

Spring
2022 Issue

Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



**Honoring a
Legacy**

Greetings,

A few months ago, I was asked to describe what the Clarkson College tagline “prepare to be the best” means to me. For me, “prepare to be the best” means having the ability and determination to go beyond the established standards and exceed expectations. It represents having knowledge that surpasses the normal or average and leads to unexpected potential and achievements.

As I look back on the previous months, the accomplishments of the College seem to represent our tagline particularly well. We are immensely proud that throughout the pandemic, our institution remained open, and that no students had to delay their graduation because of it. This speaks to our dedicated faculty and staff members who were able to pivot and work to ensure that students could meet their goals.

Over the past year, the institution has achieved several milestones, including the launch of two new academic program options: a Bachelor of Science in Community Health, Pre-Health Professional and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. We also continue to grow our Medical 3D Printing Specialist Certificate option, one of the few

available in the nation, and for the 11th year in a row, our Graduate Nursing program received a top ranking from *U.S. News & World Report*.

To support the growth and new offerings, the institution is moving forward with the construction of a new science lab on campus, which has been made possible through a generous donation from Clarkson Regional Health Services. The new facility will offer students the opportunity to learn in a state-of-the-art space as they prepare to enter the health care field.

With the support of the Board of Directors, the College has facilitated a strategic plan to support the institution’s growth in the coming years. As we continue to navigate the changing fields of health care and education, our goal is to continue our efforts in preparing the best while shaping the future of our industry.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gary Pack



Dr. Gary Pack

"We are immensely proud that throughout the pandemic, our institution remained open, and that no students had to delay their graduation because of it."





<p>2 From the President</p> <p>Alumni News</p> <p>4 Honor Alumni & Community Members During Alumni Weekend</p> <p>4 Connect with Us</p> <p>5 Meet the New Alumni and Advancement Coordinator Former admissions counselor moves into a new role</p> <p>6 Student Earns Award for Academic Travel Photo Journal Journal allows for reflection on international experience</p>	<p>7 Save the Date for Alumni Weekend: Sept. 29–30</p> <p>8 Meet the 2022 Alumni Association Board of Directors New members take their seats for the upcoming year</p> <p>10 College to Jointly Host HIPE Conference Conference brings together health care and community professionals</p> <p>11 College Signs Articulation Agreements with Partnering Institutions</p> <p>Features</p> <p>12 Honoring a Legacy Alumni Association presents the first Minerva Ryley Legacy Award in honor of influential alumna</p> <p>14 Strategic Roadmap Guides College in 2022</p> <p>15 College Adds Degree Option in Psychology Students can pursue a Bachelor's degree to enter the psychology field</p>	<p>Awards & Recognition</p> <p>16 Clarkson College Recognized for Top Programs in the U.S.</p> <p>17 Cravens, Dishman Honored by the March of Dimes</p> <p>18 U.S. News & World Report Ranks Clarkson College Online Graduate Nursing Program in Top 100</p> <p>Campus News</p> <p>19 Updated PTA Lab Makes Way for Interactive Learning</p> <p>20 OrthoNebraska Employee Saves on Tuition Through Partnership</p> <p>21 Clarkson Regional Health Services to Fund Campus Science Lab</p> <p>22 Maltese Mission Week 2022 College community comes together to serve</p> <p>24 Faculty Support One Another in Pursuit of Terminal Degrees</p> <p>26 Fall 2021 Graduates</p> <p>27 Spring 2022 Graduates</p>
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The Alumni Times is a quarterly publication distributed by the Alumni Association of Clarkson College, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68131. Direct all story and photo submissions, changes of address or publication inquiries to alumni@clarksoncollege.edu.



On the Cover

Alumna Minerva Ryley (left), greets a Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing student.

Honor Alumni, Community Members During Alumni Weekend

The Alumni Association offers several avenues for community members to honor alumni and individuals who have made an impact on Clarkson College.

Distinguished Alumni Member Award

The Distinguished Alumni Member Award recognizes the extraordinary support of an individual who has had a significant impact on Clarkson College or the health care community in which he/she resides. All Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing graduates are eligible for this award.

Nominees are accepted through July 31, 2022, and up to three awards may be granted if acceptable nominations are received. Awards are announced during the September Alumni Weekend events.

Honorary Alumni Award

The Honorary Alumni Award is awarded to individuals who exemplify the qualities of a Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing or Clarkson College graduate but have not earned a degree or certificate from the institution. Nominees have made significant

contributions in support of the institution's Mission and Values and are extraordinary community leaders who give to the College and work toward its betterment.

Nominees are accepted through June 30, 2022. Awards are announced during the September Alumni Weekend events.

Minerva Ryley Legacy Award

The Clarkson College Alumni Association honors notable alumni through the Minerva Ryley Legacy Award. This award recognizes the extraordinary support of a graduate who has had a significant impact on the Alumni Association and the graduates of Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing.

Nominees are accepted through June 30, 2022. Awards are announced during the September Alumni Weekend events.

Purchase Memorial Brick for the Heritage Garden

Each year, members of the Clarkson College community gather in the Courtyard in commemoration of the

Heritage Garden Walk. This event provides alumni, employees and students the opportunity to create a memorial for a loved one through the purchase of an engraved brick or amphitheater seat in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden. The funds received through this unique giving opportunity are applied to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund to help pave the way for deserving Clarkson College students.

Brick Selection and Information

Small Brick (4.5" x 4.5"): \$100
Medium Brick (4.5" x 7"): \$250
Large Brick (7" x 10"): \$500
Bronze Plaque (8" x 18") and Amphitheater Seat: Contact Alumni office for price.

Visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni to nominate individuals for an award and purchase a memorial brick. If you have any questions, contact the Alumni and Advancement office at alumni@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.2944.



Alumni News
Update Your
Information

Connect with Us

The Clarkson College Alumni Association is dedicated to providing you with up-to-date information about the College as well as events happening in your area and online. Throughout the year, our members participate in get-togethers, continuing education events and our annual Alumni Weekend to connect with one another. They also receive access to our Alumni Times publications and information regarding opportunities to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

To make sure you stay informed, please visit ClarksonCollege.edu/alumni/alumni-contact-information to update your contact information.

MEET THE NEW ALUMNI
AND ADVANCEMENT
COORDINATOR



Former Admissions Counselor moves into a new role

Megan O'Leary became the Alumni and Advancement Coordinator in January 2022. After four years at Clarkson College, she is ready to step into a role that allows her to connect with alumni and help them get the resources they need.

O'Leary joined Clarkson College as an Admissions Counselor in 2018, where she worked with applicants in the Physical Therapist Assistant (Associate's and Bachelor's degree options), Undergraduate Nursing and LPN to BSN program options. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Master's degree in Human Services from Chadron State College in Chadron, Neb.

Working in the Enrollment office and as a Graduate Assistant while obtaining her degrees helped Megan discover her passion for higher education. According to her, Clarkson College has a small, family-like campus and community that is a perfect fit. "I feel that the personal relationships the institution fosters with its students sets the College apart from others," she says. "It also creates an environment where she can make a meaningful impact."

"The personal relationships the institution fosters with its students sets the College apart from others."



Student Earns Award for Academic Travel Photo Journal

Journal allows for reflection on international experience

(Left to right) Dr. Patricia Brennan, Dr. Gary Pack, Bailey DiNucci, Becky Allen and Dr. Andreia Nebel during the presentation of the ATA photo journal award.

With COVID-19 continuing to affect international travel, Undergraduate Nursing student Bailey DiNucci wasn't sure she would even make it to Italy for the Clarkson College Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) trip. When she and her travel companions landed in Rome in August 2021, however, it was the realization of a dream come true.

Following the trip, DiNucci and other students created photo journals with DiNucci's project being awarded as the top entry by the ATA review committee. The journal not only contains photos of the sights she visited, but also her personal experiences surrounding the trip and its impact on her. "Since I was a little girl, I've wanted to travel to Italy just as my grandfather, Joseph DiNucci did," DiNucci wrote. "He was of Italian descent and his grandfather emigrated to the United States in the late 1890s."

The committee chose DiNucci's entry for the top prize because of its attention to detail and beautiful representation of sights such as the Colosseum, the Vatican, Trevi Fountain and St. Peter's Basilica.

"Overall, the trip was eye opening, and I can't wait to look back on this journal in the years to come," she wrote. "When Italy pops into my head, I will always think of my grandfather first. But now, I have my own experiences to share with my future kids."



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Class Notes

We want to hear about your job updates, life events, professional experiences and more. Submit a Class Note, and we will share your updates in an upcoming issue of the Alumni Times to help your classmates and our community stay up-to-date.

Submit a Class Note at [ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni/Contact-Us](https://clarksoncollege.edu/Alumni/Contact-Us).

Schedule a Tour

We invite all alumni to visit us for the chance to see updates happening on our campus. Contact our Alumni Coordinator to schedule a personalized tour with one of our Student Ambassadors.

Email alumni@clarksoncollege.edu.

In Memoriam

Deloris J. Navrkal ('54)

El Paso, TX

Passed away December 24, 2021.



Save the Date for Alumni Weekend: Sept. 29–30

Clarkson College faculty members gather for the Heritage Garden Walk in September 2021.



Gather and reminisce with classmates during the annual Alumni Weekend events on Sept. 29–30, 2022. Join us as we celebrate the institution and the accomplishments of our esteemed graduates. All alumni are welcome to attend, and this year's festivities will honor the anniversary classes of 1962 (60 years), 1972 (50 years), 1982 (40 years), 1992 (30 years) and 1997 (25 years).

More details about events and how to register will be available in the coming weeks. For questions, contact the Alumni and Advancement Coordinator at alumni@clarksoncollege.edu.

Thursday, September 29

Alumni Weekend kicks off with brunch on campus at 10 a.m. as well as a tour of updated facilities including the Clarkson Commons and Education Center, Interprofessional Learning Center and Interactive Learning Center. Participants will also attend the Heritage Garden Walk at 1 p.m. featuring the dedication of bricks in the Heritage Garden honoring members of the College community. The day will end with a social hour from 5–7 p.m. for all alumni.

Friday, September 30

On Friday, the Alumni Association will host the continuing education event "Who is Taking Care of You? Strategies for Health Care and Community Professionals' Wellbeing" starting at 8 a.m. That evening, alumni will enjoy a dinner at the Kimpton Cottonwood Hotel starting with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. along with a presentation of awards to deserving graduates of the institution and community members.

Meet the 2022 Alumni Association Board of Directors

New members take their seats for the upcoming year



**Kendra Croghan, RT, MHA ('17, '20)
President**

Kendra Croghan, RT, MHA graduated from Clarkson College in 2017 with her Associate's degree in Radiography and Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging. She returned to the institution to pursue her Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, which she completed in 2020. She currently works as a faculty member in the Clarkson College Radiography and Medical Imaging program.



Trish Weber, MHA, RT(R)(CT) ARRT ('95, '08, '11)

Secretary & Treasurer

Trish Weber, MHA, RT(R)(CT), ARRT, earned her Associate's degree in Radiologic Technology, Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging and Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, all from Clarkson College. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Radiography and Medical Imaging program at the College.



