Clarkson Service League Library Vision Brought to Life

Ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for May 18

The vision for a new library bridged the minds of Clarkson College students, faculty and staff since the announcement of its prospective relocation in the 2009 Master Facility Plan. On April 6, that vision became a reality when the Clarkson Service League Library opened its doors.

The new facility provides “a more inviting space for students with natural light and updated furnishings,” said Tony Damewood, Vice President of Operations. Other upgrades include group study areas, computer space and a large circulation desk for students to receive direct assistance.

The new Library required approximately nine months of planning and preparation and three months of construction.

Various groups and individuals played an integral part in making the Clarkson Service League Library project a success. When the idea was first proposed, the Board of Directors recognized the vision of Dr. Burgher, Clarkson College President, to offer students an enhanced learning environment. The Library staff was also instrumental in preparing for the move, and the Facilities department contributed to the overall project coordination.

The College would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the Clarkson Service League for providing a generous $200,000 donation. Without the assistance of this organization, carrying out this project would not have been possible.

“The Clarkson Service League has always been a huge supporter of Clarkson College, and we were very happy to fund the renovation of the library,” said Janis Enenbach, former President and current Clarkson College Board Representative for the Clarkson Service League. “We felt it would be a lasting benefit to all of the students at the College to help prepare them for their careers.”

Taking what was once a vision and working together to make it a reality is something to be celebrated. The College invites you to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Clarkson Service League Library. The ceremony will take place following the Spring Garden Walk on Wednesday, May 18. This is an opportunity for you to see first-hand how the new facility will serve as a more welcoming and beneficial resource for Clarkson College students.
Help Needed to Keep Alumni Records Current

Your assistance is needed to locate the most recent addresses for the following graduates. If you know where any of the following people can be located, please relay the information to Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3316, vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or call Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Any information or assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

CLASS OF ’71
Patricia Matt Blaine
Gayle Dillahay
Carolyn Brand-Kinderman

CLASS OF ’81
Cheryl Finley
Catherine Goslee
Jane Grundmeier

CLASS OF ’86
Mary Copenhagen
Jolynn Krippel
Michelle Schiffbauer
Lisa Stogdill

CLASS OF ’91
Mary Marhart Kardell

CLASS OF ’01
TutuPasewaa Baird

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US
Keep your information in the alumni records current by updating your Alumni Association membership on page 5.

September Alumni Weekend Events

Mark your calendar & register for this year’s alumni activities

This year, the Alumni Weekend events will be held on Thursday, Sept. 15 and Friday, Sept. 16. Saturday events are not planned due to a scheduling conflict with the Nebraska vs. Washington football game in Lincoln, Neb.

Alumni Brunch: Sept. 15
The annual Alumni Brunch will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15 in Howard Hall on campus. All alumni are invited to attend with the classes of 1951, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001 being the honored anniversary classes. The annual meeting of the Alumni Association will follow the brunch at noon. In the afternoon, Ollie the Trolley will transport attendees from the College to Trinity Cathedral where Convocation will take place at 2:30 p.m.

Day & evening events: Sept. 16
A continuing education event, “Health Care Ethics,” is planned for Friday morning from 7:30 a.m. until noon in Howard Hall. A fun-filled evening is planned for Friday night aboard the River City Star river boat, reserved exclusively for alumni and friends. The theme of the cruise will be “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” with a pirate troupe entertaining the guests. The cruise will set sail at 7 p.m. and return at 10 p.m.

Register for the festivities
Fill out the reservation form on page 7 to reserve your spot at this year’s Alumni Weekend events.

Call for Memory Book Submissions

Honored anniversary classes’ information needed

Every year at the Alumni Brunch, anniversary classes are honored. During this year’s alumni events, the classes of 1951, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001 will be honored for their respective anniversaries. Memory books are made for people attending from each of these classes. To make the books interesting, graduates from each of the honored alumni classes are asked to provide information about themselves. This submitted information could be a snapshot of your life since graduation and can be personal, professional or education-focused. Photo submissions are welcomed, as well.

If you graduated from one of these classes, please feel free to send your information to Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Your information is what makes the memory booklets interesting.

