Alumni Times
QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Health Care Gene
One family’s anecdote about their shared passion for nursing

Clarkson College graduate Tom Denich ('80) speaks of his family who all, like him, are or will soon become nurses. His family includes his wife, Brenda; daughter, Mackenzie; son, Nicholas; and youngest son, Benjamin. To add to the interest, three of the five are proud graduates of the Clarkson College Nursing program. Benjamin will graduate as the fourth in 2012.

Though all of them aimed for a similar career destination, the Deniches each have their own story to tell.

Tom’s story began in the early 1970s. At that time, he attended UNO and was on his way toward obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He held a banking job but later became a phlebotomist and electrocardiogram technician to better financially support his pursuit of a teaching certificate. The job introduced Tom to the nursing sphere, and his fascination with the field began to stem. His supervisor happened to be an instructor at the Clarkson School of Nursing, and she convinced Tom to apply to the School. “Tough thing to do at the time,” he says. “Men were not very prevalent in the field.”

Immediately after receiving his degree from UNO in 1976, Tom began his pursuit toward a Nursing diploma at Clarkson School of Nursing. In 1980, he graduated and took his first job as a nurse in the Clarkson Hospital Coronary Care Unit. One year later, he transferred to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab where he eventually left to pursue managerial positions and implement electrophysiology programs at area hospitals.

To further expand his skill set, he worked as a clinical specialist for a catheter company for several years. By 1998, he returned to The Nebraska Medical Center as an outcomes specialist and case manager and has remained there ever since.

continued on page 6
September Alumni Weekend Events
Mark your calendar & register for this year’s alumni activities

Thursday, Sept. 15: Brunch & Convocation
The annual Alumni Brunch will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15 on campus in Howard Hall. 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.

Friday, Sept. 16: Continuing education event & riverboat cruise
A continuing education event, “Health Care Ethics,” is planned for Friday morning from 7:30 a.m. until noon in Howard Hall. The drawing took place at the end of May. In addition to receiving the gift card, the drawing winner. She has referred at least four students to Clarkson College.

Meet Your 2011-12 Alumni Association Officers & Board

The 2011-12 Alumni Association Board is in place! You will see some familiar faces on the Board again this year. It is a pleasure and honor to work with these individuals. We had a successful 2010-11 year, and I look forward to another great year.

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Stay tuned as the Alumni Association continues to evolve this year. We look forward to your attendance and involvement. If you have any comments or suggestions, please give me a call.

Until next time,

Jena Dickinson, B.S. (’08)
Alumni Association President
402.552.3632
dickinsonjena@clarksoncollege.edu

New Board, Fun Year Planned

You and your favorite travelling companion continue to evolve this next year. We look forward to another great year.

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Meet Your 2011-12 Alumni Association Officers & Board

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Stay tuned as the Alumni Association continues to evolve this year. We look forward to your attendance and involvement. If you have any comments or suggestions, please give me a call.

Until next time,

Jena Dickinson, B.S. (’08)
Alumni Association President
402.552.3632
dickinsonjena@clarksoncollege.edu

New Board, Fun Year Planned

The 2011-12 Alumni Association Board is in place! You will see some familiar faces on the Board again this year. It is a pleasure and honor to work with these individuals. We had a successful 2010-11 year, and I look forward to another great year.

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Meet Your 2011-12 Alumni Association Officers & Board

The 2011-12 Alumni Association Board is in place! You will see some familiar faces on the Board again this year. It is a pleasure and honor to work with these individuals. We had a successful 2010-11 year, and I look forward to another great year.

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Meet Your 2011-12 Alumni Association Officers & Board

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.

Meet Your 2011-12 Alumni Association Officers & Board

The Board will continue to offer events for alumni to share memories, network, mingle and keep in touch with other alumni. Some events slated for this year include Scrapbook Day, a continuing education event and a riverboat cruise. We will also be working on a research project. We will continue to keep you updated about events through the Alumni Times, e-mail and letters.
First Decorated Table Trivia Luncheon a Success

Attendees enjoy trivia & creativity during themed event

What do Mardi Gras and the Kentucky Derby have in common? They both were winning tables at the June 4 Decorated Table Trivia Luncheon. The Mardi Gras table, hosted by alumna Jen Anderson ('10), won the prize for the best decorated table and scoring 41 points. The Kentucky Derby table, hosted by alumna Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06). The Candy Land table, hosted by alumna Jena Dickinson ('08), came in second place during the trivia portion, scoring 40 points. Judges tabulating the ballots for the best decorated table and scores for the table trivia winner were Clarkson College employees Sharon Mantz and Megan Wickless-Mulder. Overall, the luncheon was a huge success.

