

Fall  
2022 Issue

# Alumni Times

Celebrating alumni



Celebrating  
Our Legacy

## Greetings,

**BISHOP CLARKSON AND HIS** wife, Meliora knew the importance of innovation and excellence when they opened Clarkson Memorial Hospital and accepted its first nursing student in 1888. Clarkson College has never lost that innovative spirit over the many years since its opening. As a three-time graduate of Clarkson College and now an instructor within the Radiography and Medical Imaging program, I have been immersed in the innovation and new technologies around the College campus for several years.

One of many reasons I chose to attend the Clarkson College Radiography and Medical Imaging program was because of their lab spaces featuring technology that allowed me to feel prepared when going out to my first clinical rotation. Fast forward to my time spent at

---

**"One of my favorite spaces is the operating room, which is odd to admit, considering how fearful I was of the operating room as a student years ago."**

---

Clarkson College as an instructor. Within the Radiography program, we still maintain two updated lab spaces for our students to practice procedures. Two new spaces, the new Interactive Learning Center and Interprofessional Learning Center, allow our students a more interactive and meaningful learning experience.

The Interactive Learning Center houses items that I utilize heavily in the Radiography Procedures courses and Cross-Sectional Anatomy courses taught on campus. The Anatomage Tables have many capabilities that allow students to view four different real human cadavers that have been dissected and placed in electronic files on the table. I have been utilizing the Multitaction Wall to further my students' understanding of key anatomy with interactive 3D models that they have the capability to rotate and visualize from numerous directions. Both technologies have the capabilities for students to interact with them remotely, so our online courses may utilize them as well.

The Interprofessional Learning Center is an entire floor that has simulation and practice spaces including an operating room, medical/surgical inpatient room, maternal/fetal child room, other inpatient bays, and clinic exam rooms. One of my favorite spaces is the operating room, which is odd to admit, considering how fearful I was of the operating room as a student years ago. I know if this space would have been available while I was a student at Clarkson College, my fear



of the operating room would have been diminished drastically. Having the opportunity to engage in a learning environment that is so close to what a student experiences out in the clinical field has proven to be so beneficial to our students.

The Interactive and Interprofessional Learning Centers demonstrate that the innovative spirits of Bishop Clarkson and Meliora have continued. Health care systems and patients across the United States will continue to reap the benefits of these innovations as more and more individuals become prepared alumni, like yourselves, of Clarkson College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra Swanson". The script is fluid and cursive.

Kendra Swanson, MHA, RT(R)(MR)  
(CT)(ARRT)

Alumni Association President

---

---





2 From the Alumni President

**Alumni News**

4 Alumni Come Together at the Ball Park

5 Class Notes  
Connect with Us

6 Pharmacy and Community Health: Combining Her Passions

7 Alumnus Finds His Calling as a Trusted Advocate for Sexual Assault Victims

9 Distance Learning Makes Pursuing a Medical Imaging Degree Possible

10 Submit Your Nomination for the 2023 Alumni Board

11 Mark Your Calendar  
With Gratitude

13 Dr. Orduña Scholarship

Making Your Contribution

**Features**

14 Celebrating Spirit Week

End of Year Numbers

**Awards & Recognition**

20 Community Members Earn Awards for Service

**Campus News**

22 3D Printing and Training Center Offers Medical 3D Print Services to Community

24 New Technology Made Possible by Generous Donation

26 Bringing Behavioral Health Care to Nebraska

27 Two New Scholarships Offer Opportunities for Students

29 College Signs Articulation Agreement with MCC

30 Summer 2022 Graduates

SENIOR WRITER: Marie Dahlberg  
PUBLICATION EDITORS: Megan O’Leary  
DESIGNER: Sarah Vanderloo

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**

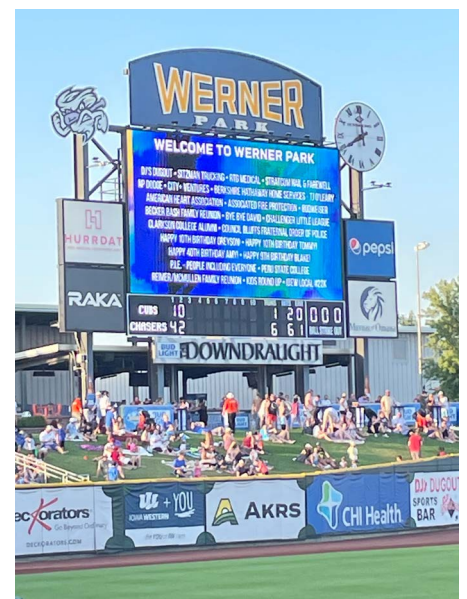
Members of the class of 1972 gather to reminisce during Alumni Weekend 2022.

# Alumni Come Together at the Ball Park



**THE CLARKSON COLLEGE** Alumni Association hosted an outing at the Omaha Storm Chasers game on Friday, July 22, at Werner Park. More than 25 alumni, along with their families and friends as well as College community members joined the event.

The evening kicked off with a pregame tailgate, sponsored by the Clarkson College Alumni Association, including dinner and yard games. The tailgate was followed by the Omaha Storm Chasers game against the Iowa Cubs.



Alumni Association members and their families gather at Werner Park in Omaha, Neb.



## ▶ Support A Student Through Your Donation

Right now when you purchase a Clarkson College luggage tag from the Alumni Association, an extra tag will be donated to a new College graduate.

All proceeds go to the Clarkson College Alumni Association. Purchase your's at [ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni-Luggage-Tag](https://ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni-Luggage-Tag).

## ▶ Class Notes

**Jordan Pieper** ('22) and **Ashlyn Pudenz** ('17, '20) became engaged to be married in August. Both Pieper and Pudenz are graduates of the Master in Healthcare Administration program option, and Pudenz is also a graduate of the Radiography and Medical Imaging program.

**Michele Heston** ('02), Master of Science in Nursing graduate, was named to the Florida Center for Nursing Board of Directors.

**Nesha Jones** ('14), Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate, was named a 2022 Global Leadership Africa Summit awardee.

---

## 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.



# Pharmacy and Community Health: Combining Her Passions



**ALYSON DIAMOND** ('20) found a way to combine her passion for pharmaceutical and community health care, and the Clarkson College Bachelor of Science in Community Health degree option helped her get there.