Fundraiser Event: Decorated Table Trivia Luncheon

Unique opportunity challenges participants’ creativity

The Alumni Association is looking for table leaders to help with a unique fundraising opportunity:

On Saturday, June 4, the Alumni Association will be hosting a luncheon from noon until 2 p.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Tables will seat eight people and sell for $80 ($10 per person).

Table leaders are needed to purchase a table (you can sell your seats), create a theme for the table, decorate the table according to the theme and provide a side dish and dessert for their table. They can do this on their own or share the fun with their guests. Six rounds of trivia will be played during the luncheon, and prizes will be given for the best decorated table and for the overall trivia winning team.

The Alumni Association will provide sloppy joes, tea and water. There are 12 tables for sale for this event. Join in the fun by signing up as a table leader and selecting who you would like as your guests. Contact Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or call 402.552.3316 to reserve your table and register your theme or fill out the reservation form on page 6.

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STAY IN TOUCH WITH US
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Did You Know: Archive Discovery
A unique look at moments in Clarkson College history

The following piece was written by locally renowned cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Randolph M. Ferlic to share at the Jan. 31, 1987, graduation ceremony and is reprinted here with his permission.

Empathy and Insight
Have you ever seen man die, reach out his hand to grasp and touch life, trying to cling to a viable vine and perhaps, symbolically steal life from another?

Have you ever held his hand at that terrible moment when his essence ebbs and separates from existence?

Have you ever felt fingers communicate the language of love and hope, and at first, beat a rapid rhythm, then, stop, and acknowledge the receipt of life?

Have you ever watched restless legs move on their final journey walking aimlessly in space searching on their futile path for life?

Have you ever seen the body tremble and shiver an attempt to warm under and shake the shadow of death only to lose in a convulsive heave even that which was ate and drunk?

Have you ever comforted his cold and sweaty head and stilled his sideways glance in their effort to find another path and avoid their final gaze?

Have you ever seen his ears turn for every sound and head nod in hope of reprieve then nod no more at his final call?

Have you ever gazed deep into dying eyes and gleaned the message that all he sees and will see soon will be in your sight?

Alumni Association Membership Form
Annual membership drive runs through Aug. 31

It seems like the membership year rolls by quickly. It is once again time to renew or begin your membership in the Alumni Association. This past year, thanks to membership support, the Alumni Association was able to continue with the presentation of a scholarship, provide snacks for students during final weeks, give away an iPod at the Professionalism Workshop for students, sponsor a continuing education event and assist with several other activities.

Your support is necessary for the Alumni Association to continue providing these functions. Join the Alumni Association today.

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. You will receive the Alumni Times newsletter quarterly, 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.

WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN DISCOVERY?
Lend a hand as alumni gather to organize the Clarkson College Historical archives by contacting Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

Mary Dishman promoted to Assistant Director of Undergraduate Nursing

Mary Dishman, Assistant Director of the Undergraduate Nursing program, is a prime example of how patience and persistence can produce rewarding results. More than 25 years ago, she established a relationship with Clarkson College that would eventually prepare her for the position she holds today.

Dishman began her path in health care when she enrolled at Clarkson College and earned her diploma in Nursing in 1985. After several years in the workforce, she decided to pursue her Nursing degree and graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program in 1991. Fifteen years later, she returned to the BSN program, only this time not as a student. She accepted her first job at the College in 2006 as an adjunct instructor teaching Health Assessment, which she soon thereafter began teaching full-time.

Not long after receiving her teaching position, Dishman balanced work and education when she returned to the classroom. By 2009, she earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree—again, from Clarkson College—and continued with her teaching career.

Her dedication as an instructor and former student was apparent, and in January 2011 she accepted the position of Assistant Director of the BSN program at Clarkson College.

Dishman says a significant transition between her previous and current roles is becoming educated about all of the programs at the College—the way they function, the courses they offer, their dual degree options and more. The positional change also meant giving up teaching clinical in the ICU, which was one of the responsibilities she looked most forward to as an instructor.

