

January &  
February 2015

# AlumniTimes

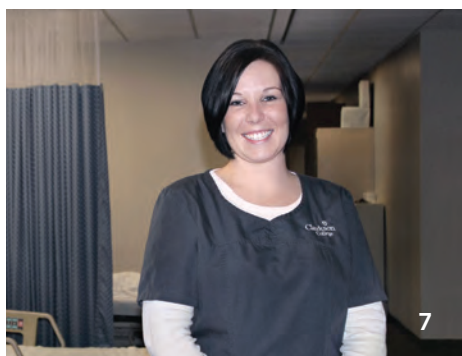
Clarkson College Alumni Magazine

Celebrating partnerships,  
philanthropy & accomplishments





We're officially settled in to 2015. What stands out about your year so far? What more is yet to come? Wherever you've been and in whatever direction you're headed, we hope you find a reason to celebrate every day.



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



## On the Cover

Marilyn Rosmann, M.S., R.N., outside Omaha's Open Door Mission. 8

PHOTOGRAPH BY Nicole Bonk



## From the Alumni President

### Happy 2015!

#### **The start of a new year is a time I find myself pondering over this wondrous journey we call life.**

As I gaze over the collage of triumphs and challenges of the last year, I remind myself that every bit of it brought me to my present state, and that alone merits a celebration.

Sitting at the forefront of my 2014 highlights is earning my American Kennel Club pet therapy team certification with my boxer, Rex. We barreled our way through 10 weeks of training, two tests and six in-training visits. Together, we can now spread comfort and cheer at assisted living facilities, hospitals, area schools and respite centers.

I've also spent the last few months beaming over my unexpected selection as a 2014 "40 Under 40" Nurse Leader! The Nebraska Action Coalition sponsors this award each year to recognize accomplished nurses under the age of 40, and I am humbled to be among the ranks. Making this award even more meaningful were those who joined me as fellow recipients. Congratulations to Clarkson College current student Alyssa Garth and alumnae Amanda Kirkpatrick ('12) and Jennifer Hirschbrunner ('14). Your alma mater could not be more proud of you!

As I recollect events of the past year, I am compelled to begin mapping out my new agenda for the year ahead. I recently spent eight consecutive Tuesday evenings taking prep classes and am now eligible to sit for the Nurse Executive board certification examination. Pursuing this certification stems from my relentless drive to continuously enhance my knowledge and skills in the nursing field. As of now, I'm unsure what I'll take on next, but I can guarantee I'm not stopping here.

Now is when I also begin filling up the calendar with Alumni Association events planned for 2015! I'm especially excited to bring out my competitive (yet good-natured) spirit at the annual golf tournament and Decorated Table Trivia brunch. These events are also great for the non-competitive type, as well as friends, spouses and significant others. I hope to see you there!

As the Alumni Association rings in the year, we are also excited to roll out a new look for the Alumni Times! Our goal with the clean design, simple layout and fresh imagery is to give the publication a modern feel that entices you to not only flip through the pages but also get lost in the content. We love the new look and hope you do, too.

Here's to a successful and prosperous new year, and my very best to you in 2015!



Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N. ('04, '12), serves as the Alumni Association President and enjoys hearing from fellow Clarkson College alumni. Get in touch with her by calling 402.552.3569 or e-mailing [thompsonrachel@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:thompsonrachel@clarksoncollege.edu).

### Noteworthy

2014 was a big year for Clarkson College.

Check out the various awards and recognitions received at [ClarksonCollege.edu/about/news](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/about/news).

## Alumni Board Leadership

Nomination call is an opportunity to serve & contribute

It is time for the annual Alumni Association Board officer and director position nominations. Nominations for officers are due by Tuesday, March 31. Nominations can be made for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and five Director positions. Nominees must be paid Alumni Association members and willing to serve the full year-long term. The term begins in June and runs through the following May. The Board meets every other month for about 90 minutes at the College. The position of President must be filled by someone who has served at least one year on the Board. After nominations are received, ballots will be sent—unless all positions are uncontested—to all paid Alumni Association members in April for voting.

If you would like to become an active part of the Alumni Association Board, send your name and a brief paragraph about your intent or interest as a Board member to Rita VanFleet at [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu) or Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Nominations must be received no later than March 31.

## Address Update: Let's Keep in Touch

There are a few alumni who have contact information missing from our records. If you have any updates on the individuals listed below, contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, via phone at 402.552.3516 or e-mail [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).

### Class of 1955

Dorothy Nielsen Alden, Shirley King DeBelly, Mary Steen Norburg, Donna Wagner Rockenbach, Jane Lynch Sullivan and Shirley Tempest.

### Class of 1965

Mary Paulsen Grarup, Rosalind Gilbert Hensor, Laura Mitchell Hill, Bonny Lester, Margie Maas O'Neill, Susan Livers Rumbin, Kathryn Jensen Stewart and Cheryl Pecena Vandry.

### Class of 1975

Claire Wiseman Beyer, Karla Enge, Caterina Gerdes, Deborah Laux, Carol Adams Linden, Linda Weber Mattson and Mary Davis Oswald.

### Class of 1985

Lori Broich Alley, Kim Kucera Altic, Jacqueline Janousek Anna, Betty Boettcher Archuletta, Randall Atkins, Cheryl Holsapple Blunck, Linda Brunner, Jacqueline Jones Bryant, Nancy Casper, Melinda Shelton Chaambers, Jennifer Everett Elman, Shelly Green, Deborah Calliham Growney, Elsie Klug, Joyce Harding Letner, Dianna Mullanix Lightner, Janice Petrovich, Lisa Connell Radloff, Kristine Nilson Reinholz, Robyn Morse Ross, Jerome Schiman, Kay Jundt Schroder, Deanna Sohler,

Martha Schattauer Sorensen, Christy Spittler, Stephanie Wilson Steinkuehler, Laura Lawler Stocking, Marilyn Vencil, Cheryl Waters, Ruth McFadden Watkins, Gerilee White and Mary Williamson.

### Class of 1990

Maxine McCoin Citta, Sandra Padilla Clowers, Karee Grybko Jensen, Mary Leach, Junko Litchfield, Kenneth McKinney, Patricia Spulak Motl, Deborah Nemec and Pamela Rudd Shepard.

### Class of 1995

Marcia Arauza, Frances Barlock, Nancy Knebel Benson, Tressa Buderus, Alex Bullock, Dwight Burns, Julie Cernik-Fulkerson, Rochelle Taylor Cherney, Amy Claes, Mike Clobes, Joan Cox, Wendy Davis, Jacqui Dickes, Christine Couch Dwornicki, Jeanne Walter Erikson, Erin Berry Faber, Jennifer Fischer, Julie Williams Grancer, Nancy Monroe Hallgren, Tina Hannappel, Julie Hansen, Rochelle Redondo Herrin, Tina Jacobsen, Michael Julian, Jeanine Langman Junker, Rosanne Smith Kister, Stacie Klozenbucher, Sarah Kralicek, Andrea Leggio, Lisa LeRette, Natalie Ellis Loseke, Eva Deem Mayser, Julie McIntire, Lisa Babe McShane, Linda Smith Miles, Tiffany Termeer Murphy, Laura Newell-Schroeder, Anna Shipley Ogle, Pamela Wolfe Owens, Carol Rapp, Daryl Reicks, Kristine Samson, Diane Horiuchi Shoemaker, Lithena VanDusen-Skrdl, Raberta Caldwell Starr, Denise Thramer, Alicia Dawson Wagner, Kevin West and Michelle Hult Wilson.

# Alumni Interests Tallied

## Results of our 2014 alumni membership survey

Each year, we attach a survey to the Alumni Association membership form. This year, there were 90 people who responded in some manner to the questions asked. The answers to these questions help the Alumni Association Board plan the activities for the upcoming year and determine which types of educational sessions to offer and what articles to include in the Alumni Times.

Thanks are extended to all who took the time to fill out the survey. Your results are below. Bear in mind, each question's answers may not total 90, as some of the respondents only answered some of the questions.

### Attire preference regarding the annual September Alumni Weekend event dinner:

Casual	48
Formal/Business attire	9

### Would you like entertainment at the Alumni Weekend event dinner?

Yes	28
No	22
Doesn't matter/no preference	4

### Do you view past issues of the Alumni Times online?

Yes	16
No	66

### Would you like to continue reading stories about current Clarkson College students?

Yes	79
No	3

### List any continuing education topics that would be of interest to you:

- › Infectious disease (x3)
- › Cardiac (x2)
- › Alzheimer's
- › Lyme disease
- › PTSD
- › Emergency preparedness, such as natural disasters, environment, extreme weather, biological/chemical emergency, terrorism and/or pet safety
- › Mental health issues
- › Telling our stories—how to write and get published
- › How to triage with local acts of terrorism
- › How to help in event of local disaster
- › Anything related to patient care
- › Women's health
- › Health care changes
- › Geriatric issues
- › Public health information
- › Teaching strategies
- › Respiratory
- › Drug and alcohol—recovery for health care professionals
- › Ebola treatment and eradication

### List any events you would like to see the Alumni Association sponsor:

- › Baseball game at Werner Park
- › Overseas medical mission
- › Bowling
- › Golf (x2)
- › Scholarships for current students and alumni
- › Giving back to community

### List topics of interest that you would like to see in the newsletter:

- › Stories about classmates
- › News from the classes of '63 and '64
- › Transitioning from student to registered nurse and role changes from registered nurses to nurse practitioners
- › Alumni journey in nursing
- › Continuing treatments as updated at Nebraska Medicine/building that is updated/new areas added
- › How to choose good health plans in retirement
- › Nurses day where I work
- › Nursing through life's ups and downs
- › Volunteering
- › Alumni connecting with current students or new nurses
- › Personal stories
- › Military stories





Angela Warman in the  
Clarkson College skills lab.

