The Legacy of a Leading Lady
Dr. Patricia Book Perry’s life as a professional, mother & humanitarian
By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Perhaps one of the most enduring memories many have of the late Dr. Patricia Book Perry was her ability to create unparalleled connections with the people in her life. As an instructor, Associate Director and Dean at Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing, and Clarkson College President, Board of Directors member and Board of Directors Emeritus, she enlightened and inspired thousands of lives. Her accomplishments as a health care education leader and philanthropist established her as a highly respected and admired figure within Omaha and across the state of Nebraska.

While the passing of Dr. Perry on Sept. 13, 2011 was a trying time for many, there was much joy to be found in a life well worth celebrating. Her success as a professional, in combination with her most prized moments as a mother and caregiver, shaped the core of her wholesome spirit. Largely told from the perspective of her most cherished loved ones, here is her story.

Making a Presence at a Young Age
Patricia Book Perry was born on July 30, 1924 in Harlan, Iowa to Charles and Erie Bailey Book. Raised her entire underage life in Shelby County—along with her brother, Harry, and sister, Norma—Dr. Perry graduated high school and moved to Omaha to begin her nursing education. In 1944, she married Samuel H. Perry, M.D. then graduated in 1945 from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing.

The newlyweds’ lives were set in motion, and in 1950 they moved to Gothenburg, Neb. where Samuel practiced medicine and the couple raised their son, Samuel H. II, and daughter, Patricia.

continued on page 3
Happy New Year!
I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and is looking forward to another great year.

As we kick off 2012, the Alumni Association Board of Directors has decided to offer some new and exciting events. Some of the events planned for the upcoming months include bowling and golf tournaments, table trivia, a continuing education event focusing on bowling and golf tournaments, table trivia, and a riverboat cruise. We invite you to take part in any and all of our new activities this year. There will be more information to come as we get closer to the event dates.

We continue to pursue the goals the Alumni Association Board of Directors established during the summer. As a Board, we strive to increase our membership on a yearly basis. We continue to publish newsletters to increase communication about alumni events and the membership benefits, as well as highlight alumni happenings. The Board enjoys the position as a liaison between the College and alumni and looks forward to continuing to support current students and alumni of Clarkson College. Please let us know if you have any additional ideas or how we can better serve you.

On behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, we look forward to 2012 and the exciting events planned for alumni. We hope to see you at the next event. Until then, don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Jena Dickinson
Alumni Association President
402.552.2944
dickinsonjena@clarksoncollege.edu

Alumni Board Ready for 2012
New events scheduled as Board gears up for upcoming year

Alumni Cookbook Available
The cookbook contains more than 250 recipes from alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Money raised assists the association in supporting students, the College and alumni activities.

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 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
Elizabeth appreciated the “small things” that defined the loving and generous character of her grandmother. “I remember calling her one day from my home in Illinois asking if she would buy me a warm-up suit that I could wear to track practice.” Elizabeth outlined the reasons for needing the warm-up suit, and requested it be black/red. “She put the check in the mail the next day!”

Notable in Patricia’s mind was her mother’s devotion to her grandchildren. “Even though her career was demanding more and more of her time and she was working to complete her Ph.D., she postponed this priority for a semester so that she could assist me during the first months of life of our two children,” Patricia shared. Again [like the 10-plus years Dr. Perry spent caring for her parents in Harlem], this made me realize that these are the important things in life.

Dr. Perry’s kindness, as many can vouch, extended beyond her immediate family. “As her grandchild, I certainly knew about Clarkson College,” Elizabeth explained. “As a school gymnast and a track star, one of my important memories was being the first female on the Clarkson College women’s track team.”

Outlining Her Proudest Moments

When asked what Patricia, Samuel H. II, Anne, Randall and Elizabeth found to be Dr. Perry’s greatest achievements, both personal and professional, the bountyfulness of responses was no surprise. Nearly all of them, however, noted the transformation of Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing to Clarkson College—the first in the region.

“Of course the one that comes to mind first is the day Clarkson College was accredited by the National League of Nursing,” Patricia said. “[Regardless] of the decision to lead this effort, fearing it may not be best for Clarkson College, its staff and its students. As this progressed, and as she received the support of her colleagues, she knew it was the right thing to do.”

Along with establishing Clarkson College as a distinguished professional, the bountifulness of responses was no surprise. Nearly all of them, however, noted the transformation of Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing to Clarkson College—the first in the region for women.

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The Perry family members have similar memories of their mother/grandmother, such as spending time together at their cabin on Jeffery Lake. “These could be up to 10 of us in the small fishing boat eating chips and drinking sodas as we cruised around the lake,” grandmother Elizadeth reminisced.