Now, 25 years since receiving her Nursing diploma, Dishman can proudly reflect on her development at Clarkson College. Her various roles have brought major transitions, but one aspect—the one she enjoys the most—has always remained: her ability to work with and influence the education of Clarkson College Nursing students.

Alumni Cookbooks Available
Order yours to support the Alumni Association & current Clarkson College students

It is not too late to purchase an alumni cookbook! Money raised by this project assists the association in supporting students, the College and alumni activities. The cookbook contains more than 250 recipes from alumni, faculty, staff and friends.

To purchase your cookbook, send $18 via check or money order made out to “Alumni Association of Clarkson College” to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN DISCOVERY?
Lend a hand as alumni gather to organize the Clarkson College Historical archives by contacting Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.
Decorated Table Trivia Luncheon Reservation

Use the form below to register for the June 4 event & join in the fun!

**Event details**
On Saturday, June 4, the Alumni Association will be hosting a luncheon from noon until 2 p.m. in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Tables will seat eight people and sell for $80 ($10 per person).
Six rounds of trivia will be played during the luncheon, and prizes will be given for the best decorated table and for the overall trivia winning team.

**Lead the fun**
Table leaders are needed to purchase a table, create a theme for the table, decorate the table according to the theme and provide a side dish and dessert for their table. Table leaders can do this on their own or share the fun with their guests. Seats for the table can be sold to your invited guests.

**I have enclosed $80 to reserve my table. Checks should be made payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association. For other payment options, contact Rita VanFleet.**

The theme for my table will be ____________________________

**Questions**

**Contact Information**
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Class of ____________________________

**Payment Options**

☐ Continuing Education Event: $20 for paid Alumni Association members and students; $40 for non-members.

☐ “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” riverboat cruise ___ will be attending at a cost of $45 per person. Checks or money orders should be made payable to “Alumni Association of Clarkson College.”

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

**PARKING**
Event parking, maps and detailed information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation(s).

**RSVP by** Monday, Aug. 8
Clarkson College Alumni Association, attn: Alumni Coordinator 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131

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**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SURVEY**

**NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK**

Have you found the information from John Hancock published in the newsletter helpful?
☐ Yes □ No □ Haven’t read

Would you like the John Hancock information to continue being published in upcoming issues of the Alumni Times?
☐ Yes, continue publishing this information in the Alumni Times.
☐ No, you may remove this information from the newsletter.

Do you have any professional or personal stories that would make interesting future articles in the Alumni Times newsletter?
☐ Yes □ No. Please describe:

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**ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENTS**

**ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENTS**

**Alumni Weekend: Event Registration Form**

This year, the Alumni Weekend events will be held on Thursday, Sept. 15 and Friday, Sept. 16.
The Alumni Association cordially invites you to attend this year’s activities.

**EVENT DETAILS**

**Thursday, Sept. 15**
10 a.m. Alumni Brunch
The anniversary classes of 1951, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 2001 will be honored at the brunch held in Howard Hall. All alumni are invited to attend. Graduates from the honored classes are to submit information to be included in the memory books distributed at the event. See page 3 for details.

Noon Annual Alumni Meeting

2:30 p.m. Convocation
Held at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, transportation will be provided from Clarkson College beginning at 1:30 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 16**
7:30 a.m. Continuing education event, “Health Care Ethics”
Look for full event details in the next Alumni Times.

7 p.m. “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” Riverboat Cruise
Ahoy! Set sail with a band ‘o pirates and yer best mate aboard the River City Star riverboat cruise from 7 to 10 p.m.

**REGISTRATION**

**Contact Information**
Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Program(s) completed ____________________________
Class of ____________________________

**Event Details**

Did you attend Convocation on Sept. 15?
☐ Yes, I will attend Convocation on Sept. 15.
☐ Yes, I need complimentary transportation to and from Clarkson College to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.
☐ Yes, I will attend the continuing education event “Health Care Ethics” on Sept. 16.
☐ Yes, I will attend the “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” riverboat cruise on Sept. 16.

☐ I will need complimentary transportation to and from Clarkson College to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

I will be bringing ___ guest(s) at $45 per person.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

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Event parking, maps and detailed information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation(s).