**Bill Koile, M.S., MBA ('08)
Vice President**

Bill Koile, M.S., MBA earned his Master's degree in Healthcare Business Leadership from Clarkson College in 2008. He has been with Nebraska Medicine for several years and serves as the Emergency Services and Acute Care Support Director. He also teaches in the Healthcare Business program at the College.



**Stacie Ethington, MSN ('09, '15)
Director**

Stacie Ethington, MSN earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing from Clarkson College. She has worked at Nebraska Medicine for more than a decade and currently works as a Medication Safety Nurse Specialist.

In December 2021, Clarkson College alumni elected new members of the Alumni Association Board, and the newly appointed officers took their seats in January 2022. The current board will serve through the remainder of the year, and they are eager to find ways to connect with alumni and foster opportunities to get involved with the College.



Angela Felton-Coleman, DNP ('06, '15)
Director

Dr. Angela Felton-Coleman earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 2006 and her Post-Master's Certificate in 2015. She works as a nurse practitioner at the Children's Hospital & Medical Emergency Department and Nebraska Medicine Immediate Care Clinics in Omaha, Neb.

(not pictured)

Matt Weinrich, PTA ('19)
Director

Matt Weinrich, PTA graduated from the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant program with an Associate's degree in 2019. He currently works as a PTA at Old Mill Rehabilitation in Omaha, Neb.



Rachel Kunkle, BSN, MHA ('07, '09, '15)
Director

Rachel Kunkle holds Bachelor's degrees in Healthcare Administration and Nursing and a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, all from Clarkson College. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Nursing Science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Jenette Smith, Ed.D. ('20)
Director

Dr. Jenette Smith earned her Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) from Clarkson College in 2020. She serves as an instructor in the Ed.D. program and serves on the Board of Directors for a local nonprofit.

College to Jointly Host HIPE Conference



Attendees will hear from keynote speakers Rachel Mindrup, MFA, Richard L. Deming M.D. Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities, Creighton University, and Shelley Cohen Konrad, Ph.D. LCSW, FNAP, Director, Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education, University of New England. The conference will also feature informational sessions, interactive workshops, and a panel discussion featuring Scott Shipman, MD, MPH, Director of Clinical Innovations and Director of Primary Care, Association of American Medical Colleges and Assistant Professor, Dartmouth College; Jeanne Churchill, DNP, CPNP-PC, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Columbia University; and Liz Skilton, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Director of Public History, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Conference brings together dozens of speakers from 34 institutions in 17 states

Clarkson College will be jointly providing the 4th Annual Heartland Interprofessional Education (HIPE) Conference on July 21–22, 2022, along with the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University and Des Moines University.

The virtual event will bring together health care and community professionals, educators, and students to share knowledge and build skills to improve patient and client outcomes. This year's HIPE conference theme is "Elevating IPE: Bridging Clinical and Community" with the goal to invite more people to the conversation to help attendees learn from diverse perspectives and experiences.

The goal of the conference is to focus on interprofessional education and collaborative practice aligning with the definitions and competencies in the Core Competencies of Interprofessional Collaborative Practice [hsc.unm.edu] (IPEC, 2016). The conference provides an opportunity for learners, scholars, and practitioners in the field of interprofessional education and health care to share knowledge, build skills, experience professional development, and form collaborative relationships. HIPE is an American Interprofessional Health Collaborative Affiliate Conference.

Learn more at [ClarksonCollege.edu/HIPE2022](https://clarksoncollege.edu/HIPE2022).





COLLEGE SIGNS ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS

Clarkson College recently signed articulation agreements with Southeast Community College (SCC) and Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) that allow students to transfer their existing credit to Clarkson College and enroll in one of the institution's health care program options.

The partnerships open the door for students to prepare to be the best in their chosen health care field. "We are very excited to establish partnerships with other dedicated higher education institutions in pursuit of our goal to educate tomorrow's health care leaders," said Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President of Clarkson College. "We want to help students achieve their academic and professional goals, and this new and exciting relationship helps us accomplish this."

"Our partnership with Clarkson College allows our students to continue their education without disruption so that they can achieve their academic and professional goals," says SCC representative. "We are proud to establish this partnership and hope to continue to find ways in which we can support one another and our students."

"We are proud to partner with Clarkson College to help our students make the most of their college experiences," said Dr. Grant Wilson, WNCC Vice President of Educational Services. "We recognize the critical need for health care workers in the Panhandle and throughout the

region and want to make those career paths more accessible to all students."

Students who have received an associate's degree at SCC or WNCC are required to have maintained a 2.5 grade point average to be eligible to transfer courses. They must also have maintained a "C" average in courses that are to be transferred.

Upon applying and enrolling at Clarkson College, SCC students will be waived of all enrollment and application fees. Individuals who meet the admissions criteria are automatically accepted into online program options at Clarkson College, and those applying to on-campus program options receive preference through additional points on their application.

Once accepted at Clarkson College, students have the opportunity to take advantage of online and on-campus services including tutoring, mentoring, supplemental instruction, writing labs and career services. Students can apply their college credit to one of the numerous health care degree options at Clarkson College in Nursing (BSN, RN to BSN and MSN), Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography and Medical Imaging, Community Health, Healthcare Business and Health Information Management.

Learn more at [ClarksonCollege.edu/Partnerships](https://www.clarksoncollege.edu/Partnerships).



**Western Nebraska
Community College**



Honoring a Legacy



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE FIRST MINERVA RYLEY LEGACY AWARD IN HONOR OF INFLUENTIAL ALUMNA



Above: Minerva Ryley in her Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing uniform.