## Gratitude from Scholarship Recipient

THANK YOU FROM Angela Warman PHOTOGRAPH BY Mikaela Yeager

*Editor's note: The following are words of appreciation from Angela Warman in a letter thanking the Alumni Association of Clarkson College.*

I am very grateful to have been a selected recipient of the Carol Enquist Scholarship. Raising three children while attending college has shown me how important earning my degree is for our future and just how challenging this goal of mine is. This scholarship will help me reach that goal.

I began my second year at Clarkson College this past fall semester. I have enjoyed the effort the teachers put in to help the students do their best. Everyone is always willing to help you learn the best they can. I sometimes feel that being a non-traditional student with children at home I don't always have the study time or opportunities that traditional students do, but the teachers are always willing to do what they can to help me understand the material before I leave the classroom.

I chose Clarkson College because I worked with a nurse who is a graduate of the College, and I really looked up to her. I also felt drawn to the College

from the moment I came for a tour and started speaking to people. Everyone was so welcoming, and I didn't feel like just another student on a list. That warm, welcoming feeling really helped make up my mind, and the further along I get in my education, the more I realize the passion I have for caring for others.

At this point in my schooling, I don't want to stop with my BSN degree. I hope to continue with my master's degree or, perhaps, look into the Nurse Anesthesia program. I'm looking forward to my future clinical experiences to help guide my choices.

Thank you again for helping me reach my goals and allowing me to do something I truly love!

### **Contribute to future scholarships**

Donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund are welcomed at any time throughout the year. This is an excellent way to recognize or memorialize someone while helping students meet the financial challenges

of their college education. When donating, you can list who you would like to acknowledge, and that individual's name will be published in the October/November issue of the Alumni Times. Because of your kind donations, the Alumni Association has been able to continually offer scholarships to many deserving students.

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**"I felt drawn to the College...  
I didn't feel like just another  
student on a list."**

**ANGELA WARMAN, BSN STUDENT**

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Donations may be sent to: Alumni Coordinator, Rita VanFleet, Clarkson College, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Checks should be made payable to "Alumni Association Scholarship Fund."



# A Legacy of Service & Stewardship

ARTICLE BY Marilyn Rosmann, M.S., R.N.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Open Door Mission & Clarkson College



The first location of the Open Door Mission after opening its doors in 1954.





**This year marks 20 years since the partnership began between Clarkson College and the Open Door Mission,** a Gospel Rescue Mission founded in 1954 to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. In view of the clinical experiences offered to Clarkson College students through this partnership, the College is pleased to celebrate two decades of providing support and compassionate care for countless impoverished men, women and children in the Omaha area.

Service learning was not a rooted component of education at Clarkson College when the partnership with the Open Door Mission began in 1994; however, that changed when a group of Mental Health Nursing faculty noted how beneficial the civic engagement experiences at the Mission proved to be. In 1998, a series of grant proposals were submitted to the Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education and, shortly thereafter, Clarkson College received funding to integrate service learning concepts into its nursing curriculum.

Many of the early projects were specifically directed at providing needed services at the Open Door Mission. Students generated the projects to reflect their individual strengths and creativity as a group.

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**Your selfless contributions  
of time & energy have  
contributed to the rich history  
between Clarkson College  
& the Open Door Mission.**

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Kate Fischer, Director of the Free Health and Healing Clinic, and Marilyn Rosmann, Clarkson College Nursing Associate Professor, worked in tandem to make the clinic a reality.

They organized health fairs, gave demonstrations on how to prepare healthy meals using cookbooks, painted halls, planted flowers, repaired bathrooms and even organized a volleyball tournament at the Westroads Club to raise money to buy mattresses for the Open Door Mission.

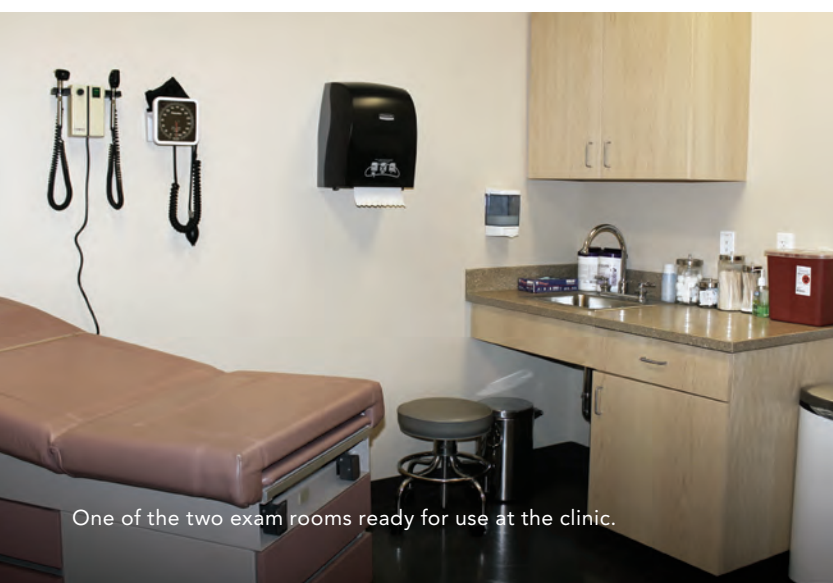
After assessing the residents' needs and the staff requests at the Open Door Mission, it became evident that a clinic was needed to serve its residents. Students located a space to set up the treatment center and began focusing their energy on getting it ready for use. In a single semester, some students went beyond and reported devoting an additional 20–60 hours painting, cleaning and supplying the clinic with furniture.



Students Lindsay Perales and Karlie Klein stand by as their classmate, Alex Smith, listens to the heartbeat of an Open Door Mission guest.

The Omaha community also greatly assisted in realizing the clinic at the Mission. Kohl's Pharmacy & Homecare donated \$15,000 in medical supplies, and a grocery store chain offered \$5,000 worth of over-the-counter cold and flu medications. In addition, Physical Therapist Assistant students and students from other Clarkson College programs became involved, completing special projects and clinical rotations. This accomplishment of coming together to help a common population was a celebration all in its own.

The Open Door Mission honored Clarkson College students with the first "Rescue Award" in 2002 for their service over the years. Candace Gregory, Mission CEO, said it was a unanimous decision from the staff that the first award should go to the Clarkson College students.



One of the two exam rooms ready for use at the clinic.

Throughout the years, Clarkson College faculty, who were also nurse practitioners, generously volunteered their time at the clinic. Clarkson College nursing students faithfully assisted them in running the clinic while also learning new assessment and management skills. Later, Dr. Jerry Fischer, a nephrology specialist, volunteered to run a weekly clinic with the help of College faculty Pam Stanosheck and with the continued support of Clarkson College students.

The Open Door Mission has undergone major physical changes in the last few years. Three new buildings now reside where the old Mission once stood. The new Garland Thompson Men's Center is now open and includes a new health clinic with two exam rooms. This last spring, the Mission



We are each born into a unique set of circumstances.  
Never underestimate your ability to rise above.



Rosmann pauses by the mural greeting patients in the Free Health and Healing Clinic's waiting area.

called on Clarkson College students, alumni and faculty to help name the new health clinic.

This is truly a moment for all who have volunteered their time at the Open Door Mission to sit back and enjoy the fruits of their efforts. Your selfless contributions of time and energy have contributed to the rich history of the prevailing relationship between Clarkson College and the Open Door Mission, as well as the creation of the new Free Health and Healing Clinic.

Clarkson College has created the signage and developed a beautiful wall mural with a message of hope that reads: "We are each born into a unique set of circumstances. Never underestimate your ability to rise above."

As we look toward the future at the Open Door Mission, students from colleges and universities throughout Omaha and the surrounding area are working together with the Mission to assist in serving the men, women, children and families who come through its doors.

# CAREER FAIR FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2**

**10 A.M. – 1 P.M.**

**CLARKSON COLLEGE  
HOWARD HALL**

101 SOUTH 42ND STREET OMAHA, NEB.

On Thursday, April 2, Clarkson College will be hosting the fourth annual Career Fair for Health Professions. This event is designed to introduce students and alumni to a wide variety of career opportunities in health care. Last year's event attracted nearly 200 students, and an even larger turnout is expected this year.