"I have always been a pharmacy technician," she says. "But with the role I am in today, the education I received through Clarkson College has given me the opportunity to make an impact in the community."

Diamond currently works at Nebraska Medicine as a Community Based Pharmacy Operations Manager. One of her primary roles is to help expand pharmacy services to patients with medication access barriers. Both her background as a pharmacy technician and her experiences in the Community Health program allow her to achieve this task.

Diamond had the opportunity to work with organizations such as United Way of the Midlands, Red

---

**"The education I received through Clarkson College has given me the opportunity to make an impact in the community."**

---

Cross, Munroe-Meyer Institute and Hope Lodge during her fieldwork and service requirements for the program. These experiences reinforced her dedication to serving others, and she draws on them in her current role.

"The experiences solidified my passion for helping others," she says. "If I can make it possible for someone to receive a lifesaving medication that they would otherwise not have access to, it is motivation to keep going and promotes innovation and courage within myself to continue to expand services that benefit the community."

Because the Community Health program curriculum covers topics such as health policy and patient advocacy, environmental and cultural influences on health care, and legal and ethical implications, it can help individuals succeed in a variety of fields. For Diamond, it opened the door to making changes within her community and serving patients.

"As a health care professional, understanding the different aspects of community health has allowed me to spread my knowledge and understanding of the needs in our community to others through every personal and professional interaction," she says.

## ▶ Alumnus Finds His Calling as a Trusted Advocate for Sexual Assault Victims

### WHEN A VICTIM OF SEXUAL

assault arrives at a Nebraska Medicine hospital, having a trusted, trained advocate waiting for them can make a world of difference.

Nebraska Medicine now has more nurses trained to care for these victims, with plans to add even more. Kalen Knight ('16) became the first nurse supervisor dedicated to the SANE (Sexual Assault Nurses Examiner) program in April.

"We historically have employed 11 SANE nurses, we currently have 18 with the goal of getting to 30," Knight says.

SANE nurses are trained in forensics. Their training teaches them how to care for victims of sexual assault, walk them through their options and collect evidence, if the victim consents.

"SANE nurses are taught on how to collect evidence, take photographs and how to conduct an interview using a trauma-informed approach," says Knight.

This technique is incredibly important as this information must be performed in a standardized way in order to be allowed into court evidence, if a victim decides to do that. A key part of that involves collecting the evidence within five days of the assault, and maintaining



chain of custody, according to Knight. The nurses are also experts in mandatory reporting laws, and can explain to the victim their four options in Nebraska:

- › Provide a full report with law enforcement and identify as a victim
- › Provide a partial report, which involves identifying as a victim but not involving law enforcement
- › Provide an anonymous report, where a SANE nurse collects evidence, but law enforcement is not involved. A victim has 20 years to decide if they want to press charges
- › Request medical treatment only, where the victim is treated for any injuries and potential sexually transmitted infections

Above: Kalen Knight (center) and his team of SANE nurses.



INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FORENSIC NURSES  
2022

▶ **2,135: number  
of certified  
SANE nurses  
in the U.S.**

“We are the bridge between health care and the legal system,” explains Knight.

This past year, the increased staffing of SANE nurses allowed Nebraska Medicine to offer this expert care at Bellevue Medical Center and through telehealth to Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings, Nebraska, in April and Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk, Nebraska, late last year. Using telehealth, a SANE nurse will consult with the patient’s primary nurse and also speak to the patient through a video monitor to conduct an interview and explain reporting options.

“If a patient consents, we will talk to the nurse through evidence collection,” he says.

By this fall, Knight expects to offer 24/7 SANE nurse coverage. The program also plans to respond to victims of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, human trafficking and elder abuse once staffing reaches 30 nurses.

---

**“It’s vital we have 24-hour SANE coverage because when our sexual assault patients present to the Emergency Department, they are in absolute crisis”**

CYNTHIA HERNANDEZ, MD EMERGENCY  
MEDICINE AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF  
SANE

---

“Sexual assault victims are in a very sensitive state after experiencing a trauma like this,” says Knight. “Our SANE nurses work with them one-on-one to give them their autonomy back after their right to choose was taken from them. We want to do

everything we can to care for them, but to also ensure the best outcome in case they decide to pursue legal options.”

“It’s vital we have 24-hour SANE coverage because when our sexual assault patients present to the Emergency Department, they are in absolute crisis,” says Cynthia Hernandez, MD, Emergency Medicine and medical director of SANE. “The last thing they should worry about is receiving anything less than extraordinary and compassionate medical care. Our SANEs are highly educated and able to provide emotional support to this unique set of patients. They are trained to collect forensic evidence, which is instrumental in the prosecution of violent sexual crimes in our community. I am incredibly proud of our team and the work they do each and every day.”

*This article was reposted with permission from the Nebraska Medicine Communications team.*



## Distance Learning Makes Pursuing a Medical Imaging Degree Possible



**DISTANCE LEARNING** is becoming more and more accessible at higher education institutions, but Clarkson College has been a leader in the arena for decades. Leigh Cooper, BSMI, RT(R)(VI)(ARRT) ('21), recently completed her Bachelor's degree in Medical Imaging as well as Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics, both from the comfort of her home in Alabama.

As a mother and full-time working professional, Cooper needed a program that offered flexibility and supportive faculty. When she began searching for programs to meet her needs, Clarkson College seemed like the right fit. "I wanted a tough school that was willing to push me to become a better radiology technologist and help me keep my integrity toward myself and others," she says. "I received that and so much more at Clarkson College."

Before she enrolled in her programs, Cooper participated in the self-paced courses the College offers to help technologists achieve their American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certifications. In July 2021, Cooper received her licensure in Vascular Intervention. Both her certification as well as her degree and certificate are vital for her professional role as a radiologic technologist at a sports medicine clinic in Alabama.

Cooper often sees as many as 50 patients a day through her work as she assists doctors and physician assistants with their imaging needs. According to her, the key components of being a health care worker are patience, kindness and a servant's heart—all three of which were reflected in her studies at Clarkson College and guide her in her day-to-day role.

"Having worked in a few different parts of the radiology and medical imaging fields, I can honestly say the most rewarding thing is being able to help patients," she says. "Whether I am helping take their socks and shoes off, holding their hand and comforting them when in pain, or laughing with them, I'm helping them in some aspect."