The family members also revealed more exclusive moments spent with Dr. Perry. “Grandma had a meeting in Washington D.C., and I got to spend three days with her by myself,” granddaughter Arlene shared. “I was 13 or 14 years old, and I got to fly with her on a plane. We took in every historical site possible from dawn until well into the night. She even took me to a show, which I think was the first one I ever got to see. I just remember feeling so important and special, because she took me with her.”

Dr. Perry appreciated the “small things” that defined the loving and generous character of her grandmother. “I remember calling her one day from my home in Illinois asking if she would buy me a warm-up suit that I could wear to track practice.” Elizabeth outlined the reasons for needing the warm-up suit, and requested it be black/red. “She put the check in the mail the next day!”

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Alumna Named Director of Nursing at Bellevue Medical Center

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

When taking a look at the résumé of Clarkson College alumna Lisa Walters, one can’t help but take note of her admirable work history and many successes as a health care professional. With her perpetual climb up the career ladder, it’s no wonder she recently accepted the Director of Nursing position at Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Neb. Walters’ success is arguably the by-product of hard work that began decades ago. After graduating from high school in Elkhorn, she began her pursuit as a future nurse at Methodist School of Nursing. Shortly after earning her diploma from the RN program in 1980, she accepted a position at the Norfolk Regional Center, a 174-bed psychiatric hospital in Norfolk, Neb. Her essential job functions included case management for the acute inpatient unit, development of the acute inpatient unit, development of hospital accreditation measures, safety procedures, budget, physician relations and strategic planning. She also served as a liaison to the Department of Public Institutions and directed all of the ancillary departments at the hospital.

In the midst of her career advancement, Walters made the decision to further her education. This was a challenge considering she was a full-time professional and mother, and online education had not yet established itself as a conventional learning modality. Fortunately enough, Clarkson College introduced a RN to BSN option that catered to the Northeastern Nebraska population. Instructors traveled once a week to Norfolk to teach classes to advancing nurses, and Walters could not pass up the convenience and accessibility the program offered. After receiving her BSN degree from Clarkson College in 1991, Walters set out to earn her MSN degree. Clarkson College offered Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday class combinations, so graduate nursing students could attend at their convenience. After one trimester, Walters completed the program. She comments that she particularly enjoyed the Summer Institutes, which were 40-hour class experiences conducted over one week that included various lectures from guest speakers.

Following the Summer Institute, Walters completed her final project to fulfill her course objectives. “This was a creative, fun and challenging way to educate mature learners,” she comments. Walters’ class was one of the first to graduate from the MSN program, and, interestingly enough, she was the only one of her classmates who worked in the nursing field at the time. Others held jobs as radiology managers, human resources personnel, pharmacists and health care architects, to name a few.

From this time on, Walters’ work experience continued to evolve. She remained in Norfolk for a few more years after accepting a position in 1996 as Vice President of Clinical Services (Chief Nursing Officer) at Faith Regional Hospital. In 2010, she moved out of state for the first time to serve as Interim Chief Nursing Officer at a regional hospital in Emporia, Kan. Shortly thereafter, a new opportunity arose in the state of Washington. Before Walters knew it, she was heading northwest to serve as the Consulting Nurse Administrator at Auburn Regional Medical Center.

Still settling into her new career and living environment in Washington, Walters discovered yet another favorable job opportunity. Unlike the others, this one had something quite special—it was back at home. Bellevue Medical Center opened in fall 2010 and was in need of a new Director of Nursing. Walters made her return to Nebraska and began her new position this past September.

“I am excited to be a part of such a friendly, beautiful organization and especially proud to be a part of The Nebraska Medical Center family,” Walters says. “The challenge before us at Bellevue Medical Center is to establish ourselves as a community hospital in the eastern Nebraska and western region of Iowa. The care and expertise of the Bellevue employees and physicians is impressive. We truly are dedicated to providing quality, compassionate health care.”

Walters’ vast experience of consulting in various states with distinct populations taught her that health care issues remain much the same across the board. She explains that the entire nation is on the threshold of many changes in areas relating to health care access, payment of services, quality, safety expectations and outcomes in collaboration between physicians and health care providers. “It seems like every few years we get to be a part of something big in our country for health care,” she adds. “In the 1940’s, it was the introduction of Medicare; in the 1980’s, it was the Diagnostic Related Groups (DRGs); in the 1990’s, it was the debate of health care reform, and we continue with this debate today.”

While the impression Walters has made in the healthcare arena is applaudable, her personal life yields substantial richness, as well. She has been married 32 years to her best friend, Dan. They have two children, Jared and Alyssa, who are both married with children of their own. Her grandson, Race, is 18 months old and Marley, her granddaughter, is 10 months old. While Walters’ home is in Norfolk, she remains in the Omaha area during the week and on many weekends. Her passions for cooking and reading inclined her to start a book club eight years ago that she says still remains a supportive, fun group.

