

Alumni Times

QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



A LOOK AT THE CAMPUS AS SEEN FACING NORTH IN THE COLLEGE COURTYARD.

PTA Program Celebrates 20 Years

By Dr. Andrea Nebel, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director & Associate Professor

This fall marks the 20th year students will enter the Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. Much has changed since fall 1994, but much has also remained the same: the commitment of the PTA faculty to provide students with a high quality education; the opportunity to serve in our communities; and the expectation of professionalism.

As we look back at the past 20 years, it is exciting to see the changes that have been made on campus and in the classroom. The College now has student housing, a new library, a simulation lab, a community lounge and a student success center, to name a few. The PTA program expanded in 2009 to offer a transfer option, which is an additional track to assist those with previous college credit. Our clinical offerings continue to broaden with more than 190 sites across 20+ states and continued placement to serve rural locations.

Our faculty team has increased in numbers, and all members are recognized at the college, local, state and national levels. Our students are continually selected recipients of national scholarships.

We would not be here today if it wasn't for the support of the College community and—most importantly—our alumni. Thank you for your continued dedication to the program and physical therapy profession.

All-class reunion slated for September

To celebrate our 20th anniversary, the PTA program will host an all-class reunion for alumni and their families on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 6–10 p.m. at Sempeck's Bowling and Entertainment in Elkhorn, Neb. We are excited to have Dr. Kirk Peck join us to speak during the welcoming. Dr. Peck was the program director who began the Clarkson College PTA program.

continued on page 3

INSIDE:

- 2 President's Message: 'Tis the Season of Nominations, Membership & Thanks
Unique Contest: Your Lyrical Creativity is Needed
- 3 Grand Rounds: An Invitation to Continue Your Medical Education
- 4 Alumni Bowling Tournament: Who Won & Who Landed in the Gutter?
- 6 Hardin Makes Impact at Children's Hospital
MHA Alumna Obtains Dream Job
- 7 Alumni Association Membership & Event RSVP Forms
- 10 The Nebraska Action Coalition & Clarkson College: Collaborating for Transformative Change
- 11 Therapy Dogs Visit Campus for Finals Week Study Hall
- 12 Casino Night Recap & Crowning of Mr. & Ms. Clarkson
- 13 Dr. Perry Academic Project Award
Update: Undergraduate Nursing
- 14 Program Spotlight: Unique Health Care Spin in General Education Courses

The **Alumni Times** is a quarterly publication that is distributed by the Alumni Association of Clarkson College at 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. For story or photo submissions, please contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at 402.552.3516 or via e-mail at vanfleerita@clarksoncollege.edu.

'Tis the Season of Nominations, Membership & Thanks



Another year is in full swing, and I hope it is off to a good start for all of you! The Alumni Association Board of Directors is looking ahead and planning for our nominations and election process. We accepted

nominations in March, and elections will take place this month. The newly elected board members will take office in June. If you are interested in being an officer or board member, we would love to have you! You may contact me or Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu for more information.

Every year, I am so energized and thankful for Clarkson College graduates because our Alumni Association would not be what it is today without your dedication. Our membership has reached record numbers this year, and we continue to host many successful on-campus events for both students and alumni to participate in. Remember that June 7 is our popular decorated table trivia event held on campus is sure to be a fun-filled time. Register your table by completing and submitting the form on page 9.

Feel free to contact me about membership, sharing stories or any questions you may have!

Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N.
('04, '12)
Alumni Association President
PH 402 552 3569
thompsonrachel@clarksoncollege.edu

Unique Contest: Your Lyrical Creativity is Needed

Have you ever wanted to write lyrics to a song? Now is your chance. The Alumni Association is sponsoring a lyric contest and is seeking alumni input on new words for "You are My Sunshine," "This Little Light of Mine" and "Bicycle Built for Two." A singing quartet is part of the September alumni dinner event, and they are looking for Clarkson College-specific lyrics to replace the current ones of those three songs.

To participate, simply pick "You are My Sunshine," "This Little Light of Mine" or "Bicycle Built for Two" and write your own lyrics to that melody. The only contest criteria

is that the song must reflect something about Clarkson College and have the writer's approval to be printed in the *Alumni Times*.

If you're feeling creative and would like to try your hand at song writing, submit your Clarkson College tune lyrics no later than July 15 to Rita VanFleet via e-mail at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu. If you are a member of this year's anniversary classes, this is a wonderful way to share some of your class history. Prizes will be awarded for the best lyrics for each song.

Memory Book Submissions

Honored anniversary classes' information needed

Is this the year for your 25, 30, 40, 50 or 60 year class reunion? If so, a memory book will be created for the graduating classes of 1989, 1984, 1974, 1964 and 1954 and distributed at the Sept. 18 Alumni Brunch. These memory books will contain pictures, class rosters, miscellaneous class information and a section featuring each graduate.

Your help is needed in order to create the section featuring graduates. Graduate information may include family, career, honors received, volunteer work, hobbies, travel,

etc. A photo to accompany the information is always appreciated, too.

You will receive an invitation letter to attend the September Alumni events. A memory book form will be included within that letter. Completed forms and alumni-specific information may be sent to Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or by mail Clarkson College, attn.: Rita VanFleet, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Your information is what makes the memory books special.

Take Part in the Fun: Decorated Table Trivia Event

The fourth annual Decorated Table Trivia event is just around the corner. Don't miss out on all the fun. Join your fellow alumni and friends on June 7 at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. The Alumni Association will provide brunch. Each table seats eight. A host or hostess is needed for each table to determine the table theme and decorations. Hosts may invite seven guests

to share in the festivities. Rounds of trivia will be played, and prizes will be awarded to the trivia contest winning team and to the best decorated table. Cost of a table is \$80 or \$10 per person. To reserve your table, fill out the form on page 9 or contact Rita VanFleet via e-mail at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or phone at 402.552.3516.

From page 1 PTA Program Celebrates 20 Years

Alumni contact points for reunion
Alumni have been selected by PTA faculty to serve as points of contact for their graduating class. We thank them for their help in the process of reaching out to as many graduates as possible.