Having completed her Bachelor's degree, Cooper hopes to continue on to earn her Master's degree and get one step closer to her goal of teaching. When the time comes, she'll be looking to Clarkson College to continue her education. "From the moment I communicated with someone at the College, to the professors, and everyone in between, I felt like they cared every bit about my success," she says.

"I may not have ever stepped foot on that campus in Omaha, but I sure felt like I was part of the school."

## Vote for the 2023 Alumni Association Board

**THIS NOVEMBER, THE ALUMNI** Association will open voting for the 2023 Clarkson College Alumni Association Board of Directors. All alumni of Clarkson College and Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing are eligible to vote to elect the new board members, who will begin their service on January 1, 2023.

Members will vote on the four officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and

Treasurer, as well as the five Director positions. Voting will be open until November 30, and the new board members will be announced in December.

Check your email for information on how to vote. If you have any questions, please email [alumni@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:alumni@clarksoncollege.edu).



## Mark Your Calendar

### Alumni Bowling Event

JANUARY 28, 2023

Register to attend at [ClarksonCollege.edu/Alumni/Getting-Involved/Attend-Upcoming-Events](https://clarksoncollege.edu/Alumni/Getting-Involved/Attend-Upcoming-Events). If you have questions, contact the Alumni and Advancement Coordinator at [alumni@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:alumni@clarksoncollege.edu).

## With Gratitude



**WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION TO EACH** of our donors who contributed 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 M. Abboud ('05, '12)

JoAnn M. Acierno ('07)

Daniel Aksamit

Rebecca L. Allen

Alexandria Anding ('21)

Siti Arshad-Snyder

Makayla R. Aspegren

Laurel A. Bachle

Jeanne M. Badura ('99)

Thomas Bamford

Shaylene Baumgartner

Jeniffer A. Beahm

Beverly M. Bethart ('88)

Valeta R. Biggs ('54)

Bishop & Trustees of the Diocese of Nebraska

Steven B. Black, MD

Joan M. Blum ('81, '86, '98)

Patricia M. Brennan

Gloria J. Brown ('72)

James D. Browning

James T. Canedy

Catherine M. Cappellano

Nicole E. Caskey

Mardell M. Chesnut ('55)

Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation

Marie Dahlberg

Tricia DeBoer

Lisa DeLair

Carla K. Dirkschneider ('07)

Mary L. Dishman ('86, '89)

Hope Dogbevia

Paula E. Dowding ('11)

Stephanie M. Drees ('15)

Kelly J. Eaton ('06)

Sharon Eden

Venita A. Edie ('92)

Michael Ehrecke

Natalie Eilers

Catherine Enenbach

Laura Enenbach

Stacie J. Ethington ('15)

Laura E. Fellman ('75)

Dawn Fichter ('96)

Sarah Flanagan

Sandra E. Freeberg ('63)

Susan C. Flurry ('85)

Jodi Flynn

Katherine Fuller

Katie K. Fulton ('04)

Ann Glow

George Greene

Patricia D. Gress ('67)



Terry K. Hack  
 Susan Hall  
 Jamie Halverson  
 Janet K. Hansen ('92)  
 Anne Heimann  
 Melinda L. Hightower ('72)  
 Layna J. Himmelberg ('05)  
 Susan C. Hinrichs ('94)  
 Stephanie Hopp  
 Beckie E. Humanik  
 Mary Jo Jelinek ('09)  
 Jenette Smith Living Trust  
 Dianne E. Johnson ('64)  
 Lindsey Johnson  
 Candie Jones ('20)  
 Pam Jones  
 Tasha S. Jones ('15)  
 Gretchen Jopp  
 Erin M. Jordan ('13)  
 Mary K. Jordan ('74)  
 Jeanette L. Kassmeier ('72, '86)  
 Anna Kellogg  
 Maureen R. Kelpel ('72, '83)  
 Joan D. Killinger ('64)  
 Marilyn J. Kirchhoff ('72)  
 Katherine Kirkpatrick  
 Samantha K. Kizzire ('20)  
 Debra A. Kozeny ('77, '94)  
 Rachel A. Kunkle ('07, '15)  
 Michele K. Lambert ('91)  
 Ann F. Lamberty ('63)  
 Chris Landon  
 Megan Lane  
 Margot E. Langer ('83)  
 Ruth A. Larkins ('84)  
 Pauline Laughlin  
 Annette J. LeRoy ('91)  
 Patricia M. Lett ('88)  
 Susan Leutzinger ('89, '09)  
 Jane A. Levander-Schulte ('80)



## JOIN CHOOSE TO GIVE

Each year in November, the Clarkson College community participates in our Choose to Give campaign where we invite our employees, alumni and partners to contribute to Clarkson College. This year's campaign will raise money for the Dr. Aubray Orduña Graduate Nursing Scholarship and the student emergency fund. When you join us, your contribution supports the institution's devotion to compassion and caring for others.

If you are interested in contributing, visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/Donate](http://ClarksonCollege.edu/Donate) or mail directly to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 S 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68131.

Jade Liles	Connie S. Ogden ('09)
James R. Linder, MD	Emily J. Oster ('15)
Jerilyn List	Denny Owens
Margaret Lorimor	Gary Pack
Neil Lulla	Jacqueline K. Parmenter ('93, '09)
Sharon J. Mantz	Jina Paul
Chuck MacDonell	Kyle Peacock
Amy L. Masek	Rachel Pfeifer
Jennifer Mayotte	Sherri L. Porter ('93, '09, '21)
Carol J. McCall ('68)	Matthew E. Pospisil ('06)
Cynthia McCullough ('81, '93)	Devika Ramachandran
Kassie R. McKenny ('07)	Carla Paula V. Ramirez ('13)
Nancy McMahan	Brenda Randall-Jensen
Millard Foundation	Robert Herman Storz Foundation
Neka Miller	Kim E. Roberts ('84)
Shirley J. Mondero ('95)	Adrienne Rochleau
William Montgomery	Liz Rogan
Andreia Nebel	Renee M. Ruhkamp ('09)
Jessica M. Niemann ('99, '16)	Suzanne L. Salminen ('63)
Megan O'Leary	Karen M. Sander ('66)
Cheryl L. Olomon ('71)	Levi Scheppers
Emily O'Neill	Ivan I. Schlichting ('78)

