Alumni Association of Clarkson College Survey Results

With the membership drive each year, a survey is conducted to see how the Alumni Association can meet the needs of the membership population by providing programs and activities for alumni members. To date, 112 membership forms were returned with 88 surveys marked, doubling the responses received last year. This year’s survey results showed:

- 46 percent would like Continuing Education Unit (CEU) offerings to be held. According to the results, the best days to hold these events are Saturdays first, then Fridays.
- 27 percent wanted Alumni Day to be reinstated.
- 25 percent were interested in social events, with Saturdays being the best day to have them.
- 23 percent wanted community involvement activities.
- 30 percent wanted events to be held in the fall.
- 20 percent wanted events to be held in the spring.
- 28 percent were interested in purchasing an alumni directory, if published.
- 44 percent might be interested in purchasing an alumni directory, if published.
- 25 percent were not interested in purchasing an alumni directory, if published.
- 35 percent were interested in using College e-mail services.
- 18 percent would like member benefits.
- 15 percent would like increased communication.

When asked about destinations for the Academic Travel Abroad program, Ireland was the number one destination, with England/Scotland in second place and Spain in third.

Please note, all numbers do not add up to 100 percent, as not everyone filled out all of the questions or components of questions.
President’s Corner: Keeping in Touch with Your Peers

The new alumni board is off to a great start. I appreciate their willingness to serve the Alumni Association as well as the College. I want to thank them for giving their time. A summation of the activities of the Alumni Association is as follows: The fall Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and dinner train events were a success and fun was had by all. There is a new group forming on campus called the Student Alumni Association. This group addresses the issue of transitioning from a student to an active alumni of the College. A group of alumni are working on cataloging the archives for better retrieval. The Alumni Association co-partnered with the College to host a professionalism workshop for current students on Oct. 8. This event marked the first of three professionalism workshops that will be held throughout the school year. The Alumni Association has definitely been keeping busy since we last spoke.

As we progress in our lives, no matter what we are doing, Clarkson College holds a special place in our recollections. For that reason, it is important to have an organization which will keep these memories fresh and facilitate the need to keep in touch with other alumni. You can count on the Alumni Association of Clarkson College to facilitate this need.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how the Alumni Association of Clarkson College can improve your alumni experience, please give us a call, as nothing gives us more energy than to continue pursuing our common goals.

Until we talk again,

Trish Weber, B.S., R.T. (R) (’95 and ’08)
Alumni Association President
402.552.3308 | webertrish@clarksoncollege.edu

Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence

A new academic year and several new records! Clarkson College starts the year with an enrollment of 970 students, exceeding last year (also a record year) by 18 percent. Our credit hours are approaching 10,000. In a very competitive learning environment, we are determined to remain a private college you can afford. We are next to last in total costs per year for students attending Nebraska private colleges and universities.

We continue to expand our online offerings with more than 70 percent of our students taking at least one online course. Forty-one percent of our students are totally off campus. Our staff is hard at work developing a fifth option for our master of Nursing program, which we hope to soon announce.

I hope the success of Clarkson College is a source of pride for you, and we welcome a visit at any time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Louis Burgher
Clarkson College President

College Visit Causes Positive Impact on Graduate’s Son

On June 22, Jerry Ritchie, son of deceased alumna Jean L. Potter (‘44), visited the College with his daughter. Ritchie was interested in the College history and memorabilia that pertained to the time his mother attended Clarkson College for her nurse’s training. Jerry and his daughter were impressed with the College and wanted to honor Potter’s memory and the education she received during her time here. Ritchie donated to the Alumni Association scholarship fund and purchased a brick in memory of his mother. The brick will be placed in the garden before the Spring Garden Walk in May 2010.

Convocation Ceremony Held to Celebrate New School Year

Convocation was held Sept. 17 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Omaha, Neb. Current students, their families, faculty, staff and several alumni attended the ceremony. Ollie the Trolley provided transportation from the College to the Cathedral.

The Very Reverend Thomas J. Hurley gave the invocation and discussed the rich heritage between Clarkson College and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Rev. Hurley compared historical figures in the church and Clarkson College to toy figures that can be linked to one another to build pyramids. He said our forefathers have contributed to the solid foundation of our institutions, and our students are continuing that tradition. When speaking to the students, he asked, “Can those coming after you stand on your shoulders?” Dr. James T. Caneedy, chair of the Clarkson College Board of Directors, welcomed all participants and Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College president, introduced the guests. Tony Damewood, vice president of operations, acknowledged the scholarship recipients. Monica White, recipient of the Faculty of the Year Award, spoke. Her talk was focused on the students’ future roles in health care and the desire of the College faculty members to impact the students’ educational journey.