- 1996: Ken Noecker, Kendy Butterfield
- 1997: Tammy Bures
- 1998: Mendi Kelly
- 1999: Jessica Niemann
- 2000: Kristina Bangs
- 2001: Rhianna Taylor
- 2002: Josh Hill
- 2003: Adam Schmidt
- 2004: Lisa Nastase
- 2005: Karen Abboud, Kelly Jackson
- 2006: Liz Erven
- 2007: Kori Gandy
- 2008: Chera Tremblay
- 2009: Makayla Tremel
- 2010 (August): Valerie Combs
- 2010 (December): Billie Gabriel
- 2011 (August): Becky Freeborn
- 2011 (December): Kelly Buckman
- 2012 (August): Erica Kepler
- 2012 (December): Kimberly Grimes
- 2013 (August): Laura DeLair, Annie Peterson
- 2013 (December): Jennifer Dotter
- 2014 (August): Sue Gillum

Questions?

We hope you and your family plan to attend this honorary event. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Chera Tremblay at tremblaychera@clarksoncollege.edu or Dr. Andreia Nebel at nebel@clarksoncollege.edu.

Alumni Weekend Festivities

All PTA alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend this September's Alumni Weekend activities. See page 8 for reservation details.

Grand Rounds: An Invitation to Continue Your Medical Education

Children's Hospital & Medical Center and alumna Nicole Hardin ('95, '97) invite Clarkson College alumni to attend any of the Grand Rounds presented at Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. Grand Rounds is the format used by Children's Hospital for helping physicians, students, residents and medical

professionals to continue their medical education. Pediatric Grand Rounds are presented each Friday morning in the Glow Auditorium on the third floor of Children's Hospital. For information on offerings, dates and presenters, visit ChildrensOmaha.org/GrandRounds.



FROM TOP, UNDERGRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS NICOLE BURSON, SHELBY KLINE & MICHELE DESTACHE SHOW THEIR DELIGHT FOR THE VALENTINE'S DAY SURPRISE. A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT THE SWEET TREATS & NOTE.

Won't You Be Our Valentine?

Alumni Association spreads some love on Valentine's Day

This year, the Alumni Association Board members found themselves caught up in the cheer that comes with Valentine's Day. To celebrate the holiday and share kindness with others, board members assembled M&M's and popcorn treat bags to give to on-campus students on Valentine's Day.

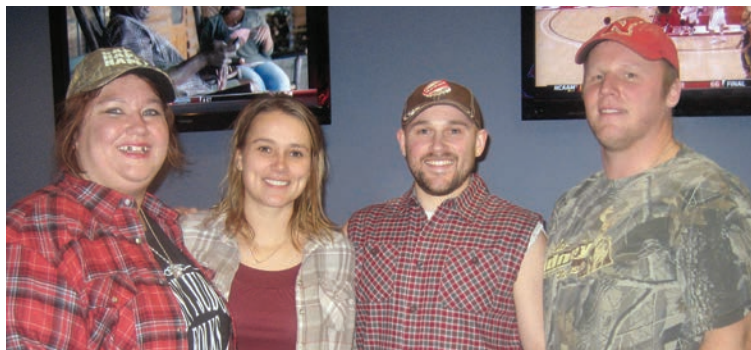
Students greatly appreciated the snack and its attached note from the Alumni Association. It's fun to see how a little love goes a long way.



"SPLIT ENDS" TEAM MEMBERS KASSIE MCKENNY ('07), MARY DISHMAN ('85, '91, '09), JOAN BLUM ('81, '86) & RENEE RUHKAMP ('09) EARNED LAST PLACE & LOOKED GOOD DOING IT.



NATALIE VRBKA, BECKY KEMPER, BAILEY JORGENSEN & ALINA CHEFFER OF "QUEEN PIN" WAVE A FANCY HELLO TO THEIR FANS.



KAREN ABBOD ('05), ANDREIA NEBEL, MATT BENSHOOF ('08) & MATT MARKELY ('08) BROUGHT THEIR REDNECK APPEAL.



"SPLIT HAPPENS" TOURNAMENT WINNERS MIKE DIRKSCHNEIDER ('07), CARLA DIRKSCHNEIDER, MATT ANDERSON & JEAN DELFS ARE READY TO HIT THE BOWLING LANES.

Alumni Bowling Tournament: Who Won & Who Landed in the Gutter?

On Saturday, Jan. 18, Scorz Sports Plaza in Ralston, Neb. was wild with competition as the fourth annual Alumni Bowling Tournament took place. Each year, the crowd gets bigger and the competition stiffer. There were 11 four-member teams competing.

Up and down the alley you could hear congratulations being shared as strikes were made and difficult splits were taken down. Amongst those celebrations was also support for the balls that seemed to find their way into the gutters!

One thing that was consistent was the winner of the Last Place team. Four years in the running it was awarded to "Split Ends" captained by Joan Blum ('81, '86) and team members Mary Dishman ('85, '91, '09), Kassie McKenny ('07) and Renee Ruhkamp ('09). They are collecting quite an array of medals. The Grand Champion Team was once again a hard fought battle between the two teams that have won in the past. This year, "Split Happens" took the honors. Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and her team members, Jean Delfs, Mike Dirkschneider and Matt Anderson were excited to once again claim the top prize.

There were other categories for competition, as well. A couple of the favorites are the Best Name and Best Outfit divisions. Taking Best Name was "Gutter Done" with Andreia Nebel as captain and team members Karen Abboud ('05), Matt Benschhoff ('08) and Matt Markely ('08). Running in extremely close competition for this award was "Bowl Movement" captained by Kim Erickson. Best Outfit was awarded to "Queen Pin" captained by Natalie Vrbka and her team members Alina Cheffer, Becky Kemper and Bailey Jorgensen. Coming in again very close was Kim Erickson's team "Bowl Movement."

Newcomer to the event, Laurna Hoss, was awarded the Highest Individual Women's score with 175. Runner up to that was Erin Jordan with a score of 168. Matt Anderson took the Men's Highest Individual Score with 194 closely followed by Bill Schlotfeld with a score of 191.

Some of the teams have stayed consistent with most of the same members over the four events. There are two teams that have had all of the same members for each tournament. "Out 4 Revenge" with captain Sarah Sobotka and team members Brett Sobotka, Erin Jordan ('13) and Brandon Jordan ('06, '13) took the Grand Champion prize the first two years. Sue Leutzinger ('89, '09) and her team, Ed Leutzinger, JJ Kassmeier ('72, '86) and Dale Kassmeier have been avid supporters of the annual event.