William Schroeder  
Paula Schultz  
Ryan P. Schurman  
Ann C. Seckman ('97)  
Nicole Shives  
Luke Sieburg  
Nancy L. Siedschlag ('75)  
Ruth A. Siefert ('66)  
Julie Sigmon  
Jenette L. Smith ('20)  
Susanne Soppe  
Pamela S. Stanosheck ('95, '08)  
Kendra L. Swanson ('17, '20)  
Danna Swartz  
Nancy M. Thiele ('72)  
Joan E. Thorson ('51)  
Regina Toman  
Laura Tworek  
Rita A. VanFleet ('67, '94, '06)  
Rebecca Van Gundy  
Ricardo Varguez  
Jill K. Vawter ('15)  
Kristen Villarreal  
Natalie J. Vrbka  
Vanessa L. Wagner ('92)  
Mary J. Wallahan ('55)  
Jerry Warner  
Debra J. Warren ('05, '12, '17)  
Patricia R. Weber ('95, '08, '11)  
Shelli J. Weddum ('05, '11)  
Marcia A. Weeks ('65)  
Megan Wickless-Mulder  
Jennifer Wilson  
Jason Zabloudil ('20)  
Ken Zeiger  
Shawna R. Ziegler ('95, '22)  
Sara A. Zimbelman ('72)  
40&8 Voiture Locale 206

*All attempts have been made to correctly acknowledge contributed donations. If any errors have occurred, please contact alumni@clarksoncollege.edu.*



▶ **DR. AUBRAY ORDUÑA  
GRADUATE NURSING  
SCHOLARSHIP**

For over 40 years, Dr. Aubray Orduña has served our community as a leader in nursing and education. Both at Clarkson Hospital and at Clarkson College, she inspired health care professionals to be the best caregivers and providers they can be. The new Dr. Aubray Orduña Graduate Nursing Scholarship will provide funding support to students enrolled in the Clarkson College Graduate Nursing program.

A gift of any size helps provide opportunities for graduate nursing students and has a lasting impact on our institution. If you are interested in contributing, visit [ClarksonCollege.edu/Donate](https://ClarksonCollege.edu/Donate).

# Celebrating SPIRIT WEEK



Above: (left to right) Marilyn Vierregger Kirchhoff ('72), Nancy Thiele ('72) and Gloria Huckle Brown ('72) enjoy dinner during Alumni Weekend.

**E**ACH YEAR DURING SPIRIT Week, Clarkson College community members gather to celebrate the history of the institution and our commitment to our Mission and Values. This year's event took place Sept. 26–30 with service opportunities, wellness events, alumni gatherings and educational opportunities.

## MONDAY: INTEGRITY

Spirit Week began Sept. 26 with free coffee for employees and students. Later that day, lunch was served in the Courtyard and Student Center where College-themed banners created by students, faculty and staff members were displayed. Departments and organizations on campus created the banners to celebrate the history of the College, and community members voted on the best submissions, with the winning artists earning gift card prizes provided by the Clarkson College Alumni Association.

On Monday, the College hosted the Legacy Series featuring a panel of alumni speakers. Nicole Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R)(M)(CIIP) ('95, '97), Trish Weber, MHA, R.T.(R)(CT) ('95, '08, '11), and Jeanette Kassmeier, BSN, RN ('72, '86) spoke about the lasting impact of the College and one of its most influential leaders, Dr. Patricia Book Perry, who was a graduate of the class of 1945 and served as the institution's first president.

Monday also kicked off a campus-wide donation drive to benefit Magdalene Omaha. The





organization works with survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, trauma and addiction in the region. College community members gathered essential items to help the survivors in their journey to recovery.

### TUESDAY: CARING

The College community celebrated the Value of Caring on Tuesday. During two campus pick-up events, members of the community walked around campus and the surrounding Blackstone neighborhood to pick up trash and help create a cleaner, healthier environment. Following the clean-ups, the Spirit Week committee hosted an ice cream sundae bar for students and employees on campus.

### WEDNESDAY: EXCELLENCE

On Wednesday, the College hosted two wellness walks as well as an on-campus Wellness

Fair for community members. The Nebraska Medicine Guild, a nonprofit that supports the education and outreach efforts of Nebraska Medicine and the College, helped sponsor the event.

Attendees had the opportunity to gather information and resources related to physical, mental, financial and spiritual health. Undergraduate Nursing students provided blood pressure checks, while Physical Therapist Assistant students and faculty led chair yoga and other physical exercises. Other booths featured information on budgeting, diversity, and community resources including representatives from the Omaha fire and police departments.

1. Michael Ehrecke (right) discusses resources for diversity and inclusion with students during the Wellness Fair.
2. Omaha Street Percussion performs on campus.
3. Community members attend an open house event to learn about the 3D Printing and Training Center.



Following the Wellness Fair, an open house event featuring the 3D Printing and Technology Center as well as the Interactive Learning Center was held on campus. Students, staff members and community members toured the new spaces on campus and had the opportunity to see advanced technology that the College is utilizing to help better prepare students for their roles in health care.

**THURSDAY: COMMITMENT**

Alumni Weekend kicked off Sept. 29 with a brunch for all alumni in Howard Hall. All Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing and Clarkson College alumni were invited to attend, and this year's event honored the anniversary classes of 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992 and 1997. Following brunch, alumni took

a tour of the College campus along with student ambassadors.

During the Heritage Garden Walk, the College community learned about the history of the institution, and bricks and plaques were dedicated in honor of community members. The Undergraduate Nursing faculty dedicated a brick in honor of Marsha Cravens, former Director of Undergraduate Nursing. A boulder and plaque honoring Jodi Neff Schultz, an alumna and former faculty member who passed away,





5



6

# CARRIING

was dedicated by her family and friends, as well as Radiography and Medical Imaging faculty members.

The College community crowned Isaac Egenberger and Samantha Avalos as Mr. and Ms. Clarkson during the Heritage Garden Walk. Egenberger is enrolled in the Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) option, and Avalos is enrolled in the Associate of Science in Radiography option. Other nominees for Mr. and Ms. Clarkson were Jayden Pixler, Haydn Jones, Hannah Subbert and Bailey DiNucci.

