

Fall 2021

Alumni Times

Clarkson College Alumni Magazine



Reigniting
our spirit

President's Message

Gary Pack, Ed.D., became the Interim President of Clarkson College in June 2021. He brings more than four decades of experience in education and administration to the community to help the institution continue its dedication to students and preparing the best in health care.

Dr. Pack holds a Bachelor's degree in History, Psychology and Sociology and a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision, both from Morehead State University in Kentucky. He also holds a Doctor of Education in K-12 Administration and Supervision from the University of Louisville.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pack has been a dedicated educator and served as the superintendent for school systems throughout the country. From 2014 until 2018, he served as the President of The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences in Cincinnati, Ohio. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Pack and Associates, a financial funding consultation agency.

Dr. Pack is from Tennessee and his wife Jackie is a recently retired educator who taught first grade and elementary music.



Dear community members,

It has been my distinct honor to be part of the Clarkson College community these past several months. As a lifelong educator, I feel privileged to join a Mission and Values-driven organization that puts students first and sets itself apart as a leader in education.

During my time here, I have already seen firsthand the tremendous growth and excellence the institution pursues every day. This past summer and fall, I've witnessed the dedication of faculty, staff members and students as the College launched new academic offerings, gained national recognition for our programs, and welcomed new graduates into the academy of scholars.

It was an honor to be on campus during Alumni Weekend and Spirit Week where I had the opportunity to connect with graduates of Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing.

Each conversation and interaction I have with alumni strengthens my understanding and appreciation of the institution's tradition of excellence—a tradition we've held for more than 130 years.

My goal is to continue this commitment to exceptional education and preparing the best, most compassionate health care professionals and help the institution find ways to continue to grow. Please know that each and every one of you is vital to achieving this goal, and I am looking forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Pack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Gary Pack



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AlumniTimes



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PHOTOGRAPH BY Clarkson College

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Interprofessional Education Course Opens to the Public

Professionals can earn contact hours and learn how to better collaborate with health care team members

Submit Your Nominations for the 2022 Alumni Association Board

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for their new Board of Directors that will begin their tenure in January 2022.

Members of the Alumni Association may submit their nominations for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, as well as five director positions online during the month of October. Once all nominees have been received, members will have the opportunity to vote online beginning November 1, and new board members will be announced December 1.

You may nominate yourself or others for any of the Board positions. As you consider candidates, please remember that board members are required to attend 75% of meetings throughout the year. Before submitting your suggestions, please discuss it with your nominees and obtain their approval.

To submit your nominees, visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni-Nomination](https://clarksoncollege.edu/Alumni-Nomination). If you have any questions, please contact alumni@clarksoncollege.edu.

Health care and community professionals now have the opportunity to enhance their interprofessional skills and improve their ability to communicate and collaborate with others by completing the Interprofessional Education (IPE) course, offered through Clarkson College Professional Development.

Developed by a team of faculty and student services members, the IPE course offers participants insight into how health care and community professionals can collaborate by developing more effective communication and leadership skills resulting in positive outcomes.

The online, self-paced format consists of five modules that can be completed according to participants' own schedules. Following course completion, participants will receive a certificate of completion in IPE collaboration.

Learners will optimize their roles within an interdisciplinary team by completing modules that are designed to provide an overview of health care and community professionals' roles and responsibilities. Additional training touches upon cultural competence, health disparities, health literacy, biomedical ethics and compassion. Diverse learning methods including short lectures, videos, handouts, activities and self-evaluation quizzes are incorporated into the curriculum.

Professionals in areas including nursing, mental health, social work, education, physical therapist, physical therapist assistant and health information management who complete the course have the opportunity to earn contact hours.

For more information regarding cost and how to register, visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/Professional-Development](https://clarksoncollege.edu/Professional-Development).

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](https://clarksoncollege.edu/Alumni/Alumni-Contact-Information) to update your contact information.

Tuition Reimbursement Makes Advanced Education Possible

Alumna utilizes assistance from her organization to pursue an education in medical 3D printing



As an alumna, choosing Clarkson College again was an easy decision for me.



Cheryl Throener, BSRT, (R)(CT) ARRT, ('07, '08) has been taking classes at Clarkson College for more than 15 years. A graduate of the Radiography and Medical Imaging programs, she returned to the College in 2013 to complete continuing education courses in Computed Tomography (CT) and again in 2020 to begin coursework in the Medical 3D Printing Specialist Certificate option. Her employer's tuition reimbursement benefit made her return to school possible and allowed her to explore new realms within her field.

Throener is a CT Technologist at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. and has been with the organization for 13 years. As she has progressed throughout her career, she's come to understand how vital continuing education is to her success and that there is no better place to pursue her education than Clarkson College.

"As an alumna, choosing Clarkson College again was an easy decision for me," she says. "The convenience of online education was very appealing. Having been a non-traditional student in 2007, I was familiar with the assistance and teaching style that the College offers, which made the institution the best fit for me."

The tuition benefit offered by her organization largely impacted Throener's decision to obtain certification as a Medical 3D Printing Specialist. Like many other health care professionals, she was unsure if she would be able to balance working full time and returning to school. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic also played a role as she considered enrolling in the certificate program option. In the end, the opportunity to join the medical 3D printing field was too good to pass up.

"Due to financial restraints, I would not have been able to pursue additional educational advancements," she says. "Plus, due to uncertainties with the pandemic, I was unsure if my full-time employment would be impacted. Tuition reimbursement benefits helped ease my financial concerns to expand my education into a new dimension of medical imaging."

Throener will have the opportunity to give back to her institution thanks to her education in the Medical 3D Printing Specialist option. This new and emerging field allows health care professionals to generate full anatomical models from CT, MRI, angiography and ultrasound images. These models can be used to help reduce surgical time, improve surgical preparation, decrease fluoroscopy time, lower cost to patients, and increase education and interprofessional collaboration.

Not only will she be on the forefront of an expanding field, but Throener will have the opportunity to utilize her education to make a difference in patients' and their families' lives. "The 3D lab is a vital part in education for providers and their patients," she says. "As this field grows, I will be able to utilize my education to help advance my career."

In addition to employer tuition reimbursement, professionals have numerous opportunities to receive assistance to pursue their education at Clarkson College. The institution offers partnership benefits including reduced tuition rates for organizations including Nebraska Medicine, OrthoNebraska, Community Hospital Association and more. Learn more at ClarksonCollege.edu/Nebraska-Medicine.

Learn more about the Medical 3D Printing Specialist Certificate option at ClarksonCollege.edu/3D-Certificate.

2021 RECAP

January

Clarkson Commons and Education Center opens on the corner of Douglas and 42nd Streets near campus.

January

PTA program launches Associate's degree in PTA online transfer option.

January

Graduate Nursing program earns national ranking from *U.S. News & World Report* for the tenth year in a row.

February

Healthcare Business and Health Information Management programs recognized as top choices for online education by Intelligent.com.

March

Clarkson College employees and students participate in volunteer activities throughout Omaha during Maltese Mission Week.

April

In partnership with Nebraska Medicine, College launches RN to BSN Nursing Workforce Sponsorship Program to meet the demand for qualified nursing professionals.

April

The Joseph and Patricia Brennan Academic Travel Legacy Scholarship is launched to support students in their international travels.

May

College collaborates with the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health to host a Long COVID information session for community members and health care professionals.

May

Education and Leadership program launches a Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership.

June

Teammates announces scholarship opportunity with College to launch in 2022.

June

RegisteredNursing.com ranks the Master of Science in Nursing Administration and Nursing Education program options as some of the best in the nation.

June

Clarkson College receives \$1 million through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program to support nursing educators.

June

Professional Development team earns an Approved with Distinction rating from the Midwest Multistate Division of the Nebraska Nurses Association.

July

College finalizes academic articulation agreements with Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) and Southeast Community College (SCC).

July

College launches Bachelor of Science in Community Health, Pre-Health Professional program option.

August

College finalizes radiography partnership with Brown's Medical Imaging

August

College launches Bachelor of Science in Psychology option.