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**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

**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**

Rank the following topics from one to six in order of interest to you, with one being the most important and six being the least.

- Alumni Weekend events
- Improved communication
- Community involvement activities
- Member benefits
- Continuing education events
- Social events

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

What is the best way to notify you of upcoming alumni events?

- Alumni Times newsletter
- Personal invitation
- E-mail
- Website

Would you be interested in serving on the Alumni Association Board?

☐ Yes. Please contact me with more information.
☐ No, I am not interested at this time.

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I will be bringing ___ guest(s) at $45 per person.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

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**RSVP by** Monday, Aug. 8
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Spring Garden Walk: Wednesday, May 18 at 11 a.m.

You’re invited

Join us for the annual Spring 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. If you are interested in creating a memorial to a loved one, consider donating a brick, bench boulder or amphitheater seat. See below for more information.

The Heritage Garden is located in the center of campus at Clarkson College. Parking is available south of the Residence Hall in Lots 51 and 52 via 41st Street.

Paving the Future

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 Clarkson Service League Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for our students.

Small and medium bricks shown.

Payment Options

- Check: Enclosed and made payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association.
- Credit Card: Contact me regarding credit card transactions.

Event Registration

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Program(s) completed

☐ Yes, I will attend the Spring 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 honor of ______________________.
  ☐ Contact me about other giving or educational opportunities.

Print the message to be engraved below. Use one capital letter, comma or space per box.

Heritage Garden Donation

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________
Phone: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________

☐ 4.5” x 4.5” Small Brick (two lines of 10 characters per line): $100
☐ 7” x 4.5” Medium Brick (three lines of 14 characters per line): $250
☐ 7” x 10” Large Brick (seven lines of 16 characters per line): $500
☐ Amphitheater Seat: $2,000
☐ Bench Boulder: $3,000

CLARKSON SERVICE LEAGUE LIBRARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Don’t forget to attend the Clarkson Service League Library ribbon cutting ceremony to be held directly after the Spring Garden Walk. Refreshments and snacks will be served, and campus and library tours will be provided.

Questions

Contact Kim Erickson at ericksonkim@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.2580 or 800.647.5500

Forensic Nursing: The Profession & its Framework

Learn about the growing field & how it has evolved since its beginnings in the early ’90s.

By Donna Garbars Bader, M.A., M.S.N., RN, CPN, D-ABMDI, D-ACFEI

Forensic nursing is a specialty of nursing in which everything from science to public and/or legal proceedings is applied. These nurses have additional education and training in medical-legal investigation. Their expertise is essential when addressing the health needs of perpetrators, victims of violence, wrongful death and medical issues associated with these events. This specialty incorporates a specific body of knowledge, enhanced critical thinking skills and professional forensic science skills to practice in diverse settings ranging from the acute care setting, courtroom, community and medical examiner or coroner’s office. The field combines forensic science theory and concepts with the biological, psychological, theory and concepts of the nursing profession.

The theoretical framework for forensic nursing was developed by Virginia A. Lynch as a result of research conducted at the University of Texas in Arlington in 1990. She provided well-defined evidence identifying the need to use well-trained, professional nurses in the scientific investigation, care and treatment for victims of violent crime, trauma or death. The basic concept of forensic nursing grew from clinical forensic medicine practice.

Nursing care and treatment has long been provided to forensic patients—both victims and perpetrators of violence.

Forensic Nursing in the Field

Forensic nursing applies specific approaches to the assessment and care of its patients. These approaches are based on conditions defined within the criminal justice system, such as what constitutes a crime; intent vs. no intent; effect of the crime on a victim, perpetrator, support system and community; mental illness related to the crime’s victims and perpetrators; types of rehabilitation services provided for victims and perpetrators.

Forensic nurses are able to conduct a scientific investigation and provide treatment to victims of trauma and treatment to perpetrators. They must be able to identify, collect and preserve evidence that may be used in a court of law.

The practice provides many diverse roles for the registered nurse. A few sub-specialties of the profession include forensic nurse sexual assault examiner, educator, legal nurse consultant, nurse coroner, death investigator or nurse attorney.