## FRIDAY: LEARNING

The Alumni Association hosted a continuing education event on Sept. 30 titled "Who is Taking Care of You? Strategies for Health Care and Community Professionals' Well-Being." The event explored the stressors and impact on the current state of health care and community professional's wellbeing, and presented practical self-care strategies as well as practice strategies for self-care.

1. Alumni, family and friends gather for dinner and cocktails.
2. Boulder placed in the Heritage Garden in honor of alumna and former faculty member Jodi Neff Schultz.
3. Alumnae share photos and mementos of their time as students during Alumni Brunch.
4. Current student Bailey DiNucci addresses alumni who attended the Alumni Brunch.
5. Staff enjoy ice cream sundaes.
6. Community members gather to hear from an alumni panel during the Legacy Series.

The event featured guest speakers Steven Wengel, MD, Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry and Assistant Vice Chancellor for UNMC Campus Wellness; Jenette L. Smith, Ed.D., DipALM, MS, instructor in the Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership program at Clarkson College; Miguel A. Perez, PhD, MCHES, Professor, Director and Master of Public Health Program at California State University, Fresno; and Rachel Mindrup, MFA, Assistant



## SPIRIT WEEK continued



Left: Kaylie Guinan (right), Distinguished Alumni Award recipient with Alumni Association President Kendra Swanson. Right: Norma-Lou Cook (left) receives the Distinguished Alumni Award from Kendra Swanson.

Professor and Richard L. Deming MD Endowed Chair in Medical Humanities at Creighton University.

On Friday evening, alumni and College faculty, staff members and students gathered at the Cottonwood Hotel in the Blackstone District for dinner and cocktails. The community celebrated 35 years of the College Board of Directors, 35 years since Dr. Patricia Book Perry was named the first president of the College, and 30 years of Clarkson College being located at the current location of 42nd and Dodge Streets.

Two alumnae were honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award during the event on Friday. Norma-Lou Cook, RN, graduated with her diploma in 1966 and spent her career serving others. She was the Health Promotions Coordinator for Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center for nearly 25 years where she was instrumental in organizing immunization clinics that served more than 6,000 patients

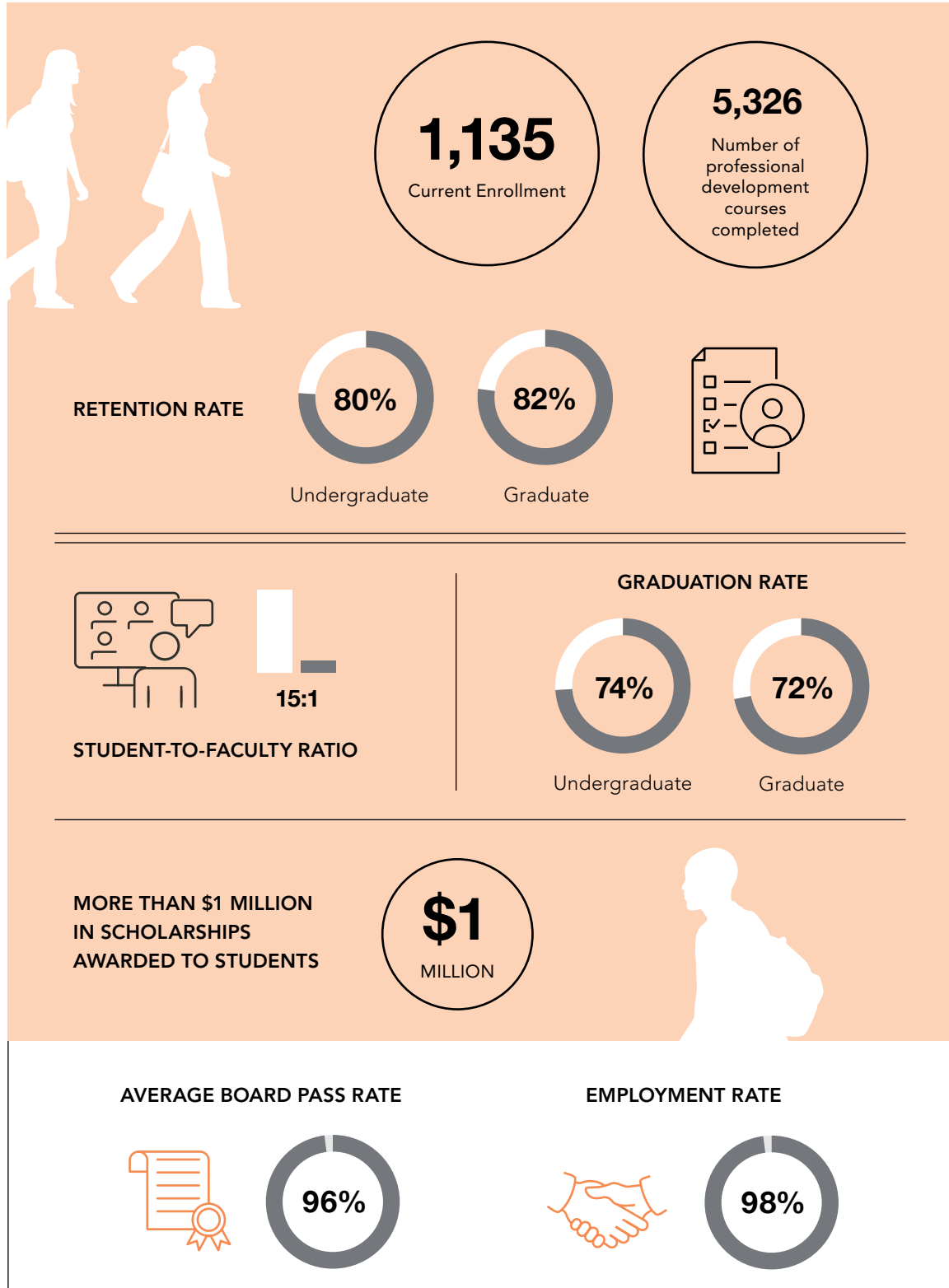
annually. "Norma-Lou has never stopped caring about the health of her neighbors, her children's friends, her fellow church members, her co-workers, and the residents of her town," according to her nomination form. "For Norma-Lou, a healthy community means a thriving community."