## **Participate**

Clarkson College alumni are encouraged to participate in a couple ways. First, alumni are invited to attend the career fair to seek out potential job and networking opportunities. A full list of exhibitors and positions available will be distributed via e-mail one week prior to the fair. In previous years, there have been more than 40 vendors in attendance with entry-level to advanced positions available.

## **Exhibit**

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

## **Learn more**

If you would like more information about the Career Fair for Health Professions, contact Stefanie Skrdla at 402.552.2944 or e-mail [skrdlastefanie@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:skrdlastefanie@clarksoncollege.edu).

**If you would like to get involved with the Free Health and Healing Clinic at the Open Door Mission, contact Kate Fischer at 402.829.1541 or e-mail [kfischer@opendoormission.org](mailto:kfischer@opendoormission.org).**



The second ebola patient to be treated at Nebraska Medicine, photojournalist Ashoka Mukpo, arrived on Oct. 6.

# Nebraska Medicine: A Proud Partner in More Ways than One

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Nebraska Medicine





**Throughout much of fall 2014, Nebraska Medicine endured unprecedented attention from national and local media—mainly for observing one exposed and treating three Ebola-stricken Americans in its 10-bed biocontainment unit; secondly for undergoing a complete brand transformation. As the exposure continued, members of the Clarkson College community vested their attention in what news would break next.**

The interest in the hospital's events stems from a number of factors. To start, Nebraska Medicine, known formerly as The Nebraska Medical Center, is an educational partner of Clarkson College. Many are aware of this affiliation, but not everyone fully understands it—especially since the rebrand of the clinical enterprise in October.

To break it down, the clinical enterprise is comprised of three entities: UNMC Physicians, Bellevue Medical Center and The Nebraska Medical Center. The new emblem and name, Nebraska Medicine, applies to the entire clinical enterprise. Specific locations are identified individually with the new emblem. The purpose of a common name and emblem is to reflect the unity and make each entity stronger collectively. Separately, UNMC adopted the emblem to make its partnership with Nebraska Medicine more widely known.

So, what has changed in the relationship between Clarkson College and Nebraska Medicine? “Nothing,” said Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College President. “We are still an affiliated, private college of a private hospital, which, in turn, is affiliated with other state institutions.”

Since establishing our educational partnership in 1997, many considered The Nebraska Medical Center the “parent company” of Clarkson College, and that description remains unchanged. “We are a child of the foundation. Because of that relationship, we [employees and students] are privileged with certain benefits we would not otherwise receive,” said Dr. Tony Damewood, Vice President of Operations.

From an employee standpoint, those benefits range from retirement, health, dental, vision and life insurance plans, paid vacation, holidays and sick leave, as well as inclusion in various

other supplemental benefits, wellness programs, discounts, and services and resources.

Students benefit from the partnership primarily through the time they spend learning hands-on in the cutting-edge facilities on the Nebraska Medicine campus. “This experience allows our students—at all levels—to see graduates who have been successful in our programs and see the endless possibilities in health care,” said Rachel Thompson, Undergraduate Nursing Assistant Director.

The less direct benefits are also nice. For instance, when BSN student Jay Jevne was accepted into Clarkson College in spring 2012, he began his search for an entry-level nursing position at The Nebraska Medical Center. His academic advisor at the time put in a good word for him, and he was hired to work the overnight shift as a patient care tech to assist with monitoring high-risk patients.

For two-and-a-half years, Jay continued working at the hospital as a care tech, taking vital signs and blood sugars, emptying drains and giving showers/baths to patients. Then, this past August, a unique opportunity presented itself.

For the first time in years, The Nebraska Medical Center would open up its distinguished 10-bed biocontainment unit to treat Dr. Rick Sacra, a 51-year-old aid worker infected with Ebola, and a team of highly trained medical personnel needed to be ready to respond.

Each of the nurses, respiratory therapists and care techs that comprised the team were



Pole banners featuring the Nebraska Medicine branding efforts.



Jay Jevne has worked as a patient care tech on 6-Neuro at Nebraska Medicine for three years.

recommended by Shelly Schwedhelm, M.S.N., R.N., Director of the Emergency Department and Trauma and Preparedness Services; and Kate Boulter, R.N., B.S., Lead Registered Nurse of the Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit.

"Joining the unit was a decision we all made when we applied [to the hospital], knowing we'd be pulled off our normal floors whenever the unit was activated," Jay said. "I think we pride ourselves on the fact that no one backed out because they were afraid or worried. We were confident in our processes and protection and knew we could trust each other to keep the patient, ourselves and the community safe."

In the event that a public health threat was to arise, each member of the unit's team had previously undergone periodic training in disaster management, cardiac life support and bioterrorism. "We all have training files and awesome leaders that make sure we have the skills and knowledge to be safe and proficient in our care," Jay said.

Part of the training included an in-depth tour of the center, which is the largest of four biocontainment units in the country. Dr. Philip Smith, an infectious disease specialist, opened the unit in 2005 with funds Congress granted to states for disaster preparedness. It is equipped to treat more than a dozen highly infectious diseases,

including SARS, plague, monkeypox and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. It has a steam sterilizer (autoclave) for linens, scrubs and equipment, and a special air-handling system to keep organisms from spreading beyond the rooms.

Jay's main responsibilities included running the autoclave, changing out the bleach bucket every two hours, helping don and doff people, filling the dunk tank with antimicrobial solution so that the outside of lab samples could be cleaned before being carried into a lab, and assisted wherever else he was needed.

Because Ebola is not an airborne disease, wearing the positive pressure, also known as "space suits," was not always necessary. "They are warm, heavy and pretty loud with the air blowing down over your head/ears, so it made it somewhat difficult to communicate with others and the patient; however, we did wear masks and face shields to protect ourselves from possible blood/fluid splatter, as contact with any body fluids is how the virus is passed from person to person." For additional protection, personnel wore multiple layers of gloves, impermeable gowns, boot covers, scrubs and other protection as warranted. "I felt very safe."

As a care tech, Jay's interaction with Dr. Sacra and Ashoka Mukpo, 33, an American freelance journalist who was airlifted from Liberia to Omaha on Oct. 6, was uniquely personal. "The only contact I had was with waste from their rooms that needed to be autoclaved!" He said nurses were primarily the care takers and in the room with the patients, though he did step in a couple times to introduce himself and get to know them.

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**"We were confident in our processes & knew we could trust each other to keep the patient, ourselves & the community safe."**

JAY JEVNE, BSN STUDENT

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For nearly two months, Jay worked as many as five 12-hour shifts in the unit each week. He fought hard to keep up with family and school. "Due to the nature of the BSN program, I felt like I was behind for the first half of the semester, but it was worth it."

Along with school, Jay was also balancing family time with his wife and four kids, Samuel, 8; Benjamin, 6; Daniel, 4; and Ana Luz, 2; Student Government Association duties, tutoring and church responsibilities. "I definitely learned what I can/can't handle, that is for sure!" Since starting at Clarkson College, family time has always been sparser than Jay would like, and working in the unit stretched it extra thin. "As time went on, I was able to find a better balance."

When he wasn't working in the unit, Jay experienced the constant worry and fear from people around him that he might infect them with Ebola. "I just used those opportunities to teach and educate them."

His children felt quite differently. "My oldest son told his teacher that he was proud of his daddy for working in the 'special unit.' She didn't quite understand what unit he was talking about, but it reminded me that my kids are listening to my wife and I all the time, and I need to watch what I say."

Jay's Sunday school class of 12- and 13-year-olds also ask him frequently about Ebola. "They get me side-tracked talking about its biology, past outbreaks, etc. I think it is the Microbiologist in me." Jay has a B.S. in microbiology


from Brigham Young University. "It's quite funny when I get going!"

Fortunately, Jay's arduous work schedule came to an end on Oct. 21 when Mr. Mukpo's test results came back negative for the Ebola virus. He would once again know what it's like to get a full night's sleep.

Despite the hardships that came with the experience, Jay feels proud to have been a part of the unit and the team. "The Nebraska biocontainment unit has a really great group of people from top on down. They are motivated, self-driven, work together well, and are funny, but take their work seriously. I really cannot say enough good things about them."

Jay traces the opportunity to work in the biocontainment unit not back to when he applied at the hospital but when he was accepted into the BSN program. "If I had not gotten into Clarkson College, I'd probably be back in Utah working in a lab as a microbiologist; not working with Ebola—that's for sure."

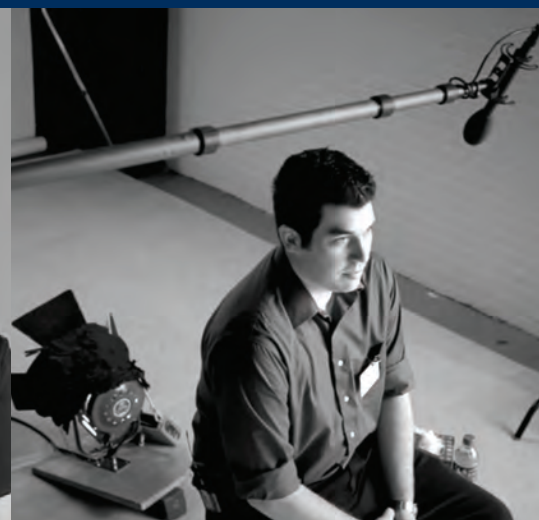
That opportunity to experience something more is, ultimately, what makes the partnership between Clarkson College and Nebraska Medicine so invaluable. We have the trust and support from one of the most premier medical campuses in the region—and even a new name, logo and endless amounts of national exposure will not interfere with that.