She discussed the balance health care professionals must keep between their personal and professional lives and how professionals must find what fills their personal and professional roles.

Above: Alumni members, current students, faculty and staff attend convocation.

Happy Holidays to You!
The holiday season will soon be upon us. The Alumni Association hopes you enjoy and celebrate the joys of the season. Warm holiday wishes for health, happiness and success during the new year is extended to all.
Summer ’09
Alumni Scholarship Donations

Below is a listing of donors who have given to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. These donations are greatly appreciated and assist the Alumni Association in continuing to offer scholarships.

$10 - $99 Donations

Cindy Arbaugh (’78 and ’09) Donated in memory of her father, Folmer Johnson.
Mary Doblemen (’94) Donated in memory of Laura Puccetti Doblemen.
Beverly Zdan Wright Gleiter (’53) Donated in memory of Steve and Georgia Zdan.
Mary Kay Jordan (’74) Donated in memory of Betty Hearity.
Jeanette Kassmeier (’72 and ’86) Donated in memory of Alice Kellogg.
Virginia Book Lynn (’42) Donated in memory of Shari Hansen.
Tish Bunker Naprstek (’68) Donated in memory of Sharon Hansen.
Cheryl Olomon (’71) Donated in memory of her mother, Diane Lynch.
Jo Anne Pfister (’53) Donated in memory of her sister, Joanne Kious Cordova (’50).

$100 - $499 Donations

Susan Burgher (’70) Donated in honor of the many nurses in our family.
Susan (’70) & Louis Burgher Donated in honor of the September 2009 wedding of Kiley Maxwell and Mark Ward.
Janelda Hogan (’49) Donated in memory of her sister, Joanne Kious Cordova (’50).
Rita DeScisco VanFleet (’67, ’94 and ’06) Donated in memory of her parents, T. Donald and Clara DeScisco.

$500 - $1,000 Donations

Jerry Ritchie Donated in memory of his mother, Jean L. Potter (’44).

Alumni Scholarship Awarded

Every spring, the Alumni Association awards a scholarship to a current Clarkson College student. The ability to award a scholarship depends on the generosity of the College alumni and friends. This past year’s donations yielded enough to award a $1,100 scholarship to Lisa Armatis, a current BSN student. Armatis is currently a junior at the College and plans on graduating in 2011. She works as a C.N.A. at Methodist Hospital and enjoys working closely with her patients within a hospital setting. After graduation, Armatis would like to continue working in a hospital setting, working in pediatrics, the intensive care unit or oncology. She thanked the Alumni Association for their gift and appreciated the generous donations of former alumni and friends of Clarkson College.

Want to donate to the scholarship fund?

Making a donation is a great way to recognize or memorialize someone while helping current students meet the financial challenges of pursuing their education. Donations to the scholarship fund in any amount will be gladly accepted. Please assist the Alumni Association by sending scholarship fund donations to: Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Make checks payable to “Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.”

Clarkson College Spotlight: Physical Therapist Assistant Program

By Andrea Nebel, PT, DPT

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Clarkson College will accept its 15th class this fall. The program accepted its first class of future physical therapist assistants in 1994. The PTA program at Clarkson College is designed to give students a diverse educational experience rich in both basic and applied sciences. The program prepares students to help people improve their quality of life, which is consistent with the College mission to prepare students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services.

Some of the unique characteristics of the program include:

Dedication to Service
Students and faculty continue to be involved in both community service and service-learning. Service-learning is imbedded into the curriculum and is ongoing throughout didactic work. Resources have been committed to a few agencies to provide continued services as opposed to one time experiences. Projects include family health and wellness education, exercise programs to help fight childhood obesity and fall prevention classes for the elderly.

Students also complete annual service projects with the Special Olympics, National Safety Council and YMCA, to name a few. In many of these projects, the PTA students often get to work with PT students in the area. Through a variety of on campus and off campus experiences with our faculty, clinic and community partners, students develop the necessary clinical problem solving and professional skills needed to become an integral member of the health care team.

Meeting the Educational Needs of Our Students
The Clarkson College PTA program is unique in that it now offers both a traditional program with general education included in the curriculum and a transfer program. In the transfer program, students complete the same PTA curriculum but have met the admissions requirements of completed general education and additional coursework or a prior degree, can complete the program in 16 months vs. 24 months. The transfer program is a cost effective and efficient way for the 30 percent or our applicants who already have a previous degree or transfer credits from community colleges across the region.