A new team this year was a group from the College Marketing department. The unique outfits worn by captain Adam Hardy, Nicole Bonk, Mikaela Knipe and Stefanie Skrdla were indicative of the CMYK color model used in color printing, thus the name "CMYK." Each shirt represented one of the colors with the appropriate letter.

The Alumni Association board members extend their sincere thanks to each participant and spectator who has supported this event. Without your support, the tournament would never have become such an exceptional event.



BRETT & SARAH SOBOTKA & ERIN ('13) & BRANDON JORDAN ('06, '13) BROUGHT THEIR GAME FACES & WERE "OUT 4 REVENGE."



MARKETING TEAMMATES STEFANIE SKRDLA, NICOLE BONK, MIKAELA KNIPE & ADAM HARDY SPELL OUT THEIR TEAM NAME.



ED & SUE LEUTZINGER ('89, '09) & JJ ('72, '86) & DALE KASSMEIER OF "THREE STRIKES & A GUTTER" ARE ALL SMILES.



HIP REPLACEMENTS DIDN'T KEEP MIKE NEBEL, HEATHER & DALLAS ('12) RIPLEY FROM COMPETING.



LORI BACHLE, TRISH WEBER ('95, '08, '11), LAURNA HOSS & LUKE SIEBURG REPRESENT THE MOVIE "SPACE BALLS" WELL.

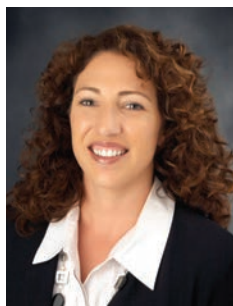


FAR LEFT, BILL SCHLOTFELD, KIM ERICKSON, CINDY SCHLOTFELD ('00, '05) & SHARON MANTZ ACCESSORIZE WITH TOILET PAPER TO FULLY PLAY OUT THEIR TEAM NAME, "BOWL MOVEMENT." AT LEFT, A SNEAK PEEK AT THIS YEAR'S TROPHY. BOTTOM LEFT, 2012 ALUMNAE KIM GRIMES, SHAYLEE DIRKS, LINDSEY SINGKOFER & SARAH LANTZ REPRESENT THE "ACL TERRORS" TWO YEARS RUNNING.

LOOK LIKE A FUN EVENT?
GRAB YOUR FRIENDS & SIGN UP FOR 2015!

Spots are quickly filling for the fifth annual Alumni Bowling Tournament slated for January 2015. Reserve your lane for next year's competition by contacting Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Hardin Makes Impact at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center



Radiation exposure is a concern for parents who have children undergoing any type of radiologic exam. Their concern is especially significant when their child has to have a computed tomography (CT) scan because of the increased radiation dose for this test compared to regular x-rays.

Nicole Hardin, Radiology Manager at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Neb., is a 1995 and 1997 graduate of Clarkson College. She demonstrated her ability to bring forward three of the College Values of Caring, Commitment and Excellence in her work with Dr. Sandra Allbery, pediatric radiologist at Children’s Hospital, to reduce the amount of radiation exposure for patients who undergo CT exams. Their goal was to decrease patient radiation dosage through standardization of the process of scanning while preserving the quality of the images. In addition to decreasing the dosage utilized, they also worked to educate referring physicians about the appropriateness and efficacy of CT as a diagnostic exam for children.

Their dedicated work for their continuous quality improvement project earned them the “Quest for Excellence Award” from the Nebraska Hospital Association. The award is jointly sponsored by the Nebraska Hospital Association, CIMRO of Nebraska, the Nebraska Association of Healthcare Quality and the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Service system Office of Public Health.

“It is truly an honor to receive this award,” Hardin said. If you would like further information on this project, contact Nicole at nhardin@childrensomaha.org.

MHA Alumna Obtains Dream Job

By Carla Dirkschneider, Health Care Business Director

Leslie Fennell earned her Masters of Health Care Administration (MHA) degree in August 2013. When she began the program, her career goal was to become a Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Administrator. Although the MHA program is not geared solely for LTC administration, it does meet the educational requirements to sit for the LTC Administrator Licensure Exam.

During her education at Clarkson College, Leslie completed an elective internship at Papillion Manor, where she attained 135 hours of clinical experience. She stayed on as an intern until she acquired the 640 hours of clinical experience required to sit for the LTC Administrator Licensure. In addition to the internship experience, Leslie completed a capstone project titled “A Business Plan for the Expansion of Silver Memories,” which is a business in Omaha, Neb. that provides

assisted living care for individuals with Alzheimer’s, memory loss and other forms of dementia.

Last December, Leslie successfully passed the Nebraska LTC Administrator Licensure Exam and became a qualified LTC Administrator. In January, she accepted the job as Executive Director at Golden Living Center in O’Neill, Neb.

“The MHA program gave me the foundational knowledge that I needed to be successful in the LTC Administration field,” she said. “It also prepared me with the critical thinking skills necessary to handle any situation I find myself in.”

She is excited about her new career and looks forward to all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Upcoming Education Event

Many of you have or will have the opportunity to work with injured soldiers returning to state side care from the Middle East conflicts. These “wounded warriors” have unique difficulties in their recovery period—many of which stem from the type of injury and circumstances surrounding it.

Nursing alumnus Mathew Beeman ('07) will be this year’s educational event speaker on Friday, Sept. 19 in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Mathew is a Captain in the United States Air Force and serves as a flight nurse. He will share his experiences with training to work under battlefield conditions and the current system of battlefield care from point of injury to stateside. He will also present case studies pertaining to injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues that affect our soldiers.

This will be an excellent presentation for all who work with injuries and resultant problems of this type. It also will be of great interest to those who do not understand the systems in place to deal with battlefield

injuries and the resultant consequences.

More information about the event will be in the July/August newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to register for this continuing education event, you may contact Rita VanFleet 402.552.3516 or at vanfleerita@clarksoncollege.edu.