September

College hosts the annual Spirit Week celebration and welcomes alumni back to campus for Alumni Weekend following the cancellation of the 2020 events.

With Gratitude

We would like to extend our appreciation to each of our donors who made a contribution to the College in the past year. Your generosity allows our institution to continue to prepare the best health care professionals and build a healthier community and world.

Karen Abboud ('05, '12)
JoAnn Acierno ('07)
Gary and Naomi Ahlers
Daniel Aksamit
Steve Allen
Becky Allen
Darlene Anderson ('64)
Siti Arshad-Snyder
Laurel Bachle
Diana Baker ('98)
David and Cynthia ('87, '88) Baldwin
Joey Battles ('21)
Shaylene Baumgartner
Joan Blum ('81, '86, '98)
Patrick Brennan
Patricia Brennan
Doug and Diane Brown
Illah Brown
James Browning
Brown's Medical Imaging
Louis and Susan (70) Burgher
James T. Canedy
Kitty Cappellano
Candice Carter
Nicole Caskey
Kimberly Ciurej
Louann Coatsworth ('77, '88)
Ellen Collins
Council of Independent Nebraska
Colleges Foundation
Marsha Cravens
Jayne Cromer
Catherine Cruz-Montes
Stuart Cummings
Marie Dahlberg
Roger Davidson
Lisa DeLair
Carla Dirkschneider ('07)
Mary Dishman ('87, '89, '09)
William & Mary Jo Dixon

Hope Dogbevia
Mike and Judi Dunn
Kelly Eaton (06)
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Ed-Ventures Inc.
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Natalie Eilers
Laura Enenbach
Carole Engquist ('83)
Sophie Feng
Dawn Fichter ('96)
Sarah Flanagan
Will Fleig
Jodi Flynn
Cate Folsom
Valerine Frederick
Katherine Fuller ('05, '11)
Katie Fulton ('04)
Mark Galaska ('76)
Leanne Galvan
Charles Gaumond
James and Carol Gemborys
Matthew Gleason
Ann Glow
Bruce Gordon
Erin Grace
Terry Hack
Ann Hagenau ('95, '97)
Susan Hall
Jamie Halverson
Steve Hardiman
Adam Hardy
Kathy Harrison ('07, '17)
Roger and Julie Hasz
James Hauschildt
Samantha Headley
Caitlin Hebrew
Anne Heimann
Robyn Heiser
Jeanne Henry
Layna Himmelberg ('03, '05)
Kelly and Susan ('94) Hinrichs
Pam Holtz
Stephanie Hopp
Laurna Hoss
Beckie Humanik
IMT Insurance
Mary Jo Jelinek ('09)
Linda Jensen
Lori Jerina
Amy Jespersen
Ashley ('15) and Tyler Johnson
Victoria Johnson
Janine Johnson ('21)

Janine Johnson ('21)
Lindsey Johnson
Candie Jones ('20)
Pam Jones
Gretchen Jopp
Bailey Jorgensen
Janice Jorgensen
Laurel Keebler
Katherine Kirkpatrick
Jenny Kissinger
Andrea Kwiatkowski ('12)
Chris Landon
Megan Lane
Jane Langemeier
Mary Kay Leatherman
Leslie Leget
Susan Leutzinger ('89, '09)
Tim L'Heureux ('20)
Jade Liles
Jerilyn List
Margaret Lorimor
Carol Lowe
Neil Lulla
Chuck MacDonell
Sharon Mantz
Amy Masek
Christine Mason
Shellie Mayer
Jennifer Mayotte
Carol J. McCall ('68)
Melanie McCluskey
Julia McCord
Con and Janis McGill
Scott and Kathleen McGill
Kassie McKenny ('07)
Nancy McMahan
Jennifer Memolo
Emily Miller
Neka Miller
Kiara Monteith
William Montgomery
Brent and Michelle Myers
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Kristin Ndoda
Andreia and Mike Nebel
Jessica Niemann ('99, '16)
Katherine Noden
Emily O'Neill
Aubray Orduna ('05)
Denny Owens
Gary Pack
Carolyn Pandis
Terri Park
Jacqueline Parmenter ('93, '09)

Jina Paul
 Kyle Peacock
 Rachel Pfeifer
 Sherri Porter ('93, '09, '21)
 Matt Pospisil ('06)
 Brenna Primrose ('07)
 Katherine Pursell ('19)
 Devika Ramachandran
 Bosie Rand
 Brenda Randall-Jensen
 Shirley Retzlaff
 Kevin and Kay Rinn
 Jane and Bill Roccaforte
 Adrienne Rochleau
 Reid Roemmich
 Liz Rogan
 Rick Ruggles
 Renee Ruhkamp ('09)
 Marilyn Russell
 Suzanne Salminen ('63)
 Clarence and Mary Schaffner
 Greta Schoneman
 William Schroeder
 Elizabeth Schumacher
 Ryan Schurman
 Victoria Shaw
 Larry Sheets
 Teresa Shepherd
 Chris and Nicole Shives
 Luke Sieburg
 Erin Sillman ('16)
 Colette Soto
 Joanne Stewart
 Danna Swartz
 Julie Taylor-Costello
 Laura Thayer-Mencke
 Terry and Kelly Thielen
 Julie Thompson
 Victoria Thompson
 Gina Toman
 Rebecca Van Gundy
 Ann Van Hoff
 Jim and Cathi Van Natta
 Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06)
 Ricardo Varguez
 David Vasquez
 Kristen Villarreal
 James Voge
 Natalie Vrbka
 Cheryl Walburn ('00)
 Andrea Walker
 Christine Walton
 Jerry and Naomi Warner
 Fallon Watts

Patricia Weber ('95, '08, '11)
 Shelli Weddum ('05, '11)
 Megan Wickless-Mulder
 Jennifer Wilson
 Jessica Wissink
 Michael Witte
 Daniel Wojtalewicz
 Ken Zeiger
 Shawna Ziegler ('95)

Making your contribution

If you are interested in making a contribution to Clarkson College, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Donate or mail directly to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 S 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

All attempts have been made to correctly acknowledge contributed donations. If any errors have occurred, please contact:

alumni@clarksoncollege.edu

Explore International Health Care Systems with ATA

Join ATA for a special alumni trip to Denmark and Sweden



Clarkson College Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) is hosting a special trip for College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing alumni to travel with health professionals from North America to meet health professionals in Denmark and Sweden on August 19–30, 2022.

Participants will travel from Copenhagen to Stockholm and enjoy highlights including Tivoli Gardens, Viking Ship Museum, Vasa Ship Museum, a historical Danish pub walk, Drottningholm Royal Palace, Hans Christian Andersen House and the Falsterbo Bird Observatory.

Visitors will also participate in three or four university hospital visits and have two free days to explore sights. Four-star hotels, daily breakfast, several traditional meals and dinner on a historic steamboat will be provided for all travelers.

Spots are limited for this trip. If you would like more information, contact ATA Coordinator Dr. Patricia Brennan at brennan@clarksoncollege.edu.



Despite Pandemic, Community Health Student Prevails

Student partners with Mosaic to overcome challenges during fieldwork

Having a family and being a student is challenging enough as it is; add a global pandemic, and it gets even more complicated. This situation is exactly where Adzo Hidrissou ('21) found herself last year.

A part-time student and mother of two, Hidrissou was faced with the additional challenge of completing her fieldwork requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the flexibility and customization options of the Community Health program, Hidrissou was able to complete her fieldwork requirements in fall 2020 at Mosaic, an organization located in Omaha, Neb., despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented.

The experience not only led to a full-time career at the organization, which she began following completion of her Bachelor's degree in May 2021, but also a wealth of knowledge she can use to serve others. Mosaic provides whole-person health care services to people with intellectual and development disabilities. The staff helps develop customized plans that connect individuals with services and programs to help them reach their personal goals.

"My experience there was beyond productive because it helped me to cope during the pandemic and exposed me to real-life scenarios that community health professionals can often times only

imagine," says Hidrissou. "I learned more about myself and personal capabilities that reinforced the fact that I made the right choice to enroll in the Community Health program at Clarkson College."