A photograph of Rosanna Morris, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark pinstriped jacket. She is speaking into a microphone at a podium. In the background, other people are seated at a table, also with microphones.

Clarkson College Board member and Chief Nursing Officer, Rosanna Morris, commends the medical staff, stating they all stood up as local heroes caring for global heroes.



# Our Story Told Like Never Before







**Each year, we face the question of how to communicate the Clarkson College story to prospective students and the general public.**

When considering the options in the past, the medium of radio has been our go-to, in addition to advertising online and in newspapers. Last year, we decided it was time to tell our story in a bigger, more visual way that would leave an impression like never before. So, where did we turn? We turned face-to-face with our audience and let their TV screens do the rest.

As planning to conceptualize a branding campaign began, the realization of cost was a concern. Producing high-quality commercials and buying media is beyond the typical Clarkson College budget. As a favorable compromise, we opted to repurpose footage of the already produced online videos, which featured testimonials from proud Clarkson College graduates. Thankfully, the trade-off paid off, and our story would soon reach the public eye.

On Sept. 15, 2014, the College not only launched a television branding campaign but also showcased alumni on billboards and print advertisements throughout the greater Omaha, Neb. area, as well as on the homepage of a newly designed website: ClarksonCollege.edu. The purpose of the campaign was for alumni—in their words—to connect with the audience by speaking from their hearts and offering honest feedback. The concept of having alumni talk to a camera about their specific academic program and how their education helped them get to where they are today gives the viewer insight into how the future can be bright when graduating from Clarkson College. What's even more gratifying is having the trust to hand over the microphone to a graduate who can proudly share their Clarkson College story. That's really what it's all about. If the customer—our alumni—is pleased with the value of their education, future students will also see that value and develop a new loyalty to Clarkson College and its Mission. And, perhaps someday down the road, those students will jump at the chance to share their Clarkson College story, too.

**ARTICLE BY** Jina Paul & Mikaela Yeager  
**PHOTOGRAPHY BY** Writing the Range & Great Plains  
Motion Picture Company

**Tell us your story.**

We are proud of our alumni and would like to share your stories in future Alumni Times publications, on our website and within our branding campaigns. Share your story by visiting ClarksonCollege.edu/ShareYourStory or e-mailing [vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu).

View the graduate online videos  
at [ClarksonCollege.edu/videos](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/videos).



# REACHING BEYOND OUR BORDERS

ARTICLE BY Cindy Berkland ('68, '91)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Friends of Naivasha

Five years ago, I was asked to write an article about my experience of building a maternity hospital in Naivasha, Kenya for the Alumni Times. This project started after my initial visit to work for a month at the District Hospital maternity ward in 2004. The experience was life changing, and I spent the next 10 years leading an effort to build a new maternity hospital by forming a non-profit organization called Friends of Naivasha Women's Center, which opened July 1, 2013. Joseph, the first baby born at the new hospital, arrived at 7 p.m. that same evening. Within one year later, we had delivered nearly 6,000 babies.

The new hospital currently has 86 patient beds, 32 NICU beds and a large Maternal Child Health Clinic and Surgical Center. We had shipped 14 40-foot containers of medical equipment (birthing beds, infant warmers, fetal monitors, cabinetry, surgical lights, etc.) donated by the Nebraska medical communities in Omaha, Fremont and Lincoln. This shipping was made possible by my husband's employer, Valmont Industries.

The partners in this project were Friends of Naivasha, the Fair-Trade Flower Farms of Naivasha and the Government of Kenya. This was a public hospital, so the government provided the operations and staffing for the facility. The Flower Farms and Friends of Naivasha were able to raise the \$1.7 million to build the facility.





Pictured, Her Excellence Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, 1st Lady of the Republic of Kenya; Cindy Berkland, Friends of Naivasha President; Mrs. Lucia K. Mbugua, 1st Lady, Nakuru County.



There were many hurdles along the way, but the biggest challenge has always been getting enough nurses to provide improved care. Can you imagine if the whole women's center only had 37 registered nurses to do 600 deliveries a month? This was typical staffing in a government public hospital. We went to the Nursing Council of Kenya to ask for permission to create a new category of care called "Patient Attendants." We were able to hire 10 to assist the nurses with non-professional tasks.

We hoped this partnership would be a flagship project for Kenya since it was a hospital for the poor, but it was better than most private hospitals. We invited the first lady of Nakuru County for a visit, and she was very impressed. She was eventually able to influence the governor to send an additional 10 nurses to the new facility. The Flower Farms funded six more nurses for one year. We now had the professional staff to keep two nurses in each the birthing unit, NICU and surgery, and one nurse in the other areas.

There was only one obstetrician and one pediatrician for all these moms and babies, so these nurses assumed a lot of responsibility. They were all skilled midwives and could work in any area in maternity. They were excited about the move but very aware of the added responsibility for improved care that was expected in

the new environment. We formed a Reproductive Health Advisory Council to assist in the education of the nurses and to monitor outcomes. The members were from the surrounding flower farms that we served, the hospital management, University of Nairobi and Friends of Naivasha.



Our Friends of Naivasha project manager, James, led the transfer of patients and staff to the new hospital. For the last year, we worked on the details to educate nurses to operate the new equipment. Midwives from the nearby Kijabe Hospital (US/ UK Mission Hospital) signed up for extra shifts to mentor our nurses with the new care delivery. We now had birthing beds to deliver comfortably in a semi-private birthing room with a bathroom and shower. This was a big improvement from the old maternity when they laid flat on a bed and delivered side by side in one room. Women in labor had to share beds, and there was only one bathroom for all the women. Now, they not only had their own bed with privacy and cleanliness but also the safety provided by fetal monitors, oxygen for high-risk mothers and two operating rooms for emergency cesareans.

The nursery was a huge change, and the nurses had a lot to learn. We started Bubble CPAP, which is an innovative positive pressure that

we made by using a water bottle and special tubing. This immediately improved outcomes for pre-term babies with RDS. We had a 30 percent decrease in mortality for the premature baby in the first year. Infant warmers and Isolettes were available, oxygen concentrators provided oxygen for every baby in need and pulse oximeters were also used. Mothers of babies in the NICU stayed in the hospital and came every three hours to feed their infants. They had the space in the three nursery rooms to comfort, cuddle and care for their babies; learn to tube feed; and bathe and change their babies. There were usually 30 babies in this nursery, so the nurses relied on the mothers to provide the care.



Friends of Naivasha had grown, and new people joined in its efforts. Many volunteers came to provide care in the district hospital. Surgical missions brought teams for 10 days each year. The Naivasha staff soon associated most volunteers as Nebraskans. Many of my friends and family were involved in some way, and my life was very consumed with meetings and lots and lots of e-mails! My son, Ben, went with me to Naivasha in 2012 and was motivated to be more involved. He had an MBA and was just what I needed to help with the management and business issues. My husband was also very involved





Aiding Cindy (second from left) in Naivasha were her son, Ben, and former Clarkson College classmates Debbie Floreani (left, '75), and Lisa Tracey ('77, '85).

in the hospital construction and maintenance of all the equipment. No one was paid, and we used our own money for all expenses, including travel. It was a big job for anyone who became involved. Expectations were high and it was a big-time commitment.

Lisa Tracey and Debbie Floreani, good friends and Clarkson College alumnae, accompanied me to Naivasha in 2012 after years of assisting with fundraising. Energy to become more involved usually comes after experiencing the situation there. Lisa is now Vice President of Friends of Naivasha and runs the operations in Nebraska when I am in Kenya. Cindy Alloway, another Clarkson College alumna, was an administrator of Lakeside Hospital at the time. She served on our Board for three years and made a difference with her knowledge and talent in hospital administration.

The issue that I was acutely aware of since the very beginning was the sustainability of the hospital once the government took over all of the operations. I knew that we needed an on-the-ground influence to keep the momentum. We knew that the presence of a U.S. university would be a key factor, so, in 2010, I went to UNMC to invite them to Naivasha. They sent various teams and, finally, we had our first OB resident in April 2014. It was a great experience, and the UNMC Obstetric Department has agreed to send residents in the future. We are also working with the UNMC Pediatric Infectious Disease Department to arrange for their residents to come in 2015. Other universities are also

interested, and we have hopes for a global health center in Naivasha one day.

What about the future? I expect to always be in Kenya for part of the year. I retired from my practice as a women's health nurse practitioner and feel like I will always be a nurse while in Kenya. This country is a part of me, and I love my friends and life there. I also love safaris and the beauty of nature. I just wish it was closer to my grandkids. My husband is also still involved in projects in Africa, so I guess this was all meant to be.