FALL IS COMING.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENTS

Even though spring has just sprung, it’s not too early to think about attending this fall’s Alumni Weekend events. With plenty of fun in store for you and your peers, let us know that you’ll join us by contacting Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleerita@clarksoncollege.edu. You may also complete the RSVP form found on page 8.

Alumni Association Membership Form

Annual membership drive runs through Aug. 31

The Alumni Association Board would like to invite you to renew or begin your membership in the Alumni Association. Thanks to membership support this past year, the Alumni Association was able to present a student scholarship, provide snacks for students during finals week, sponsor a continuing education event, provide iPads for the iPad Academy and assist with several other activities. The support of our graduates is necessary for the Alumni Association to continue providing these functions.

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Dues should be received no later than Aug. 31. As a member, you will receive the quarterly *Alumni Times* newsletter, invitations to alumni events and periodic special mailings. Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago should mark “Nifty Fifty” below to receive [free membership](#) in the Alumni Association.

ABOUT YOU

Please print.

Name _____
 Maiden Name (if applicable) _____
 Spouse’s Name (if applicable) _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Employer Information

Current Employer _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Position/Title _____

Education

Class of _____ Nifty Fifty Yes No
 Degree(s) Earned _____

Giving Back

I would like to receive more information about tax-deductable gifts.
 I would like to invest in the future of Clarkson College by:
 Being a guest lecturer
 Spending time assisting with alumni activities
 Mentoring or tutoring current students

CLASS NOTES

We enjoy hearing from you! Submit your professional and personal news for the Class Notes section of the *Alumni Times*. If you’ve presented or have been published within the past year, we would love to hear about it. Class Notes are printed in the January/February and July/August issues.

Attach an additional sheet if additional space is needed.

MEMBERSHIP

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Please make checks payable to “Alumni Association of Clarkson College.” Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago receive free membership in the Alumni Association.

Membership dues \$25
Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship Fund \$ _____
 In memory of (name) _____

 In honor of (name) _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SUBMIT

Send your completed membership form and survey (located on the back of this form) along with payment to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Alumni Association Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. Your input is greatly valued and assists the Alumni Association in providing programs and activities for alumni members, meeting regulatory requirements for Clarkson College and updating alumni information.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Would you prefer the annual September Alumni Weekend event dinner to be:

Casual Formal/business attire

Would you like entertainment at the Alumni Weekend event dinner?

Yes No

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

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

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

Do you have any professional or personal stories that would make interesting future articles in the *Alumni Times* newsletter?

No, I do not have any stories I would like to share at this time.

Yes. Please describe:

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

Alumni Weekend: Event Reservation Form

The Alumni Association Board is finalizing the details for September's Alumni Weekend events. This year, the graduating classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1989 are recognized as this year's anniversary classes. The Physical Therapist Assistant program will also be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the program's inception. All Clarkson College alumni are invited to participate and attend this year's activities.

Reserve your spot by completing and returning the RSVP form below. Additional information will be sent to you as September approaches. If you are an anniversary class alumnus and would like to assist with the fall events, let us know. Submit completed forms to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

RESERVATION

Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Program(s) completed _____

Class of _____

Assistance & Participation

Yes, I will assist with my class' anniversary activities.

No, I am not interested at this time.

I am unable to attend this year's Alumni Weekend.

Additional Information Request

I would like additional information on the following events:

Alumni Brunch: Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall

Alumni Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 18 at noon in Howard Hall

Convocation: Thursday, Sept. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral in Omaha, Neb.

Continuing Education Event: Friday, Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall. This year's topic is titled, "Care Under Fire: Current Issues and Challenges for Health Care Providers Dealing With Veterans."

Dinner & Entertainment: Friday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Omaha Player's Club in Omaha, Neb.

Third Annual Decorated Table Trivia Brunch

Use the form below to register for the June 7 fundraising event & join in the fun!

The Alumni Association is looking for table leaders to help with our annual fundraising opportunity: the Decorated Table Trivia event.

On Saturday, June 7, the Alumni Association will host a brunch from 10 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Tables will seat eight people and sell for \$80 (\$10 per person). Food and beverages will be provided.

Lead the fun

Table leaders are needed to purchase a table (you may sell your seats), create a theme for the table and decorate the table according to the theme, including tableware. Table leaders can do this on their own or share the fun with their guests. Several rounds of trivia will be played, and prizes will be given for the best decorated table and for the overall trivia winning team.

There are 12 tables for sale for this event. A few of last year's table themes included Shoot Out at the Clarkson College Corral, Bahama Mamas, Extreme Couponing and Vegas.

Register your table

I am interested in becoming a table leader for the Decorated Table Trivia event on June 7 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Class of _____

Program(s) completed _____

I have enclosed \$80 to reserve my table. Please make checks payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association.

The theme for my table will be _____

RSVP by May 16

Reserve your table and register your theme by completing the reservation form above or by contacting Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Annual Clarkson College Garden Walk: Thursday, Sept. 18 at 11:30 a.m.

YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for the annual Garden Walk in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden as we celebrate the dedication of new bricks and boulders. Simply fill out and submit the form to make your reservation.

A brick, bench boulder or amphitheater seat donation is an opportunity to celebrate your legacy, special memories or to create a memorial for a loved one. Your gift is dedicated to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship fund, which provides scholarships for our students. Contact Kim Erickson at 402.552.2587 for more information.

RSVP BY AUG. 15

Send your completed Garden Walk registration and/or donation form with payment to Clarkson College Alumni Association, attn: Kim Erickson, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Event Registration

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Program(s) completed _____

_____ Class of _____

Yes, I will attend the Garden Walk.

No, I cannot attend but:

Update my information in the Clarkson College alumni records.

I would like to contribute \$_____ to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of _____ or in honor of _____.

Contact me about other giving or educational opportunities.

Payment Options

Check: Enclosed and made payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association.

Credit Card: Contact me regarding credit card transactions.

Questions

Contact Kim Erickson at ericksonkim@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.2587 or 800.647.5500.