Graduate Capstone Review by Alumni Association Board

Introduction of the Capstone projects was featured in the October/November 2011 issue of the Alumni Times. This issue marks the second time these projects have been featured. In summation of the previous discussion, the Capstone experience allows each student at the end of his/her Master’s program to investigate a question of practical importance by utilizing the critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies, theories and principles learned throughout the course of study. The final outcome of the Capstone experience includes completion of a scholarly, evidence-based document that can be further revised for potential publication or an actual document that can be used by practitioners, educators, administrators or clients. The Alumni Association Board of Directors formed a sub-committee to evaluate the abstracts using a rubric, and the top three projects of the December 2011 graduates were determined. Megan Kroopik’s abstract titled Comparative Study of Solid Organ Transplant Unit Staff Knowledge & Infection Rates Regarding Clostridium Difficile received the first place award. Jolene Freile’s abstract titled Validation of the Pediatric Logistic Organ Dysfunction Tool for Pediatric Transplant Sepsis received the second place award. Cristina Wilkening’s abstract Acne in Adolescents: Development of an Education Tool to Improve Compliance received the third place award.

The full list of December 2011 graduate Capstone abstracts is listed on page 9. If you are interested in reading the unpublished abstracts or would like to know about the entire project, feel free to contact the author via e-mail.

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

How has your health care career flourished? We would love to hear from you and feature you in the next Alumni Times. Simply contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetr@clarksoncollege.edu.

Spring Garden Walk: Wednesday, May 16 at 11 a.m.

Join us for the annual Spring Garden Walk in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden as we celebrate the dedication of new bricks and boulevards.

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.

YOU’RE INVITED

To reserve your spot, complete the Spring Garden Walk registration form, which is located at ClarksonCollege.edu on the “Alumni & Friends” navigation tab. All completed registration and donation forms with payment should be sent to Clarkson College Alumni Association, attn: Kim Erickson, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131 no later than April 20.

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

RSVP BY APRIL 20
Comparative Study of Solid Organ Transplant Unit Staff Knowledge & Infection Rates Regarding Clostridium Difficile by Megan Knopik

Background: Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) is the most common cause of health care acquired diarrhea (Cohen et al., 2010). Following three consecutive years (2008 to 2010) of decreased rates of C. difficile at The Nebraska Medical Center Solid Organ Transplant Unit (SOTU), infection rates began increasing in 2011. Therefore, The Nebraska Medical Center medical director of health care epidemiology requested a review of hand hygiene compliance and proper C. difficile infection procedures be conducted.

Purpose: The purpose of this comparative study was to determine the difference between SOTU staff members pre/post knowledge regarding various aspects of isolation procedures for C. difficile and to determine the difference in C. difficile infection rates.

Subject Selection: A convenience sample of 114 health care workers (47 staff nurses and 40 care technicians) who provide direct patient care to patients on the SOTU were the target population for this study.

Data Collection: The principal investigator of the study met with staff members who attended a change of shift session between August 26 and November 2011. Prior to a 30-minute educational session, subjects completed a pre-test. After subjects viewed a PowerPoint educational session, a post-test was completed. The C. difficile infection rates were obtained from the Healthcare Epidemiology department at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Measurements Used: A nine-item pre-and post test using identical test items and an educational module regarding proper hand hygiene and other isolation procedures were the measurements used during the educational session with the SOTU staff members.

Summary of Findings: A paired t test was performed to determine the difference in the subject's knowledge. A statistically significant difference (t = 4.63, p = 0.007) was computed between staff’s pre- and post-test knowledge. An independent samples t test was performed to identify statistical significance in C. difficile infection rates before and after the educational session; however, no statistically significant difference was identified between C. difficile infection rates between July through August and September through October 2011.

Conclusions/Recommendations: The limited number of subjects demonstrated knowledge gain, but a decrease in infection rates did not occur, therefore, the study should be replicated.

Validation of the Pediatric Logistic Organ Dysfunction Tool for Pediatric Transplant Sepsis by Jolene Freed

Background: Screening tools for sepsis exist and are currently being used in the clinical setting. Unfortunately, the pediatric solid organ transplant (SOT) population does not fit into standard adult parameters for sepsis based on depressed or absent systems/inflammatory response.

Purpose: The aim of this study was to determine if the Pediatric Logistic Organ Dysfunction (PeLOD) score supports early recognition of sepsis in the pediatric SOT population. Results demonstrated that differences in the PeLOD scores between SOT patients known to have sepsis and those who were not diagnosed with sepsis were statistically significant (p<0.05) and that the PeLOD was effective in detecting sepsis in pediatric SOT patients.