At the end of the afternoon, attendees were very enthusiastic about their answers and gave each other rounds of applause for correct answers. Scoring 44 of 60 possible points and winning the overall trivia portion was the Kentucky Derby table, hosted by alumna Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06). The Candy Land table, hosted by alumna Jena Dickinson ('08), came in second place during the trivia portion, scoring 41 points.

Judges tabulating the ballots for the best decorated table and scores for the table trivia winner were Clarkson College employees Sharon Mantz and Megan Wickless-Mulder. Overall, the luncheon was a huge success. By the end of the afternoon, attendees were requesting another table trivia event—many already discussing potential table themes.

Next Alumni Brunch will be held on June 22. Snacks were available, and a quiet environment for studying was provided. The Alumni Association sponsored study hall days for students during the spring semester finals week on April 25-26 and during the summer semester midweek, June 20-21. Snacks were available, and a quiet environment for studying was provided.

Alumni Association paid members can access the Library databases by following the steps below:

1. Ensure current membership of the Alumni Association.
2. Set up a Clarkson College alumni e-mail account by contacting Ryan Schurman at alumni@clarksoncollege.edu or by mail to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68112. Your information is available to assist with questions and requests via phone at 402.552.3387 or e-mail at library@clarksoncollege.edu.
Although Tom’s admiration for nursing came with time and experience, his wife, Brenda, says she never considered any other career path. “In high school, my focus was always on nursing,” she says. “I enjoyed all science classes and worked as a nurse aide at a nursing home.”

Brenda began attending Clarkson School of Nursing in 1977, which—unknowingly to her—would not only lead to a nursing career but also a future husband. She began dating Tom their junior year, and one year after graduating together, the two married.

Brenda’s first post-graduation job was at the Gastrointestinal (GI) Unit at Clarkson Hospital, but she would later experience a variety of work in other areas. She eventually held a six-year long position at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center and then transferred to the Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy Unit when it opened at Clarkson Hospital.

The job of parenting emerged for both Brenda and Tom when they decided to form a family. Brenda gave birth to their first child, Mackenzie, in 1984; Nicholas and Benjamin would later add to the family circle. For several years, Brenda continued to work casually as her children grew. She taught brother/sister classes, answered patient questions at Ask-A-Nurse and spent several years working in an Ophthalmic Diagnostic Center where she started IVs for angiograms, performed visual testing, ultrasound and photography. She is currently employed at Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital where she works in both pre-op and recovery, sharing the role of lead nurse.

“I enjoy talking to patients and families, helping comfort them in times of stress and teaching and preparing them to take care of themselves following their procedure.”

While both Tom and Brenda cherish decades of commitment to the nursing profession, their children are at considerably different stages in their careers.

“Being a good nurse is more than working 36 hours a week...It’s about always looking at how to do my job more proficiently and effectively.”

MACKENZIE DENICH, B.S.N.

Currently working as a staff nurse in the cardiac progressive care unit (CPCU), Nicholas appreciates the variety of occurrences that take place during a single work shift. “Every day is a new opportunity to learn,” he says. “The situation forces you to learn on your feet as you go, but you know there is always assistance if you need it.”

Nicholas derives satisfaction from his work on a seemingly personal level. For him, it says it’s about going home at the end of a shift knowing he worked hard, did the best he could and possibly even made a difference in someone’s life. “It may not happen every shift, but it is something to work for,” he says.

Looking ahead, Nicholas sees himself returning to school to pursue his M.S.N. degree with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia.

“Every day is a new opportunity to learn.”

NICHOLAS DENICH, B.S.N.

Twenty-six-year-old Mackenzie is the oldest sibling and only one to acquire her Nursing degree at an institution other than Clarkson College. She received her B.S.N. degree from Creighton University in 2007 and also graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from UNA in 2006.

Her first job out of college was as a RN at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Just this past May, Mackenzie began her new position as Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Intern.

The simple truth that people will always be in need of health care is one of many reasons Mackenzie chose to become a nurse. “People will always be sick, and I will always have a job,” she says. But for Mackenzie, nursing is more than a job —it’s a part of who she is. “Being a good nurse involves quick critical thinking, effective communication skills and a vast exparte of knowledge. Underneath all of that, you must also be kind and caring, but I don’t think those qualities alone can make you a good nurse.”