During her fieldwork experience, Hidrissou had the opportunity to work with Executive Director Nic Batterton. "Working with Adzo was an excellent experience," says Batterton. "Because of the pandemic, we had to get to know each other virtually and without actually giving her chances to work with the people we support. We both grew a lot as leaders during our time together. Adzo brought a smile to my leadership team each day when we were fighting through the pandemic. She led meetings and participated in problem solving that led to positive outcomes for many individuals with diverse needs."

During her fieldwork, Hidrissou worked as an independent contractor to bring in clients to expand the services Mosaic offers. She also supported the human resources department and staff as a French-English interpreter. While COVID-19 presented challenges to these duties, she felt prepared to deal with them, thanks to her coursework in community and public health.

"At first it was hard to adapt to the new working conditions, especially social distancing given that community health is all about helping the community, which means regular and close interactions with people," says Hidrissou. "Most of my class work resonated with real-life events though, so I was psychologically equipped to handle the drastic life changes that came with coronavirus."

Fieldwork not only allows students the opportunity to apply their coursework to the field, but also for organizations to gain insight and understanding into new concepts in community health. "There is so much to learn from each other," says Batterton. "I find working with students keeps my mind thinking more critically, and creatively. Times change, and students help bring out the best in my team and keep us thinking and acting strategically with the future in mind."

Mosaic is just one of hundreds of organizations where Community Health students can bring their talents during fieldwork and after completing their degrees. "My Community Health education has given me the platform to live my dream and actualize my passion for helping people and making an impact on society," says Hidrissou. "A fulfilling life comes from helping people, and I believe that I am already an asset in this field thanks to my decision to study at Clarkson College."



Hidrissou (seated) with her husband.



“

Times change, and students help bring out the best in my team and keep us thinking and acting strategically with the future in mind.

NIC BATTERTON

Reigniting Our Spirit

After a year of the pandemic forcing the cancellation and limitation of many events, community members had the opportunity to gather on campus and celebrate Clarkson College in 2021. The annual Spirit Week and Alumni Weekend events took place Sept. 20–24, and they drew individuals from near and far as they reignited their dedication to the institution and its mission.

Monday – Integrity

Spirit Week kicked off Monday, Sept. 20 with lunch and the revealing of Clarkson College-inspired banners. During the month of September, faculty, staff members, students and alumni were invited to create Clarkson College banners using art supplies provided by the institution. Artists were required to create banners that celebrated the history and Values of the College and included the Maltese Cross. Community members voted on their favorite submissions, and the winning artists earned gift card prizes.

The College also hosted its first session of the Legacy Series on Monday, a townhall event featuring keynote speakers Mr. Bruce Lauritzen, great-great-great grandson of Bishop Robert H. and Meliora Clarkson, and Bishop J. Scott Barker, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska and member of the Clarkson College Board of Directors. Both guests spoke about the history of the College and what the institution has meant to the Omaha community.

The College community also participated in a campus-wide donation drive beginning Monday. Faculty, staff members and students donated items to Magdalene Omaha, an organization dedicated to helping survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, trauma and addiction. The College gathered essential items to be donated to survivors as they begin their healing journeys.



Photos

Top: Clarkson College-themed banners hang in Howard Hall.

Bottom: Mr. Bruce Lauritzen (left) listens as Bishop J. Scott Barker (right) speaks during the Legacy Series event.



Tuesday – Caring

On Tuesday, the community celebrated the Value of Caring by hosting a clean-up event where participants walked through campus and the surrounding Blackstone District to pick up trash to create a cleaner, more inviting environment.

College students, employees, and their family and friends came to campus Tuesday for a movie and ice cream night. Attendees watched a screening of the movie *Coco* and enjoyed free samples of Clarkson College Crunch ice cream—a custom flavor created by Ted and Wally’s ice cream shop in Omaha.



Wednesday – Excellence

The community celebrated the Value of Excellence during a health and wellness fair held in the Courtyard Sept. 22. The event was put on by Clarkson College faculty and staff with support from the Nebraska Medicine Guild, a non-profit organization that supports the education and outreach efforts of Nebraska Medicine and the College.

Attendees had the opportunity to visit several booths during the Wellness Fair, each focused on a particular aspect of wellness including mental, physical, spiritual and financial. Participants could enjoy mindfulness exercises and chair yoga sessions and get their blood pressure checked by Undergraduate Nursing students. Other booths featured information about budgeting, campus ministry, community resources including the police and fire departments, and free books for students to enjoy.

Students who visited each booth had the opportunity to enter to win free prizes including a FitBit and gift cards.

Photos

Top Left: Clarkson College Crunch ice cream available during movie night.

Top Right: Students take a break from classes to throw (inflatable) axes.

Bottom Right: Physical Therapist Assistant students guide attendees through wellness and flexibility exercises.

Thursday – Commitment

On Thursday, Sept. 23, the College kicked off Alumni Weekend and celebrated the Value of Commitment with a brunch for all alumni in Howard Hall. Because community members were unable to gather on campus in 2020, this year's event honored graduates from 1995/96, 1980/81 and 1970/71. Attendees reminisced with one another and had the opportunity to hear from College community members about updates happening at the institution.

The College also hosted the Heritage Garden Walk on Thursday. During the event, attendees learned about the history of the College and gathered to celebrate bricks and plaques that were dedicated in the garden in honor of College community members. This year, bricks were dedicated in honor of Darlene (Hawkins) Sheets ('65) and Dr. Patricia Brennan, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Academic Travel Abroad program at Clarkson College. Plaques were dedicated in honor of Ellen Collins, former Director of Radiography and Medical Imaging, and Dr. Aubray Orduna, former Dean of Nursing and Interim President of Clarkson College.

For the second year in a row, the College crowned Mr. and Ms. Clarkson during the Heritage Garden Walk. This year's candidates for Mr. and Ms. Clarkson included Haydn Jones, Matt Gleason, Tanner Kuehn, Katherine Olson, Jabria Beninato and Marissa Mindrup.



Photos

Top: Alumna Florence Mortensen Cline ('44) shares her memories of Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing during the alumni brunch.

Bottom: Alumnae from the graduating class of 1971 gathered to celebrate.

Jabria Beninato (left) and Matt Gleason (right) were crowned Mr. and Ms. Clarkson during the Heritage Garden Ceremony on Sept. 23. Beninato is enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program option, and Gleason is enrolled in the Associate's degree in Physical Therapist Assistant option.

Friday – Learning

The College celebrated the Value of Learning by hosting the continuing education event “Ethics Beyond Clinical that Impact Health Care” on Friday, Sept. 24. Guest speakers addressed the importance of understanding health care ethical disparities among the population. The event aimed to help health care professionals realize, understand and become aware of barriers and social detriments and how they affect patient care.



The event featured guest speakers Joy Doll, OTD, OTR/L, FNAP, Vice President, Community and Academic Programs at CynHealth; Josie Rodriguez, MHCA from the Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity; Michael Romano, MD, MHA, Chief Medical Officer at Nebraska Health Network; Laura Heinemann, PhD, MSW, MA, Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology at Creighton University; LaShaune Johnson, PhD, Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Creighton University; and Emily Sierra, Master of Public Health Student at University of Pittsburgh.

On Friday evening, alumni gathered at the Cottonwood Hotel in Blackstone for dinner and cocktails. During the event, the community celebrated 25 years of graduating students from the Physical Therapist Assistant program as well as the 25-year anniversary of the Student Government Association.

During the event, the Alumni Association presented the Minerva Ryley Alumni Legacy Award to Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06) for her years of dedicated service to the College and the Alumni Association. A graduate of Bishop Memorial School of Nursing and Clarkson College, VanFleet served as the Alumni Coordinator at Clarkson College from 2008 until her retirement in 2020.

The Alumni Association also presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to three deserving recipients on Friday night. The award honors a graduate of Clarkson College or Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the College and its students.

