

Alumni Times

QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



Prepare to be the best.

College Progress Update & Annual Report Summation

By Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College President

Summer was a busy time! August graduation was a great event with a full house. Fall classes started Aug. 25 with an enrollment that exceeded 1,200 students. Our fifth floor faculty office renovation is complete and looks terrific.

Yearly, we submit our previous year's results and upcoming year's planned budget to the Nebraska Medicine (formerly The Nebraska Medical Center) Board of Directors, as well as our own Board of Directors. Why the Nebraska Medicine Board? Perhaps you have heard of Sutton's Law!

Here is the essence of our report:

- › Our two Doctoral programs (Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor in Health Education and Leadership) are fully operational and classes enrolled.
- › We continue to receive national recognition. This year our Health Care

Business programs were nationally ranked No. 5 for affordability.

- › We continue to graduate Nebraska's largest BSN class for a single campus, and the Radiologic Technology class and the PTA class remain the largest in the state.
- › Board scores by all graduates continue to exceed local and national averages.
- › We continue to rank second out of 13 Nebraska private colleges and universities for cost of tuition and fees (see chart on page 2), keeping our increases minimal.
- › We opened a study hall in the skywalk across 42nd Street and are in the planning process for a new (second) simulation lab.

A lot of exciting developments are on the horizon, including a new parking garage, a nearby hotel and new clinical space.

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

Progress & Change Are All Around



Fall always brings about beautiful changes in our environment. From crisp cool mornings to leaves changing to beautiful fall colors. This is one of my favorite times of year!

Just as fall changes the world around us, Clarkson College is always changing and improving! During the summer months, the fifth floor faculty offices were renovated and made into private suites. A beautiful and much-needed change. The College is also in the planning stages of a second simulation lab and a much-needed parking structure to increase parking availability. You can read more in this issue on all our updates.

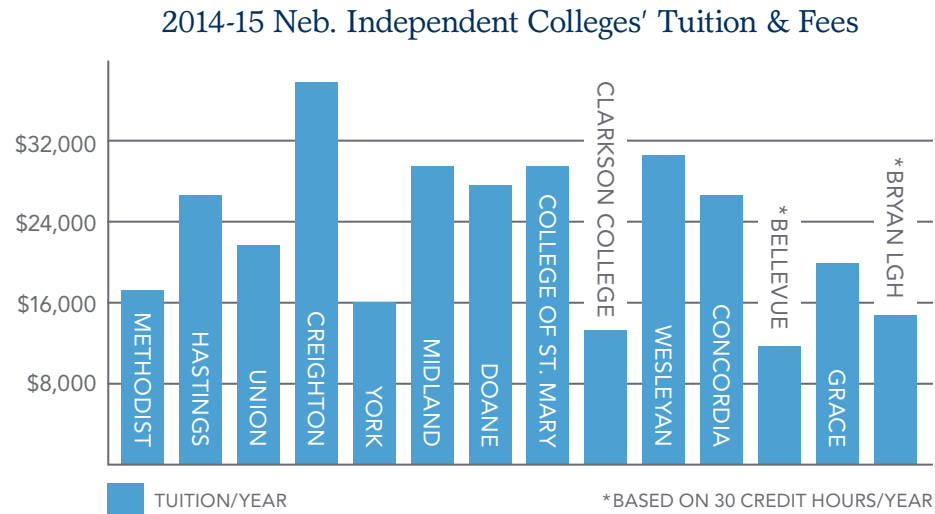
Similarly, the Clarkson College Alumni Association is working to update and add new events in the upcoming year. We are always working to meet the needs of students while reaching out to current alumni and encouraging connections. We hope you will attend some of our new events, which include a networking night, the second annual golf event and many more. Do you have an idea for an event alumni might enjoy? I would love to hear from you and your ideas.

We are also welcoming new and returning members; please feel free to contact me for a membership form if you need one!