Being a part of a family’s journey is Mackenzie’s positive affirmation for dedicating herself to the field. “My field has amazing highs and significant lows, but the highs far outweigh the sad parts. I almost always get to send a happy baby home with incredibly loving parents.”

Mackenzie is grateful for all her nursing career has taught her. “Being a good nurse is more than working 36 hours a week. Every area in nursing is like learning a foreign language—it takes intense, prolonged concentration to become fluent. It means keeping up with evidence-based practice and current journal articles. It’s about always looking at how to do my job more proficiently and effectively.”

Mackenzie is currently working toward her Master’s degree at Creighton University. She will graduate in May 2012 and hopes to work as a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Adding to the sequence of nurses, Nicholas, 24, received his B.S.N. degree from Clarkson College in December 2010. Although he views his family as influential in his decision to pursue nursing, he adds that his deep interest in science and medicine captivated him since his elementary school days.

NICHOLAS, MACKENZIE & BENJAMIN FOLLOWING NICHOLAS’ DECEMBER 2010 CLARKSON COLLEGE GRADUATION.

As for Benjamin, the youngest at age 21, he is currently pursuing his Nursing degree at Clarkson College and plans to graduate next year. He works as a patient/care tech at The Nebraska Medical Center and is fascinated by the various practices he witnesses on a daily basis that lead to diagnosis and cure.

Benjamin attributes his family and abundance of dinner table discussions for his developing interest in health care at such a young age. Now an aspiring professional in the field, his thrill lies in the gratitude he sees on his patients’ faces.

Like his older brother, Benjamin hopes to return to school in the near future to pursue a career as a CRNA.

As a whole, the Denich family finds their shared passion for nursing quite amazing. “We can all understand whatever the conversation may be—our day at work, however we can better care for a patient, our enjoyment and frustrations with our positions and so on,” says Brenda. The children also often joke that their future spouses will either need to be a part of the health care field or have very strong stomachs to handle the stories they bring home from work. For now, they’ll enjoy carrying on the family conversation as normal.

Have an interesting story to share? We would love to hear from you! For story ideas or questions about the Alumni Times, contact Rita Van Fleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetr@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.349.5361.
Shoes4Kids

Benefits from

Generosity of Clarkson College

Members of the Physical Therapist Assistant Student Association (PTASA) collected 15 pairs of new athletic shoes, 10 bags of new socks and $300 for the Shoes4Kids drive this spring. The shoes and socks were donated by the Clarkson College community, while the funds were donated by Student Government Association (SGA) and PTASA. The donations were sent to Shoes4Kids to be distributed to local agencies during the American Physical Therapy Association’s (APTA) annual conference.

Project Coordinator Brad Thuringer is grateful for the efforts of the Clarkson College PTASA chapter. He shared, “The shoes, socks and monetary gifts that have been sent will make it possible for many underserved and needy children to run and play (in comfort) with their neighborhood friends this summer. Most importantly, your gift of new shoes will also help remove the stigma of poverty for so many of these deserving children.”

Since 2006, Shoes4Kids has collected over 2,500 new athletic shoes and socks and distributed them to children and youth at organizations located in the city where the annual conference is held. This year’s conference was held in the Washington D.C. area, June 8–11.

The Clarkson College PTASA chapter plans to make this an annual collection event held each spring at the College.

Continuing Education Event: Health Care Ethics

EVENT DETAILS

Friday, Sept. 16 from 7:30 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus in Omaha, Neb.

Purpose

To promote discussion and stimulate thought in regards to improving health care services through investigation of ethical situations.

Target Audience

Health care professionals.

Objectives

The health care professional will be able to:

› Outline rationale for disclosure of medical mistakes.
› Explain the importance of disclosure of full diagnosis.
› Review end-of-life care issues.
› Discuss common ethical issues surrounding end-of-life care.
› Identify the professional’s responsibility for maintaining confidentiality in communications.
› Describe the impact of professional behaviors on patient compliance.
› Recognize the responsibility of health care professionals caring for diverse populations of patients.

EVENT AGENDA

7:30 a.m. Sign in and welcome
8 a.m. Legal Issues for Health Care Providers

Dr. Stephen Smith, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at The Nebraska Medical Center

9 a.m. End-of-Life Issues

Cari Swidlik, APRN, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, and Rev. Thomas Backer, Clinical Pastoral Care Manager at The Nebraska Medical Center

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Professionalism Issues in Health Care

Cindy Owen, MT(ASCP), MSBS, FACHE, Corporate Vice President at The Nebraska Medical Center

11:45 a.m. Evaluations and wrap up

INTERESTED IN MAKING A DONATION?

