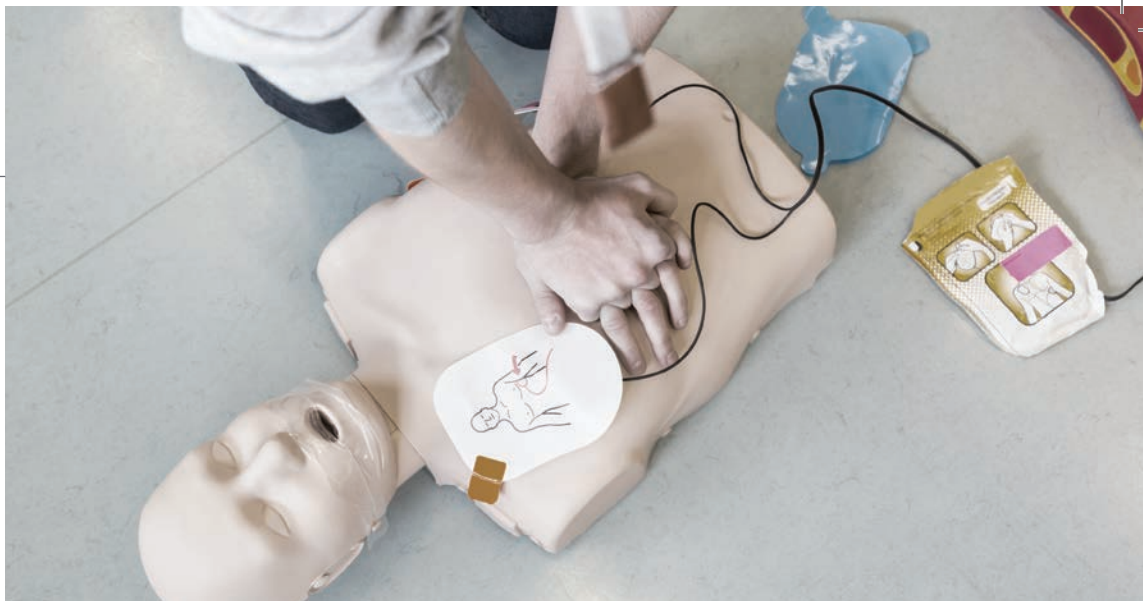
Tina Bossolono-Williams

Theresa Margaret Evans

Kimberly Dolan Mueller

Amber Courtney Schardt

Jennifer Somerville



## Advance Your Skills with the ACLS Course for Experienced Providers

Clarkson College Professional Development launched the American Heart Association (AHA) Advanced Cardiac Life Support for Experienced Providers (ACLS-EP) course in March 2018. The new course is the most advanced class provided by the AHA, and Clarkson College has offered six classes with 31 participants completing the program since its launch.

The one-day class breaks from the standard ACLS course format that features videos and skills testing. Instead, the curriculum creates an atmosphere where students' experiences and input become valuable in successfully navigating case scenarios. The course expands on the ACLS systematic approach to aid in recognizing and treating acute conditions in a team-learning environment. Having a group of experienced participants allows the instructor to move past the basics of life support techniques and examine the current science behind successful resuscitation.

Instructors test participants on basic life support, airway management and traditional mega-code scenarios. The instructor then presents and facilitates a case scenario, and participants have the opportunity to discuss patient assessment and treatment throughout

the case progression. Group participation is required for successful completion of the course.

The course teaching modality provides an excellent experience for those who are already ACLS certified. Prospective participants should have at least four years ACLS experience—meaning they have renewed their ACLS certification at least once—and currently work in a setting where ACLS skills are required. Positions requiring ACLS will accept an ACLS-EP certification, and the class supersedes the standard ACLS certification requirements while acting as a two-year renewal course.

Individuals who successfully complete the course receive 6.5 nursing contact hours as an added benefit. The cost to attend is \$215 and includes a textbook. Clarkson College will offer the course on the following dates in 2019: March 16, April 5, May 1 and June 21.

All classes are conducted in the Professional Development offices located on the Clarkson College campus. Contact Professional Development at 402.552.3396 for more information about registration or find additional information online by visiting [ClarksonCollege.edu/ProfessionalDevelopment](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/ProfessionalDevelopment).

# 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

## In Memoriam

### Marsha Brennan ('67)

Died Oct. 26, 2018 after a valiant fight with cancer.

### Constance Jane Holoch ('73)

Died on Dec. 17, 2018 in Sioux Falls, S.D. after a lengthy Parkinson's disease battle.