Student Achievement
The Clarkson College PTA program prides itself in high quality graduates who consistently are recognized at the national level by being awarded the Mary McMillan Scholarship and the Minority Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence for PTA students. The program has maintained a first time board pass rate. The College is proud of our students’ interaction with Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s physical therapy students and faculty as they work together on community projects such as Healthy Families and Special Olympics.

Along with service commitments in class, the student organization is involved in various philanthropy projects and fundraising to assist students in becoming American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) members. They have held elected positions with the Nebraska Student Special Interest Group and all attend state physical therapy association meetings.

Want to support the PTA program? Contact the Clarkson College PTA program or make a donation to the “Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.”
Student Alumni Association Forming on Campus

Campus involvement is one of the best ways to become a part of Clarkson College. The Alumni Association has formed a Student Alumni Association (SAA) to help current students get involved. The purpose of the SAA is to foster a spirit of loyalty, common interests, cooperation, and fellowship while developing leadership skills. The SAA hopes to create a means of getting students, alumni, faculty, and the community to interact. Through membership in SAA, students will gain an understanding and appreciation of alumni activities and programs and convey this to the rest of the student body. SAA’s goal is to establish, maintain, and promote the traditions of Clarkson College and the Alumni Association of Clarkson College. In conjunction with the Alumni Association, SAA hopes to offer programming for members including social activities, community, and networking events and professional workshops. The Alumni Association had a display table during Fall Jam, which took place at the beginning of the fall semester. Many students stopped by and expressed interest in joining the SAA.

Clarkeston College Nurse Refresher Course Offered

By Judi Dunn, RN, MS, CPP

Nurses in Nebraska, who temporarily let their license lapse or go inactive and are not able to meet the requirement of practicing nursing for 500 hours in the previous five years, find that they are required to complete a Board of Nursing approved nurse refresher course. Clarkson College Office of Professional Development provides such a course designed to assist individuals to transition back into practice.

Students come into the course from varied backgrounds and nursing experiences. Some have not practiced in 6-7 years and some more than 10, yet each has a sincere desire to return to health care. The course is designed to be user friendly, provide an update of current nursing topics and a review of important nursing practice. It is considered a home-study, in that it is not classroom based. Students utilize online databases and reference books to follow a self-directed curriculum, and they interact with the faculty member via e-mail. It is anticipated that an online course option will be available in 2010.

Once the theory portion of the course is completed, students come onto campus to work with clinical faculty in the nursing skills lab for one day. There they are provided the opportunity to practice nursing skills, ask questions and work with current equipment. Following the skills lab day, students complete a clinical rotation at the Nebraska Medical Center. During the clinical rotation, nurse refresher students are supervised by Clarkson College clinical nursing faculty. It is a unique opportunity to see the changes in technology, health care roles, patient safety and care in action.

Although the course is not designed to re-teach nursing, it does provide a comprehensive review and helps ensure that individuals are safe and competent to provide care. The nurse refresher course is offered on a semester basis and accepts a limited number of students to ensure that they are provided a worthwhile educational experience.

Individuals interested in the Clarkson College Nurse Refresher course may contact Judi Dunn RN, MSN, CPP, at 402.552.6023 or visit the Professional Development portion of the Clarkson College Web site at www.clarksoncollege.edu/professionaldevelopment for further information.

We Need You: Help Preserve Clarkson College Memorabilia

The Alumni Association archives have temporarily moved into room 102 in the Residence Hall. If the Residence Hall becomes filled to capacity, another location will be identified. While the space is available for the Alumni Association, volunteers are working to identify the contents of many boxes that have been in storage. Annette Lerroy and Margaret Schaffner have been of great assistance in beginning this process. Any alumni interested in reviewing pictures, documents, clothing and other historical items of Clarkson College, please contact Rita VanFleet at vanfeetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516 to arrange a work time. Volunteers are welcome and are a great help to the Alumni Association in identifying these items.