This year's recipients were Katherine Pursell, PTA ('19), graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant program and current provider at Think Whole Person Healthcare; Dr. Angela Felton-Coleman, DNP, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-BC ('06, '15), graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner program options and current provider at Children's Hospital and Medical Center; and William Koile, M.S., MBA ('08), graduate of the Healthcare Administration program option who serves as the Emergency Services and Acute Care Support Director at Nebraska Medicine and adjunct instructor at Clarkson College.



Photos

Top: Alumni, family and friends gather at the Cottonwood Hotel in Blackstone for a night of camaraderie.

Bottom: Members of the Alumni Association congratulate Rita VanFleet (left) upon receiving the Minerva Ryley Alumni Legacy Award.

Radiography Student Earns CVIT Sponsorship from Nebraska Medicine

Heidi Lierz will pursue a career in cardiovascular imaging technology

Heidi Lierz ('21), recent graduate of the Radiography and Medical Imaging program at Clarkson College, earned the Nebraska Medicine Cardiovascular Imaging Technology (CVIT) Sponsorship in 2021, becoming the first Clarkson College student to earn the distinction.

Available through the Nebraska Medicine Cardiac Catheterization Lab, the sponsorship encourages students to explore roles within the cardiovascular imaging field and awards recipients with tuition assistance during their course of study. Following completion of their academic program, students also earn employment at Nebraska Medicine.

For Lierz, who graduated with her Associate's degree in Radiography in August 2021 and plans to earn her Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging in December 2021, the scholarship allows her to explore an exciting and challenging

field. "Earning this sponsorship means a lot to me," she says. "It is a great opportunity for me to learn more about the cardiovascular imaging field and get hands-on experience while in school."

Now that graduation is over, Lierz is eager to begin work in the lab. "I chose to go into cardiovascular interventional imaging because I have always found the cardiovascular system to be intriguing and loved learning about it," she says. "I have also had the opportunity to job shadow in a cath lab and got to see a pacemaker implanted. It made me want to learn more about all the different procedures they can perform."

To learn more about the Radiography and Medical Imaging program at Clarkson College and the multitude of clinical site opportunities, visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/Radiography-Medical-Imaging](https://www.clarksoncollege.edu/radiography-medical-imaging).



I have always found the cardiovascular system to be intriguing and loved learning about it.

Graduate Nursing and Healthcare Administration Options Receive Recognition

RegisteredNursing.org, a nursing advocacy organization, recently ranked multiple Clarkson College programs among the best in the nation for 2021. The following program options received recognition:

#2 Best MSN in Nursing Administration

#4 Best Online Family Nurse Practitioner

#5 Best Nurse Educator Program

"We are honored to be recognized for our Graduate Nursing and Healthcare Administration programs," says Director of Graduate Nursing Layna Himmelberg, Ed.D., MSN, CNE. "Our outstanding faculty and driven students set us apart from other institutions as we strive to prepare the best in health care."

Another aspect that sets Clarkson College apart is the recently launched dual degree option in Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Master of Healthcare Administration that allows students to earn multiple Master's degrees consecutively. The curriculum focuses on communication, leadership, ethics and diversity and prepares nurses to lead within a variety of health care business settings.

"The dual degree option allows students to take their education one step further by earning Master's degrees in both Nursing and Healthcare Administration," says Director of Healthcare Business and Health Information Management Carla Dirkschneider, MS, RHIA. "The flexible online curriculum is designed for working professionals who want to learn

to evaluate and solve real-world health care issues."

The Registered Nursing organization ranks programs by utilizing data from multiple sources including the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education. Individual programs are awarded points based on certain factors including whether or not the institution is accredited and if they offer online education options. The methodology also considers acceptance rate, graduation rate, diversity of options and other factors.

Learn more about the Graduate Nursing program including the Dual Master's degree in Nursing and Healthcare Administration option at ClarksonCollege.edu/Nursing.

#2
nationwide

Best Master of Science in Nursing Administration

#4
nationwide

Best Online Family Nurse Practitioner

#5
nationwide

Best Nurse Educator Program

Education and Leadership Program Earns Top Ranking

The Clarkson College Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) program has been awarded top ranking by Intelligent.com. The degree is ranked as one of the best online Doctorate in Education programs with a special designation as offering the most flexible completion time.

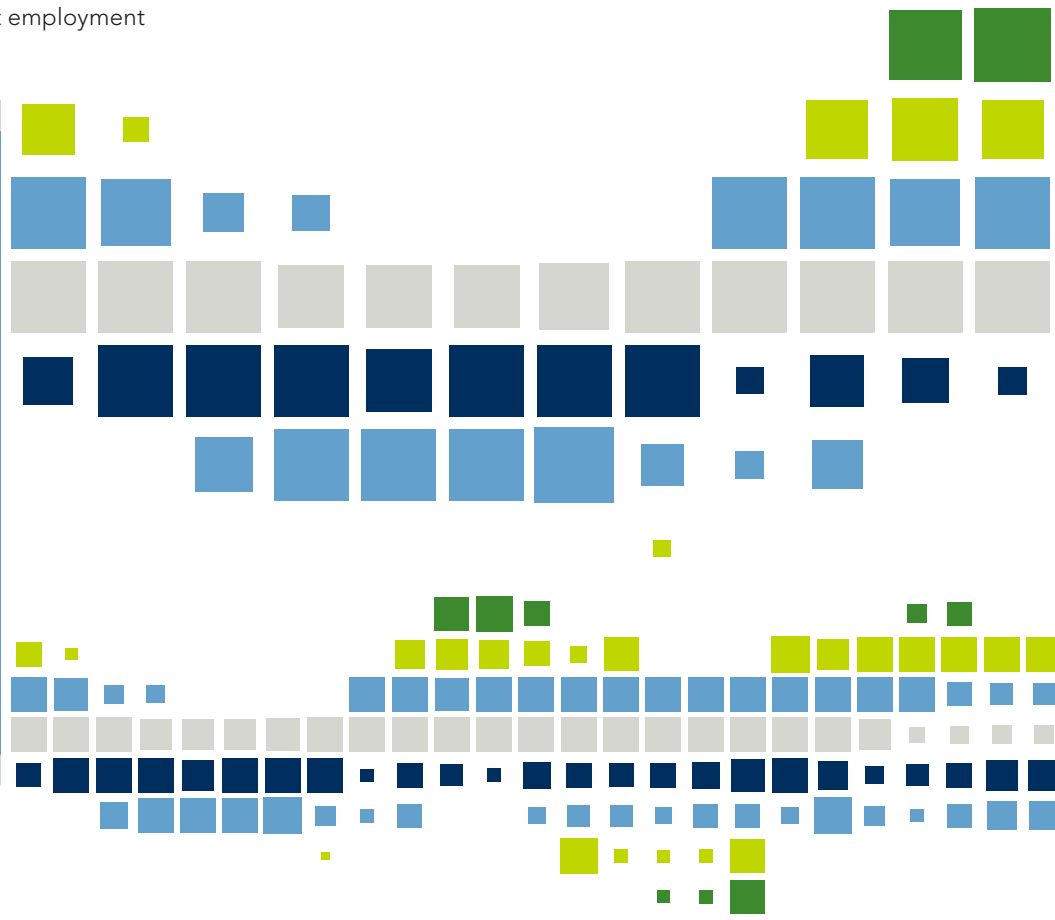
The College program was evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment. Along with ranking relevant programs, the organization offers insight into the need for individuals with doctoral degrees in education. According to the site, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that employment

of part- and full-time post-secondary educators will rise 15% by 2026, and employment of administration jobs will rise by 10%.

The 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system that includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third-party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed thousands of schools with comparable programs on a scale of 0 to 100. The methodology uses an algorithm that collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each university's degree program.

About Intelligent

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides which include the best degree programs as well as information about financial aid, internships and even study strategies. With comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings, Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students. To learn more, visit www.intelligent.com.