Friends of Naivasha's new mission is to start community outreach to encourage the 50 percent of women who now deliver at home to deliver at a dispensary by a skilled midwife near their villages and then be transported to our hospital for complications. Eighteen to 20 women a day die during childbirth in Kenya, so we have started a small program to equip these dispensaries for a safe, low-risk delivery.

We also have a cervical cancer screening program at the new women's center. My employer in Omaha, Omaha Ob-Gyn Associates, has donated a colposcopy, cryotherapy and LEEP machine for screening and treatment, and Dr. Schulte came to teach the nurses how to operate it. Cervical cancer is the leading cause of death for women in Kenya, and only two percent of women are screened. We also shipped a mammogram machine and processor, but we are waiting for the \$30,000 to repair what was damaged in shipment. With these funds, we can be the first to offer this in Nakuru County.

Friends of Naivasha just received funding from Finlay Flower Farm to finish phase three of construction. We will then have a 100-bed hospital, 36-bed NICU and a large maternal child health clinic. We also have a resource center for all medical students and residents who come and are hoping for a simulation center, as well. There was a thank you reception held Nov. 9 in Omaha to showcase what our donors have accomplished. Many

people have had a hand in this project, and we want them to be appreciated.



On Sept. 11, I flew to Nairobi to meet the First Lady of Kenya, Mrs. Kenyatta. I gave a presentation of our project and asked for her to support our efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality. She has a national program called "Beyond Zero" where she runs marathons to focus on infant and maternal mortality. I pointed out that in our first year open we had reduced maternal mortality by 58 percent. Our Friends of Naivasha team and the county medical director submitted a wish list for her to consider funding ambulances so women can be transferred from outlying centers to our referral hospital. We currently only have one ambulance, and this would allow faster intervention and better outcomes. I was just informed that nine ambulances are coming to Naivasha outlying centers.



Recently, we launched a program called "Adopt a Nurse." When a registered nurse (RN) graduates in Kenya, it may take six to 12 months for her to take her Boards, receive her results and find employment. We went to the Kenya Nursing Council to seek approval to begin an educational program called "Graduate Nurse Experience." We want to utilize this time to hire the graduate nurse to work under a RN mentor at our hospital. We will have a higher level of care experience for high-risk patients. They will receive a certificate, a job recommendation and the nursing experience to be more marketable. It only costs \$120 per month or \$1500 per year for one graduate nurse. We could actually have 10 nurses for only \$15,000 a year!

We all know that a beautiful, clean, state-of-the-art facility will not change outcomes without enough nurses. If you are interested in donating to this cause, visit [nwhcc.info](http://nwhcc.info). The mother and babies of Naivasha will be forever grateful!



## Opening Our Hearts to the Community

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager

Each year beginning early October and running through late December, the spirit of giving at Clarkson College spreads fast and heavy through the air. Calls for donations and helping hands appear left and right, each one supporting a different cause or community. At the peak of the “giving season,” students, faculty and staff celebrated the goodwill they’ve shared both on and off campus.

To kick-off the series of charitable acts was the fourth annual Choose to Give campaign, which started late September and encouraged employees to donate to the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund. After three weeks of campaigning, 71 faculty and staff members made contributions that amounted to a record total of \$10,704. At the October Community meeting, last year’s endowed scholarship recipient, BSN student Shalyse Ahl, expressed her gratitude to those who donated.

Mid-November, College employees also had the opportunity to receive an extra casual dress day by donating a minimum of \$1 to the Food Bank of the Heartland

at the monthly Community Meeting. The \$220 raised has the potential to provide 660 meals for families across Nebraska and Iowa.

Carrying on an annual tradition, the Student Government Association (SGA) set up a Giving Tree in the lower level of the Student Center in November and invited employees and students to select an ornament and purchase a gift for one of the young boys and girls at Children’s Square USA, a life education center that provides services to children and families in the community. Thanks to the generosity of 19 students and 13 employees, each of the 43 children with an ornament on the tree had the chance to open at least one present this year.

The Clarkson College chapter of Omicron Epsilon Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing piggybacked the efforts of SGA. Each year, the chapter plans a holiday giving campaign, and this year it was suggested to “tag” onto the SGA Giving Tree campaign and buy toys for the Children’s Square USA’s emergency children’s shelter. Omicron

Epsilon members donated to the fund at the chapter’s November dinner meeting and raised more than \$130, which allowed for the purchase of several requested gifts for children in the emergency shelter.

Annual traditions of giving don’t end there. Since 2008, the RT students have raised funds to provide a family in the community with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, presents and more. This year, the students started out with a single mother and her three children; then they were asked to take in a second family—a mother unable to work because of a recent breast cancer diagnosis; a father who is a construction worker and working very little due to the cold weather; and their three children.

“Our priority is meeting basic needs—food for the family and warm clothes for the children—and then we grant Christmas wishes with toys and other presents,” said Ann Hagenau, RT Assistant Professor. The student and faculty volunteers spend the Friday following finals week shopping for gifts and wrapping them at the College. When they deliver the gifts, Santa accompanies them. “When we’ve had Spanish-speaking families, the adjunct Spanish instructor at the College has dressed as Santa for us,” Ms. Hagenau said. “Every other year, it has been my husband.” The delivery crew takes pictures of the children with Santa and then mails them to the families. “They usually appreciate this because when money is tight, pictures often get overlooked.”

Reminiscing on the many charitable acts of the last several months, students and employees can gain a better understanding of how each individual contribution can make an impact and how Clarkson College, as a whole, strives to maintain a strong, positive and engaging presence in the community.





## College Nurse Anesthesia Program Continues to Set Precedence

ARTICLE BY Jayne Cromer

PHOTOGRAPH BY Andrew Marinkovich

The Clarkson College Nurse Anesthesia program is a 30-month, front-loaded Master of Science in Nursing degree program with an emphasis on anesthesia content. Students come with critical care experience and a strong science background upon which the anesthesia program builds.

Students spend their first 12 months in class learning advanced anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and advanced pharmacology of anesthetic drugs. Course content also includes basic and advanced principles of anesthesia, professional aspects of nurse anesthesia and scientific foundations. Lectures, projects, presentations and written papers, along with hi-fidelity simulation, provide students with a variety of learning opportunities.

In their final 18 months of the program—and under the supervision of outstanding nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists—students move into the clinical areas where they apply book knowledge to caring for patients while also completing a capstone research project.

The Nurse Anesthesia program began in 2009 with the first class of 10 being admitted in fall 2010, the same year the program received its initial accreditation from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs. Of that class, nine successfully graduated and passed their National Certification Examination in 2013. All were immediately employed and remain so today.

In fall 2011, the program admitted 10 more students. Of that, seven graduated and all passed their National Certification Examination with each student receiving several job offers and immediate employment. The eighth student took a leave of absence but has since returned and is on track to graduate in 2015. In 2012, a cohort of 12 students was admitted, and all of them will graduate in February 2015. Many already have jobs.

Our graduates practice in urban and rural areas, in large academic centers and in small critical access hospitals, providing safe and excellent anesthetic care to a diverse patient population across the life span.

We were excited to have an alumnus participate in our interview process this fall as we continue to build our alumni network. Currently, we are developing a doctorate program to comply with future requirements. By 2021, a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will be the mandatory entry level for all new nurse anesthetists. The Nurse Anesthesia program is excited to be living up to the excellent Clarkson College tradition of preparing our graduates to be the best.

# December Capstone Project Summary

The master's degree-seeking students presented their Capstone projects on Dec. 5. Clarkson College alumna and Health Care Business Director Carla Dirkschneider presented the certificates of awards from the Alumni Association to the winners at the end of the program.

Jenny Horstman was awarded first place for her abstract *Effectiveness of Electrode Patch Changes and Cardiac Alarms in the ICU* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg). Jonathan Anderson's abstract *The Affordable Care Act: Implications for Free Medical Clinics in Lancaster County, Nebraska* (advisor Dr. Tammy Madsen) and Peggy Mazzeo's abstract *Pain Management Education for the Hospitalized Patient* (advisor Dr. Linda Jensen) tied for second place. Third place was awarded to Jaime L. Kobs for her abstract *Residual Paralysis in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit: The Incidence of Residual Paralysis Based on Clinical Indicators* (advisor Dr. George Rogers).

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## ***Effectiveness of Electrode Patch Changes and Cardiac Alarms in the ICU by Jenny Horstman***

Several alarms sound throughout a hospital each day. The amount of alarms is especially high in the intensive care unit (ICU) where many different machines, monitors and IV infusion pumps are constantly making noise. The number of false alarms from these machines ranges from 72 percent to 99.4 percent, causing confusion amongst the nursing staff as to which alarms require immediate attention and which do not (Sendelbach & Funk, 2013). This confusion—or overload of alarms—is also known as alarm fatigue. Patient deaths have been attributed to alarm fatigue; therefore, it has become a Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal to reduce alarms in the ICU (Sendelbach & Funk, 2013). This study was designed to explore the effects of

daily changing of electrode patches on alarms at a midwestern ICU. Baseline data was initially gathered, followed by an e-mail to the nursing staff regarding the change. Instructions were provided for proper skin cleansing prior to placing the electrode patches on the patient. Intervention data was then completed. The amount of alarms decreased in both high priority alarms and low priority alarms. Overall, the high priority alarms decreased by eight percent while the low priority alarms decreased by 50 percent, proving that changing electrode patches daily decreased alarms. However, further research could be done at this hospital to determine if altering alarm limits can also decrease alarms.