No telling of the history of Clarkson College is

complete without mentioning the petite and spunky Minerva Ryley. She was a fixture on campus, from her graduation in 1898 all the way into the 1960s when she attended ceremonies and events, all while sporting her original nurse's uniform, complete with her cap and Maltese Cross badge. Her legacy was cemented in 1910, when she established the Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing Alumnae Association and began a tradition of dedication to graduates of the institution.

To honor her commitment to the College, the Alumni Association established the Minerva Ryley Legacy Award, which was presented by the Alumni Association to Rita Van Fleet ('67, '94, '06) in September 2021 during the Alumni Weekend events.

The award was established to recognize the extraordinary support of a graduate who has had a significant impact on the Alumni Association and the graduates of Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing. As a three-time graduate, former employee and lifelong supporter of the College, Van Fleet was a fitting recipient of the inaugural award, which will continue to be presented each year during the Alumni Weekend events to deserving graduates of the institution.

Van Fleet worked for many years at Nebraska Medicine where she served as the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services until her retirement in 2007. In 2008, she joined Clarkson College as the Alumni Coordinator, a role she held until 2020. During her time at the College, she was instrumental in building a relationship between the institution and its alumni.

1898–
1960s



She worked with the Alumni Association Board of Directors as well as graduates of the institution to offer continuing education events and opportunities for alumni to connect with the College community.

In many ways, Van Fleet's dedication to alumni and the goals of the institution echoes the award's namesake. Minerva's deep and sincere love for the training and guidance she received from the Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing and her instructors led her to establish the Alumni Association. She aimed to promote the training school's advancement and increase interest in the nursing profession by creating a strong network of

graduates who supported the mission of the institution.

Minerva's passion for nursing and caring for others was apparent to everyone who met her. Her vivacious personality and dedication to education made her an excellent role model for students and her fellow health care professionals.

Students fought for the honor of accompanying Ryley to events on campus, and she used her years of experience to pass on advice and inspiration to future generations of nurses.

Her legacy lives on through the work of the Alumni Association,

Above: Rita Van Fleet ('67, '94, '06) accepts the Minerva Ryley Legacy Award during the alumni dinner in September 2021.

an organization that includes all graduates of Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing. Led by a Board of Directors comprising of graduates across all programs, the organization provides a voice to the alumni body. It helps lead alumni and the College in new directions, all the while preserving the traditions set forth and embodied by Minerva.

Strategic Roadmap Guides College in 2022

“Our strategic plan includes a number of initiatives that will position the College to serve the needs of students, alumni, partners and community members.”

DR. GARY PACK
INTERIM PRESIDENT



As Clarkson College starts another calendar year, the institution established a Strategic Roadmap to assist in maintaining and enhancing our position as a leader in health care education.

The intent of the Clarkson College Strategic Roadmap is to guide the institution’s efforts for a financially stable model supported by mission-consistent and demand-driven programs, expanded student scholarship and training partners, and a strong brand supported by alumni.

“Our strategic plan includes a number of initiatives that will position the College to serve the needs of students, alumni, partners and community members,” says Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President. “The initiatives include helping health care professionals in rural Nebraska advance their education and update their credentials without leaving home, as well as enhanced opportunities for

prospective students from minority and underserved populations.”

College leadership along with the Clarkson College Board of Directors outlined key initiatives and tactics to explore during the upcoming year to help the institution achieve these goals.

Strategic Drivers

- › Expand student scholarship and educational partnership programs.
- › Develop a financially sustainable model.
- › Grow mission-consistent, demand-driven quality programs.
- › Develop a strong brand enabling support from alumni and others.

Faculty, staff members, alumni and students will continue to play pivotal roles in the success of these strategic drivers as the College moves forward.



“As a health care focused-institution, an educational offering in psychology is a natural fit for us.”

LORI BACHLE
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL EDUCATION

COLLEGE ADDS DEGREE OPTION IN PSYCHOLOGY

Students can pursue a Bachelor’s degree to enter the psychology field

Clarkson College launched a new educational offering as part of the General Education program that allows students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Students can utilize the interdisciplinary degree to begin a career in the psychology field or pursue graduate degrees in a variety of settings.

“As a health care focused-institution, an educational offering in psychology is a natural fit for us,” says Lori Bachle, Director of General Education. “Our interdisciplinary faculty team has the skills and experience to prepare students for a career or advanced education in this vital area, whether they choose to enter the clinical, academic or research fields.”

The curriculum focuses on psychology, natural sciences and community health courses to provide students a

comprehensive introduction to the field of psychology. Students have the opportunity to participate in professional seminars, fieldwork and capstone experiences that prepare them to work as professionals. Dedicated advisors also assist students as they prepare to enter the field or continue their education as graduate students.

Students can choose to continue their education following the completion of their Bachelor’s degree to earn graduate degrees or certifications as mental health counselors, social workers, research scientists, human resources professionals or health care administrators.

Students can enroll in the Bachelor of Science in Psychology program option to begin courses in fall 2022. Learn more at ClarksonCollege.edu/Psychology.

Clarkson College Recognized for Top Programs in the U.S.

TOP AWARDS

- › **Best Registered Health Information Technician Degree Programs**
- › **Best Online RN to BSN Programs**
- › **Best Online Master's in Nursing Degree Programs**
- › **Top Online Doctorate in Healthcare Administration Programs**
- › **Best Colleges in Nebraska**

Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online/on-campus program rankings and higher education planning, has included Clarkson College to its list of programs assessed for 2022. The research identifies programs in the nation based on flexibility, faculty, course strength, cost, and reputation.