Kaylie Guinan, MSN, was also named a Distinguished Alumni Award Winner. Guinan earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing in 1996 and her Master's degree in Nursing in 2017. As the Nursing Professional Development Manager at Nebraska Medicine, she advocates for the advanced education of other nurses. "She exudes excellence in everything she does. She supports and mentors others as they pursue advanced education and also encourages them to pursue care of self, which is often missed by health care providers."

EXCELLENCE

# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

As we celebrate our institutional spirit, take a look at what our community's efforts have helped the institution achieve.



Source: Key Statistics 2022 Report



Jen Wilson, M.A. (left) and Nicole Shives, M.S., M.S.

## Community Members Earn Awards for Service

**Nicole Shives, M.S., M.S., Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award**

Nicole Shives, M.S., 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 has also received the Employee Scholar Award and the Faculty Senate Excellence in Teaching Award during her time at the College. She is enrolled in the Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) program at the College.



In her nomination form, Shives was described as “someone who provides generous support, is professional, a mentor, motivated, and an expert in her field.” She is proud to be a recipient, especially in recognition of Dr. Patricia Book Perry, the award’s namesake and first president of the College.

“Clarkson College is a special place because of the vision of Dr. Patricia Book Perry,” says Shives. “She set the expectations for how faculty should prepare students for their careers in health care. I am honored to win an award that bears her name.”



**Jen Wilson, M.A., Dr. Otto Bauer  
Distinguished Service Award**

Jen Wilson, M.A., came to Clarkson College in 2016 as the Assistant Registrar and in 2019 became an Academic Advisor. In 2022, she became the Academic Support Administrator where she helps students connect with academic resources as they progress through their course of study. She also teaches in the General Education program at the College.

In her eight years at the College, Wilson has held multiple roles, but her dedication to students has remained the same. It is this dedication that led to her nomination by her peers.

“It’s such an honor and a little overwhelming to win this award,” she says. “I truly do love and appreciate our students, and I work hard every day to make sure they know that.”

---

**“I truly do love  
and appreciate  
our students, and  
I work hard every  
day to make sure  
they know that.”**

JEN WILSON

---

---

Above: Jen Wilson accepts the Dr. Otto Bauer Distinguished Service Award.

## ▶ 3D Printing and Training Center Offers Medical 3D Print Services to Community

**IN JULY, CLARKSON COLLEGE LAUNCHED THE** 3D Printing and Training Center, the first-of-its-kind facility in the area that uses cutting-edge technology to provide 3D print visualizations to health care professionals and community members.

The Center supports a commitment to excellence in learning by creating pathways to utilize 3D print and visualization as a language in health care. The facility offers multiple methods including the creation of 3D models using medical scans such as MRIs and CTs, as well as interactive virtual models that can be accessed via a personal link. Prints and reconstructions can be ordered by medical professionals or community members, and all scans are reviewed by a committee of certified radiologists.

The facility is led by Blair Kauzlarich, B.S., RT(R), CI, an imaging specialist with more than a decade of experience in the radiology field and former Advanced Imaging Specialist in the Advanced 3D Visualization Lab at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.



Left: Models created in the 3D Printing and Training Center at Clarkson College.

Above: The Stratasys J850 printer offers advanced printing options.

**“Our mission is to ensure that anyone, regardless of background or experience, can understand and visualize what’s happening to them and their loved ones in regard to their health”**

BLAIR KAUZLARICH



things every day, it's different when it's your child."

Utilizing her background in medical 3D printing and visualization, Kauzlarich, along with the radiologist she worked for at the time, were able to create an interactive virtual 3D model as well as a 3D print of the tumor and its location in the brain using her son's scans. This type of interface was crucial for helping her husband, Kyle, and their family understand exactly what was happening with Callum. "Looking at black and white images of an MRI may not be helpful to those who lack a medical background," she says. "These 3D images provided the knowledge and a language that our family could understand."

The scans were then provided to Callum's surgeon who successfully removed the tumor with no lasting side effects other than a scar. "There

was a new light in our son – his eyes and expressions were totally different," says Kyle. "He had always been a sleepy kid, and we didn't realize why. He's so happy now."

Producing more outcomes like Callum's is just one of the facility's goals. Kauzlarich and her team also aim to offer training opportunities to help health care professionals who are in the medical field and are interested in 3D printing and visualization. The Center offers individuals enrolled in the Certificate in Medical 3D Printing Specialist through Clarkson College the opportunity to utilize printing equipment and models throughout their course of study.

"Our mission is to ensure that anyone, regardless of background or experience, can understand and visualize what's happening to them and their loved ones in regard to their health," says Kauzlarich. "3D prints provide a tangible representation of everything from tumors to breaks in bones, making the language and understanding of health care more universal and providing individuals with a clear path forward."

Kauzlarich and her family have firsthand experience both with the uncertainty of a medical diagnosis and the benefits of 3D printing and visualization. In February 2022, Kauzlarich's 11-month-old son Callum was diagnosed with a choroid plexus papilloma, a rare brain tumor. Thankfully the tumor was benign, but it needed to be removed to relieve pressure in the brain causing hydrocephalus.

"A whirlwind of emotions come over you," she says. "Even being in the medical field and seeing these

Below: Callum Kauzlarich and his surgeon, who successfully removed a tumor from Callum's brain with the help of 3D printing.





## New Technology Made Possible by Generous Donation



Dr. Gary Pack (right) accepts a donation from Forty and Eight member Bob Hill.

**THANKS TO FORTY AND EIGHT, A LOCAL** organization dedicated to supporting military service members and future nurses, Clarkson College will be able to offer students more updated technology and equipment to help them prepare to provide the best in patient care.

James Miller and Bob Hill recently visited the College on behalf of Forty and Eight, an organization committed to charitable and patriotic aims with a purpose to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, to promote the well-being of veterans, their widows, widowers, and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurses training.

Miller, a long-time employee at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha before his retirement, recently received care from Jeffrey Downs, a current student enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program option at the College. Downs shared his experiences as a student at the institution, which prompted Miller to propose a donation to the school on behalf of Forty and Eight.

The donation will fund a patient cart and gurney as well as two Simulab Airwayman mannequins for the Interprofessional Learning Center, an ultrasound machine and trainer for the Nurse Anesthesia program, and partially fund a new and second Anatomage Table for the College.