Conclusions/Recommendations: This study was the first to use an illness-severity scoring system to review pediatric SOT patients who exhibited evidence of sepsis. Results demonstrated that differences in the PeLOD scores between SOT patients known to have sepsis and those who were not diagnosed with sepsis were statistically significant (p<0.05) and that the PeLOD was effective in detecting sepsis in pediatric SOT patients. Additional research may help identify if the PeLOD would be useful in identifying sepsis if calculated every day versus every few days or even on a once-weekly basis.

Acne in Adolescents: Development of an Education Tool to Improve Compliance by Crista Wilkening

Background: Adolescence is a vulnerable period of time that presents a wide array of physical and psychological changes. Affecting more than 50 percent of adolescents, acne may result in severe psychological distress. While treatment plans are available, noncompliance to acne regimens remains an issue. Lack of adherence to an acne treatment regimen may lead to little improvement.

Purpose: The provision of education to adolescents is essential to dispel misconceived beliefs surrounding acne. A lack of research exists in regards to whether a well developed education tool may help enhance adolescent compliance to an acne regimen and decrease associated psychological distress. Therefore, an education tool was created to target the subject of acne in adolescence.

Methodology: Information was derived from databases, credible Internet sources and textbooks. The three stages of adolescence were taken into consideration, as well as the role of health literacy. Criteria were followed throughout development of the education tool and a final review was performed by dermatology practitioners to ensure accuracy.

Brief Description: The education tool includes a description of acne and commonly used treatment regimens. In addition, the education tool identifies the basics of acne and the role of the provider in the plan of care.

Recommendations for Use: The education tool may hold positive implications for the adolescent, provider and public health agencies who work with adolescents. In order to augment the discussion of acne and target the adolescent population, the education tool may be dispersed in school and health care settings.

Recommendations for Future Research: A pilot study may be initiated to receive feedback from adolescents. Based on the feedback, modifications could be made to the education tool to enhance adolescents’ understanding of acne. The proposed study may then be conducted in a group of adolescents to determine if the education tool significantly improves compliance and psychological distress related to acne.

From page 7
Graduate Capstone Review by Alumni Association Board

Rebecca Blair
beckleywayer@gmail.com
A Palliative Care Educational Tool for Nurses in the Acute Care Setting, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Patricia Connally-Robinson
SundanceGail@mtn.com
An Educational Manual for ADN Students Related to Diabetic Medications to Improve Student Critical Thinking, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Kimberly Francois
KimberlyAnn098@hotmail.com
A Postpartum Breastfeeding Algorithm for Common Breastfeeding Problems, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Jennifer Ganvanati
jghavanati@box.net
Improving Discharge Readiness in Patients with Heart Failure to Increase Self Care, advisor Dr. Regina Nalon

Tracey Irens-Dieteler
TIMORDN15@fairview.org
An Evidence-Based Guideline for Adults with Hypertension who Reside in Rural Populations, advisor Dr. Pam Timmons

Jolene Freed
freed@tcm.com
Validation of the Pediatric Logistic Organ Dysfunction Tool for Pediatric Transplant Sepsis, advisor Dr. Regina Nalon

Katherine Karle
karlekatrinae@clarksoncollege.edu
Use of Simulation in Nursing Education: A Faculty Guidebook for Implementation, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Alicia Keeler
aliciakeeler@hotmail.com
Fit of Palliative Care Program Patients to Criteria on a Screening Tool, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

Megan Knopik
mknopik@nebraskamed.com
Comparative Study of Solid Organ Transplant Unit Staff Knowledge & Infection Rates Regarding Clostridium Difficile, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Kiley Meyer
The Development of an Organizational Model of Caring in a Midwest VA Medical Center, advisor Dr. Peggy Gound

Jed Sanders
sanders.jed@clarksoncollege.edu
ICU Delirium: An Educational Pamphlet for Intensive Care Nurses, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Judy Thomas
jtomai@nebraskamed.com
Effective Leadership Style Within a Critical Care Environment, advisor Dr. Pam Schwebach

Shelli Weddum
weddum@clarksoncollege.edu
Development of Critical Thinking Skills in Radiography Students, advisor Dr. Pam Schwebach

Crista Wilkening
wilkening.crista@clarksoncollege.edu
Acne in Adolescents: Development of an Education Tool to Improve Compliance, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

For further information on any of the capstone projects, feel free to contact the author via e-mail.
Alumni Class Notes
Class notes are published in the January/February and July/August editions of the Alumni Times. We are always happy to hear from alumni and want to share the information with others. If you have a story or information that you would like to share in this section, please let us know. Information can pertain to achievements, awards, marriages, births, deaths, travel and other significant news.

When sending information, please include maiden name, if applicable, program and year of graduation. E-mail your information to vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu, call 402 552 3316 or write to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68117.