Intelligent.com implemented a unique methodology that ranks each program on a scale from 0 to 100 across five categories. The scoring system compares each university according to program strength, student readiness, return on investment, cost, and student engagement. Researchers compared 704 programs from 2,900 universities and colleges across the United States.

Clarkson College offers flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats. Experts at Intelligent.com assessed programs that help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions.

Studies show that obtaining a degree increases income substantially, degree holders earning 84% more than those with only high school diplomas or those without a completed GED. The percentage difference in earnings continues to grow with higher learning degrees such as masters, doctoral or professional degrees, with the unemployment rate decreasing to as much as 1.1% for those with a doctorate.



ABOUT INTELLIGENT.COM

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides that include the best degree programs and information about financial aid, internships, and even study strategies. Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students with comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings. To learn more, please visit [Intelligent.com](https://www.intelligent.com).



CRAVENS, DISHMAN HONORED BY THE MARCH OF DIMES

The March of Dimes Nebraska and Western Iowa chapter honors nursing professionals each year during their Heroes in Action (formerly Nurse of the Year) awards ceremony. In fall 2021, two Clarkson College faculty members earned nominations for the Heroes in Action awards.

Marsha Cravens, M.Ed., MSN, RN, and Mary Dishman, MSN, BSN, both received nominations for 2021. Nursing professionals are nominated by peers, supervisors, patients and families in a range of categories including Education and Research, Diversity and Advocacy, and Public Health Nursing. Nominees must demonstrate excellence and achievement in their category, all while promoting a positive image for the nursing profession.

Ms. Cravens became an instructor at Clarkson College in 2003. In 2015, she was appointed the Director of Undergraduate Nursing and in 2021, moved to the

Assistant Director role. For nearly twenty years, she has taught, guided and inspired students on their paths to becoming nursing professionals.

"I'm honored to be nominated for this award," she said. "A quote that expresses my purpose in health care is 'to the world you are just one person, but to one person, you could mean the world.'"

Ms. Dishman has been at Clarkson College since 2006 and since 2015, she has served as the Assistant Director of the Undergraduate Nursing program. During her time at the College, she has served as a member of the Faculty Senate and helped lead the Omicron Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau national nursing honors society.

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1. Marsha Cravens, M.Ed., MSN, RN
 2. Mary Dishman, MSN, BSN



U.S. News & World Report Ranks Clarkson College Online Graduate Nursing Program in Top 100

U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College in the top 100 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs in the nation for the 11th year in a row. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program option continues its tradition of excellence amidst a pandemic and changing health care landscape.

"It is an honor to be named one of the top programs by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 11th year in a row," says Dr. Layna Himmelberg, Director of Graduate Nursing. "The commitment of our students and faculty make it possible for us to continue to fulfill our Mission of preparing the best providers who are shaping the future of health care."

A longtime leader in online learning, the Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program focuses on offering students flexibility and resources that allow nursing professionals to customize their schedule and course work. "Our students appreciate the flexibility of our program that allows them to advance their education and become leaders in the nursing field while they work full-time," says Dr. Himmelberg.

Stacie Ethington, MSN, RN-BC, a Medication Safety Nurse Specialist at

Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Neb. and graduate of the Clarkson College program, experienced these benefits firsthand while she completed her Master's degree.

"During my time in the MSN program, I got engaged, married and had my first baby," she says. "The flexibility of the program and understanding nature of the faculty allowed me to continue my education while enjoying personal milestones. Being able to take courses at my own pace allowed me to earn my degree while continuing to make my family a priority."

The Graduate Nursing program offers specialties in Nursing Education, Nursing Healthcare Administration and Family Nurse Practitioner, as well as Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, both added in 2020. Students can also enroll in post-MSN certificate options.

The ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* is driven by data collection through statistical questionnaires sent to institutions offering online master's degree programs. Programs must be accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

(ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and offer all required non-clinical coursework through internet-based distance education courses. The rankings recognize the best online graduate nursing programs based on five factors: engagement (30 percent), faculty credentials and training (20 percent), expert opinion (20 percent), services and technology (20 percent), and student excellence (10 percent).

Learn more about the Graduate Nursing program at ClarksonCollege.edu/Nursing.





UPDATED PTA LAB MAKES WAY FOR INTERACTIVE LEARNING

“We’re very excited to be able to offer our students and faculty an updated space that will facilitate hands-on learning.”

JESSICA NIEMANN, M.ED., PTA
DIRECTOR OF PTA

In summer 2021, Clarkson College updated their Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) lab to provide a streamlined space that will assist students as they learn to provide effective and safe rehabilitative services to patients.

“We’re very excited to be able to offer our students and faculty an updated space that will facilitate hands-on learning,” said Jessica Niemann, M.Ed., PTA, Director of PTA. “Our students prepare to provide exceptional patient

care in rehabilitative services, and this updated space allows us to continue this pursuit.”

New flooring, updated equipment, and refurbished tables and chairs give the lab an updated and more modern look. Smart technology allows faculty to incorporate different learning techniques in the classroom and meet students educational needs in a variety of ways.

1. Instructor Dr. Jessica Wissink leads class in the newly updated lab.
2. Students practice hands-on learning.





OrthoNebraska Employee Saves on Tuition Through Partnership

Michelle Keller is on her way to achieving an impressive professional goal—becoming a registered nurse to care for her community. The Kearney, Nebraska native and mother of two currently works as a certified nurse’s aide (CNA) at OrthoNebraska in Omaha. Thanks to her employment at the organization, Keller has the opportunity to advance her education through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Clarkson College for a reduced cost.