Role of Forensic Nurses

The first priority of forensic nurses is to secure the safety of the living victim and the deceased victim’s body. Collecting and preserving evidence from the victim should never compromise the safety or integrity of the body.

Development of interviewing techniques is key for forensic nurses, as they should have the ability to communicate effectively with a variety of individuals. They develop and implement forensic science staff orientation and continuing education programs, and they can act as a consultant with risk management administration to review medical records.

Forensic nursing—or any health care specialty—is the importance to care for yourself.

In a school setting, the forensic nurse is able to identify children at risk for abuse and/or neglect. In a law enforcement role, forensic nurses provide direct evaluation and care for the victims while collecting evidence and providing referrals. In the home care setting, they assess living conditions for safety, assess the patient for evidence of exploitation, abuse and/or neglect, and provide referral for community service agency assistance.

Gaining Ground in the Profession

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences was the first professional organization to recognize forensic nursing as a credible, scientific discipline in 1991. In 1995, forensic nursing was granted specialty status in the “Scope and Standards of Forensic Nursing Practice” by the American Nurses Association (ANA). This comprehensive reference guide was published in conjunction with the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and ANA in 1997. Since then, the ANA has formally recognized the profession as a nursing specialty and added forensic nursing to the list of nursing specialties on its website.

The Nebraska State Board of Nursing is one of a handful of state boards that have added forensic nursing to their list of nursing specialties, and South Africa was the first country to identify the specialty as a program.

All-Encompassing Care

Forensic nurses from the United States and additional countries utilize nursing skills and knowledge to recognize the medicolegal implications in caring for the victims and families of violence.

EVENTS:

Wednesday, May 18 – Spring Garden Walk and Clarkson Service League Library ribbon cutting.

Saturday, June 4 – Decorated Table Trivia Luncheon from noon to 2 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 15 – Alumni Brunch at 10 a.m. and annual alumni meeting from noon to 1 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 16 – “Health Care Ethics” continuing education event from 7:30 a.m. to noon. “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” River City Star riverboat cruise from 7 to 10 p.m.

To register for September’s annual alumni weekend events, see page 7.
John Hancock Update
Annual reviews help secure the best life insurance policy

When was your last review? Life insurance reviews are important to consider. How has your life changed since you purchased your policy? Here are a few guidelines to consider when reviewing your policy:

- Has your health changed?
- Have you quit smoking?
- Has your family status changed?
- Has your marital status changed?
- Have you updated your beneficiaries recently?

Review the mortality table of your plan. Another area to consider regarding your life insurance is what mortality table your plan is under. This is important to know because people are living longer, and insurance companies may have adopted the new tables, which may have brought the premiums for insurance down as seen in many cases. It is not easy to find many other products that have dropped in price over time!

This may be of interest to any owner of non-term life insurance policies with cash value. By using the Internal Revenue Code section 1035, it may allow you to exchange your life insurance policy for a new one. A 1035 exchange of life insurance, unlike other products that have dropped in price over time, may not be an income recognized event. You should always discuss this option with your tax advisor to determine if this is a viable option for your situation. Depending on underwriting, you may be able to take advantage of lower insurance costs due to increased life expectancy and obtain a policy with new features and benefits or replace one that is not performing well.

With the new mortality tables, clients in good health are often able to exchange an existing policy for a new one that offers lower premiums or more death benefit. Also, people often have multiple policies enforced, allowing them to exchange these policies for one to simplify their finances. This option may not be for everyone, but it is worth a review with your insurance professional to see if it’s right for you. It is important to review your current policy to make sure you are aware of policy status, values, beneficiary and options available at least on an annual basis.

Contact
If you have questions or would like to review your current life insurance policies, contact John Schracht, CTC, at jschracht@jntwork.com or 402.758.1313 ext. 28.

From page 9
Forensic Nursing: The Profession & its Framework

In addition to aiding these victims, the perpetrator(s) may also require medical or psychological care. When providing unbiased care, it is important to remember ethical, moral and legal obligations.