Class of 1940

Jacqueline O. Seckler Medlar (’49) writes about her memories of Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital, stating, “In midterm of my sophomore year in high school, we moved to Omaha. Central High School was closed due to a janitor strike, so I went to Clarkson Hospital to apply for a job. When asked if I had any experience, I told them I had worked at the Chadron Hospital, and they wanted me to start the next day. I was 15 years old. I was sent to North, and Fran Sheld was the head nurse. She was an ex-army nurse that was austere but very fair. I learned a lot from her. I worked 4 to 7 p.m. after school and weekends and from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. during the summer. The doctors liked us because we treated patients on 4 North because they received good care.

In 1946, I entered nurses training. Cecelia Meister was the head nurse. We had to sign in, sign out and tell where we were going. We could stay out until 10 p.m. and had to get permission to stay out longer or overnight. We had a living room to receive our visitors or dates. Surgery and OB services were at Clarkson Hospital. psychiat was at the old County Hospital and pediatrics was at Children’s Hospital—there were a lot of post-poli patients at that hospital. We sat with all of our surgical patients until they awakened. I really liked Clarkson Hospital—especially after I had passed my State Board. Later when my husband, Clyde, was prepping in Stromberg, I worked in York Hospital where Cecelia Meister was employed. Presently, I volunteer at the Community Hospital, and I enjoy being around the patients.

Class of 1950

Dorothy Fox Teesdale (’51) writes, “I hate to admit that I had bacterial pneumonia and was in the hospital for seven days due to an atrial fib flutter condition. I am still busy with Lowell Senior Services and set up our trips and/or speaker’s group for all our lunch. I am a member of the Michigan Audubon Club and enjoy looking for birds. I have worked with the Peripheral Neurapathy (PN) Support group since 2001. We now have 470 members who have PN or who have someone in their family with PN. This keeps me very busy. In February 2011, more cancer was found in my right lung. I completed radiation and am (due) for another CAT scan. I keep a positive attitude to manage each day.”

Beverly Zdan Wright Gillette (’53) writes, “Mar and I continue to enjoy our retirement years. We are active in family, friends, church and our community. Working in jail ministry for over a year allows me to not only spread the good news but to share my mental health nursing knowledge. I am grateful to my parents and Clarkson College for the skills I learned to allow for my good life both professionally and personally.”

Kathryn Arris Higgins (’54) writes, “My roommate in training, Ginger Amack Shinn, suffered a severe stroke and is recuperating at Country Villa Rancho Mirage Health Care Center, Room 103, 99900 Vista Del Sol, Rancho Mirage, Calif. 92270.”

Della Marie Baez-Howe (’55) writes, “I have worked in many areas of nursing, including newborn, pediatric and adult ICUs. I’ve set up the dialysis unit at the University of Minnesota and later the bone marrow transplant unit at the University of Minnesota and University of California at San Francisco. This included teaching the nurses in these staffs. I’ve had five kidney and bone marrow transplants in the early stages at the time I worked in these frontiers. Prior to retiring in 2008, I worked for the health department in Marin County, Ca if. I have many fond memories of my experiences and of the wonderful people I’ve met—both patients and medical staff. I had wanted to be a nurse since I was young, and I’d do it all over again.”

Class of 1960

Karen Sargent Dorf (’64) writes, “I am semi-retired doing home nursing care. I love retirement, it just doesn’t pay well. I still live in Nebraska. In July to see my daughter, and we drove to Washington for the Sargent family reunion.

I enjoyed our 45th college reunion so very much but was disappointed that more classmates didn’t attend. Please, all of you, make an effort to the next big one. It was so good to see those who came and relive some fun times and fond memories.”

Mary Frerics Marler & Marcia Fitzgerald Weeks (’65) After graduation, Mary Frerics and Marcia Fitzgerald took a 53 Mustang and traveled to California. Marcia dropped Mary off in Glendale, Ariz. to stay with her aunt, Marcia was five years younger than Mary. Mom. I now the women stayed in touch and saw one other in San Francisco. Mary met Dan, Marcia met Milt. They married after a long time went by.

In 2010, they contacted each other via Facebook discovering that Marcia had moved to Mendocino, Ca if. and Mary had moved to Washington. On Sept. 15, 2011, after 45 years, they met at Marcia’s house for lunch to catch up and meet one another’s husbands. Both couples have been married for 44 years, with Mary and Dan having married a month before Marcia and Paul. Marcia made a display of her Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing picture, yearbooks and mementos, and the women had a grand time remembering. Both women are quieters and went to the fabric store during the afternoon of their meeting.

Mary and Marcia say, “Hey you, all graduates—we have you all on our minds and would love to have a reunion again.” They plan to stay in touch with the next meeting being scheduled in Washington.

Class of 1970

Julie Winquest Sand (’70) writes “I am retired from nursing and enjoying being a grandmother. We live in Lincoln, Neb. and have three children—two living in Nebraska and one in Denver, Colo.”