Clarkson College Employee Survey

By Deb Tomek, Director of Human Resources

Clarkson College conducted a survey of employees during April 2009 as a method of measuring our performance as a learning and teaching organization. The survey included six demographic questions and 30 routine survey questions. Clarkson College employees told us that they are pleased with every dimension of their employment including pay and benefits, culture, work environment and management. Following are some of the outstanding results of the survey:

- A very high participation rate of 83 percent of employees was experienced.
- The overall score for the survey was 90.2 percent positive, which is 24.4 percent higher than the 2007 survey score.
- Scores for the 10 most positive question responses were between 7 percent and 36 percent higher in positive response over the 2007 survey.
- An employee satisfaction index score reflected that employees are 24.4 percent more satisfied with their employment overall than during the 2007 survey time period.
- Scores for all dimensions; customer service, culture, work environment, management, pay and benefits are above 80 percent positive.
- Clarkson College far outperformed the normative scores of other higher education organizations that we were benchmarked to including Harvard, Harvard Medical School, Loyola and Stanford.
- Clarkson College scored in the top 10 percent of higher education norms for 89 percent of the survey questions.

Summarizing the survey results, Clarkson College President Dr. Louis Burgher said, “There is always room for improvement, so be watching for projects that will follow-up on areas of survey input. Together we will continue to make Clarkson College a great place to work.” For complete survey results contact Rita VanFleet at vanfeetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

Clarkson College Spotlight: PTA Program

continued from page 5

Faculty Involvement

All of the faculty maintain clinic hours in various settings with the belief that this continues to help stay abreast with current treatment methods and an educational evidence-based practice model. Faculty are involved at both state and national levels in various projects and groups. Faculty maintain strong ties with the clinical education community throughout the region with face-to-face site visits. The program has a strong belief in professionalism expectations and has incorporated professionalism grading into each class.

Faculty members have a strong commitment to students, the pursuit to improve assessment, curricular content and design, and the desire to foster growth along with social and professional responsibility. Thanks to the caring attitudes, integrity of the faculty and the support of the institution, the program is able to make a difference in the field of physical therapy.

Interested in learning more about the Clarkson College PTA program?

You are welcome to visit campus to see the updated PTA lab and lecture space on the second floor. You may also view the program photos with students in action, in service and interacting with faculty at www.clarksoncollege.edu.
Reunion Brunch Brings Fond College Memories


Trish Weber, Alumni Association board president, welcomed all of the classes to the brunch and gave a short update on alumni activities. Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College president, shared the past year’s activities of the College, noting that the College saw its largest enrollment during the 2009-10 school year.

Duranda Hogan, daughter of Janelda Kious Hogan (’49), inspired the group with a short address about her mother and aunt (also a Clarkson College graduate) and their professional nursing roles. “She spoke straight from her heart and touched the hearts of all in attendance,” said Rita VanFleet, alumni coordinator.

During the brunch, alumni enjoyed reminiscing with classmates about their time spent at Clarkson College. Each group compiled a list of their best and worst memories.

“Five of us would climb into a cab for the short trip to our early morning A&P class at UNO (OU at the time). The look on the cab driver’s face as we each counted out 17 cents — our individual cost for the ride — was priceless.”

“Dr. Barney Rees called for a report on his patient. As he took the chart out under the chart was empty. Two of us ran to the furnace room and found the last page burning. After that, no waste baskets were placed under the chart rack again.”

“While at Hastings (that was where the psych rotation was held) Darlene Anderson would say, ‘I’m going home,’ and as many as we could piled in her little Falcon.” Linda Plettner remembers sitting on the floor.

Making lasting friendships.

“Norma White Aboud was my sweet roommate whose memory I treasure. She was truly an ‘angel in white.’”

“Complete eight hour work days and four hours of class work. Up at 6 a.m., work from 7 to 11 a.m. then attend class from 1 to 4 p.m. After that, it was back to work from 4 to 7 p.m.”

“Whenever someone would become engaged, we would gather in Kiewit Hall lobby, form a circle, join hands, sing ‘Tell Me Why,’ pass around the ring on a decorated candle and then the engaged person would blow out the lit candle after it had gone around the circle and come back to her.”

“Miss Pickel and Mrs. Nichol and their night checks and then we would meet in someone’s room to talk.”

“...the excellent training that always stood me in good stead no matter how much the patients loved the student nurses.

“I remember eating lunch with Karen Sargent and Linda Rich in the basement of Kiewit Hall. Karen wanted to use the mustard and it wouldn’t come out of the squeeze bottle. She slammed the bottle on the table and the top blew off covering Linda with the mustard. Boy, was she mad.”

Dr. Patricia Perry as an instructor.

“…the training that always stood me in good stead no matter...”

“...the training that always stood me in good stead no matter where I practiced.”

“Norma White Aboud was my sweet roommate whose memory I treasure. She was truly an ‘angel in white.’”