Faculty and Staff Member Honored for Dedicated Service

Sharon Mantz,
Dr. Otto Bauer Distinguished
Service Award Recipient



Each May during the College-wide community meeting, Clarkson College honors outstanding community members who demonstrate a commitment to the institution and its students. Clinical Compliance Advisor Sharon Mantz and Undergraduate Nursing Associate Professor Stephanie Hopp, MSN-RN, CPN, received the prestigious awards this year.

Sharon Mantz

The Dr. Otto Bauer Distinguished Service Award recognizes a support or administrative/professional staff member who exhibits leadership and demonstrates outstanding service to Clarkson College. All part- and full-time, non-faculty staff are eligible to receive the award.

Ms. Mantz has been part of the Clarkson College community since 2003. Throughout her time at the institution, she has served as an Administrative Assistant and Health and Safety Specialist. She currently serves as a Clinical Compliance Advisor as part of the Enrollment and Advising department where she assists students with maintaining health and safety compliance for classes and clinicals.

Ms. Mantz is a two-time award winner and was just as shocked the second time around. "I was looking for just one word to describe the feeling of earning this award, but there are so many—astonished, amazed, heart-stopping!" she says. "I am so proud and honored to be recognized."

Not only was Ms. Mantz recognized for her years of dedication to the College, but also for her willingness to step in and volunteer to help others during events such as graduation, new student orientation, Spirit Week and Maltese Mission Week. Her love of helping and caring for others drives her each and every day.

"For me, the best part of working at the

College is being able to help students, staff and faculty in the clinical process," she says. "It is also the opportunity to continue learning by keeping up to date with technology and everything from email to our online portal systems."

Stephanie Hopp, MSN-RN, CPN

The Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have made substantial contributions to education at the College. Nominees must hold a faculty rank in an academic or professional program and have at least three years teaching experience at the institution.

Ms. Hopp began her career at Clarkson College as an instructor in the Undergraduate Nursing program in 2010. Since then, she has earned the rank of Assistant and Associate Professor. She currently teaches clinicals and serves as a course coordinator while enrolled in the Doctor in Healthcare Education and Leadership program at the College.

"Earning this award is such an honor," she says. "I truly feel like I am just one small piece of a big operation working to educate future health care providers. After the year we have all had, I'd like to share this award with all of us working toward this same goal."

Ms. Hopp enjoys working with colleagues in her department and throughout the College through her involvement in Faculty Senate, Nursing Assembly and multiple Critical Success Factor committees. Her dedication to furthering the Mission of the institution reflects a caring spirit that she sees across the College.

"My favorite part of working at Clarkson College is the people," she says. "We are an amazing team of faculty, staff and administrators, and our students are hard-working, professional and caring. Clarkson College feels like a big family filled with those who genuinely care about each other."

Stephanie Hopp,
MSN-RN, CPN, Dr. Patricia
Book Perry Faculty of the Year
Award Recipient



Faculty Earn Their Apples

The Clarkson College Faculty Senate presents the Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award, also known as the Apple award, each fall and spring semester to faculty members who demonstrate a commitment to the institution and its students. At the Faculty Senate Meeting held in May, three faculty members earned the award.

Sue Leutzinger, Assistant Professor of Undergraduate Nursing

Sue Leutzinger, MSN, RN became a member of the Clarkson College community in 2004 when she became an instructor in the Undergraduate Nursing program. She teaches courses in foundational skills and managing nursing care of the adult, and along with her teaching duties, works with students as part of the Sigma Theta Tau national nursing honor society.

"I am very excited and happy to receive this award," she says. "I have been a nurse for many, many years and truly enjoy educating student nurses. It is rewarding to be recognized and appreciated by my students. They may be taking care of me one day, and I want to ensure they are safe and knowledgeable."

Dr. Adrienne Rochleau, Program Administrator of Nurse Anesthesia

Adrienne Rochleau, DNP, CRNA, came to Clarkson College in 2014 as the Nurse Anesthesia Program Coordinator and was appointed the Program Administrator in 2021. Along with teaching courses and working to coordinate the Nurse Anesthesia program option, she maintains active clinical practice hours as a Certified Nurse Anesthetist at Heartland Center for Reproductive Medicine and Montgomery City Memorial Hospital.

"Receiving the Teaching in Excellence Apple Award is an incredible honor," she says. "Thank you to all of you who nominated me, and to the Faculty Senate for providing this great opportunity. I

would not be where I am without our great students in our Nurse Anesthesia program, our wonderful faculty and program administration, and the support of Clarkson College. I am humbled to have received this award."

Nicole Shives, Associate Professor of General Education

Nicole Shives, M.S., has been a faculty member in the General Education department at Clarkson College since 2016. She currently teaches lecture and lab courses in anatomy and physiology and is also pursuing her Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership degree at the College. Ms. Shives has been a recipient of the Employee Scholar Award and the Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award during her time at the College.

"I am honored to be selected for the Excellence in Teaching Award out of the many talented and committed Clarkson College faculty," she says. "It is so rewarding to help our students pursue their academic and professional goals."

Students and faculty members may nominate individuals who exemplify the Clarkson College Values of Caring, Excellence, Integrity, Commitment and Learning and demonstrate a desire to continue the Mission of the College for the award each semester. Recipients must exhibit the ability to:

- > Encourage contact between students and faculty
- > Develop collaboration and cooperation among students
- > Encourage active learning
- > Provide prompt feedback
- > Communicate high expectations and serve as a role model
- > Emphasize timeliness for academic and professional success
- > Respect diverse talents and learning styles

Sue Leutzinger, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor of
Undergraduate Nursing



Adrienne Rochleau, DNP, CRNA
Program Administrator of
Nurse Anesthesia



Nicole Shives, M.S.
Associate Professor of
General Education



Scholarship Recipients Prove It's Never Too Late to Go Back to School

Two undergraduate students earn scholarships from local organization

In spring 2021, two Clarkson College students received Adult Students in Scholastic Training (ASIST) scholarships from the Omaha chapter of the Executive Women International organization to pursue their courses of study at the College.

Yabah Djinadji

Yabah Djinadji ('21) earned the ASIST scholarship to help as she earns her Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging from Clarkson College. Originally from Togo in West Africa, Djinadji is a mother of five children who previously attended Metropolitan Community College and earned an associates degree in Liberal Art Science.

"I am honored to be a recipient of Executive Women International scholarship," she says. "Many people like me are out there thinking about going back to school, but they are afraid. I feel like any scholarship that I get is a reminder that they can do it too. It means a lot to me, and I hope that my story inspires others to return to school."

Growing up in West Africa meant Djinadji saw firsthand the need for proper medical care for underserved populations. Following graduation in fall 2021, she hopes to join or start an organization that

offers medical imaging services such as ultrasound and mammography to low-income communities in Omaha or Africa.

"I firmly believe that besides having a noble career in health care, our mission should be to help people in our community and inspire others to join us," she says. "My mission will be to help women worldwide with quality care during pregnancy and their fight against cancer," she says. "Many women worldwide do not have access to medical imaging care during their pregnancy. This need is more crucial in Africa than anywhere else."

Sarah Bryan

Sarah Bryan, who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) option at Clarkson College, has had a long road to health care. As an undergraduate student, she served as a volunteer English teacher and translator in St. Petersburg, Russia as well as a mission worker in New York, New York before earning her Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

She currently lives in Omaha with her four children and works as a Clerk Tech and Nurse Assistant in the emergency department at Memorial Community Hospital and Health System in Blair, Neb.

Early in her undergraduate education, Bryan planned to attend school to become a doctor or physician assistant but now, she finds herself drawn to the nursing field.

"I love the philosophy of practice within nursing – it is a more wholistic approach to health care," she says. "Nurses look at the whole person when providing care. When I think about my most impactful health experiences as a patient, it's been the nurses who have made the greatest impact on the overall journey back to good health. It excites me to be able to do the same for others, whether it's here at home or on the medical mission trips I plan to participate in someday."