Jean Scherling Huff (’71) writes, “Wow! It’s hard to believe 40 years have passed since we graduated from nursing school. For the past 32 years, I have worked at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte, Neb. I have worked in lots of different positions there and have been working (in) both medical and radiation oncology at the Callahan Cancer Center for the past 15 years. I like what I do—it is both challenging and satisfying.

I am an avid quilter, giving most of them as gifts or for fundraisers. I also enjoy my time at home. I garden in the summer and quilt in the winter. This past summer, we enjoyed the fresh vegetables from my garden. I like to can green beans, corn, tomato soup and lot’s of salsa. This past spring, we had lots of strawberries. I have three children—one in Omaha, one in Lincoln and one in North Platte. Our son recently got married in Lincoln. His new wife had three children, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. He has one child, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. He has one child, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. His new wife had three children, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. His new wife had three children, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. His new wife had three children, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. My husband Allen works in General Goods. His new wife had three children, so we now have three step-grandchildren. Neither of our daughters have any children. Mary and Marcia Meister—both of the times went by.

Louis Gemino (’73) writes, “I have worked with the Peripheral Neuropathy program and the American Red Cross until fall 1975, worked at the American Red Cross for 35 years. In September 2010, we took a cruise to Alaska, and it was wonderful. We had sunny days the whole time we were there.”

Gary Javitch (’75) Gary is beginning his 17th year teaching medical students, PAs and incoming students on their ability to take a holistic approach, perform a physical and make a diagnosis. In addition, he launched a mediation and conflict resolution service, focusing on family conflict and work place mediation.

A. Christy Seckman (’78) writes, “After receiving my DNP degree, I have published two articles this year and have traveled to Dubai and Ireland.”

Karen Abboud (’05) writes, “I have been an instructor at Clarkson College since August 2009. I work PRN for various skilled nursing facilities. I received my Advanced Proiciency recognition from the American Physical Therapy Association in June 2011. I became a certified lymphedema therapist in November 2010. I began pursuing my Master’s degree in Public Health Administration from Clarkson College this past fall. I have been married to my husband, Jeremy, for 11 years and have two kids, Michael, 7, and Karlynn, 4.”

Kelly Jackson (’05) serves as the Volunteer Coordinator in the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Clarkson College and is working part-time in outpatient orthopedics to rehab. I am currently pursuing my Bachelor’s degree in Public Health and Physical Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, with plans to complete my Master’s degree in Public Health Administration at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I have a 1-year-old puppy named Myra Lynn and plan to get more dogs in the future.”

Chelsea Boring (’06) Chelsea successfully passed her certification on the post-primary mammography exam with an impressive score of 95 percent. She is certified with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist in radiography and mammography.

Class of 2000

Judy Sterns Roemerman died on Oct. 29, 2011 after a brief illness. Frances was a resident of Riverview, Fla. at the time of her death.

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Class of 2010

Judy Rogers (’10) Julie married Jeff Gonzales on Sept. 10, 2011 at Joslyn Castle in Omaha. She currently works as a Physical Therapist Assistant and Rehab Coordinator for Compeer Care and Rehab in Omaha, Neb.

In Memoriam

Class of 1953

Frances Ucker Box died on Sept. 23, 2011 after a brief illness. Frances was a resident of Riverview, Fla. at the time of her death.

Class of 1971

Judy Sterms Roseman died on Oct. 29, 2011. Judy was a resident of Jacksonville, N.C. at the time of her death.

Events:
March – Scrapbook Day. Date and event details to be determined.
Nursing Professors & Student Recognized For Their Contributions

Each year, March of Dimes, a national non-profit organization that works to improve the health of mothers and babies, awards 25 nurses from each state for their outstanding work, leadership and contributions to their community and the profession of nursing. This year, Clarkson College is proud to announce that Assistant Nursing Professors Joan Blum and Marsha Cravens were nominated for the Nebraska Excellence in Nursing Award, and Nursing student Kimberly Fink was a recipient of the Outstanding Senior Student Nurse Award.

Nominations for the awards occurred July 2011. Hundreds of nurses across Nebraska and southwestern Iowa were recognized on Nov. 10 during a ceremony held at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in La Vista. Typically, 25 awards are presented, but due to the exemplary efforts of the nominees, 27 were recipients.

Any nurse who has been employed by a Nebraska employer for at least one year was eligible to be nominated for the Excellence in Nursing Award, and the criteria for the Outstanding Senior Student Nurse Award went as follows:

› Been a student for at least a year and will graduate in December 2011 or May 2012.
› Maintained academic excellence record.
› Included patients’ families when providing patient care.
› Exemplified an extraordinary level of care and compassion.
› Contributed significantly to promote a positive image of the student nurse.
› Demonstrated leadership potential.
› Participated in community service.