The Nebraska Action Coalition & Clarkson College: Collaborating for Transformative Change

By Aubray Orduña, Clarkson College Dean of Nursing, & Victoria Vinton, Nebraska Action Coalition Director

The Nebraska Action Coalition (NAC) is part of a nationwide initiative guided by the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action. In 2008, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP—both supporters of quality health care—came together to form this campaign to transform health care. They asked nurses, the largest and most trusted health care professionals, to take on this initiative. Action coalitions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia have answered this call to action and have responded by using the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2010 report "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health" as their blueprint to transform health care through transformation of the nursing profession. Four key recommendations came out of this report:

- › Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- › Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- › Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other health professionals in redesigning health care in the United States.
- › Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

The NAC has two leads providing support and guidance: The Omaha Visiting Nurse Association and HDR Architecture, Inc. Two unique leads are important with this initiative, as it focuses on nurses bringing about change and working together with diverse stakeholders to support transformative advances in health care.

Initiative teams

To accomplish the work of this initiative, three teams communicate across the state: Education, Leadership and Practice. Diversity, interprofessional collaboration and workforce data are important components incorporated into each team's work to make sure that advancing the profession develops the "nurse of the future."

In February 2013, the NAC was awarded a grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to merge nursing education and leadership through implementation of the IOM recommendations. Victoria Vinton, M.S.N., Director of the NAC, acts to coordinate the initiative across all teams to meet the initiative and grant goals. Entering year two of the grant, the action coalition is on target with action plans to meet the goals to: 1) increase the number of registered nurses (RNs) ages 20–40 with a BSN by 10 percent and 2) increase the number of nurses on boards and decision-making bodies by 10 percent.

The Education Team is led by Aubray Orduña, Ed.D., Clarkson College Dean of Nursing, and Marilyn Valerio, Ph.D., R.N., Nebraska Methodist College Dean Emerita. In collaboration with the Nebraska Assembly of Nursing Deans and Directors, the Education Team is currently conducting a pilot study to validate a competency-based tool to assist with the seamless progression of RNs returning to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing.

The Leadership Team's co-leads are Dawn Straub, M.S.N., R.N., and Linda Walline, Ph.D., R.N. This team sent a survey in spring 2013 to assess the number of nurses currently serving on boards and those interested in serving. More than 1,100 Nebraska nurses participated. A pilot to assess mentor/mentee pairs in preparation for board service began in March.

The Practice Team led by Clarkson College alumna Deb Kozeny, APRN, FNP, and Nancy Gondringer, CRNA, have been working closely with Nebraska Nurse Practitioners in preparation for legislation to remove the Integrated Practice Agreement, which is seen as a barrier to nurse practitioner care. LB 916 was introduced in January by Senator Crawford and had its first hearing on Jan. 31. The hearing was well attended by supportive nurses and nurse champions.

Community support

The NAC has been privileged to have many health care and business partners join as

supporters. Health care organizations, businesses, professional nursing organizations, individuals and nursing schools in Omaha, Lincoln and across the state are donors.

This initiative focuses on nurses bringing about change & working together with diverse stakeholders to support transformative advances in health care.

Clarkson College has been an active partner since January 2012 when Dean Orduña accepted a position on the NAC's Executive Committee. Her dedicated service includes many volunteer hours to her posts. Other Clarkson College faculty and staff members actively participating in NAC activities include: Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers, Director of Graduate Nursing; Dr. Linda Jensen, Associate Professor; Cynthia Schlotfeld, Director of Undergraduate Nursing; and Rachel Thompson, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Nursing. Also, Joe Councill, Assistant Professor, is an active member of the newly formed Diversity Taskforce, working to attract minorities, men and rural individuals to the nursing profession. The volunteer service of dedicated Clarkson College faculty and staff members is an invaluable contribution to the work of the NAC.

Therapy Dogs Visit Campus for Finals Week Study Hall



The Alumni Association once again hosted a study hall on campus on Monday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tables and study pods set-up throughout Howard Hall

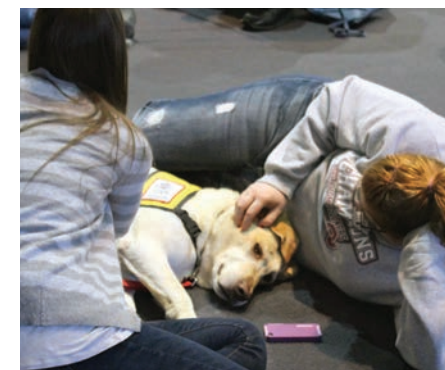
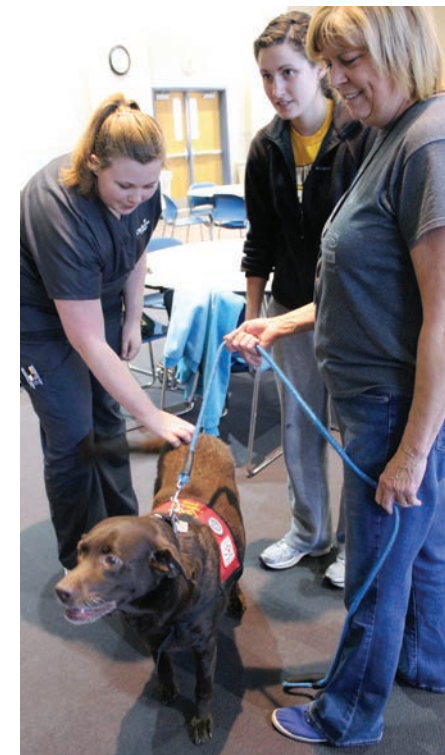
created a productive work environment for the students, as well as the miniature Hershey's® bars, Cuties California Clementines® and snack crackers handed out by the Alumni Association.

The real treat of the day was the hour-long visit from six therapy dogs and their handlers from Domesti-PUPS. While the mission of Domesti-PUPS is to improve the quality of life for persons with special needs through the assistance of animals, the therapy dogs served as a great stress-reliever for the exam-bound students.

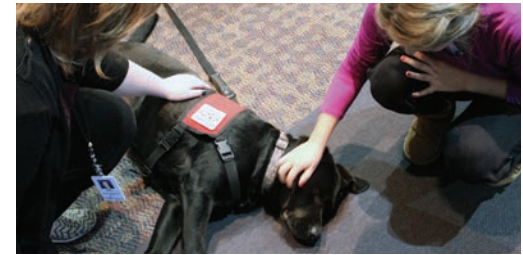
Of the six study halls the Alumni Association has hosted, this is the third that included a visit from Domesti-PUPS. More than 60 students took a study break to pet and play with the therapy dogs. "The students were thrilled and spent a lot of time with the dogs," said Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator. "The handlers also enjoyed conversing with the students about their dog's age, breed, personality traits, etc."