“Complete eight hour work days and four hours of class work. Up at 6 a.m., work from 7 to 11 a.m. then attend class from 1 to 4 p.m. After that, it was back to work from 4 to 7 p.m.”

“Whenenever someone would become engaged, we would gather in Kiewit Hall lobby, form a circle, join hands, sing ‘Tell Me Why,’ pass around the ring on a decorated candle and then the engaged person would blow out the lit candle after it had gone around the circle and come back to her.”

“Miss Pickel and Mrs. Nichol and their night checks and then we would meet in someone’s room to talk.”

“I graduated with honors. I have many memories of love for Pat Perry. I often think that she is the main reason I reached my goal to become a nurse.”

How much the patients loved the student nurses.

“I remember eating lunch with Karen Sargent and Linda Rich in the basement of Kiewit Hall. Karen wanted to use the mustard and it wouldn’t come out of the squeeze bottle. She slammed the bottle on the table and the top blew off covering Linda with the mustard. Boy, was she mad.”

Dr. Patricia Perry as an instructor.

“…the excellent training that always stood me in good stead no matter how much the patients loved the student nurses.

“I remember eating lunch with Karen Sargent and Linda Rich in the basement of Kiewit Hall. Karen wanted to use the mustard and it wouldn’t come out of the squeeze bottle. She slammed the bottle on the table and the top blew off covering Linda with the mustard. Boy, was she mad.”

Dr. Patricia Perry as an instructor.

Linda Nieto’s Mexican tacos.

Gloria Gross — a fantastic instructor.

story continued on page 10
Worst Memories

The night shift at Douglas County Hospital Psych Unit.

The required autopsies, as well as the head autopsy.

Only one day off a month and only two weeks off a year.

I was the mother of two young boys and graduated 6 weeks before number three was born.

Anatomy and physiology

“Pleating those caps was a challenge that I never did master. I always washed it with the pleats in.”

“My folks lived in New York during my years as a Clarkson student. Most of the other students were local kids, so the weekends were a bit quiet and lonely.”

“Those yummy hot fudge sundaes at the coffee shop helped a lot.”

“I think we all were a little fearful and in awe of our school director. I was assigned to her for her cataract OR and gave her Codeine then saw she was allergic to it!”

“New to the hospital, I was unfamiliar with the floor plan. When asked to take dinner trays to the dumb waiter, I proceeded to open a door and ‘throw’ the stacked trays down the laundry chute.”

“In Community Health Clinical, I was assigned a client in a difficult neighborhood, the gentleman couldn’t get up so he urinated in cans that sat around the house.”

Pizza Lunch and Annual Alumni Meeting

Alumni gathered for a pizza luncheon and get together after the CEU event on Friday, Sept. 18 in Howard Hall. An open meeting followed the luncheon, and the attendees discussed how to revitalize the alumni organization. All in attendance agreed to reinstitute Alumni Day. The luncheon and open meeting gave alumni members time to reconnect with one another and let the board hear ideas from the general membership. It was constructive with many good ideas presented.

Pizza lunch and Annual Alumni meeting

Save the Date

Alumni Board meetings (open to any paid member, 4-6 p.m. in the sixth floor board room at the College)

2009: Oct. 26

Saturday, June 5, 2010 — Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alumni Association founding by attending the Alumni Association Centennial Celebration! Trolley Tour followed by a luncheon at Joslyn Castle. Past presidents will be honored, a uniform style show will be held and there will be a short program. Watch the January/February Alumni Times for further information.

For more information about the celebration or how to help plan the event, see this newsletter’s back cover.

September 2010 — Alumni Day will be reinstituted as part of next year’s fall alumni festivities. Watch for further information in the January/February Alumni Times.
Alumni Class Notes

Class notes are a feature of the January/February and July/August newsletters. Information is needed for the January/February issue. If you would like to update your fellow alumni about your career, life events, hobbies, travel or just say “Hi,” please send information to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb., 68131 or e-mail Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu. Pictures and articles are also welcomed. Many positive comments have been received about the Class Notes section of the newsletter, and this section cannot be filled without your interesting updates and stories. We look forward to receiving and sharing your news.

In Memorium

Class of ’43
Anna Marie Baltensperger Crook died in January 2009. She was selected to be the first Miss Clarkson in 1943. After graduation, she was supervisor of pediatrics at Clarkson Hospital and later went to Denver, Colo. to be supervisor of pediatrics at a children’s hospital. She later joined the Navy and lived with her husband in Nebraska City after the war ended.