Employees at OrthoNebraska, as well as their spouses and dependents, have access to a reduced tuition rate at Clarkson College. These benefits are making all the difference for Keller, who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to go back to school.

“The tuition reimbursement was a huge deciding factor for me, being a single mom of two,” she says. “I am extremely grateful for OrthoNebraska, my job and the people, as well as the opportunity to learn both at work and at school because of their financial assistance.”

Keller already holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, but had apprehensions about returning to school after a long break from the classroom. “When I heard about the partnership between OrthoNebraska and Clarkson College, I figured I should give it a try, and I’m so glad I did,” she says. “I really love that Clarkson College has smaller class sizes and teachers who get to know and care about their students.”

Once she completes her degree, Keller will have the opportunity to advance her career in a wide range of areas, including the mental health field, which is currently one of her primary interests. “I have a passion for mental health and could see myself working to better the mental health care that we can provide to our community,” she says.

Learn more about the educational partnership between Clarkson College and OrthoNebraska at ClarksonCollege.edu/Partnerships.



Michelle Keller (back row, far left) takes a break from studying for a family outing.

CLARKSON REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES TO FUND CAMPUS SCIENCE LAB



In November 2021, Clarkson Regional Health Services (CRHS) announced their donation of \$1.7 million to be used in funding a new science lab at Clarkson College. The donation is the latest step in a long-standing relationship between CRHS and the College, as well as their educational partner Nebraska Medicine.

The lab will allow the College to grow their academic programs and offer students more opportunities to complete advanced science courses as part of their health care studies. Construction on the lab is set to begin in spring 2022 and will open for students in fall 2022.

“We are immensely grateful to Clarkson Regional Health Services for their donation to fund a science lab on campus,” says Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President of Clarkson College. “Their generosity will allow us to expand our academic program options and offer students state-of-the-art facilities where they can learn and prepare to be the best in their chosen health care field.”

“We are excited to have a role in creating a laboratory at Clarkson College, which will serve to educate and train future health care professionals, providing innovative and high-quality health care to our region,” says Dr. James Canedy, CRHS Chair and Board of Directors member.

The new science lab will be especially beneficial as the College launches two new academic offerings, set to enroll students in fall 2022. The Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Science in Community Health, Pre-Health Professional options both place a strong emphasis on a variety of science courses including physiology, chemistry, microbiology and anatomy. The new space will allow for additional accommodations where students can complete on-campus courses and labs.

The updated campus facilities and new academic offerings are the latest milestones in the institution’s 130-year history of health care and education excellence. They also support the College in their goal to remain at the forefront of higher education and continue to shape the future of health care by preparing highly skilled graduates.



“We are immensely grateful to Clarkson Regional Health Services for their donation to fund a science lab on campus.”

DR. GARY PACK, INTERIM PRESIDENT OF CLARKSON COLLEGE



Maltese Mission Week 2022

College community comes together to serve



Each year during Maltese Mission Week, the College community comes together to live out our institutional Values of Learning, Caring, Integrity, Excellence and Commitment. Students, alumni and employees spend time at several locations throughout the Omaha area engaged in meaningful outreach.

Saturday, March 5 – Day of Caring

Maltese Mission Week kicked off with a Day of Caring at Open Door Mission in Omaha, Neb., an organization that seeks to break the cycles of homelessness and poverty. At their donation center, the organization gathers household items, clothing and other essentials for individuals and families in need in the area. Volunteers assisted at the center to sort and organize donation items.

Monday, March 7

The food pantry at All Saints Episcopal Church stocks food and clothing available to anyone who enters the

doors and continues to grow and serve the community. Volunteers shopped for items to stock the pantry and assisted with unloading and organizing pantry items.

Tuesday, March 8

The Nearly New Shop at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Omaha is a not-for-profit, resale and consignment shop that benefits several local charities, distributes to several outreach programs, and meets various community needs as an outreach of the Episcopal church. Staff and students helped organize donation items and assisted with spring cleaning activities such as painting.

Wednesday, March 9

The Catholic Charities Juan Diego Center serves the south Omaha community with emergency and supportive food services, family strengthening and immigration legal



services. The center also is home to the Latina Resource Center and Microbusiness and Asset Development training. Volunteers helped prep food boxes and assisted during the drive-up pantry.

Thursday, March 10

More volunteers went back to the Juan Diego Center on Thursday to assist with sorting and organizing pantry items.

Friday, March 11

Magdalene Omaha provides recovery, housing, community and economic self-empowerment opportunities for survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, trauma and addiction. Students and staff stopped by Howard Hall to create a “Ray of Light” card that will be delivered to female survivors.

1. Volunteers gather at the Open Door Mission.
2. Radiography students assist during a drive-up pantry at the Juan Diego Center.
3. Employees make cards for individuals served by Magdalene Omaha.
4. Employees and students help with spring cleaning activities at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Nearly New Shop.



FACULTY SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN PURSUIT OF TERMINAL DEGREES

For most people, the thought of pursuing a doctoral degree can be daunting. The professional benefits are vast, but the time commitment can create hesitation in taking the first step in the process. Two Clarkson College faculty members discovered a way to make their course of study more manageable and enjoyable—by completing a doctoral program together.

Nicole Shives, M.S., and Rachel Pfeifer, MSW, LCSW, both teach in the General Education and Community Health programs at Clarkson College. They are also both enrolled in the Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) program option at the College, pursuing their terminal degrees. For many months, each had been considering the idea of enrolling in a doctoral program. After looking into the Clarkson College program independently, they concluded that it was the right fit for them.