The Alumni Association was very appreciative of Domesti-PUPS' return to campus. The names of the handlers and their dogs were Nanci Sammut and her Newfoundland, Al, of Omaha, Neb.; Melinda Christensen and her Goldendoodle, Georgia, of Springfield, Neb.; Debbie Carlson and her Yellow Lab, Molly, of Omaha, Neb.; Lisa Fearnow and her English Black Lab, Captain Fred, of Gretna, Neb.; Chris Walstrom and her Chocolate Lab, Reece, of Omaha, Neb.; and Peggy Ord and her Miniature Schnauzer, Ellie, from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Alumni Association plans to invite Domesti-PUPS back to campus for future finals week study halls.



FROM TOP, STUDENTS CHAT WITH NANCI SAMMUT, AL'S OWNER. CHOCOLATE LAB REECE CAN'T GET ENOUGH LOVE & ATTENTION. YELLOW LAB MOLLY & STUDENTS COULDN'T LOOK MORE RELAXED.



ABOVE, MINIATURE SCHNAUZER ELLIE & ENGLISH BLACK LAB CAPTAIN FRED ENJOY STUDENT'S ATTENTION.

EVENTS:

Saturday, June 7 – Decorated Table Trivia Brunch from 10 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall. See page 9 for details.

Thursday, Sept. 18 – All Alumni Brunch at 10 a.m. on campus in Howard Hall.

Garden Walk at 11:30 a.m. in the College courtyard. RSVP by filling out the form on page 9.

Annual paid-alumni member luncheon meeting from noon to 1 p.m. held on campus in Howard Hall.

Convocation at Trinity Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. All alumni are invited to attend. Transportation to the event will be provided.

Friday, Sept. 19 – "Care Under Fire: Current Issues and Challenges for Health Care Providers Dealing With Veterans" continuing education event from 8 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall.

Join us for dinner and entertainment at the Omaha Player's Club at 6:30 p.m. in Omaha, Neb.

2014 MS. & MR. CLARKSON, BSN STUDENTS TESSA PFANNENSTIEL & JORDAN MORRILL.



Big Winners at Casino Night | Crowning of 2014 Mr. & Ms. Clarkson

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

The annual Student Activities-sponsored Casino Night event was held on Jan. 29 and provided a chance for students, faculty and staff to set their classroom discussions aside and have a little fun masquerading as croupiers and gamblers at a snazzy Las Vegas casino.

To get the night started, each student received a plastic cup with a fixed number of poker chips. Manning the game tables, which consisted of Blackjack 21, Roulette and Chuck-a-Luck, were volunteers Dr. Jody Woodworth and her husband Bob, Margie Harris, Laurna Hoss, Bailey Jorgensen, Stefanie Skrdla, Trish Weber, Natalie Vrbka, Kris Smith and George Smith.

Background music played by Creatures of Impulse, a local jazz/funk band, really set the tone for the night, along with the assortment of hors d'oeuvres and linen-draped cocktail tables.

When it came time to cash in their chips, some students had filled their cups to the rim with their winnings. In exchange, they received an equal number of tickets to place in their choice of available prize buckets. The big winners and their prizes were: Lindy Randall—a crock pot and cooking accessories; Shelby Kohl, a \$25 AMC Theatres gift card; Shae Switzer—a Clarkson College sweatshirt and roller backpack; Emily Farr—a \$50 Visa gift card; Quyen Nguyen—a \$50 Visa gift card; Mckinzie Miller—a Keurig coffeemaker; Laura Morris—a Keurig coffeemaker; Rachel Arnett—a Sony Blu-Ray player; and Caitlin Draper—a mini iPad.

Also taking place on Casino Night was the Crowning of the 2014 Mr. and Ms. Clarkson. Nominees were Shalyse Ahl, Catie Faust, Kimi Miller, Tessa Pfannenstiel, Kalen Knight, Joseph McQueen, Anthony Miller and Jordan Morrill. After tallying up the votes, the crowns went to Morrill and Pfannenstiel, both BSN students.

Mr. Clarkson is a native of Creighton, Neb. Previously, he attended Wayne State College as a biology major. He is a student ambassador and is involved in intramural volleyball and the Student Nurses Association. He expects to graduate in December 2015 and eventually apply to the Nurse Anesthesia program.

Ms. Clarkson is from Omaha, Neb. She has served as a member of the Residence Hall Council and continues in her roles as a Student Government Association representative, student ambassador and resident advisor. After graduating in December 2014, she hopes to volunteer as a nurse on a medical mission trip and eventually pursue her MSN degree.



Update: Undergraduate Nursing

By Cynthia Schlotfeld, Undergraduate Nursing Director

What a busy and exciting time it is to be in the nursing classrooms at Clarkson College. The PN and BSN programs' faculty members have spent much time over the last few years redesigning the curriculum and changing the methods used to teach their courses.

The new curriculum is based on the Quality and Safety Education for Nursing (QSEN) concepts. The QSEN concepts are patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, safety, and informatics. "Caring" and "professionalism" are two important concepts that were also added by faculty members. The QSEN concepts help promote student learning through knowledge, skills and attitudes, which will prepare them to improve patient safety and the health care system.

Students no longer come to class to "set and get" the information needed to become a successful nurse. The days of a nursing class with just the lecturing teacher in the front of the room have gone by the wayside. We have incorporated active learning techniques and exercises to get the students fully involved in their education. One class may review local agencies and develop public service announcements while another class may work on an evolving case study.

With the addition of our on-campus Simulation Lab, nursing classes may now incorporate real-life scenarios into their theory class or clinical courses. Utilizing the Simulation Lab enhances students' critical thinking skills and allows instructors to make connections from theory concepts to practice in a controlled environment. All of these together facilitate learning opportunities, which in turn help our students prepare to be the best.