“The donation from Forty and Eight makes it possible for our students to learn using the latest technology, which sets them apart in their field and allows them to provide patients with the best possible care,” said Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President. “We are incredibly grateful for their support of our Mission and willingness to help train the next generation of health care workers.”

Miller and Hill delivered the check to the College in May and had the opportunity to tour the institution and see how their donation would be used. During the tour, they viewed updated spaces including the



Dr. Ricardo Varguez (left) demonstrates the uses of the Anatomage Table for Bob Hill.

---

**"The donation from Forty and Eight makes it possible for our students to learn using the latest technology, which sets them apart in their field and allows them to provide patients with the best possible care."**

DR. GARY PACK

---

Interprofessional Learning Center and watched a demonstration from Dr. Ricardo Varguez, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, on the Anatomage Table, a fully segmented 3D anatomy system that students utilize to gain hands-on learning and experience.

Forty and Eight has a long history of supporting nurses. In previous years, the organization funded nursing scholarships and recently, they have supported local nursing schools by providing training equipment that prepares students to provide exceptional care to patients. Founded in 1920, the organization derives its name from the box cars used on French railways during World War I that were used to transport either 40 soldiers or eight horses during the war efforts.

---



# Bringing Behavioral Health Care to Nebraska

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the disparities in access to health care, particularly behavioral health, starkly evident. Nebraska has its own challenges providing the care its residents need due to the lack of qualified providers in the state. Some health care and education institutions, however, are working toward minimizing the gaps in behavioral health by encouraging students to explore the behavioral health field.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one in five Americans reports experiencing mental illness each year; that's 6.5 million people dealing with everything from schizophrenia to depression—and those are only the people who report their conditions. In Nebraska alone, more than 257,000 adults live with a mental health condition, and 22,000 children between the ages of 12 and 17 suffer from depression.

The numbers are staggering and unfortunately, there are not enough behavioral health providers to go around. The University of Nebraska Medical Center Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) reports that 88 counties in Nebraska have a shortage of mental health professionals, and 32 counties lack any type of behavioral health provider.

Mary Dishman, MSN, Director of Undergraduate Nursing at Clarkson College, is a current student studying to be a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. "The most challenging part about practicing in mental health is the lack of care, especially in our underserved populations and rural areas," she says. "Patients should not have to wait four to six weeks or even months to be seen by a practitioner."

She says that the rise of telehealth has improved access to care, but to help address the root of the problem, more health care providers must enter the behavioral health field. Many first-time nurses and health care professionals believe the only places offering opportunities for mental health services are state-run facilities. According to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, however, public health departments, addiction and treatment clinics, hospitals, correctional



facilities, private practices, and community organizations all have a need for qualified mental health practitioners.

Some organizations are trying to do something about the shortage. Clarkson College recently hosted a recruiting event for students enrolled in their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program option. The gathering focused on the Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner option the institution offers that allows students to earn their Master of Science in Nursing and become certified mental health nurse practitioners.

"We want students to know, even before they graduate, that there are numerous options within the behavioral health field for them," says Jen Wilson, Academic Support Administrator at Clarkson College.

Wilson helped organize the event, which featured students like Dishman who are currently enrolled in the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner option, as well as faculty who teach in the program and practice in the field. "Hearing from nurses who are practicing in the mental health field allows students to see firsthand the impact behavioral health providers can have on patients and communities," says Wilson.

"The most rewarding part of practicing in a mental health setting is getting to help patients not only feel better, but also to have hope," says Dishman. "I know that I will not help every patient who walks into my office, but even if I can help them with small changes, that is a win."



## ▶ Two New Scholarships Offer Opportunities for Students

### DR. JENETTE SMITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Jenette Smith, Ed.D., DipACLM, M.S. ('20), faculty member at Clarkson College and graduate of the Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) program option has found a way to give back to students—through a scholarship for those earning their doctoral degree.

“I am paying it forward, so to speak,” she says. “I am a first-generation college graduate, and words fall short in describing the extraordinary benefits I have received from my education.”

The Dr. Jenette Smith Endowed scholarship is available to students who exhibit solid past academic achievement and are enrolled in the Ed.D. option. The scholarship aims to assist students who are earning their terminal degrees.

A lifelong educator and student, Dr. Smith’s career in health care education includes serving in teaching and leadership positions in higher education, inclusive higher education, and nonprofit organizations serving individuals with disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, and the elderly. Dr. Smith has devoted over 30 years to serving as an educator, ally, and advocate for individuals with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers.

During her time as a student in the Ed.D. program, Dr. Smith saw firsthand how it is designed to help students achieve their goals and finish their degree on



schedule. “This is an applied research program, so throughout my doctoral program, I was able to directly apply my learning in tangible ways (research, writing, publishing, conference presentations) to benefit our community, state, nation and world,” she says.

“Earning a doctorate requires drive, perseverance, resilience, grit, and fortitude,” she says. “I wanted to establish financial support for students wanting to strive for growth and excellence in continuing their educational journey. It is my most fervent hope that this scholarship will provide some measure of support and encouragement to our students.”



### **JODI NEFF SCHULTZ RADIOGRAPHY & MEDICAL IMAGING SCHOLARSHIP**

The Jodi Neff Schultz scholarship honors the memory of Jodi (Neff) Schultz, an alumna and faculty member of Clarkson College and supports incoming students to the Radiography and Medical Imaging program.

Jodi attended Clarkson College from 2004–06, graduating with her Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology and her Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging. Throughout her time as a student, she demonstrated academic excellence and leadership as a Dean’s List recipient and graduate with honors. She was active in the Lambda Nu Honor Society, Radiologic Technologist Student Association (RTSA) and Clarkson College Alumni Association, and served as class president.

Upon graduation, Jodi became employed at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and served at

Clarkson College as a Radiography and Medical Imaging faculty member from 2006–09. As a faculty member, Jodi served as a RTSA Faculty Sponsor, Alumni Association Board of Directors member and student advisor.

Jodi was passionate about providing the highest quality patient care and going above and beyond for her coworkers and patients. In 2019, Jodi married the love of her life and best friend, Steve Schultz. They loved adventure and traveling whenever possible. She also loved Husker football, volleyball and her pup Zadie. Jodi lived a life of service to others through volunteer work at Job’s Daughters and March of Dimes and as a regular blood donor, among many others. She gave the final gift of life through organ donation so that others might live. Jodi’s family will honor her legacy by providing an annual scholarship to an individual selected by a committee of family and friends.