Class of ’53
Virginia Griffith Cox died in June 2009. On Sept. 19, 2009, her family held a memorial celebration on what would have been her 77th birthday. The celebration was held at Hawthor Park in Bellevue, Neb. The celebration was held at Hawthor Park in Bellevue, Neb.

Class of ’45
Virginia Louise Cole Rogers died on June 20, 2009. Virginia lived most of her life in California working as a registered nurse, retiring in 1976. She lived with her daughter, Linda, during the last few years of her life.

Reunion Mystery: Who Killed Eddie Gee?
The final fall alumni event included dinner and a “reunion murder mystery.” On Sept. 18, the Fremont Dinner train pulled out of the station at 7:30 p.m. The dining car was at capacity with alumni members and College employees. As the train pulled out of the station, the dinner guests learned they were going to be entertained with a “reunion murder mystery.” The guests were in the dinner two of the 13 tables were able to correctly identify Turner as the murderer. The audience awarded best actress to Penny Wilcox for her performance as Rachel Thompson. The audience awarded best actress to Penny Wilcox for her performance as Rachel Thompson.

Above: Deloris Navrak and Ginger Shinn, alumni from the class of ’64.
Above: Cindy Arbaugh (’78) and Shirley Mondora (’95).
Above: Lois Johnson and Joan Carver, alumni from the class of ’54.
Above: Penny Wilcox (’49) and daughter Patricia Blau.

2009 Clarkson College Annual Report to Board of Directors

Editor’s note: This report was presented by Dr. Louis Burgher to the Clarkson College Board of Directors in August.

The faculty and staff of the College approached the new academic year with a renewed sense of vigor and enthusiasm for our Mission. We are all proud of the success of our efforts. During a period of national economic turmoil and uncertainty, our focus on quality outcomes, encouraged recruiting and strength in faculty have paid off with tangible results.

Our designated national accrediting body, The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visited in March to review our performance over the last 10 years and assess our completion of a two-year self study. We have been rewarded with a recommended eight-year reaccreditation with a final ruling pending this fall. The commission assessment requests follow-up written reports in three areas: a new institution-wide plan of student assessment and a new three to five year strategic plan in June 2010; as well as a new master facility plan by 2011. The Radiologic Technology program also received a recommended eight-year reaccreditation, pending final notification from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.

While completion of the HLC task is significant, we are happy to report major achievements somewhat closer to home. Ninety-six percent of our Nursing graduates are passing their board exams on the first effort, the best in the state and among the best in the country. We currently graduate more Nursing students than any single campus in Nebraska and have the largest Radiologic Technology and Physical Therapist Assistant programs in the state. We have the only accredited Health Information Management bachelor’s degree in the region. Our online programs continue to grow with 70 percent of our students taking at least one online course. Our online students receive orientation in the use of this important teaching asset.

We completed an employee survey this year with gratifying results. Ninety percent of the survey responses were positive and exceeded all national benchmarks, representing a 24 percent improvement over the last survey in 2007. Our ongoing surveys of newly enrolled students suggests a significant trend in community appreciation for the quality of the education offered by Clarkson College. This opinion is echoed by surveys of our recent graduates with most citing the high quality of education they have received at the College.

We have now completed back to back years of successful financial performance. Our year end positive variance of $730,000 when added to the 2008 result equates to more than one and half million dollars positive variance over the last two years. We have accomplished this while holding our tuition and fees to a next to lowest level among Nebraska independent colleges. We continue to stress that Clarkson College is a private college you can afford. We have achieved our financial success through tightened management of employment costs, reduced employee turnover and increased use of online education.

Our anxiety expressed last year relative to the shift from traditional to non-traditional students appears to have been misplaced as we have swung back to a 50/50 ratio between traditional and non-traditional students. This has impacted in a positive fashion our general education enrollment and general education credit hours. We have set new records this year in credit hours and enrollment, and it appears we will beat that record in 2010. We estimate our fall headcount will be 860 students.

We completed an employee survey this year with gratifying results. Ninety percent of the survey responses were positive and exceeded all national benchmarks, representing a 24 percent improvement over the last survey in 2007. Our ongoing surveys of newly enrolled students suggests a significant trend in community appreciation for the quality of the education offered by Clarkson College. This opinion is echoed by surveys of our recent graduates with most citing the high quality of education they have received at the College.