If you are interested in donating items for next year’s Shoes4Kids drive, contact Dr. Andreia Nebel, PTA Program Director, at nebela@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.6178. Event sponsors ask for donations that are new athletic shoes and socks, sized toddler to tween.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Questions

Contact the Clarkson College Professional Development office at professionaldevelopment@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.6148, 402.552.2311 or 800.647.5500.

Registration Deadline

Event registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 9.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

Attendance at the entire educational event is required for continuing education. Partial credit is not provided. CEU600.01CC.

Health Care Business & All Others

3.75 education hours awarded.

Nursing

Clarkson College is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Nebraska Nurses Association, an accredited approve by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

3.75 ANCC/NNA Nursing contact hours awarded NE09-120Y-8.

Clarkson College is approved Iowa provider XS43. 4.5 Iowa nursing contact hours.

Physical Therapy

0.35 continuing education units corresponding to 3.50 contact hours approved by the NPTA.

Radiologic Technology

4.0 Category A continuing education unit contact hours approved by ASRT.

REGISTRATION

Contact Information

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
E-mail
Phone

Nursing license number required for nursing contact hours

Payment Options

Clarkson College paid Alumni Association member: $20
Clarkson College student: $20
Other health care provider: $40
Check or money orders should be made payable to “Professional Development, Clarkson College.”

Phone Registration

To make a credit card payment, call 402.552.6148, 402.552.2311 or 800.647.5500.

Mail Registration

Send your completed registration form along with payment to Professional Development, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.
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.

Thursday, Sept. 15
10 a.m. Alumni Brunch
The anniversary classes of 1951, 1971, 1981, 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 2 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”
See page 9 for more event details and to register for the event.

7 p.m. “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” Riverboat Cruise
Ahoy! Set sail with a band of pirates and yer best mate aboard the River City Star riverboat cruise from 7 to 10 p.m. See page 2 for details.

Note: An alternate event will be planned if the Missouri River flooding continues. Registrants will be notified of any change.

Reservation Details
☒ Yes, I will attend the Alumni Brunch on Sept. 15.
☒ Yes, I will attend the annual alumni meeting on Sept. 15.
☒ Yes, I will attend Convocation on Sept. 15.
☒ Yes, I will attend the “Pirates of the Muddy Mo” riverboat cruise on Sept. 16.
☒ 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.

Event Details
Additional event descriptions can be viewed on page 2.

Questions
Contact Rita Vanfleet at vanfleetral@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.3516 or 800.647.5500.

ALUMNI WEEKEND EVENTS

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.”

REGISTRATION
Contact Information
Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Email
Program(s) completed
Class of

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

Event Details
Additional event descriptions can be viewed on page 2.

Questions
Contact Rita Vanfleet at vanfleetral@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.3516 or 800.647.5500.

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

PTA Program Accreditation Reaffirmed

The Clarkson College Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program recently received an additional 10 years of accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

“We are honored to be a part of the academic preparation of our students in the field of physical therapy and to have an accrediting body that strives to uphold national standards to which all colleges and universities must maintain,” said Dr. Andrea Nebel, Director of the Clarkson College PTA program. “We continue our commitment to prepare students to be the best in the field of health care, and the 10-year accreditation reaffirmation recognizes that.”

The reaffirmation announcement follows a comprehensive evaluation conducted by CAPTE in October 2010. The Commission reviewed major areas with multiple subcategories, including overall College and program organization, resource accessibility and curriculum and assessment structure.

Clarkson College began offering a Physical Therapist Assistant Associate’s degree program in 1994. By 1996, the program received full accreditation from CAPTE, and it is currently the largest PTA program in Nebraska and the only one to offer a transfer option.

Celebration of Writing & the Creative Arts at Clarkson College

By Katherine Kirkpatrick, General Education Instructor

This past spring, Clarkson College held the first annual Celebration of Writing and the Creative Arts. The Celebration served as a way to highlight students’ creativity and show they are talented in a host of excellent ways. Students submitted items of prose, poetry, art, photography and multimedia. At final count, students submitted seven poems, three photographs and five pieces of art, including sketches, charcoal, watercolor and painting. The collection was a wonderful turnout for the inaugural year.