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

From page 1 College Progress Update & Annual Report Summation

The College continues to be successful in "preparing students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services." Our graduates are prepared to be the best and are employed at health care facilities across the country.



Alumni Referral: Help to Prepare Future Health Care Leaders

Alumni of Clarkson College continue to promote their educational experience years after graduation. One of the ways to do this is by referring students to the College. Many of our students choose to attend Clarkson College based on a referral or conversation with one of our alumni. Your conversations with prospective students have a significant impact on their college choice. The College and the Alumni Association would like to recognize and thank you through our Alumni Referral program.

How the Alumni Referral program works

For each student that lists you as an alumni referral on his or her application, the College will send you a \$25 gift card once the student begins classes. You have the option to apply this gift card toward an Alumni Association membership or renewal. In addition to the gift card, your name will be added to a drawing for an iPad. The drawing takes place every summer, and the winner is announced in the *Alumni Times*.

This year's drawing winner

Congratulations to Lydia Ryan, this year's iPad drawing winner. Lydia is a 2012 alumna



THIS YEAR'S IPAD DRAWING WINNER, LYDIA RYAN, WITH HER HUSBAND KALLEN & DAUGHTER NORA.

of the fast-track Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. She currently works as a charge nurse and a registered nurse on the med/surg floor at Geary Community Hospital in Junction City, Kan.

Lydia felt that her Clarkson College education prepared her to take boards and accept a job right after graduation. She said, "Even though being a brand new nurse was stressful at times, I had the confidence and critical thinking skills to provide the patient the best quality care because of my education at Clarkson College."

Alumni Scholarship Donations

Sept. 1, 2013 through Aug. 31, 2014

Below is a listing of donors who have given to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. These donations are greatly appreciated and assist the Association in continuing to be able to award scholarships. A special thank you is extended to all who have given to this fund.

UP TO \$99

Laura B. Beatty
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Stan & Pat Beckwith
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Beverly Bethart ('98)
In memory of Mary Burnett Marshall.

Joan Blum ('81, '86, '01)

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Brannen
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Susan Bristol ('78)
In memory of Mr. James Canedy and Dr. Patricia Perry.

Mr. & Mrs. James Burns
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Joan Carver ('54)

Janet Danforth-Bacon ('73)

Carla Dirkschneider ('07)

Karen Dorf ('64)
In memory of Mary Sorgenfrie Donaldson and Norma White.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Erickson
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Susan Flurry ('85)

Susan Garwood ('64)

Betty Gosada, honorary alumna

John Hammon & Jennifer Haller
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Janet Hansen ('92)
In memory of Wendell Oderkirk.

Angela Hemminger ('67, '91)

Claire Hewitt
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Jane Horky Harpenau ('73)
In memory of Dr. Pat Perry.

Norma Hintz ('87, '88)
In memory of my husband of 52 years, Don.

Sue Jackson Peterson ('64)

Gary Javitch ('05)

Rose Jones
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Mary Kay Jordan ('74)
In memory of Janice Wheeler Bergren ('76).

Jeanette Kassmeier ('72, '86)

Joan Killinger ('64)
In memory of Thomas M. Davies.

Mr. & Mrs. Jim La Chappelle
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Rosemary Lebeda ('00)

Carol McCall ('68)
In memory of Sharlene Hansen.

Constance McDonell
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Susan & Charles McLaughlin
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Letitia Naprstek ('68)
In memory of Sharlene Hansen.

Cheryl Olomon ('71)

Jackie Parmenter ('93, '09)

Susan Pinguoch ('68)
In memory of Bev Andersen and Marcia (Green) Stoller.

Mike & Sue Pryor
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Susan & Charles McLaughlin
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Rosalie Ross ('52)
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Susanne M. Soppe ('78)
In memory of Arthur Adams and Thomas Adams.

Gary & Cheryl Sortino
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Mr. & Mrs. Tedd Stessman
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Jane Swartz
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Stephanie Terrell ('07)

Connie Van Buren
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06)
In honor of Mary Margaret Schaffner and Ann Van Hoff.