Finances

We have now completed back to back years of successful financial performance. Our year end positive variance of $730,000 when added to the 2008 result equates to more than one and half million dollars positive variance over the last two years. We have accomplished this while holding our tuition and fees to a next to lowest level among Nebraska independent colleges. We continue to stress that Clarkson College is a private college you can afford. We have achieved our financial success through tightened management of employment costs, reduced employee turnover and increased use of online education.

Enrollment

Our anxiety expressed last year relative to the shift from traditional to non-traditional students appears to have been misplaced as we have swung back to a 50/50 ratio between traditional and non-traditional students. This has impacted in a positive fashion our general education enrollment and general education credit hours. We have set new records this year in credit hours and enrollment, and it appears we will beat that record in 2010. We estimate our fall headcount will be 860 students.

Facilities

Last year’s report noted the strain on our facilities and the site visit team from HLC quickly recognized the causes for that concern. We have a renewed sense of urgency to identify improved quarters for our faculty, our library and for student services. After considering multiple options, we have recommended, and the Board of Directors have approved, an expansion/remodeling of the lobby to our main building, which will allow us to vacate the Villa, move the library and enhance the services we provide to our students. The Board of Directors have directed us to seek matching funds to achieve this project. We are hopeful that we can see results this year.
Awards

Last year’s annual report mentioned initiatives in four areas for the following year: pharmacy technology, fast track Physical Therapist Assistant program, certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) training and the Apollo Project with a private group in India. The pharmacy technology project was judged nonviable at this time. The fast track Physical Therapist Assistant program was approved and the enrollment in the first class was over-subscribed. We have received approval from the national accrediting body for CRNA training to build a program. We are in the process of finishing a self-study and recruiting a program director. After signing a letter of intent with the Apollo Hospital Group in New Delhi, India, that program has been deferred because of economic conditions in India. We are optimistic that the program is still viable. We are optimistic that the program is still viable.

class='section'

Awards

Presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average. In return, we have authorized SAMT to act as a broker for these programs in other countries in the Middle East such as Qatar and Kuwait. We have finished a program to standardize new clinical contracts for all of our off-site clinical affiliates. Our new strategic plan for this academic year is keeping us all busy and our first quarter results showed good progress towards completion.

class='section'

AWARDS

Oluwatosin Olajumoke Alabi, Master in Health Care Administration

Melia Sue Masonbrink, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

MACTES CROSS CERTIFICATE

Erin Marie Johnson
Pauline K. Shereck
Barbara Jean Thompson

MACTES CROSS MEDAL

Sherry Lynn Vrabel

Diploma in Practical Nursing

Chelsey Ann Engstrom, Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology
Besty Rae Smeal, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging
Theresa Lynn Woodrum, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Oluwatosin Olajumoke Alabi, Master in Health Care Administration

Summer 2009 Clarkson College Graduates

Melia Sue Masonbrink, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Associate of Science in Health Care Business Management

Melissa J. Post, Master of Science in Nursing

Lori Anne Thompson, Master of Science in Nursing

MACTES CROSS CERTIFICATE

Debra A. Andersen
Nicole Jo Elliott
Deborah S. Hendricks
Tiffiny Lynn Lucas
Sara J. Peterson
Allysa Marie Pope

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Taryn Lea Merwald
Rusel W. Miller
Shelby Jo Moritz ***
Challise N. Pearson
Shannon Rae Roelfs 2 **
Betsy Rae Smeal 2 **

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Winnie Chauvin
Dena Rae Neiman
Kelly M. Osborn
Misty J. Roombaugh
Jessica Lynn Woodrum

Associate of Science in Health Information Management

Heather L. Mills

Lori Anne Thompson, Master of Science in Nursing

MACTES CROSS MEDAL

Molly Kay Satter

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Dawn R. Allgood
Debra A. Andersen
Cyntia Ann Arbough
Ugorna Gloria Azike
Diana Rae Bucken
Molly Jane Bisenius
Rebecca Ann Brown
Sarah Rachel Clark
Alison J. DeLucas
Nicole Jo Elliott

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

AWARDS

Presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average.