A group of faculty, staff and students judged all submissions anonymously and rated them according to originality, artistry, beauty, power, message, interest, presentation, evocation of emotion and polish. All of the submissions received excellent scores, but a few earned high enough scores to take first, second and third place. Third place went to Jill Sandhoefner for her poem, “She Shines Throughout,” a lovely lament for a breast/lung cancer patient. Second place went to Cathy Lowrey for her photograph, “Presence,” of First Presbyterian Church, the oldest church in Nebraska, located in Old Towne Bellevue. Finally, congratulations to first place winner, Jill Sandhoefner for her charcoal drawing, “Cornered,” which illustrates a girl in the corner of two intersecting brick walls. For her winning entry, Jill received an iPod touch, generously donated by the Clarkson College Alumni Association.

All of the submissions were displayed in the Success Center. See page 2 for more event details and to register for the event.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT, CATHY LOWREY’S SECOND PLACE PHOTOGRAPH, “PRESENCE,” JILL SANDHOEFNER POSES WITH HER WINNING DRAWING & IPOD TOUCH PRIZE, FIVE OF THE SEVEN WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ON DISPLAY IN THE SUCCESS CENTER.

PTA STUDENTS PRACTICE THEIR CLINICAL TECHNIQUES DURING CLASS.
Alumni CLASS NOTES

Class notes are published in the Januarya! 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 vanwillis@clarksoncollege.edu, call 402-552-3356 or write to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68111.

1940s

Celia Jensen Wanamaker (’42) writes, “I celebrated my 90th birthday in January. I still work a club with 81 participants and lecture every Friday. I have not missed one Friday for the past 40 years. I am a red hotter, and I am active in the tea party. I often go to the range to shoot my semi-automatic 22 trailside. I have a NRA official air pistol range in my home and shoot weekly. I just had a greenhouse built in my backyard and enjoy tomatoes, cucumbers and all herbs. I still have my husband of 64 years.”

Opal Havens Cooper (’44) writes, “I have been retired since 2000 when my husband became ill. I have four children, 12 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. I go to an exercise class three times a week, and I am still making quilts.”

Dorothy Smith Dymak (’46) writes, “I retired since 2000 when my husband became ill. I have four children, 12 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. I go to an exercise class three times a week, and I am still making quilts.”

1950s

Carla Hughes Sowards (’53) writes, “I have lived in Texas since 2003. I have three sons in the area and grandchildren here. I enjoy my retirement years, the milder weather and family. I volunteer at my church and read a lot to occupy my time now. My health has remained good, so feel blessed.”

Sarah (Sally) Wallin Putters (’53) writes, “I’m retired—-sorta. I work in a family business as an office manager and teach Community Health at the University of West Florida. I also volunteer as a parish nurse. I love them all and how they keep me involved.”

Mary Lou Hellbusch Echtenkamp (’54) retired from school nursing nine years ago and now volunteers at Fremont Area Medical Center. She is active in her church and has been unable to attend the 1954 class activities.

Virginia Barton Lynch (’55) writes, “I retired from geriatric nursing in 1999. We have lived by Lake McConaughy near Ogallala, Neb. since 1996. We have lived in Nebraska, Iowa and Colorado while my husband was in education as a teacher, coach and school administrator. We have three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson living in Nebraska, Iowa and Colorado.”

Barbara Lynch Young (’55) writes, “All my ‘Nifty-Fifty’ classmates were the greatest. Three years of dorm life, hard work and lots of knowledge. Our teachers were tops, and our entire class passed the two full years of registration-required tests with flying colors.”

Jesse Harris Swearingen (’55) writes, “My husband and I are enjoying life by sharing time with one another and others. We are in a choir that sings ‘oldies’ and hymns at different nursing homes weekly. We are in our church choir as well. Volunteer with non-profit hospice agency as an in-home volunteer. I quit with a group who give quilts to needy organizations. Our family takes the rest of our time. Fortunately, we are fairly healthy.”

Ronda Lindstrom Simpson (’67) writes, “I retired April 1 from Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. Post-anesthesia has been my primary specialty. We are currently working on our Minnesota lake home fixing and painting. I garden, read and chase my grandchildren.”

Karen Abdoub (’05) writes, “I graduated December 1997 and had the privilege of working with pediatric patients and in labor and delivery over the past 12 years. I came back to Clarkson College as both a Nursing instructor and a Master’s student. I am excited to be helping students on their road to a rewarding profession. I have an outstanding husband, Brett, and two children: Bryce is 5-and-a-half years old, and Brynn is 4-and-a-half years old.”