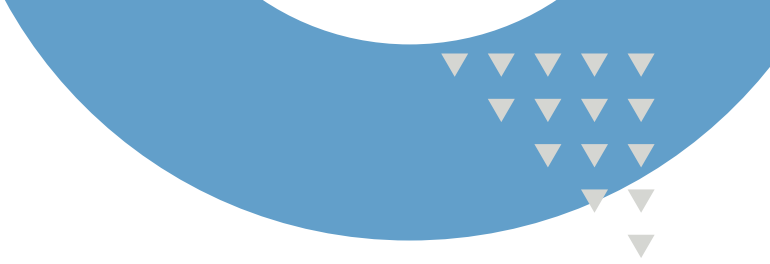
As a returning student, the ASIST scholarship will go a long way in allowing Bryan to focus on school and preparing to be the best in health care.

"Receiving the ASIST Scholarship means the world to me," she says. "It allows me to focus on those things that matter most: my education (and the patients I will be able to serve as a result), and my most important job as a mother. Without it, I might have needed to be more employed than I am now, in order to provide for them and pay for school – sacrificing both my time with my children and my studies."



Photos

Yabah Djinadji (far left) and Sarah Bryan (second from right) accepted their ASIST scholarships at an event in June 2021.



Professional Development Launches Online Phlebotomy Course

In summer 2021, Clarkson College Professional Development launched a Phlebotomy Technician course that allows individuals to complete required courses online and become certified phlebotomy technicians.

The course aims to help meet the demand for qualified technicians in the phlebotomy field, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the phlebotomy field is projected to grow 17% by 2029, much faster than the average for most fields.

Following completion of the course, participants will have numerous job opportunities as a health care professional trained to draw blood for use in diagnostic testing, transfusions, research and blood donations.

The course involves online theory courses as well as an externship that allows participants to gain hands-on experience. Students will complete 325 hours of coursework as well as 40 clinical hours.

Throughout the course, participants will gain an understanding of basic anatomy with an emphasis on the cardiovascular system, pathophysiology and hematology testing. They'll also learn the techniques and safety measures involved in drawing blood to prepare them for work in a variety of settings.

The Professional Development Phlebotomy Technician course can be completed in as few as 12 months. For more information and to enroll in the course, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Professional-Development.



College Launches RN to BSN Nursing Workforce Sponsorship Program

Nurses can earn a four-year job placement with tuition and fees covered

In spring 2021, Clarkson College launched the RN to BSN Nursing Workforce Sponsorship Program to allow registered nurses (RN) the opportunity to earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, with tuition and fees covered, and obtain four-year job placement at Nebraska Medicine during and following completion of the program.

The institution, in collaboration with their educational partner Nebraska Medicine, enacted the program to help meet the growing need for nurses in the community and provide nursing professionals the opportunity to advance their education and careers. The program aims to build a workforce with more highly educated nurses who can continue to offer patients exceptional health care.

"There is a growing trend in the health care field to require all nursing professionals to earn their Bachelor's degree," says Valerie Anderson, DNP, MSN-Ed, APRN, FNP-C, Director of Undergraduate Nursing Program at Clarkson College. "The RN to BSN Nursing Workforce Sponsorship Program allows us the opportunity to offer nurses a pathway to advance their careers and ensure that patients continue to receive exceptional and compassionate care."

Through the program, RNs have the opportunity to enroll in the award-winning RN to BSN program option at Clarkson College. The curriculum focuses on evidence-based practice, leadership and population health, and builds upon nurses' skills while preparing them for the growing demands of the nursing field. Throughout and following completion of the program, graduates earn a four-year job placement with Nebraska Medicine, including two years as a full-time ASN/RN staff nurse while completing courses at Clarkson College and two years as a full-time BSN/RN staff nurse following graduation.

The flexibility of the program option is ideal for working professionals. Students can complete coursework online while working at Nebraska Medicine and can enroll in part- or full-time options. Completing the program option can also open the door for nurses to earn advanced degrees as a nurse practitioner, nurse educator or nurse administration professional.

"I was able to have a course schedule that fit my needs and timeframe," says Stephanie Weverka, RN, BSN ('21). "I was never pressured to take more courses than I could handle and was fully in charge

of my learning, plus all my instructors were amazing. Everything I learned through the Clarkson College RN to BSN program option is going to make me a better nurse, and for that, I can't thank the College enough for the opportunity to complete their program."

To be eligible for the RN to BSN Workforce Sponsorship Program, applicants must currently hold an Associate in Nursing Degree and have an active Registered Nurse license in the state of Nebraska. They must successfully enroll and be accepted into the Clarkson College RN to BSN program option and need to have minimum one (1) year experience in a hospital or health care setting.

Recipients must also maintain good standing while enrolled in the RN to BSN program option and complete an interview with Nebraska Medicine and adhere to all hiring practices. A letter of commitment to work for Nebraska Medicine for four years will be signed upon enrollment.

The application and further information can be found at ClarksonCollege.edu/bsnsponsorship.



College Awarded \$1 Million Grant for Nurse Educators



Clarkson College has been awarded more than \$1 million through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to assist nursing educators as they pursue advanced education to impact the next generation of nurses.

The NFLP will be available to nurses enrolled in the Clarkson College Doctor of Healthcare Education & Leadership (Ed.D.) program or the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nursing Education program option. The program aims to assist registered nurses with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) as they complete their graduate nursing education to become qualified nursing faculty. Recipients are required to teach for at least four consecutive years following graduation to be eligible for loan forgiveness through the NFLP. Following each year of teaching, a percentage of a student's loan will be forgiven with a total of 85% forgiveness upon completion of their fourth teaching year.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to support our students who are pursuing roles in nursing education," says Dr. Layna Himmelberg, Director of Graduate

Nursing. "This grant will help increase the number of trained nurses entering the workforce as nursing faculty and allow us to continue our Mission of educating the best nursing professionals."

Thanks to NFLP, students like Stacey Poldervaart, MSN, RN ('18, '20) have the opportunity to explore their passion as nurse educators. After earning her Associate's degree in Nursing in 2007, she made the decision to return to school in 2018 when she earned her BSN followed by her Master's degree in Nursing Education from Clarkson College. Now in the second semester of her doctoral degree program at the institution, Stacey is using NFLP to pursue her education while working as a Simulation Assistant Coordinator at Iowa Central Community College.

"Making the decision to return to school after almost 10 years, and over the age of 45, was not easy," she says. "The time and financial commitment to further my education and career goals was something to consider, as I have a family to care for as well. NFLP offered through Clarkson College made this decision a bit easier. Being able to continue my education to reach my goals, knowing the financial burden of higher education would be lessened, motivated me to

work harder and dream bigger. This opportunity provided by Clarkson College has been greatly appreciated."

The NFLP loan covers the cost of tuition, fees and books while a student is enrolled part or full time at Clarkson College. Loans may not exceed \$35,500 for an academic year and no more than 5 years of support. Funding is limited to one advanced degree.

Clarkson College has approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer the Ed.D. and MSN programs. The MSN program is also accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Nurses enrolled in either the Ed.D. program or the MSN Nursing Education program option gain the knowledge and skills to implement and teach health care curricula. Course work focuses on applying clinical practice knowledge and experience to classroom instruction as well as designing and implementing health care courses and/or programs across a variety of settings.

Visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Education-Leadership for more information on our doctorate in Healthcare Education and Leadership and ClarksonCollege.edu/Nursing to learn about our Master's degree in Nursing Education option.

College Launches New Pre-Health Professional Option

Clarkson College is launching a new Bachelor's degree in Community Health - Pre-Health Professional track designed for students to obtain their Bachelor's degree prior to enrolling in medical, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy or physician assistant professional programs. Admissions is now available to students for a fall 2022 start date.

The curriculum is designed to expand a student's knowledge of health-related fields and prepare them to serve diverse populations. Coursework focuses on areas including health literacy and patient advocacy, legal and ethical implications, environmental and cultural influences on health, and trauma informed care.

As they progress throughout the program option, students will select a concentration in Gerontology, Human Services, Public Health, Women's Health or Healthcare Business. Each concentration is designed to increase their knowledge within a specific area and help set them apart from other professional school applicants.