---

**Jodi was passionate about providing the highest quality patient care and going above and beyond for her coworkers and patients.**

---



**METROPOLITAN**  
Community College

# Clarkson College Signs Articulation Agreement with Metropolitan Community College

**Partnership allows students with an associate degree to transfer existing credit to Clarkson College to continue their education**

## Clarkson College and Metropolitan

Community College (MCC) recently signed an articulation agreement that allows MCC students earning an associate degree to transfer their existing credit to Clarkson College and enroll in one of the institution's health care program options.

"Both Metropolitan Community College and Clarkson College are committed to expanding educational opportunities for students," says Dr. Gary Pack, Interim President of Clarkson College. "This new relationship ensures a smooth transition for students who wish to enter the health care field and prepare to provide compassionate, high quality care."

Students who have received an associate degree at MCC 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. 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, including two new options in Community Health, Pre-Health Professional (Pre-Med, Pre-Dentistry, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Occupational Therapy and Pre-Pharmacy) as well as Psychology, at Clarkson College. The institution also offers additional certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree options in Nursing (BSN, RN to BSN and MSN), Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography and Medical Imaging, Community Health, Education and Leadership, Healthcare Business, and Health Information Management.



## Summer 2022 Graduates

### **Certificate in Medical Imaging Informatics**

Bridget Chatman  
Dana Marie Fahrenholz λ Σ  
Carrie Garland  
Morgan Hoekstra

### **Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant**

Matthew Aaron Gleason\*\*  
Melanie Renae Jones Σ  
Marissa Mindrup\*\*\*\*  
Linsey Sanchez\*\*\*  
Meena Sanjay  
Kelli Jo Taylor

### **Associate of Science in Radiography**

Cali A. Dawe\*\*\*  
Brynnan Darleen Duba\*  
Claire Dorothy Flathers\*\*\*\*  
Sylvia Rae Gardien  
Cheryl Ann Hallcock  
Joseph Langdon  
Holly Lindsey Mesecher\*\*\*  
Samantha Michelle Nevriy\*\*\*\*  
Olivia Rose O'Donnell\*\*\*\*  
Christine Victoria Olvera\*\*\*\*  
Alondra Daniela Ortiz-Morales  
Paige Marie Osweiler  
Lauren Elizabeth Perry  
Taylor Pfeifer\*\* Σ  
Claudia Ramos  
Emily Recher  
Baylie Jean Shearer  
Tori Lynn Sievers\*  
Kristie Lynn Steinmetz\*\*\*\*  
Trevor Scott Storm  
Felicia Marie Taylor\*\*\*  
Kelsey Waggoner  
Sydney M. Warren

### **Bachelor of Science in Community Health**

Sydney Jensen

### **Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Business**

Katelyn Ann Carlson\*\*  
Carlie Elizabeth Chivers  
Michelle Espino  
Julia Lynne Thompson\*\*\*

### **Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging**

Bridget Chatman  
Cali A. Dawe\*\*\*  
Canaan Leigh Dreiling λ Σ  
Sylvia Rae Gardien  
Morgan Hoekstra  
McKenna Vay Jedlicka  
Sydney Miller  
Alondra Daniela Ortiz-Morales  
April P. Stimis

### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Ashley Alley  
Amber Bock  
Alexa Madison Brenn Σ  
Kirsten Dawn Bruce\*  
Mashaya Sierra Dierking  
Halie N. Else\*  
Colin Fuller  
Sarah Elizabeth Gjerdrum  
Jean Hammack\*\*\*\*  
Serena Elizabeth Louise Hert  
Makenna Hrabik  
SaraDonna Janecek\*\*  
MaKendra Marie Kellogg  
Devin Lynn King Σ  
Isabelle Jane Knight  
Katie Mares  
Rachel Lee McClannan  
Katelyn Diane Rose McKnight  
Elizabeth Olivas\*\*\*  
Regan Oliver  
Ashley Marie Perdunn  
Kasandra Ringgenberg  
Jaime Robertson\*\*\*  
Adrian Rodriguez Σ

Sidney Sheard  
Katherine E. Sindelar\*\*\*\*  
Shelby Lynn Skolout  
Bryce Smidt\*  
Roxie Lynn Struempler\*\*\*\*  
Roeshell Stubblefield  
Susan J. Sullivan\*\*\*\*  
Natalie Young\*

### **Master in Healthcare Administration**

Megan Armbrust Σ  
Tiffany A. Bence Gilsdorf Σ  
Jaime Nicole Harden

### **Master of Science in Nursing**

Enyonam Abalekpor Σ  
Alexis Suzanne Barbosa Σ  
Kristina L. Beck  
Casey Behm  
MaKayla Jean Bertelson Σ  
Mallory Erin Frances Callahan  
Morgan Lee Corrington  
Shannon Kathleen Dunning  
Corinne Durner Σ  
Onyinyechi Mary Ursula Egbukwu  
Rachel Lauren Finnell † λ Σ  
Paul Aaron Foreman Σ  
Tara Foxhoven  
Melissa Grell  
Abigaile Julio Higgins  
Mahalia Kappes  
Brandon Karimi  
Megan Kohler Σ  
Jordan Kohtz  
Jaqlyn E. McCoy  
Lynden McLean  
Olivia Rose Murphy  
Jakob D. Parmley  
Dana Sue Perry  
Jessica Marie Sanford  
Brenda Seaman  
Scott Alan Stauffenecker  
Lesia Jo Thielke  
Lauren Anne Tuma  
Allyson Van Sant

### **Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing**

Lori Jensen

### **Doctor of Healthcare Education and Leadership**

Jessica A. Loos

Kassie Rae McKenny Σ

Britney Joy Mower

Jodee Kay Reed

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Shawna Rebecca Ziegler 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.*



Prepare to be the **best**.

101 South 42 Street Omaha, NE 68131-2739

NEBRASKA MEDICINE | ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Omaha, NE  
Permit No. 749



## Save the Date for Alumni Weekend 2023

SEPTEMBER 28–29, 2023

Gather with your classmates during the 2023 Alumni Weekend celebration that will take place on the Clarkson College campus.

For more information, email [alumni@clarksoncollege.edu](mailto:alumni@clarksoncollege.edu).