“When Nicole told me she was starting and described the program, I knew it was an excellent fit for me and my educational goals,” says Pfeifer. “The focus was on subject matter that would be helpful to me as an educator at Clarkson College. Having a colleague and friend to go through the program with was just the push I needed to start.”

As they both embarked on the rigorous program of study, they found ways to encourage and support one another.

“In one class, we got to be homework partners,” says Pfeifer. “We spent an hour or more on the phone every week going over our assignments and explaining to one another our ways of thinking. It goes beyond comradery. We have become very close through this process, and I know I couldn’t have come this far without her support and help.”

Both Pfeifer and Shives plan to utilize their degrees as instructors and leaders in education at Clarkson College. The Ed.D. curriculum focuses on a combination of applied research, leadership, trends and issues in health care education, financial management, organizational behavior, and change management. The interdisciplinary



coursework is ideal for educators, administrators, researchers and practitioners who want to shape health care education within their organization.

For Shives, the broad-based focus as well as the flexible learning options drew her to the program.

“One benefit of the Clarkson College Ed.D. program is the convenience of being an online program,” she says. “I can have a full-time job and complete coursework at night and on the weekends. This program allows you flexibility in scheduling because you can choose full-time status, part-time status, or a combination of both.”

Along with coursework, students enrolled in the Ed.D. option complete a dissertation that demonstrates their ability to translate scientific research into methods that improve health care practice through education. For many students, the dissertation process is the most intimidating aspect of pursuing a doctoral degree, but faculty in the Clarkson College program make the process manageable and flexible so that working professionals can earn their degree while continuing to work.

“The ability to work on your dissertation while taking courses is something that’s been very helpful,” says Pfeifer. “It makes this task much less overwhelming. I can take it in pieces, and because it’s integrated into the curriculum, I feel supported by faculty along the way. Much of what I am learning about in classes transfers

directly into my work life. There is flexibility in most of the classes to make the assignments beneficial to my professional life, or my dissertation topic. I am actually using what I learn, as I learn it.”

Both Pfeifer and Shives find it challenging to balance working full-time, pursuing a degree and having families, but the support they’ve gained from program faculty as well as one another have made their journey smoother and more enjoyable.

“There will never be a perfect time to pursue your terminal degree,” says Shives. “There will always be excuses as to why it can’t be done, but if it is something that you are passionate about, then do it. You won’t regret it. Eventually, all your hard work and dedication will come to fruition, and you’ll achieve something really wonderful.”

Learn more about the Healthcare Education and Leadership program option at ClarksonCollege.edu/Education-Leadership.

Rachel Pfeifer (left) and Nicole Shives both teach in the General Education program.

Fall 2021 Graduates

Certificate in Medical 3D Printing Specialist

Jenny Ching Man Hung
Monique Y. Le Hardy

Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics

Megan Rose Anderson
Lindsey Barkley
Leigh A. Cooper Σ
Yabah Djindji Σ λ
Vanessa Esmeralda Sandoval Lopez λ
Ryan Scarborough

Certificate in Health Information Management

Sydney Searl
Alicia Shank

Certificate in Gerontology

Lisa Meyer

Certificate in Women's Health

Bronwyn S. Davis

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Keri Lynn Boehm
Patrick J. Burke***
Kali Renay Gilbert
Ariel Lee Milner****
Maggie Lynn Nelson
Leslie Isaura Ramos
Amanda Ruda****
Kyler Scott Wormstadt

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Business

James M. Aguto Σ ****
Faye Halbur
Nathan Scott Isbell Σ ****
Katlyn JoAnn Klinginsmith Σ

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Megan Rose Anderson Σ
Leigh A. Cooper Σ****
Yabah Djindji Σ λ ****
Delayne Lynn Geyer Σ **

Mirela Kulovac λ***
Heidi Ann Lierz λ****
Mykah Kiarra Love Σ λ*
Cordele Matthews λ
Haley Menke Σ
James M. Neill IV Σ λ****
Cierra Rae Salisbury
Vanessa Esmeralda Sandoval Lopez λ****
Ryan Scarborough

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Brooke Irene Amundson****
Lois Anderson****
Jabria E. Beninato
Karlle Bergen
Melissa Lynn Bond****
Molly DeRoin**
Katherine Anne Edwards †****
Amanda Hecker †***
Cassidy Rusine Hobbie****
Kaylene W. Hrubsky***
Danielle Renee Jensen
Jacelyn Rene'e Jones †*
Sarah Elizabeth Kempkes
Danielle Grace Kirkendall Σ
Gracie Desire Kliegl † Σ **
Tanner Kuehn
Mariah Janae Loos † Σ *
Wendy Alane Miller****
Nezly Esther Nivongsa
Diana D. Ortiz
Hannah Lynn Panec †
Keila del Rocio Placido
Kelli Posthuma*
Tiffany Quick
Savannah Alynn Rodriguez
Jasmyn Kaye Ross
Taylor Schmitt
Ella Christine Schuermann**
Marina Scruggs
Emily Rose Sissala †*
Amanda Smith**
Rachel Ann Stephan
Susan Kathryn Walsh**

Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Ethan Joseph Feltes
Alexander Kerekes Σ **
Gavriel Antonio Munoz Σ *

Post-Bachelor Certificate in Health Information Administration

Jamie L. Wendt

Master in Healthcare Administration

Kelsie Denhoed
Katherine Ann Lawrence
Kathleen Pardi
John Richard Shelley
Adrienne Marie Sy