Carrie Anne Kiper, Diploma in Practical Nursing
Michele Marie Pierce, Makayla Ann Tremel, Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant
Chelsey Ann Engstrom, Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology
Besty Rae Smeal, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging
Theresa Lynn Woodrum, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Oluwatosin Olajumoke Alabi, Master in Health Care Administration

Summer 2009 Clarkson College Graduates

Melia Sue Masonbrink, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Associate of Science in Physical Therapy

Chelsea Rae Bachman
Amy R. Barry
Kayla Baster
Casey Jean Boerma
Laci Jue Bock

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Casey Jean Boerma
Michelle Erin Conway
Janina Alexandre Fitzgerald
David Graeff **
Laurie Jean Grotz **
Rennie Adele Hanson
Kelly Marie Hanson
Teresa L. Hugh •
Megan Ellen Jorgensen •
Maggie Patricia Lechner •
Jessica Irene Marshall •

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Michelle Erin Conway •
Lindsey Jo Kears •
Sara Lynn Kenne
Aimee Ruth Mackrill
Kevin Steven Meyer
Rebecca Ann Moore •
Michelle Marie Pierce •
Elizabeth Anse Proust
Chad Cole Schmidt
Pauline K. Shereck •
Jesse James Stahl
Ashley K. Tingle •
Makayla Ann Tremel •
Larisa Treskunova
Lindsey R. Welch

Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology

Chelsea Rae Bachman •
Amy R. Barry
Kayla Baster
Casey Jean Boerma
Laci Jue Bock

Awards

Presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average.

Carrie Anne Kiper, Diploma in Practical Nursing
Michele Marie Pierce, Makayla Ann Tremel, Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant
Chelsey Ann Engstrom, Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology
Besty Rae Smeal, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging
Theresa Lynn Woodrum, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Oluwatosin Olajumoke Alabi, Master in Health Care Administration

Summer 2009 Clarkson College Graduates

Melia Sue Masonbrink, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Associate of Science in Physical Therapy

Chelsea Rae Bachman
Amy R. Barry
Kayla Baster
Casey Jean Boerma
Laci Jue Bock

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Casey Jean Boerma
Michelle Erin Conway •
Janina Alexandre Fitzgerald
David Graeff **
Laurie Jean Grotz **
Rennie Adele Hanson
Kelly Marie Hanson
Teresa L. Hugh •
Megan Ellen Jorgensen •
Maggie Patricia Lechner •
Jessica Irene Marshall •

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Michelle Erin Conway •
Lindsey Jo Kears •
Sara Lynn Kenne
Aimee Ruth Mackrill
Kevin Steven Meyer
Rebecca Ann Moore •
Michelle Marie Pierce •
Elizabeth Anse Proust
Chad Cole Schmidt
Pauline K. Shereck •
Jesse James Stahl
Ashley K. Tingle •
Makayla Ann Tremel •
Larisa Treskunova
Lindsey R. Welch

Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology

Chelsea Rae Bachman •
Amy R. Barry
Kayla Baster
Casey Jean Boerma
Laci Jue Bock

Awards

Presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average.
Alumni Association of Clarkson College
101 South 42 Street | Omaha, NE 68131
www.clarksoncollege.edu

Alumni Association
Centennial Celebration
June 2010 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association board has planned an event to mark this anniversary on June 5, 2010. There will be an Ollie the Trolley tour of a few significant historical landmarks within the Clarkson College history followed by a luncheon at the Joslyn Castle in Omaha. During the luncheon, past presidents of the Alumni Association will be recognized and a uniform style show and historical presentation of the association will take place.

Your Expertise is Needed: Participate in Professionalism Workshop
According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), employers consistently rate communication skills, work ethic and teamwork skills as the most important attributes when recruiting new college graduates. The Alumni Association and the College wanted to give Clarkson College students the skills they need to articulate the value of their Clarkson College education and professional skills to prospective employers. The Alumni Association is partnering with the College through the Center for Teaching Excellence, Professional Development and Success Center to provide three professionalism workshops per year. Professionalism workshops will be held each semester. The first workshop was held Oct. 8.

Interested in sharing your real world work experiences?
Volunteer to participate in the spring and summer professionalism workshops! For more information, contact Trish Weber at 402.552.3308 or webertrish@clarksoncollege.edu.

Alumni Association
Centennial Celebration
June 2010 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association board has planned an event to mark this anniversary on June 5, 2010. There will be an Ollie the Trolley tour of a few significant historical landmarks within the Clarkson College history followed by a luncheon at the Joslyn Castle in Omaha. During the luncheon, past presidents of the Alumni Association will be recognized and a uniform style show and historical presentation of the association will take place.

We need you!
Interested in contributing or participating in the Alumni Association Centennial Celebration? Contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Looking for the perfect holiday gift idea?
Purchase an alumni cookbook this season and enjoy more than 250 recipes from alumni, faculty, staff and friends of alumni. Money raised by this project assists the Alumni Association in supporting students, alumni and friends of alumni. To order, 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.