## 1960s

### Daisy Hughson Eickhoff ('63, '86)

I practiced active nursing from 1963–2012 when I retired. I continue as an auxilian at Tucson Medical Center (TMC) in Tucson, Ariz. and continue to teach childbirth education classes four times a month at TMC. Clarkson College gave me the best education to achieve my nursing calling to care for moms and babies.

### Karen Teply Sander ('66)

I am currently enjoying my retirement. Al and I do a considerable amount of travel. Our daughter, her husband John and their children, Ella, 10 and a half, and Alicia, 8, live in Colorado Springs, Colo. and it makes for extra fun visits. My 103-year-old Mom lives with us for most of the year and will still travel to Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa.

### Janey Hogg Walch ('66)

I enjoy friends, family and travel. Loved seeing classmates at our 50th reunion in 2016. Life is good!

## 1970s

### Mary Hamilton Tuggle ('73)

I retired in April 2017. In November, we moved to Republic, Mo., which is a suburb of Springfield. Enjoying retirement, not doing too much though. We have experienced health care here. It's interesting to see how different hospitals work. I sometimes worry over the type of patient care that is delivered. It sure is different from 1973!

### Lea Schriefer Kuper ('75)

I am currently working as a Geriatric Resource Nurse and Senior Services Client Coordinator in eight southwest Iowa counties helping seniors stay in their own homes for as long as possible. Service includes companionship/home helper, personal help with ADLs, transitional care from hospital/rehab to home, hospice supplemental cares, and specializing in care of Alzheimer and dementia patients.

## 2000s

### Terry Butkus ('01)

I have had a great career teaching nursing at Clarkson College and UNMC College of Nursing. I also did "locum" traveling (FNP) and did work as a nurse practitioner for the Nebraska Department of

Corrections in Lincoln, Neb. For the past seven and a half years I have been working for CHI in Occupational/Urgent Care Medicine in Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa.



## 1980s

### Jean Salisbury Voegel ('81, '84, '94)

In 1988, I accepted my first job as a nurse educator responsible for planning and teaching continuing education courses for nurses and other health care professionals for six years. After completing my MSN in 1994, I accepted my first job teaching nursing in the associate degree program at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Neb. Now, after 24 years as a nurse educator in associate degree programs at four different community colleges in four different states, I decided to take "early" retirement at the end of my contract with Des Moines Area Community College that ended June 30, 2018. It has been quite a ride and an experience that I wouldn't trade for the world! I have been so fortunate to guide students to become registered nurses and watch them grow within the profession. They are my peers and my colleagues, and I'm so very proud of each and every one of them! I am the Chair of the Organization Committee for Main Street Manning in my hometown of Manning, Iowa, and a member of the Board of Directors for Manning Regional Healthcare Center.



### Mystery Photo

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

Our community celebrates historic milestones together. Recognize this moment that shaped our campus landscape?

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



#### MYSTERY PHOTO REVEALED

### Keeping the Spirit

The contagious joy of this alumna sparked a lot of smiles.

#### Mary Vondra ('63, '85)

I am pretty sure that is Lynette Wheeler. Not sure of the exact year, but it was during the late 80s. Also, the previous picture was Child's Hospital not Children's Hospital.

#### Peggy Koziel ('86)

I think it might be Dena Cammarata.

## Faculty Shine at Nurse of the Year Awards Ceremony

March of Dimes honors College faculty members for their service



The March of Dimes Nebraska and Western Iowa chapter honored two Clarkson College faculty members during the Nurse of the Year awards ceremony held Nov. 15. The annual event celebrates nursing professionals who demonstrate exceptional skills, leadership and dedication to the nursing profession.

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### Judi Dunn, Academic Excellence Award

Director of Professional Development Judi Dunn received the Academic Excellence Award for her years of commitment to the field, specifically in adult education. The award honors a nursing instructor who demonstrates distinction in education, conducting research or providing practice expertise to nursing students. Award winners must promote a positive nursing image, exhibit strong leadership skills and exemplify an extraordinary level of care and compassion.

"This award has a significant amount of meaning to me because the nomination came from my colleagues here at Clarkson College," said Dunn. "We have an extraordinary group of health care professionals working here, and having their endorsement means the world to me."

Dunn began her nursing career out of necessity, and it grew into a lifelong passion. "At the time I was finishing high school, there

was not a wide range of employment opportunities for women," she said. "My mother was a nurse, and I knew that I could find a career and also help people in the nursing field."

Education has always been Dunn's passion, even while earning her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Bowling Green State University and her Master's degree in Nursing from the University of Colorado-Denver. Before joining the Clarkson College community in 2002 as the Coordinator of Continuing Education, Dunn worked in various roles as a patient teacher and a trainer. "I have especially enjoyed moving into continuing nursing education because it utilizes not only education principals, but also administrative skills."