Joan Blum, Assistant Nursing Professor
I was honored to be considered for a nursing award that honors excellence. I was humbled to hear the “stories” of other nurses who have changed patients’ lives by their dedication.

Marsha Cravens, Assistant Nursing Professor
I was honored to be recognized along with the dedicated nurses across Nebraska as a nominee for the March of Dimes Excellence in Nursing Award. I’m mindful that teaching future professional nurses is a privilege and an honor. I’m humbled that my peers felt I was worthy of this recognition and grateful to be part of the dedicated faculty at Clarkson College.

Kimberly Fink, Nursing student
I am very thankful to have instructors who recognize their students’ contributions and who are very invested in their students’ lives. I feel very fortunate for the education I have received through Clarkson College and am very excited to have been recognized by the March of Dimes. Nursing is and always has been a passion of mine. It is the most exciting, fulfilling profession anyone could ever be a part of.

Karle & Weddum Graduate with Their Master’s Degrees

Two Clarkson College full-time faculty members received their Master’s degrees Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 at the College graduation commencement. Nursing instructor Karle Karle received her Master of Science degree in Nursing with a focus in Nursing Education, and RT/MI Coordinator Shelli Weddum received her Master’s degree in Health Care Administration.

Karle entered the MSN program in spring 2008. She graduated from the Clarkson College BS program in 2005, and it was during her time working on the floor she realized she wanted to teach someday. “I loved working with nursing students on the floor and precepting senior students and new employees,” she said. “I found it very rewarding to see the growth with these students/employees. I loved when the students had the “ah ha” moment and were able to piece the information together and understand the holistic approach to care and how everything related. I decided that I wanted to teach, so I began back to school.” The teaching hours were also very appealing for a family life.”

Weddum began working towards her Master’s degree about three years ago. It was a long-term goal for her to achieve, and she also knew that in order to move up in her position, a Master’s degree is required.

Is there a next step for either graduate? For Karle, a doctorate degree is most certain. “I am not sure if I will get it in education or nursing practice, or what direction I will take.” Weddum does not feel at the present time she’s able to commit herself to pursuing another degree. “I think that while my family was very supportive, I owe it to them to take a break and focus my attention to them,” she said. “Maybe once my boys have graduated from high school, I would consider going back. Maybe?”

Center for Teaching Excellence at Clarkson College

By Mark White, Director of Center for Teaching Excellence

Like a health care team that pursues better patient outcomes, the quest for superior student learning outcomes is an unrelenting challenge for Clarkson College faculty. In 2008, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) was established to bring key educational resources together in one location on the Clarkson College campus.

The core of CTE’s mission is to suggest and provide methods to enable students to learn faster, retain information longer and enjoy the education process. Center for Teaching Excellence provides faculty resources to incorporate the latest developments in technology and research-based best teaching practices into their repertoire. Center for Teaching Excellence staff offers assistance with course design, community and diversity consideration, online education, instructional technology, learning outcomes management, test protoning and faculty development.

Located on the second floor of the main Clarkson College building, CTE houses a mini-computer lab where faculty receive instruction and are able to work with specialized educational software packages. Additionally, all of CTE’s services are available to instructors living outside of Omaha through a comprehensive in-house website with videos, tutorials, handouts, scholarly articles and faculty development trainings that are streamed live online (later made available for any time viewing).

Heavily involved in institutional improvements, CTE provides guidance regarding both College-wide strategic planning, as well as program-specific initiatives. Student feedback from both course evaluations, as well as the annual Noel-Levitz student satisfaction surveys delivered, collected and synthesized by CTE. Recommendations and reports produced by CTE provide comprehensive views of the entire institution from both faculty and student perspectives. Center for Teaching Excellence maintains a vast repository of data, which is constantly analyzed to seek ways to improve learning at Clarkson College.

In partnership with Clarkson College faculty, the CTE team focuses on the continuous enhancements necessary to improve student learning outcomes for every type of student.

Student Loan Debt Program

Short-term consolidation opportunity available early 2012
By Margie Harris, Director of Student Financial Services

On Oct. 25, 2011, the Obama Administration announced several steps it is taking to increase college affordability by making it easier to manage student loan debt. One of the initiatives is a short-term consolidation opportunity that will be offered through the U.S. Department of Education. The new program is referred to as the Special Direct Consolidation Loan Program and is not the same as the traditional consolidation loan program of federal loans under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Only certain borrowers will be eligible for Special Direct Consolidation Loans, and eligible borrowers will apply through a new and different online process. In addition, Special Direct Consolidation Loans will only be available from January through June, 30, 2012.

For additional information about the new Special Direct Consolidation Loan program, including borrower eligibility criteria and the application process, visit studentaid.ed.gov.