Depending on the student's plans following the completion of their Bachelor's degree, the curriculum plan will be tailored to prepare them for entrance into a medical, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy or physician

assistant health program. Students will also be enrolled in the Clarkson College Advantage program where they will meet regularly with advisors and peers to determine the health care path that is right for them.

For more information, visit ClarksonCollege.edu/Community-Health.



College Launches Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership

In spring 2021, the Clarkson College Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) program launched a new Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership option to help professionals learn to lead and facilitate change in the health care and education environments.

The 16-18 credit hour option can be completed on its own, or students can choose to apply the certificate courses toward their doctoral degree in Education and Leadership at Clarkson College. The curriculum focuses on strategic planning, organizational systems and communication.

“The faculty and I are thrilled to offer this opportunity and look forward to empowering experienced leaders through the graduate curriculum,” says Dr. Gina Toman, Director of Education and Leadership. “If a certificate student decides to pursue our Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership degree, 15 credits earned in the certificate program option transfer directly into their doctoral program.”

Throughout the course of study, students will complete an Independent Study in Leadership course where they will work with a faculty member to pursue a

leadership project of their choice. The course allows each student to customize the certificate option to their personal career and professional goals and gain a deeper understanding of leadership topics.

A graduate degree is required to enroll in the Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership option. Learn more at ClarksonCollege.edu/Education-Leadership.

TeamMates Announces Partnership with Clarkson College

TeamMates Mentoring Program and Clarkson College are coming together to provide scholarship funds to students starting in 2022.

“The Teammates mentoring program impacts thousands of youths across the Midwest, and we are thrilled to partner with this impactful organization through this scholarship offering to help students achieve their education aspirations,” said Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President of Clarkson College. “Our missions align to help youth grow and become the best they can be, and we thank TeamMates for supporting youth interested in health care careers.”

Recipients of the Clarkson College TeamMates scholarship will receive \$6,000 per semester beginning in fall 2022. To

receive the award, applicants must be a TeamMates mentee for a minimum of three years, have at least a 2.5/4.0 GPA, Pell eligible as determined by a completed FAFSA submitted to Clarkson College, and accepted for admission to Clarkson College by Feb. 1. The recipient must be a full-time student taking at least 12 credit hours per semester. The scholarship is renewable up to four years for a Bachelor’s degree, and up to two years for an Associate’s degree

Each student who receives this competitive scholarship will also have a TeamMates+ mentor to assist them through their post-secondary journey. TeamMates+ matches meet once a month either virtually or in person to develop a friendship and inspire the mentee to reach their full potential.

About the TeamMates Mentoring Program

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Tom and Nancy Osborne, the mission of the TeamMates Mentoring Program is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring. Over the last 30 years, TeamMates has served more than 43,000 youth across Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Students and mentors report higher levels of hope and engagement in work or at school as a result of their mentoring relationship. As a school-based program, TeamMates matches meet in school once a week during the academic year to play games, work on a craft, or just talk.

This article has been reprinted with permission from the TeamMates Communications team.

Building Community Among Black Health Care Professionals

New Black Student Union aims to encourage conversations about diversity in health care

Britnie Price ('21) recently saw a need at Clarkson College. Price, a graduate of the Physical Therapist Assistant program, wanted to find a way for black students at the College to connect with and support one another. In early 2021, she began the process of establishing the Black Student Union (BSU), which became an official organization in spring 2021.

For help establishing BSU at the College, Price reached out to members of black student organizations at Louisiana State University, where she formerly attended, as well as other national black student unions. She then worked with the Diversity Council on campus to gather interested students together before applying to become an official organization through the Student Government Association.

According to Price, the goal of the organization is to form a community amongst the black student population of Clarkson College and give a voice to the group. She says that as black students, it can be difficult to find opportunities to connect with one another.

"We are so far spread out between programs and cohorts, that we rarely see or even know of other black students," she says. "This may not be a big deal to others, but when you are actually in this situation, it can feel alienating."

Price hopes that through meetings with black students and allies as well as on-campus and online events, the organization will help create conversations that are beneficial to black health care students, the College and the health care industry. "This organization gives a voice to the black students on the campus of Clarkson

College, which in turn allows us to express our needs to the College and facilitates dialogue for more inclusive health care education," she says.

Price served as the organization's president along with Vice President Marc Austin Jr., Secretaries Christmas Bol and Kyra Kriegel, and Public Relations Chair Precious Davis. The group hosted their first event on campus on May 22 featuring a panel of black leaders in health care including Dr. Aubray Orduna, former Dean of Nursing and Interim President of Clarkson College, as the panel moderator.

The event brought together students and community members who had the opportunity to connect with fellow black health care professionals. "One of the goals of the event was to provide representation of black leaders that we as black students at Clarkson College do not often see on campus or in our respective fields," says Price.

The group plans to host more events that will continue to increase representation of black health care students and professionals on campus. Price hopes that this representation can help students navigate the challenges they face as professionals. "While Clarkson College does prepare us to be future health care providers, most educational programs across the board never really prepare you to be a black health care provider."

If you would like more information about upcoming Black Student Union events and how to get involved with the group, contact organization advisor Michael Ehrecke at ehreckemichael@clarksoncollege.edu.



This organization gives a voice to the black students on the campus of Clarkson College.

SPRING 2021

Clarkson College Graduates

Certificate in Medical 3D Printing Specialist

Melissa Bauer
Mackenzie C. Feldman
Ronald Hidalgo
Michaela Pfeiffer
Ashlyn Marie Pudenz

Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics

Abdelwahed El Moubaraki
Lily Frances Korytowski
Jennifer Lyons
Katherine McKee
Tam Nguyen
Latreece Marcyl Patterson
Latosha Prados

Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Adzo Kpatanyo Hidrissou*

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Business Management

Elizabeth Marie Morgenroth λ
Arielle Marie Ramos

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Jamie Lynn Bedsole
Lisa Huynh λ λ *
Lily Frances Korytowski λ λ ***
Katherine McKee**

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Natalia Alejandra Aranda Orrego
†*
Komlan Gerard Baka
Michelle Barajas
Jessica Brooke Barlow****
Samantha L. Bina
Kate Cohen Bonham
Antonial Brown
Lauren Leigh Campbell † λ*
Bridget Lea Darby
Eliza Brianna Daye λ
Wah Doh λ

Jenna Eggert λ
Chloe Fleecs † λ**
Chasity Ann Flemming λ
Darien Gustafson λ*
Kelsie Eileen Holmberg
Jaclyn Janssen
Kristin Kroeker*
Katherine Elizabeth Kunkle λ**
Eric Alexander Langan † λ*
Emily Larsen
Gina Lauritzen
Kurt Lerpwe λ
Nicole Marie Lienemann
Stacy Lister****
Ashley Rose Malone
Emily Matthes † λ***
Logan David Miller
Jaclyn Rose Murcek † λ*
Claire Rachel Nanfito
Jared Nelsen
Preston Lee Oberg
Cori R. Owens*
Madison Paces
Kali Peter
Kiana Pfeifer*
Kailey Ann Reineke
Yvonne Reyes † λ**
Mary Nelle Richardson****
Emma Rixstine***
Shannon Sutherlin
Jaci Marie Teahon † λ***
Jonathan Van Scoy † λ
Stephanie Weverka****
Rebecca Wium †
Brandi Wright †***

Master in Healthcare Administration

Tara Hovseth λ
Jennifer Van Der Vliet

Master of Science in Nursing

Rebecca Andresen λ
Kimberly Ann Behnk
Alexandre Bitton
Nina Bouchard
Ashley Christian Brendan
Bruno Caro λ
Mallory M. Coolidge

Shonna De Jager
Chelsea L. Dupre
Lisa Fisher
Sumita Gyawali λ
Abby Layne Hager
Gretchen M. Hauser
Maureen Higgins †
Joshua Katz
Samantha Kaup λ
Michelle Jean Kuehn λ
Kaitlyn M. Lemmer
Chelsea Loveless
Kelsie Isabelle Martinez
Samantha Sharon Anne McFarland
Kendra Nordahl
Markie Novotny
Jolene Phelps
Sarah Elizabeth Somers
Kyoko Sterns
Johnna Diane Tunnyhill λ
Kimberly Nicole VanMeeteren
Andrea Heather Wickersham
Brodi Kay Willard