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## ***The Affordable Care Act: Implications for Free Medical Clinics in Lancaster County, Nebraska by Jonathan Anderson***

Non-profit medical clinics serving the uninsured and underinsured population free of cost or with nominal charges have been a critical component of the United States' health care safety net since 1967 (McGuire & Meehan, 2014). A review of literature suggests that not only are free clinic services utilized by individuals experiencing hardships like inability to pay, language insufficiencies and deficient citizenship status, but that recent caseload increases include those who find themselves in a health care "coverage gap" (Darnell, 2010). Essentially, income is too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to receive public subsidies and tax credits to purchase insurance on the federal marketplace. Consequently, free clinics have found themselves expanding operations beyond that of traditional acute services in an effort to accommodate growing community needs (McGuire & Meehan, 2014).

*continued on page 24*

**JONATHAN ANDERSON** *The Affordable Care Act: Implications for Free Medical Clinics in Lancaster County, Nebraska*, advisor Dr. Tammy Madsen

**CHARLES BELL** *An Examination of Postoperative Pain Management with the Use of Intravenous Acetaminophen*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**JORDAN BLACKWILL** *How Prevalent is Mobile Clinical Device Use by Anesthesia Providers at a Midwest Medical Center?*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**WYNDA CLAYTON** *Business Plan: Assisting Medicare Patients Identify and Resolve Billing Errors on Medical Bills*, advisor Justin Avery

**STEPHANIE ENTRINGER** *Prevalence of Textbook Usage in First-Semester Versus Second-Semester Licensed Practical Nursing Students*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**BRENT EVANOFF** *The Effectiveness of Cognitive Visual Aids in the Resolution of Airway Emergencies by SRNAs*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**NICOLE FINKENAUER** *Guideline to Ensure Comprehensive Stroke Education for Acute Stroke Patients and Families*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**JEANNE FREEBURG** *Lumpectomy versus Mastectomy: Making a Surgical Decision in Early Stage Breast Cancer*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**ROSELLA FROHN** *Reducing Emergency Department Use Through Community-Based Care Management for Persons without Health Insurance in Dodge County, Nebraska*, advisor Ms. Julia Anderson



### December Capstone Project Summary

*continued from page 23*

The purpose of this case study was to quantitatively review caseload influxes represented in archival data in order to determine the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on patient visits to free medical clinics in Lancaster County, Nebraska. The results indicate that following the ACA, new patient clinic visits increased by 15.5 percent, new annual patient visits increased by 7.3 percent and total clinic patient visits increased by 21.3 percent. Although further research is necessary to better understand supplementary limitations and restrictive coverage within the ACA, this study serves as an early indicator of the effects the ACA has had on health care coverage and the nation's free medical clinic community.

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#### ***Pain Management Education for the Hospitalized Patient by Peggy Mazzeo***

Optimal pain management is essential for patient recovery and satisfaction. Patient satisfaction with pain management directly affects their well-being and perception of quality of care received. Current pre-surgical pain education does not allow patients to assist in their self-care in terms of what to expect, medication knowledge, pharmacological and complimentary interventions. A thorough search of CINAHL and MEDLINE databases, as well as professional pain organizations, provided valuable information to develop this educational tool. The pain brochure provides an overview of pain, pain assessment, how to describe pain and pain treatment options. Valuable input and feedback on the content of this brochure has been obtained from the multi-disciplinary pain committee. The inclusion of information on pharmacological treatment, in combination with complimentary treatment, should provide patients with a wide-ranging view of how to work with their health care team to improve their pain management. Readability statistics

with Microsoft Word were performed to ensure the readability for all patients establishing a level of 7.2. Key to this educational brochure is the emphasis on the patient as an advocate for their own pain management. Implementation of this pain brochure in the pre-hospital period should assist patients to be better prepared for what to expect. The brochure has been approved at Nebraska Medicine and is in the process of being printed for implementation. Future research to evaluate the usefulness of this educational tool can assist in continuing to provide the highest quality of care to patients.

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#### ***Residual Paralysis in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit: The Incidence of Residual Paralysis Based on Clinical Indicators by Jaime L. Kobs***

Residual neuromuscular blockade is an anesthesia problem that affects patients in the post anesthesia care unit (PACU). The incidence of residual paralysis affects approximately 10 million patients each year. Residual blockade can lead to negative patient outcomes, such as hypoxemia, respiratory distress or even respiratory failure resulting in re-intubation and even death. Residual paralysis can be determined both subjectively and objectively. Objective determinations of residual paralysis can be obtained using a train of four monitors. Clinical observations, such as hypoxemia, use of oral or nasal airways and need for oxygen, can also be used to assess the presence of residual neuromuscular blockade. This study examined the incidence of residual blockade in two groups of patients: those who received reversal of neuromuscular blockade and those who did not. The incidence of residual blockade was assessed using only the clinical indicators previously described. Furthermore, time spent in the PACU was examined between the two groups to

determine if reversal of neuromuscular blocking drugs significantly decreased PACU time, thus decreasing patient cost. A Chi-square statistical analysis concluded that there was no significant difference in the use of airway adjuncts or hypoxemia between patients who did receive anticholinesterase versus those who did not receive anticholinesterase for neuromuscular blocking drug reversal ( $p = 0.152$ ). Furthermore, no statistically significant difference existed regarding the length of PACU stays between the two groups when analyzed via a t-test ( $p = 0.451$ ). Therefore, clinical indicators cannot be used as a reliable source of assessing residual paralysis in the PACU.

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#### **Learn more and read up**

Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Simply visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at <http://bit.ly/1mfVI3>. In the search box, type the author's name or a few keywords and hit enter. The Power Search link can be used to conduct a more advanced search.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Clarkson Service League Library by calling 402.552.3387 or sending an e-mail to [library@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:library@clarksoncollege.edu).

## Graduate Capstone Projects

**KELLI GEAR** *Distracted Driving: The Effects of Nurse-led Educational Outreach on Student Attitudes*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**KIMBERLY GOSLINGA** *Parent's Perceptions: First Concerns of Child with Autism*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**NICOLE HAYWORTH** *Thyromental Distance Assessment Tool: Accuracy and Application*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**HAYLEY HENTO** *The Effect of Lumpectomy Versus Mastectomy on the Body Image of Early Stage Breast Cancer Patients*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**APRIL HILLEMANN** *Cricoid Pressure: The Knowledge and Training of Perioperative Nurses*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**JENNY HORSTMAN** *Effectiveness of Electrode Patch Changes and Cardiac Alarms in the ICU*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**JEFF JARDING** *Improving Recommended Follow Up Compliance: Discharged Chest Pain Patients*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

**KYLA JERRICK** *A Needs Assessment of Primary Care Nurses' Comfort with Providing Basic Palliative Care*, advisor Dr. Regina Nailon

**SARAH JORDAN** *Pain Assessment in the Trauma Patient*, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

**NICOLETTE KERNS** *Correlational Study: Access of Palivizumab Therapy for High Risk Patients in Rural Areas*, advisor William Koile

**JAIME L. KOBBS** *Residual Paralysis in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit: The Incidence of Residual Paralysis Based on Clinical Indicators*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**EMILY KOEHN** *Effects of Early Mobility on the Traumatic Brain Injury Patients' Hospital Length of Stay*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**LYDA LOHMEIER** *Clinical Decision Making by CRNA's: Intuition and Analysis*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**LISA MANDOLFO** *Coping Behaviors of the Head and Neck Patient Living with a Laryngectomy*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**PEGGY MAZZEO** *Pain Management Education for the Hospitalized Patient*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

**NATALIE MORGAN** *Improving the Intake of Fruits and Vegetables in Adolescence*, advisor Dr. Cathy Messinger

**LEA MURRELL** *Nurse Practitioner-Identified Barriers to the Provision of Fluoride Varnish Application for Pediatric Patients*, advisor Dr. Michele Heston

**NATALIE NICKEL** *Educational Needs of Care Partners for Individuals Affected by Dementia in Lancaster County, Nebraska*, advisor Dr. Tony Damewood

**DIANNA O'NEILL** *Knowledge of Neonatal Intensive Care Staff Incorporating an Online Education Module on Breastfeeding the Special Needs Neonate*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

**S. MICHELLE PACHECO** *A Comparison Between the Effects of Ondansetron versus a Combination of Ondansetron and Decamethasone on PONV in Adult Gynecological Surgery*