Academic Travel Abroad: Italy

Students, alumni, Clarkson College community—including The Nebraska Medical Center employees—and their favorite travel companions are invited to sign up for the April 28 through May 9, 2013 Academic Travel Abroad trip to Italy. During the 12-day excursion, you will immerse yourself in the wonderful sights and sounds of Italy. Highlights include a visit to the Amalfi Coast, the ruins of Pompeii, Monte Cassino Abbey, walking tour of Roman Forum and Colosseum, Sakerno hospital visit, Vatican City, free days in Rome and Sorrento, an overnight in Capri and a vineyard tour with wine tasting.

For more information, contact Dr. Pat Brennan, Academic Travel Abroad Coordinator, at brennan@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.6125 or Marilyn Rosenm at 402.552.6124 or rosenm@clarksoncollege.edu.
Omicron Epsilon Update
By Judi Dunn, Director of Professional Development

Clarkson College Omicron Epsilon Chapter President Judi Dunn traveled to the 41st Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial in October 2011. During the five day event, the Society’s business was conducted, educational sessions and elections were held, and a new President and Board of Directors were installed. Dunn received the Chapter Key award on behalf of all the Omicron Epsilon Chapter members.

The Omicron Epsilon Chapter co-sponsored the Clarkson College Graduate Capstone Symposium on Friday, Dec. 9. 2011. It was a pleasure to see and hear the exciting areas Clarkson College graduate students investigated for their projects.

The Omicron Epsilon induction ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 in Howard Hall. At that time, undergraduate and graduate nursing students who have been invited to join will be honored. Nurse leaders who have a bachelor’s degree (in any area) and are interested in joining Sigma Theta Tau International are asked to contact Judi Dunn at 402.552.6123 to inquire regarding membership.

Alumni Board Elections
Nominations for the Alumni Association Board members and officers will be held March 2012. If you would like to be an active part of the Board, send your name and a brief paragraph about your intent to participate or your interest in serving as a Board member to vari@clarksoncollege.edu or mail it to Rita VanFleet, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68133. You may also want to consider nominating someone you know. The position of president must be filled by someone who has had one year of service on the Board. After nominations are received, ballots will be sent out—unless all positions are uncontested—to all paid alumni in good standing. Those who do not presently receive Alumni Times are asked to let us know. The first place winner, Members of the “I Can’t Edible Architecture by Gen. Ed.” Team included Sarah Flanagan, Lori Bachle, Monica White, Katie Kirkpatrick, Pat Brennan, Amy Clark, Mark Balken and Jen List. To prepare for the event, the team created a diagram of its structure that demonstrated exactly how many cans and other items to use, as well as what part of the structure they would form. Second place went to the “TogethWe C.A.’N” team, and the “Giving Tree” team received third place. Employees who voted for their favorite structures were also entered into a drawing for a $50 gift card to Hy-Vee, and Sgt. Arashad-Snyder was the lucky winner.

The effort and contribution of all teams combined is what really counted in making the final annual Build for Hope a success. A total of 1,754 pounds of donated items filled six structures that demonstrated exactly how many cans and other items to use, as well as what part of the structure they would form. Second place went to the “TogethWe C.A.’N” team, and the “Giving Tree” team received third place. Employees who voted for their favorite structures were also entered into a drawing for a $50 gift card to Hy-Vee, and Sgt. Arashad-Snyder was the lucky winner.

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Honors societies at the College:
1. Member of Delta Chapter Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences
2. Member of Omicron Epsilon Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

Please note: Honors designations were based upon most current information at time of press. Clarkson College apologizes for any errors or omissions.
Dedication Wall Added to Campus
Wall highlights individuals’ exemplary loyalty to Clarkson College

Clarkson College recently installed a dedication wall in the sixth floor board room to honor former employees, advocates and ambassadors who have displayed exemplary loyalty to the College.

The dedication wall currently recognizes the following individuals:

George W. Loomis, M.D., (Aug. 26, 1923 – April 30, 2010) was an internist and founding member of Internal Medicine Associates of Omaha. In 2010, Clarkson College established a scholarship in honor of Dr. Loomis and his lifetime of extraordinary medical service. By virtue of anonymous donors, this scholarship will perpetuate the memory of a special physician.

Drexel Sibbernse served 20 years on the Clarkson College Board of Directors. Following his resignation in 2010, the Board adopted a resolution of appreciation to honor Mr. Sibbernse for his dedicated service and steadfast loyalty to the College.

Patricia B. Perry, Ph.D., M.Ed., (July 30, 1924 – Sept. 13, 2011) established herself at Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing as a student, instructor, Associate Director and Dean, and later as President, Board of Directors member and President Emeritus of Clarkson College—spanning more than 60 years of committed service. Named after Dr. Perry, the College continues to offer a faculty of the year award and an endowed scholarship to honor her compassion and influence in developing Clarkson College into a successful allied health care institution.