One aspect of forensic nursing—or any health care specialty—is the importance to care for yourself. Violent crime situations involving serious injury or death may take its toll on a forensic nurse, and it is important to remember to make your own psychological and physical well-being a priority in order to provide the best possible care.

As a practicing nurse for more than 42 years, I believe nursing to be the best of professions, and I am both fortunate and blessed to be able to continue to practice.

About the Author
Donna Garbacz Bader, M.A., M.S.N., RNIC, CFN, D-ABMID, D-ACFL, graduated with a Master Degree in Science in Nursing degree from Clarkson College in 1993. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Doane College in Nebraska and works as a staff nurse in critical care and medical surgical area on an as-needed basis. She is actively involved with the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and the American Academy of Forensic Science to develop a forensic nursing death investigation education program. She is an IAFN committee member and helped to develop the "Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurse Death Investigators," which were approved by the American Nurses Association in 2010.

She believes forensic nurses are extremely important in the profession and feels they need to recognize their value as part of an investigative team. It is her goal to help forensic nurse death investigators become official members of investigative teams by providing education to nurses, social service agencies, law enforcement and lawyers.

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Graduate Students Hold Public Seminar

Event topic focuses on communication barriers in health care

Local health care students and professionals participated in an interactive seminar on Feb. 24 in Howard Hall where they learned about the communication barriers that exist in health care and what strategies can be used to overcome them.

Clarkson College graduate students opened the seminar with a presentation of primary research findings regarding current population trends in the U.S. and how the influx of immigrants has impacted communication between patients and health care providers.

Speakers Renaissa S. Anthony, M.D., M.P.H., and Athena Ramos, M.S., M.B.A., from the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center shared their experiences in dealing with communication barriers and how they have learned to confront them.

Guests also had the opportunity to participate in an open discussion with a panel of experts who offered their personal suggestions for improving communication with patients in the workplace.

“I couldn’t be prouder of my graduate students,” said Pam Schwald, Health Care Business Instructor. “They put together an interesting seminar to benefit undergraduate students and local health care professionals in just six short weeks.”

Strike! Bowling Tournament a Hit

The snowstorm on the evening of Jan. 22 did not interfere with the participation and fun for the Alumni Bowling Tournament held at Scorz Bowling Alley in Ralston. There were seven teams with 28 participants for the event. Talent ranged from novice to expert. Each team played two games. The total scores per team ranged from 683 to 1108.

Last place champions were team "We Don’t Give a Split," and teammates Joan Blum (’81, ’86), Mary Dalmam (’85, ’97, ’09), Cassie McKenny (’07) and Renee Ruhkamp (’09) were awarded “Nice Try” medallions. The “Bi Polar Rollers,” consisting of Sarah and Brent Sobotka, Brandon Jordan (’06) and Erin Hughes, were the evening’s winning team, taking home the event’s grand champion trophies.

Three additional winners were awarded gift cards for their standout event participation: Brent Sobotka for highest individual score of 236, “We Don’t Give a Split” for the best team name, and best team outfit was awarded to Trish Weber (’95, ’08), Shelli Weddum (’03), Ellen Collins and Jena Dickenson (’08) of the “Pink Ladies.”

Everyone had a great time, and several suggested the Alumni Bowling Tournament become an annual event.
The third Scrapbook Day was held on Feb. 26 at Archivers in Village Pointe Shopping Center in Omaha. The group of 15 participants enjoyed spending the day creating scrapbook pages and making cards. Lots of enthusiasm went into the projects. Ideas and techniques were readily shared among the participants. Socialization and fun accompanied all of the day’s creativity.

A new alumna attendee, Susan Hinrichs (’94), shared her children’s scrapbook, which was beautifully constructed. Carla Dirkschneider (’07) and Rita VanFleet (’67, ’94, ’06) continued to work on books they had started at the first scrapbook day. Nickki Hardin (’95, ’97) and her mother worked on a family scrapbook. Jena Dickinson (’08) and her mother used the day to create a very intricate pieced patchwork quilt square. The others added to or created new books (pages) or made cards. At the close of the day, the question asked was “When is the next event going to be?” Watch upcoming issues of the Alumni Times for the next Scrapbook Day event.