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### Joan Blum, Spirit of Nursing Award

March of Dimes presented Associate Nursing Professor Joan Blum ('81, '86) with the Spirit of Nursing Award during the Nurse of the Year awards ceremony. Nominees must represent nursing excellence in all of their professional endeavors and demonstrate exceptional leadership skills, extraordinary levels of care and compassion, and a positive image of nursing within the community. Colleagues, supervisors, students and patients may nominate nurses who practice in Nebraska and Western Iowa for consideration.

"It is an honor to be nominated by my peers who recognize my passion for nursing and contributions to Clarkson College," said Blum. "This award exemplifies what nursing is truly about for me: caring and compassion."



Judi Dunn (top center) and Joan Blum (above center) receive their awards during the Nurse of the Year ceremony held Nov. 15.



## Dr. Rochleau Honored as 40 Under 40 Award Recipient

These values have been inherent in Blum's career since earning her diploma in 1981 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in 1986 from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing. She practiced in medical surgical, cardiac and oncology units at both large and small institutions throughout her 37-year career. Blum earned her Master's degree in Nursing from Drake University in 1993 and a Post-Master's certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner in 1998.

Teaching was always part of her plan, and Blum began to feel inspired to become an educator during her graduate work. "My graduate advisor was nurturing, patient and persistent, and she made me believe that I was the most important student with the most fascinating thesis she ever read," she said. "Her holistic approach as an educator truly inspired me, and I knew that was the type of educator I wanted to strive to be."

Blum turned her attention to teaching in 2004 when she joined Clarkson College as an instructor in the BSN program. "I knew as far back as undergraduate that I wanted to teach someday," she said. "I only ever considered teaching at Clarkson College because I knew that my beliefs aligned with the nursing program at the College."

The Nebraska Action Coalition (NAC) honors nurses within the community by hosting the Nursing Leadership 40 Under 40 awards each year. Clarkson College Assistant Director of Nurse Anesthesia Dr. Adrienne Rochleau was one of this year's recipients, and she accepted her award at a ceremony held Nov. 2.

"I feel extremely humbled and grateful for the opportunity to be a recipient of this award," she said. "I care deeply about Clarkson College, our Nurse Anesthesia program and our students."

A lifelong learner, Dr. Rochleau earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Morningside College in 2004 and her Master's degree in Nursing with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia from Mount Marty College in 2009. She completed her Doctor in Nursing Practice degree in 2015, right after joining Clarkson College as an instructor in 2014.

Dr. Rochleau dedicated her career to working as a nurse anesthetist, despite the fact that nursing was not always part of her plan. "My mom, who is a registered nurse, knew that I wanted to

be an anesthesiologist, and she felt the need to talk to me about becoming a CRNA," she said. "I decided to apply to nursing school and take that route to get to nurse anesthesia."

It wasn't until after graduate school that Dr. Rochleau began to consider a career in education. "A few years after graduating from nurse anesthesia school, I had a desire to pursue becoming an educator in the field," she said. "Receiving this award gave me a stronger desire to continue paying it forward and helping mold nurses into rock solid CRNAs."

Nominees for the 40 Under 40 Award must demonstrate significant contributions to leadership in the profession through clinical practice, education and teaching, administrative leadership, research, policy involvement or health care innovation. Dr. Rochleau's work to educate future nurse anesthetists indicates her dedication to preparing professionals who will advance the health care field and the nursing profession.

NAC hosts the 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders award as part of the organization's mission to honor exceptional Nebraska nurses as well as build a culture of health through change and advancement. They believe that Nebraska's nurses are vital to maintaining citizen health and building healthy communities across the state.

Executive Director-Nebraska Action Coalition-Future of Nursing Victoria Vinton, MSN, RN, and 40 Under 40 recipient Dr. Adrienne Rochleau pictured at the award ceremony on Nov. 2.







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## Upcoming Academic Travel Abroad Adventures

The next Clarkson College Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) trip is set for Ireland and Scotland on May 3–14, 2020. This trip is open to College alumni as well as their favorite travel companions. Guests will enjoy a customized academic itinerary, foreign medical facility visit and free time to explore destinations and attractions of their choosing.

More information about the trip and itinerary will be available in the spring 2019 issue of the Alumni Times. If you have questions, contact ATA Coordinator Dr. Patricia Brennan at 402.552.6125 or [brennan@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:brennan@clarksoncollege.edu).

[ClarksonCollege.edu/ATA](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/ATA)