Dr. Perry Academic Project Award

By Carla Dirkschneider, Health Care Business Director

The Dr. Patricia Book Perry Academic Project Award was created to honor Dr. Perry and her commitment to the high quality education offered to Clarkson College students. The Academic Project Award involves the development and completion of a project designed to benefit the academic programs, students and the College.

The first Pat Perry Academic Project was awarded to a group of Clarkson College faculty and staff members interested in continuing the Strategic Planning Critical Success Factor project, "Remedial Science Education at Clarkson College: A Translational, Transdisciplinary Approach." The members were Shelli Weddum, Katie Kirkpatrick, Mary Balken, Becky Allen and Kitty Cappellano.

This academic project was twofold. Step one involved measuring the academic success in the classroom of all incoming students enrolled in anatomy, physiology and/or chemistry. The students were tested using the Health Systems Education, Inc. (HESI) exam, which focused on the areas of biology, vocabulary, reading comprehension and grammar. With the support from program faculty members, advisors and follow-up e-mail reminders, the pilot project's numbers included nearly 85 percent of incoming students from the fall 2012, spring 2013 and summer 2013 semesters.

In addition to the HESI composite test score, other factors were also reviewed to determine student success in difficult science courses. These factors were age, high school grade point average, cumulative math and science grade point averages, and ACT scores.

Step two of the project entailed the implementation of a new pedagogical methodology within the current science curriculum. The new learner-centered methodology replaced the old science remediation method with a more student-friendly supplemental recitation course. The new methodology allowed underprepared students to take additional structured small group courses, granting them a stronger foundational knowledge base and developed study habits specific to science courses.

Predictors for academic success in physiology and chemistry courses were best determined

by the composite HESI score, whereas the predictor for anatomy was best predicted by the individual biology score of the HESI exam. Cutoff scores for the composite HESI and individual biology exam were also established. A composite score of 76 was a predictor of success for chemistry and physiology, whereas a score of 62 on the biology portion was a predictor of success for anatomy.

Other predictors of academic success in anatomy, physiology and chemistry classes were the cumulative math and science GPAs. A cumulative math and science GPA of 2.9 or higher was found to be the predictor for success in chemistry and anatomy, and a GPA of 2.8 or higher was found to be the predictor for success in physiology.

Grades in anatomy and chemistry were also significantly positive when correlated with age, indicating that older students performed academically better than younger students. A student's ACT score was not a predictor to student success in any of the science courses.

In addition to the above mentioned predictors of success, the recitation courses were developed. The new recitation courses meet once per week to reinforce concepts discussed in the science classroom. The courses also provide an avenue for struggling students to discuss their educational difficulties as they strive to meet their science education goals. Conditionally admitted students were required to take the recitation course, while it was optional and/or recommended for non-conditional students—especially those scoring low on the HESI exam.

Students admitted to the recitation courses improved on average two grades from barely passed (D+) to fair (C). The students not completing the recitation courses slightly improved their grades. In fact, the average scores only increased from 2.7 to 2.8 (B-).

Due to the success of the HESI pilot and recitation courses, the Pat Perry Academic Project group recommends this project continue at Clarkson College. The group is currently in the process of co-authoring a paper for publication in a science or pedagogical journal. They also hope to present their project at a regional or national conference.



ABOVE, STUDENTS ENJOY A ROUND OR TWO OF BLACKJACK. FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR BAILEY JORGENSEN BREAKS DOWN THE RULES OF THE GAME. STUDENTS TRYING THEIR HAND AT CHUCK-A-LUCK SHARE A LAUGH WITH LAURNA HOSS, FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR.

Program Spotlight:

Unique Health Care Spin in General Education Courses

By Clarkson College General Education Faculty Members

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series of articles highlighting the General Education program at Clarkson College.

Clarkson College General Education courses are designed specifically with health care students in mind. Health care core, basic science, math, social science, English and other elective courses are student-centered and facilitate the application of classroom learning to real-life situations. They have been carefully engineered by our faculty to ensure that they provide the foundations necessary for successful progression through each program of study.

All undergraduate students complete the health care core curriculum as part of their general education requirements. Much time and effort went into revising the core curriculum originally implemented in 1995-1996. The new core courses—described in more detail below—were implemented in fall 2010 and are used to assess the following student success skills for all undergraduate students: communication, critical thinking, technology, diversity and professionalism. Assessment data is then utilized to direct revisions to the core courses.

**Core I: Effective Interactions in the World of Health Care**

Students who complete Core I will explore the concept of cultural competency and how essential that skill is for health care providers. Students use a framework that guides them through holistic assessment, focusing on getting to know the patient beyond a

disease, injury or procedure. Self-reflection, considering our own view of the world and pushing a little to recognize our own biases form many activities as students consider themselves as the essential tool of their health care interactions. Community-based service with a population new to the student encourages each class member to learn to be "comfortable with being uncomfortable" and learn about the world in which we live and practice. The great book "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" by Anne Fadiman serves as a shared case study to bring concepts to life. Topics and examples of this first Core class are based in patient/family level interaction, with a goal to connect the new Clarkson College student to the richly diverse populations they will serve.

Core II: A Cultural History of the Healing Arts

Core II surveys the development of the healing arts from the first altruistic behaviors of prehistoric man to the sophisticated methods and technology employed by contemporary healers. Medicine is presented in the context of various cultures as they have existed over time, demonstrating the exchanges between medicine and science, philosophy, religion, art, literature, government and social status. Understanding of and appreciation for nursing—and especially modern allied health fields—is enhanced through the examination of diagnostics and therapeutics through time and cultures. By investigating these topics and relationships, students practice analytical and critical thinking skills. The life stories of leading characters in the history of medicine should also inspire students to achieve greatness in the face of adversity.

Core III: Ethical & Cultural Frontiers in U.S. Health Care

Core III provides students with the opportunity to explore ethics in a social and medical context. This course encourages students to build upon previous skills and knowledge by learning how communities and organizations impact the overall environment in which people live and operate—both inside and outside a medical setting. Focus on the seven biomedical ethical principles

allows students to practice applying these concepts to different case studies and patient/family scenarios. Student learning culminates in the development of an agency snapshot, a semester-long project that helps students apply these social and biomedical ethical principles to a realistic patient with complex health and social needs. Recognizing the role that community agencies play in supplementing medical care is an important learning process in this course, as students learn to contact, interview and analyze an agency in a professional manner. The goal is that by the end of the course, students will be able to identify different factors influencing patient care and will be equipped with the tools to navigate the ethical challenges that arise in health care.