*Patients at a Midwest Medical Center*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**TERESSA POWERS** *Prevalence of Nicotine Replacement Therapy Continuation Upon Hospital Discharge*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**DEBRA ROSS** *Evaluating a "Warm Hand-off" Process to Improve Transitions from Residential Rehabilitation to Other Outpatient Mental Health Levels of Care*, advisor Susan Schreiner

**BARBARA SCALET** *An Examination of Patients with a Fasting Time of Greater than 12 Hours and Its Relationship to Blood Pressure During Induction*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**MELISSA R. SMITH** *A Comparison of Two Techniques of Propofol Administration and the Effect of a Lidocaine Mixture on Patient Pain*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**LILY TIAO** *Alcohol Withdrawal: Assessing Intensive Care Patients' Alcohol Use on Admission*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

**KIMBERLY TULEY** *Barriers to a Preinduction Anesthesia Checklist at a Midwest Medical Center*, advisor Dr. George Rogers

**KRISTIN VANBEEK** *Does an Educational Module for Nurses Improve Methods and Compliance with Teach-Back?*, advisor Dr. Peggy Gound

**TIN LYNN WINN** *The Possibility of Emotional Stress in Rural Iowa Nurse Anesthetists if Required to Administer Anesthesia to Family Member*, advisor Dr. George Rogers



## 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

Demetra Rochelle Crawford

## Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Levi Judah Bross  
Adam Jay Christensen \*\*\*\*  
Maggie Catherine Conlon Σ\*\*\*  
Jayme Rose Houdek Σ\*\*\*\*  
Megan Irvine Σ\*\*\*\*  
Karly Nicole Kalina \*\*\*  
Lauren Ragland Kitchens Σ  
Katlyn JoAnn Klinginsmith Σ  
Jacqui C. Koch Σ\*\*\*\*  
Blake Kretzman  
Matthew Tyler Landrum \*\*  
Connor Patrick Lenihan  
Amanda Leigh Lloyd \*\*\*\*  
Michelle Downs Whatley \*  
Elizabeth Ann Wiens  
Melissa Sue Youmans \*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Management

Brenda Sue Chase Σ  
Kit DeAnn Woodall Σ

## Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Management

Emily Ann Hendrix

## Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Demetra Rochelle Crawford  
Lori A. Evridge  
Michelle Marie Glow Σλ\*\*\*\*  
Stacy A. Henkel λ\*\*\*  
Kelsey Nicole Rutt Σλ  
Taylor Michelle Schwieger Σλ\*\*\*\*  
Lauren Elizabeth Stuva λ\*\*\*  
Ashley M. Uhrich λ  
Sara Jill Waddell Σλ  
Danielle Wheeler  
Jessica Duran Wirth Σλ\*\*\*\*

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Rachel Elizabeth Arnett †Σ  
Najma Mohamed Bashir  
Gregory Stephen Jude Bourquin \*  
Hannah Elizabeth Brummer \*\*  
Bruno Caro Σ  
Melissa J. Chun  
Heather Lee Davis  
Jaime Lynn Depue \*\*\*  
Michele Kristine Destache †Σ\*\*  
Bianca Egnaczak \*\*\*\*  
Kelsey Marie Grubel  
Kelli DiAnne Harkness  
Ashley M. Harmeier  
Melissa Ann Hillyer Σ  
Danielle Marie Hogsed Σ  
Briley Jean Hosch \*  
Rebecca Hunt †Σ\*  
Michelle Ann Katawara †\*\*\*  
Stephanie Bethann Kimball Σ  
Alyssa Marie Kirsch  
Shelby Nicole Kline  
Sharon Ann Koehler \*  
Kristina Melissa Krieger  
Andrew Ray Kummer \*\*\*\*  
Sara Christine Lloyd Σ  
Kathleen Marie Mainelli †Σ\*\*\*\*  
Ann Michelle Matney Σ  
Sara May McEneaney †  
Jenette A. Osmer †Σ\*  
Grace Elizabeth Peska  
Tessa Marie Pfannenstiel  
Angela Rodriguez  
Erica Lynn Scheitle Σ\*\*\*\*  
Jamie Lynn Slump †Σ\*\*\*\*  
Jennifer Marie Smutny †  
Rebeka Linn Snyder \*\*\*\*  
Katrina Kay Steemken †Σ  
Sophie Rose Sullivan  
Corrine Rebecca Waddell  
Chelsea Sue Weddell  
Amy Christine Wise Σ\*  
Melissa M. Wittrock Σ  
Donna Marie Yap Yan

## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Care Information Administration

Louise Marjorie Boucicaut  
Janice C. Hess \*\*\*\*

## Master in Health Care Administration


Jonathan Tyler Anderson  
Wynda T. Clayton  
Rosella Mae Frohn  
Nicolette Marie Kerns  
Natalie Ann Nickel  
Debra Lynn Ross Σ

## Master of Science in Nursing

Charles William Bell  
Jordan Douglas Blackwill  
Heather Jo Cadwell †  
Stephanie R. Entringer †  
Brent Alan Evanoff †  
Nicole E. Finkenauer  
Kelli J. Gear  
Kimberly Ann Goslinga †  
Nicole Irene Hayworth  
Hayley Elizabeth Hento  
April Christine Hilleman †  
Jenny Kaye Horstman †  
Jeff E. Jarding  
Sarah B. Jordan  
Jaime Lee Kobs  
Emily Mae Koehn †  
Michaela Marie Lintner  
Lyda Brooke Lohmeier  
Lisa Marie Mandolfo †  
Peggy Jean Mazzeo †  
Natalie Marie Morgan  
Dianna Marie O'Neill †  
Stephanie Michelle Pacheco  
Barbara Camille Scalet †  
Lily Janine Tiao  
Kimberly Ann Tuley  
Kristine Kay Van Beek †  
Sarah Dena Versackas  
Makayla Jo Wiese †  
Tin Lynn Win †

## Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Linda Doreen Billings  
Tina Marie Peer  
Jolene Ann Pike  
James Edward Simmons



## Mystery Photo

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

Every day is a reason to celebrate. Know the story behind these singing nursing students? Whoever knows the backstory gets three cheers.

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

## Class Notes

**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](mailto:vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu)

## In Memoriam

### Myrna Schroeder Nowers ('44)

Died Sept. 4, 2014 at the Special Care Center of the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, Ore.

### Shirley Jean Forstedt Schroeder ('50)

Died Oct. 6, 2014 at Southlake Village in Lincoln, Neb.

### Norma Philson Cunningham ('51)

Died Nov. 21, 2014 at The Ridge located

in Silverdale, Wash. She was Miss Clarkson in 1951.

### Ronda Bradman Simpson ('67)

Died Oct. 5, 2014 after a short illness. She had a nursing career of 44 years.

### Lisa Stogdill Kaufman ('86)

Died Oct. 4, 2014 at her home in Glenwood, Iowa.

## 1970s

### Shawn Sharman Shields ('76)

I returned to Deaconess Hospital in Spokane, Wash. in the Vascular Access Department (formerly IV Therapy). We place the vast majority of PICCs as well as troubleshoot other vascular access devices & educate staff. I enjoy returning to a specialty I have really enjoyed.





### Dr. Louis Burgher Receives Special Honor from Omaha Christian Academy

ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPH BY  
Mikaela Yeager

Employees may know Dr. Louis Burgher best for his role as President of Clarkson College. Even if not familiar with every realm of his past, most are aware of his distinguished background and compendium of accomplishments that, still today, continues to grow richer.

On Nov. 6, Omaha Christian Academy (OCA) hosted its fifth annual "Creating Futures Scholarship Dinner." The event raises funds for need-based scholarships and honors a Nebraskan who, by his or her demonstrated exemplary community service, inspires others to serve. Given Dr. Burgher's long list of academic, professional, board and institutional honors, the OCA family felt he was most deserving of its 2014 Community Service Award.

Dr. Burgher was taken aback by the honor. "It was a humbling reflection of the blessings I have received from the Lord, my family and many, many friends," he said. "I have been very lucky."

Dr. Burgher's candidacy for the award emanated from a well-rounded history of academic expeditions. He earned a B.S.

degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he entered as a Regents Scholar and received a scholarship to play football for the Cornhuskers. He continued on to medical school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine in Omaha, where he earned degrees of master and doctor of philosophy in medical science. His residency in internal medicine at UNMC was followed by a National Institute of Health Fellowship in Pulmonary Disease at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn.

Dr. Burgher has a unique combination of administrative, operational, medical and civic expertise. His early career achievements include founding member, Internal Medicine Associates, P.C., a 45-physician multi-specialty group in Omaha, Neb.; president of the Nebraska Thoracic Society; division chief of pulmonary medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center; president of the National Association of Medical Directors for Respiratory Care in Chevy Chase, Md.; and medical director for Nebraska Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

In 1997, Dr. Burgher became president and chief executive officer of Nebraska Health System, a health network consisting of four Omaha hospitals and more than 20 additional sites in a multi-state area. His responsibilities encompassed 850 available beds, \$650 million in revenues, 5,500 employees and 1,000 physicians.