Karen Abdoub, PTA, B.S., CLT, received her advanced proficiency in Geriatrics from the American Physical Therapy Association. Karen is one of only approximately 350 PTAs nationwide who have ever received any advanced proficiency since recognition began in 2005. Karen was recognized for this achievement at the June 2012 American Physical Therapy Association conference.

Jean Butler Booher (’47) writes to the class of 1947, “Let’s get together in 2012. Susan has offered to assist in contacting classmates for the September 2012 alumni reunion festivities. At that time, the class of 1947 will be an anniversary class, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Colleen Nielsen (’69) writes, “Fortunately—or unfortunately—not much has changed since my information was published last year. My kids are a year older, 10 and 12, and we are very busy running them to activities, which we enjoy a great deal.”

Liane Connelly (’73) writes, “I am still at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha to retire with my position as a financial analyst. I really enjoy working at Clarkson College and I love working with the students online, on campus and at their clinical sites. It is so awesome to see them learning and then taking that knowledge to the clinical site and working with patients.”

IN MEMORIUM

Class of 1941

Loretta Asche passed away on May 1. Dr. Loretta Asche passed away in Omaha, Neb. She was a nurse in the Alzheimer’s Care facility in Omaha, Neb. She was buried in her Clarkson School of Nursing.
Students Donate to Joplin Relief

Faculty and students of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program were quick to respond to a request from a local member of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association. In just under three weeks, the faculty and students collected more than 200 items of need to be sent to Joplin, Mo. to help aid in the relief efforts.

On May 22, about 30 percent of the city of Joplin was destroyed by an EF-5 tornado. The donations were delivered to Joplin and the Red Cross Joplin organizations the week of June 13.

Students seek her course because she is trusted and respected.”

“This candidate exemplifies the Values of the College, cares deeply for her students and wants them to succeed not only as a nurse but also as a person and professional.”

Distinguished Service Award

The success of Clarkson College in fulfilling its Mission depends upon the unique and outstanding contributions of all employees. For this reason, the Distinguished Service award was established to recognize a staff member who exhibits leadership and demonstrates exceptional service to the College.

The following was written about Nicole in her nomination form:

“Customers are constantly surprised by the excellent assistance they get from this employee, who is relentless at turning over every stone to find the information they need. When there is a problem, she works until the problem is resolved.”

“Shelby is always willing to help and her knowledge of Anatomy and Physiology is beyond belief.”

“Jo jamais ordinaire.”

“Joplin has been the recipient of a lot of attention and we hope to give it back.”

“Joplin has been the recipient of a lot of attention and we hope to give it back.”

Alumni Scholarship Winner Announced

The Alumni Association awarded a $1,600 scholarship this spring to Megan Bonacci, a Radiologic Technology and Nuclear Medicine student from Nebraska. She is on track to complete her degree in August 2012. After graduation, she plans to further her education in the field of nuclear medicine. She participates in the Radiologic Technology Student Association at Clarkson College and also volunteers at the Murner-Meyer Institute.

Bonacci sent a note expressing her sincere thanks for the scholarship.
Omicron Epsilon Spring Induction Ceremony

By Judi Dunn, Omicron Epsilon Chapter President & Director of Professional Development

The high caliber of professional Nursing students attending Clarkson College was recently validated in the spring 2011 induction of new members into the Omicron Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. Seventy-nine undergraduate and graduate Nursing students meeting the rigorous grade point average requirements, demonstrating leadership qualities, integrity and with the endorsement of the nursing faculty were inducted. A formal induction ceremony was held on campus on Saturday, April 9. Sue Michalski, R.N., M.S., Clarkson College alumni and former chapter president, was the featured guest speaker.

The Omicron Epsilon Chapter at Clarkson College is proud of its vibrant, diverse membership in the most prestigious honor society worldwide. Active membership includes the chance to network with colleagues, participate in educational events and social activities, as well as take advantage of the international societies numerous benefits.

Registered Nurses who are not currently enrolled in a Nursing program (graduate or doctoral) and have obtained a Baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field are eligible to seek membership as a nurse leader. For more information, contact Judi Dunn at 402.552.6123 or dunn@clarksoncollege.edu.

ABOVE, STUDENTS PROCLAIM THE HONOR SOCIETY’S MANIFESTO DURING THE INDUCTION CEREMONY. OMICRON EPSILON INDUCTEES PAUSE FOR A PHOTO AFTER THE EVENT.