Core service highlights

As mentioned above, service has been an integral part of the Core courses. Core I students participate in hands-on service through partnerships with a wide-variety of community agencies, including Head Start, Hope Center for Kids, Monroe Meyer Institute, Project Interfaith, Edgewood Vista, Ambassador, Pinewood Elementary, Lutheran Family Services, Brighton Gardens, Women's Center for Advancement, Southern Sudan Community Association, Douglas County Hospital, Serene Hospice, Ted E. Bear Hollow, Salvation Army, Yates with OPS – ESL Classes, Children's Respite Center and Nebraska AIDS Project.

From fall 2010 through fall 2013, Core I students have completed more than 14,000 hours of service! Many students choose to continue volunteering long after they've complete the course. Core faculty members regularly receive positive feedback from students, some examples follow:

"This type of class is so great because we will be better prepared and better nurses with the knowledge we get from this course. This class should be a req. for all nurses in the United States, and for the women and men already in the health care field, this should be course they take to continue to have a license. The world is

made up of so many different people, different customs and cultures and many different races, we all need to be literate about these issues. Otherwise we will just continue to misdiagnose someone because we did not take the time to find more information about the patient."

From fall 2010 through fall 2013, Core I students have completed more than 14,000 hours of service!

"Munroe-Meyer is a great place for these kids and teens with disabilities to come after school and feel safe and protected while they're learning through fun activities. Through this experience, I've really learned how to interact with individuals with disabilities, and it has been very enjoyable. The staff at Munroe-Meyer is all very caring and generous to open their hearts to these individuals every day, and I aspire to be even a fraction of how great they are with these kids."

"This volunteering opportunity provided me with amazing experiences. I learned that death and dying are not completely sad experiences. This agency works hard at making sure all the camp attendees trust their volunteers and are provided with a healthy opportunity to include their dead loved ones in their holiday celebrations. I learned that I can comfort people without making others uncomfortable or sad. It was overall a great opportunity, and I learned many new techniques to interacting with grieving families."

Academic Travel Abroad (ATA)

Inspired by the belief that some of the best learning experiences cannot be duplicated in the classroom, Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) offers a student-centered, first-hand introduction to the people, arts, history and health care of Western, non-American cultures. Under faculty guidance, ATA exposes

students to other cultures, including its challenges and perspectives, while earning college credit. Guided tours include hospital visits, academic tours and free time to foster students' self-directed learning skills.

ATA is designed to make responsible use of students' limited resources (time and money). Offered once a year between semesters, the two-week immersion experience is the keystone of a General Education core curriculum course (HC 204) and two General Education elective courses (HC 280 and HU 290). Each course option is organized around pre-trip lectures and readings, intra-trip activities, and post-trip coursework developed and taught by Dr. Patricia Brennan and Ms. Marilyn Rosmann. Students are invited to bring a traveling companion to share the learning experience. Since 1999, ATA has taken the Clarkson College learning community to Ireland, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Greece and Germany. The Czech Republic and Austria are on the itinerary for spring 2015! See the back cover of this issue for trip details.

Dr. Patricia Brennan also launched a very successful collaborative ATA program with Bryan College of Health Sciences and Nebraska Methodist College. Students from



all three campuses enjoyed the inaugural trip to Ireland in December 2011. Dr. Jody Woodworth, Vice President of Academic Affairs, helped prepare administrators from Bryan and Methodist and also provided her expertise to students while in country. Italy was the destination for the December 2012 trip, and France and Germany were on the itinerary during the December 2013 trip.

Dr. Brennan also traveled to Israel to ascertain the feasibility of offering a trip for alumni and The Nebraska Medical Center employees. Interest was high, the plans were finalized, and the group, accompanied by Professional Development Director Judi Dunn, headed to Israel this spring.

As you can see, Dr. Brennan has worked diligently to provide our students a variety of options to participate in Academic Travel Abroad as they progress through their program of study.

Looking for Your '64 Classmates

This year marks the 50th anniversary of your graduation from Clarkson School of Nursing. We would like to contact and invite all of the 1964 graduates to the September activities where we will celebrate this milestone. In doing so, we need the addresses of the following individuals:

- › Carol Crayne
- › Susan Garwood
- › Carol Ralston Handley
- › Diane Canarsky Johnson
- › Ileta Monroe
- › Sarah McInyre Simbro
- › Joan May Taxman

Keep us in the loop

If you are in contact with them, please direct them to Rita VanFleet via e-mail at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or phone at 402.552.3516.



Prepare to be the **best**.

101 South 42 Street Omaha, NE 68131-2739

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

An educational partner with



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

Academic Travel Abroad 2015: Vienna & Prague

Are you looking for an unusual European destination next spring? Grab your favorite travel companion and fly with us to the Czech Republic and Austria on May 3–14. During your 12-day adventure, you'll travel back in time to the mighty Hapsburg Empire, immersing yourself in the sights and sounds of Old Europe. Highlights include the Vienna Opera House, Schönbrunn Palace, Krikoklat Castle, Bohemian glassworks factory tour, Budejovice (Budweis) brewery tour, medieval towns along the Danube, a Vienna hospital visit and four traditional dinners, including a Heuriger wine dinner. You also have two free days in to plan your own adventures.

All travelers enjoy the same student rate of \$3,599, which includes round-trip airfare (from Omaha), ground transportation, double accommodations in 3- & 4-star hotels, medical and travel insurance, private deluxe motor coach and expert local guides, private tour manager, daily breakfast and admission fees for all activities on the itinerary.

Questions & additional trip information

Contact Dr. Patricia Brennan, Academic Travel Abroad Coordinator, at 402.552.6125 or brennan@clarksoncollege.edu. The itinerary and registration form may also be found under the Alumni & Friends tab at ClarksonCollege.edu.



TAKE IT ALL IN: SAVOR THE UNIQUE SIGHTS, SOUNDS & CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC & AUSTRIA WITH YOUR FAVORITE TRAVEL COMPANION DURING THE SPRING 2015 ACADEMIC TRAVEL ABROAD TRIP.