Post-Graduate Certificate – Master of Science in Nursing Administration

Hannah Baldwin
Margaret A. Baumann †
Jennifer Clark
Carlee Humm
Kayla Kristine Marfisi

Doctor of Healthcare Education & Leadership

Mark Ambler
Joey Scott Battles
Karen Elaine Clark λ

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Deanna Margaret Kaup †

SUMMER 2021

Clarkson College Graduates

Certificate in Medical 3D Printing Specialist

Jacob M. Chastain
Cheryl M. Throener

Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics

Stacy Allison Gonzalez
Emily Lawrence
Hannah Reece

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Mikayla Jayne Bordelon****
Kelsey Kimes Boyer***
Katelyn Carlson***
Seth Thomas Curran****
Ashley Allison Dail****
Jenna Marie Elwood*
Molly Michelle Gubbels
Sydney R. Kelberlau
Brody C. McLean*
Britnie Angelic Price
Luis Fernando Ramirez
Emma Nicole Smith*
Stephen Spanel****
Adam Vogel
Emily Lois Wills

Associate of Science in Radiography

Megan Rose Anderson Alexandria
Anding λ**
Emily Lynn Bart λ****
Lexi Nicole Burnison
Yabah Djinadji λ****
Dana Fahrenholz λ***
Morgan Hoekstra***
McKenna Vay Jedlicka
Mirela Kulovac λ****
Heidi Ann Lierz λ****
Mykah Kiarra Love λ*
Cordele Matthews λ
Haley Menke
Taylan Marie Myers**
James M. Neill IV λ****
Cierra Rae Salisbury λ
Vanessa Esmeralda Sandoval
Lopez λ****

Rhea Anne Vitalis**
Megan Elizabeth Williamsen
Cana Alexis Wood

Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Maria Furrufino
Justin Peacock****
Brooke Alexis Tridle*

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Business

Nathan Scott Isbell****
Amy Nuckoles****
Samantha Pitnick λ
Samantha Zirinig*

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Alexandria Anding λ**
Allie Wilkins

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Alexis Rebecca Baker
Jayme Baker
Natalie Marie Becher
Kalie Megan Beckmann
Lauren Mackenzie Braun
Tasha Bredvick
Molly Ann Byers**
Lindsey Teal Cain****
Montserrat Cardenas Gonzalez
Molly Marie Coghil † λ**
Lily Marie Collen
Derek Adam Collins λ
Jessica Croghan****
Amber Dworshak †****
Brianna Leigh Earley
Lauren Mackenzie Gilbert † λ*
Sydney Goltl
Alexis Gonzalez
Leslie Gonzalez-Munoz
Sally J. Guest***
Chaley Dale Hamilton
Michelle M. Henrich****
Cameo Herrada
Danielle Grace Kirkendall λ
Grace Elizabeth Lay
Breanna Elizabeth Legleiter † λ*

Nadin Lolas λ**
Rebekah Lyndsey Martin
Alexis Rachelle McCormick****
Jessica Miller λ
Makenna Mull
Alyssa Ann Mumm****
Rikki Negrete
Kathryn Marie Rasmussen
Amanda Leigh Reinders****
Treasure D. Robb λ
Alexandra Rolfes
Brooklyn Romine λ***
Brenda Marlene Sanchez λ*
Roslyn Margarite Saunsoci † λ
John Benjamin Schollars λ*
Jeffrey Shank
Ami Surav Sharma****
Jordan Siegel****
Brooke Smith
Grace Lee Standford †*
Hayden Sterling λ
Megan Marie Tripp*
Megan R. Valla
Jaclyn Gail Walker****
Rachel Whitlock

Master in Healthcare Administration

Aviva Masler
Rebecca Jean McMahon
Tracie Kay Settlemire

SUMMER 2021

Clarkson College Graduates cont.

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

Master of Science in Nursing

Kelsi Bennett Σ
Madison Blankenship
Michaela Borchardt
Cami Brannen Σ
Veriti Ann Brayton
Jessica Bortolotti Burke
Bianca Nicole Caswell
Kristina D. Cockerill
Megan Collins
Melissa Ann Cowan
Eric Dean Curtis
Lauren Michelle Devere
Amanda Louise Fellbaum
Sara A. Fish †
Theresa Jean Hallengren
Mary Racheal Hannah Havens
Jessica Henry
Rebecca M. Hynes Σ
Cassandra Kaczmarek †
Kelsey Kidd
Amber Marie Krause
Stephanie LaMar
Macy Laux
Ji Li
Kylee Lienemann
Kayla Rae Mace
Mary T. Mansheim
Alexandra Mareck
Martha Mitiku
Ashley Ann Moreno
Elizabeth Joy Morris †
Meredith Anne Mulholland
Kelly Elaine Okerlund
Mary MaKenna Pedersen
Jason Lee Peterson
Jamie Reiter
Leslie Estelle Robbins † Σ
Stephanie Roberts †
Abby Lynn Rockford
Kimberly Ann Schou
Tim R. Schuijt
Joshua David Settlemire Σ
Mary Elizabeth Shearer †
Sara Luverne Spartz Σ
Alexis Ann Stallbaumer Σ
Elizabeth Barbara Voigt
Caitlin Smith Walter
Chelsea Wickard
Michelle Winegar
Emily Anne Wittrock Σ
Emma Wright

Post-Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration

Veronica Cardenas
Andrea Marie Verplaetse

Post-Graduate Certificate – Master of Science in Nursing

Megan Leigh Gernstein
Kari Isaak-Weigman
John B. Thornton
Kiasha Williams

Doctor in Healthcare Education & Leadership

Soyini Abena Bailey
Janine Johnson
Sherri Lynn Porter † Σ

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Veronica Cardenas
Angelina Marie Giles
Emily Christine Lind
Ivy Orellana
Abigail Marie Sheets Σ
Janelle M. Wood Σ

Dissertations

Doctor of Nursing Practice

VERONICA CARDENAS

Clinical Pathway for Patients Over the Age of 65 with Type 2 Diabetes Hyperglycemia Living in Long Term Care and Skilled Facilities

ANGELINA GILES

Educating Pregnant Women on Marijuana Use

DEANNA MARGARET KAUP

Neurotherapy: Reduction of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) Effects

EMILY LIND

Evaluating Mental Health Outpatient Referrals for High-Risk, Hospitalized Individuals: A Quality Improvement Project

IVY ORELLANA Summer 2021

Decreasing Mental Health Stigma and Improving Registered Nurses Willingness to Access Mental Health Services: A Quality Improvement Project

ABIGAIL SHEETS

Educational Program for Sensitive Subjects: A.C.E.S.

JANELLE WOOD

The Impact of Documentation Audits and Formal Education on Advanced Practice Providers' Note Quality in the Inpatient Setting

Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership

MARK AMBLER

The Effect of Attitudinal Dynamics of Inpatient Nurses on the Use of a Mobile Electronic Health Record

SOYINI ABENA BAILEY

Pre- and Post-Licensure Nursing Students' Educational Preparation to Care for Immigrants During Clinical Placements or Practica

JOEY SCOTT BATTLES

Predicting Performance on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Certification & Registration Examination

KAREN ELAINE CLARK

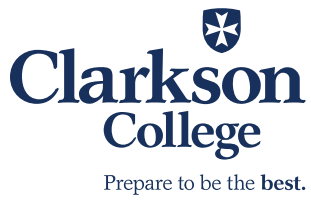
The Role of the Implementation of a Rehabilitation Protocol for Patients with Sepsis in Hospital Length of Stay and Functional Status at Discharge

JANINE JOHNSON

Organizational Factors as Barriers to Racially and Ethnically Diverse Nursing Students

SHERRI LYNN PORTER

The Lived Experiences of Family Caregivers in Higher Education



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