Master of Science in Nursing

Leslie Abraham
Kelsi Mae Adams
Stephanie Marie Alvarez
Shelly S. Anderson Σ
Luciano Thomas Astorga
Brianna Beam Σ
Lindsey Ruth Britten
Jennifer Ann Carnahan
Kelly M. Carter
Amy M. Cerwick Σ
Skyler Micol Dorius
Valarie Driscoll
Kassandra Fritz
Elaine Haven Gross
Philicia Hancock
Emilee Haraldson
Jakob Hertel
Courtney Higgins
Hannah Louise Honsey
Emilee Johnson
Amanda Kenney
Amy Jo King Σ
Drew Krings
Katherine Luecke
Morgan M. Matteo
Kelly Maxwell
Tiffany E. McDowell
Daniel Meinke
Zachary Meyer
Lifang Chris Naill
Kayla Neeman
Alyse Nilsen
Megan Price
Thomas Steven Rezansoff
Melissa Ritonya Σ †
Sirena Sue Sagdahl
Kayla Sayer
Laura Marie Stensland

Carole Tayo
Samantha Walters
Hillary Catherine Wilcox

Master of Science in Nursing –Nurse Anesthesia

Ashley Austin
Lindsey Michele Booker
Lori Chabries
Jason Cromer
Adrian Gilbert
Zak Jared Hinzmann
Kelsey Nieto
Christopher Paul Perrero
Rachel Jean Pittner
Cyle J. Plumer
Corey Ritchie
Shaun Ryan Sibbett
Staci Lynn Smith
Kathryn Stonehocker Σ
Molly Walker

Post-Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration

Lindsay Nolan

Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing

Amanda Dvanajscak
Kelsey Linn Kelley
Sandra Lee Schindler
Samantha E. Wise

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Jenifer Grissom

Spring 2022 Graduates

Certificate in Medical 3D Printing Specialist

Annie Lee Kauzlarich
Kimberly Miller Σ

Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics

Tracy Michelle Combee
Montcarmel Doulegou
Dana Marie Fahrenheit λΣ
Angela Jean Roper

Certificate in Health Information Management

Megan Christensen
Kalli Pettit

Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Josephine Sjogren

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Emily Lynn Bart**** λ
Tracy Michelle Combee*
Dana Marie Fahrenheit*** λΣ
Daniel A. Garland****
Angela Sue Tuma**
Dustin Ungericht****

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

JaKiera Tionne Adams
Elizabeth Begley****
Tomoko Bissailon
Miranda Marie Boes****
Jazlyn Brown
Victoria Collins *
Sarah Kay Evans
Ashley Goff
Janessa B. Gossett****
Courtney I. Hassing
Jerelynn Marie Jenkins Σ
Tobias Koglin***
Kassandra Noelle Kraemer
Morgan Krist Σ
Rebecca Langel**
Rachel Lyn Lopez-Wilson
Karla A. Lorenzana Vargas
Sean Colin Mercer-Smith***
Molly Ann Morrison****
Katherine Olson*

Hannah Samantha Petersen**
Cassandra Roesler
Sydney Schmitz
Amanda Self**
Niah Maria Silvestre****
Catharine Joyce Slater
Brooke Lynn-Marie Staashelm***
Cassandra Stone
Emma Rose Szablowski*
Jordan Tjaden*
Mariah Jillian Utso
Hannah Walz
Ashley Whitehead****
Bailey Williams****
Alison Zoucha**

Master in Healthcare Administration

Hannah Bernard
Allison May Gohr
Jaime Nicole Harden
Katie LeOtta Meyer

Master of Science in Nursing

Bakir-Wena Komla Badjaglana
Elizabeth Marie Brant
Andrea L. Brouillette
Hayland Ashley Brydson
Caiale Casey
Shanna Curry
Molly Elgin Σ
Brandi Lynn Erickson
Tonya Marie Flakus
Rebecca M. Hannah
Fahima Fares Hasan
Destiny Hasselmann
Hailey Rae Heiderman
John Chadwick Holloway
Ashley N. Johnson Σ
Pratibha Sharma Kandel
Sharon Ann Koehler
Kaylene Richelle Linhart Σ
Ashtyn Loftus Σ
Kiersten Leigha Longchamps
Amanda D. Miller
Heather Michelle Miller
Sara Newman
Dana Preble Σ
Amy L. Proskovec
Katelyn Reber

Stephanie Reed
Jacquelyn M. Ronnfeldt
Ellie Rubenfeld
Mary Jane Rivera Schoendorf Σ
Ami J. Swanson
Erin Renee Todd †
Rachel Maria Wecker Σ
Nikki J. Welch
Lora Rose Wiesen
Aimee Marie Wyant
Grant T. Young

Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing

Jaclyn Arrick
Brooke Hilde Babin
Mavis Tabi Frimpong

Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership

Precious Shantel Davis
Tesa M. Keeling
Brian Alan Stewart Σ

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Sara Jean Buckley
Alyssa Eileen Cordel
Jamie LaRae DeBoer
Shaylee Laursen
Miranda R. Leslie Σ

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:

Σ Member of National Society of Leadership and Success Sigma Alpha Pi Interdisciplinary Honor Society

† Member of Omicron Epsilon Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

λ Member of Delta Chapter Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Note: Names and honors designations are based upon current information at press time. We apologize for any errors.



Upcoming Academic Travel Abroad Opportunity

You and your travel companion are invited to join Clarkson College Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) for a trip to Germany and Switzerland in May 2023. Your itinerary includes stops at a German vineyard, medieval Swiss abbey, and four free days in Munich, St. Gall's, Lucerne and Zurich.

More information about the trip and itinerary is available at ClarksonCollege.edu/Academics/Academic-Travel-Abroad.