He took on a new challenge in 2001 as president and chief executive officer of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. Working with local and national business leaders, Dr. Burgher directed the Chamber's complete array of economic, business development, public policy, government relations and community betterment activities.



## Associate's Degree in HIT Program Receives Top National Ranking

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager

TheBestSchools.org ranked Clarkson College No. 5 in the U.S. in the category of Best Online Associate in Health Information Technology (HIT) Degree Programs.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts 22 percent employment growth for health information technicians from 2012 to 2022—much faster than the average (about 10 percent) for all occupations. In 2013, medical records and health information technicians had a median annual salary of \$34,970 (source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The Best Schools selected and ranked the top 10 HIT degree programs based on the quality of program and range of courses provided, as well as school awards, rankings and reputation.

The quality and curriculum design of the Clarkson College HIT program allows students to study a wide variety of job functions. "Simultaneously, our program provides students with the opportunity to narrow down that focus and land their first job," said Carla Dirkschneider, Director of Health Care Business.

Subjects the program focus on include coding, revenue cycle management, quality management and process improvement, HIT assessment, medical terminology and disease process. Education in these areas prepares students for entry-level positions as health

information technicians who assist health information administrators in organizing and managing records, storing medical records and creating reports.

The reputation of the Clarkson College HIT program is synonymous with its quality. "The program is widely respected in the community," Dirkschneider said. "Most of the students in this program have a job secured even prior to graduation, and 100 percent of its graduates sit for the RHIT examination."

The RHIT credential represents a health information technician's ability to: ensure the quality of medical records by verifying his/her completeness, accuracy and proper entry into computer systems; and to use computer applications to assemble and analyze patient data to improve patient care or control costs. With experience, the RHIT credential holds solid potential for advancement to management positions, especially when combined with a bachelor's degree.

The Clarkson College associates HIT degree program consists of 73 credit hours and requires a professional practice experience. The program is accredited through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

Since becoming President of Clarkson College in 2007, Dr. Burgher's leadership has cultivated a trusted and reputable learning environment that aligns with the Mission and Values he helped establish. A few highlights from the last eight years include the implementation of several new advanced-degree programs; continued competitive tuition and fees; national recognition by U.S. News & World Report, as well as numerous other national ranking firms; construction of a high-fidelity simulation lab, a more spacious, resource-rich library, and the renovation of the fifth floor faculty offices; and licensure exam pass rates that continuously rank above state and national averages.

Dr. Burgher is the author of numerous professional articles, studies and abstracts. He is a strong leader, and his community service includes board and officer positions for leading non-profit and service organizations. Omaha Christian Academy interviewed some of Dr. Burgher's long-time colleagues, friends, mentors and mentees and produced a video that conveys how admired and respected he is in and around the community. You can find the video on YouTube by searching "Dr. Lou Burgher OCA Omaha."

While Dr. Burgher has played a crucial role in the lives and success of so many, he, too is grateful for the many people who have influenced his decisions. "If I tried to list them all, I would surely leave someone out," he said. But at the end of the day, my wife Susan makes all the difference."

The sold-out banquet, at Embassy Suites in La Vista, Neb., was attended by 830 guests. Dr. Ben Carson, a columnist and retired American neurosurgeon, served as the keynote speaker.





# Clarkson College Graduate Nursing Program Increases National Rankings

ARTICLE BY Mikaela Yeager PHOTOGRAPH BY Andrew Marinkovich



On Jan. 7, U.S. News & World Report released its 2015 list for Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs, selecting Clarkson College 21st

out of 133 eligible institutions in the nation. This is the fourth year U.S. News released rankings for this category and the fourth time Clarkson College made the top of the list.

The rankings recognize the best online graduate nursing programs based on factors such as student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology, and admissions selectivity. Clarkson College scored a total of 84 out of 100 possible points.

"We are honored to be ranked again among such renowned colleges and universities throughout the country," said Dr. Pat Coyle-Rogers, Director of Graduate Nursing at Clarkson College. "It is a direct reflection of our high standards, experienced faculty and superb administrative support."

To compile the rankings, U.S. News sent questionnaires to 492 institutions accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Respondents identified whether they would be offering a master's in nursing degree through Internet-based distance education courses in academic year 2014–15. Between the start of data collection in July 2014 and the September 2014 closing date, 133 schools, or 27 percent of the schools surveyed, said they would

be offering online nursing master's degree programs. This count is up from 130 schools the previous year.

Nebraska Methodist College, the other college in Nebraska to make the 2015 U.S. News Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs list, ranked 41st. To view the complete list of this year's rankings, visit the U.S. News website at [usnews.com](http://usnews.com).

In addition to its fourth straight U.S. News ranking, this past October the Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program received national recognition from [GraduateSchools.com](http://GraduateSchools.com), an online resource for prospective graduate school students. After a complete evaluation of the ratings and reviews posted by current and recent graduate students, and a separate scoring in 15 ranking categories, [GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com) ranked the Graduate Nursing program 17th in the nation.

Ratings were based on a 10-star system and covered a variety of student topics, including career support, academic competitiveness, financial aid and quality of network. Clarkson College received an overall average of 8.62 stars from reviewers.

Compared to the other 24 colleges and universities listed in the rankings, Clarkson College is among the smallest in terms of enrollment. "The strategies and outcomes acknowledged by students prove that 'big' is not necessarily best," Dr. Coyle-Rogers. "Rather, they show that our hard work, as faculty, does pay off."

View the complete list of Online Nurse Grad Rankings by visiting [GraduatePrograms.com](http://GraduatePrograms.com).

# Thompson Receives 40 Under 40 Award

ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPH BY Mikaela Yeager

Clarkson College is proud to announce Assistant Undergraduate Nursing Director Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N. ('04, '12), received the Honoring Nurse Leadership: 40 Under 40 award, sponsored by the Nebraska Action Coalition (NAC).

The award celebrates accomplished nurse leaders under the age of 40 who show expertise in their field, adherence to high ethical standards and leadership within their profession, organization and community.

The honorees were nominated by members of their organization, each one meeting the criteria established by NAC. After a weighted selection process that consisted of approximately 70 nominees, the winners were honored Thursday, Sept. 18 at an awards reception held at Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Each recipient was presented with a plaque from Victoria Vinton, Executive Director of the NAC.

"It was very heartwarming to be chosen for the award," says Ms. Thompson. "I know many of the other chosen leaders, and I am humbled to be in their ranks. Nursing is my heart; I have a deep seeded passion for the health care world. I love helping people and connecting with people. I will continue to work to better the field of nursing as my career grows."

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"That's the beauty of nursing—the opportunities are endless."

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Joe Council, Nursing Assistant Professor, nominated Ms. Thompson for the 40 Under 40 award. "Rachel has done a lot for nursing and nursing education," said Council. "She was instrumental in starting the iPad Academy at Clarkson College and has been a keynote speaker at many national educational conferences. She is a leader in the field of nursing education, specifically in the use of electronic devices and technology to improve teaching methods."

Ms. Thompson began her nursing career in 2004 when she graduated from Clarkson College with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. She served as a staff nurse on the Labor and Delivery Unit in Clarkson Tower at The Nebraska Medical Center and also worked as a per diem staff nurse on the medical surgical floor at Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital.

During her time at The Nebraska Medical Center she participated in shared governance and was the Chair of her Unit Based Council. In 2007 she began teaching in the BSN and Practical Nursing programs at Clarkson College. In 2010 she was elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors and has served as the president of the Alumni Association since 2013.

In addition to her involvement at Clarkson College, Ms. Thompson is also a peer advisor and consultant for Elsevier Publishing and its academic consulting group. She conducts webinars on a regular basis for health care faculty members around the U.S. and travels to many states as a keynote speaker for "Flipping the Classroom" conferences. Last month, she spoke during two sessions at



Rachel Thompson became Assistant Director of the Undergraduate Nursing program in 2012.

Elsevier's Annual Faculty conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Long-term, Ms. Thompson has an evolving five-year plan. "I think that is the beauty of nursing—the opportunities are endless. I will always be in the field in one capacity or another and hope to continue volunteering in any way I can."

Rosanna Morris, B.S.N., R.N., M.B.A., MPH, CNA-BC, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services at Nebraska Medicine, was the keynote speaker at the 40 Under 40 awards celebration. Attendees included honorees, state senators, hospital and professional nursing organization leadership, health care consumers, and deans and directors of nursing schools from across the state.

Clarkson College MSN students Jennifer Hirschbrunner and Alyssa Garth, and alumnae Amanda Kirkpatrick ('12) were also recipients.

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*The Nebraska Action Coalition was formed in 2011 to address the future of Nebraska health care through nurse-led partnerships. This is the first year the organization has sponsored the award.*





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## Upcoming Academic Travel Abroad Adventures

Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) set the dates for two more exciting travel opportunities.

Alumni and guests are invited to take part in a trip to Ireland on Dec. 13–22, 2015 and a trip to England and Ireland on May 1–12, 2016. If you are interested in further information about either of these travel opportunities, contact Dr. Patricia Brennan at [brennan@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:brennan@clarksoncollege.edu) or 402.552.6125.