Melissa Van Wey ('63)
In memory of Mary Sorgenfrie Donaldson.

Eileen Walsh
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Linda Rich Wax ('64)

Marcia Weeks ('65)
In memory of her grandmother, Virda Fitzgerald.

Patricia Wills ('55)

Kirk & Emily Wynn
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Barbara Lynch Young ('55)
In memory of her husband, Bruce Young.

\$100 TO \$499

Mathew Beeman ('07)
In memory of William Bailey III, U.S. Army.

Susan S. Butler
In memory of Drexel Sibbernsen, Jr.

Carole Engquist

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fell
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Fell
In memory of William L. Gayer.

Gloria Gross
In memory of Drexel Sibbernsen, Jr.

Maureen Kelpé ('72, '83)

Debra Kozeny ('77, '94)

Annette LeRoy, honorary alumna

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Alumni Golf Tournament

Hole in one for fun during the event



An Alumni Association-sponsored golf tournament was held on July 11 at Pacific Springs Golf course on 168th and Pacific Streets in Omaha. This is the first golf event the Alumni Association has sponsored in several years, and it was deemed a fun afternoon by all in attendance.

Thank yous are extended to Rachel Thompson and Nickki Hardin for organizing the event, as well as the event assistant Jackie Parmenter for all of her work in making this run so smoothly. The staff at Pacific Springs was exceptional, as well.

Five teams consisting of four persons each played the Nine Hole 4-Person Scramble. On each hole, each player hit a tee shot.

The team then selected one of the tee shots from which to play. All team members then hit from the selected position. This was repeated until the ball was holed out.

After all players finished their rounds they enjoyed a burger bar dinner. Pin prizes were given with items going to:

- › Ponzu Sushi & Grill gift card for closest to pin second shot on Hole #1: Colleen Nielson
- › Runza gift card for closest to pin from tee on Hole #2: Erin Jordan
- › Greek Islands gift card for longest putt holed on Hole #3: Greg Acero
- › Dudley's Pizza & Tavern gift card for closest to pin from off green on Hole #4: Rachel Thompson
- › Cantina Laredo gift card for closest to outhouse on Hole #5: Cheyenne Hanson
- › Pana 88 gift card for longest drive in fairway on Hole #6: Allison Acero
- › Petrow's gift certificate for closest to pin second shot on Hole #7: Bob Snider
- › Lo Sole Mio gift card for longest putt holed on Hole #8: Carly Snider
- › The Grey Plume gift basket for closest to pin from off green on Hole #9: Caleb Nielson

Further prizes were given in a drawing those, including: a Visa gift card from Gretna Auto, and business establishment gift cards from Crave, Corky Canvas, Lansky's, the Dinner Detective, Godfather's Pizza and Mama's Pizza.

In spite of the hot humid afternoon, it was a fun time for all. The Alumni Association looks forward to hosting this event again in 2015.



THE WARM WEATHER DIDN'T DAMPEN THE EXCITEMENT OF NURSING FACULTY MEMBER TRACEY OZZELLO.



NICKKI HARDIN ('95, '97) & JACKIE PARMENTER ('93, '09) ENJOY THE DRIVE & CONVERSATION ON THEIR WAY TO THE NEXT HOLE.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RACHEL THOMPSON ('04, '12) & HUSBAND CLARK ('06, '13) ARE ALL SMILES.



LEFT TO RIGHT, TAMI HANSEN ('89), CHEYENNE HANSEN, CALEB NIELSEN & COLLEEN NIELSEN ('89).

From page 3

Alumni Scholarship Donations

\$100 TO \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mathiasen

In memory of William L. Gayer.

Kiley Maxwell-Ward ('79, '85)

In memory of Kenneth J. Maxwell, M.D.

Virginia McDermott ('64)

In memory of Sharon Gordon Binder ('64) and Norma White Abood ('64).

Linda Miller ('64)

The Nebraska Medicine (formerly known as The Nebraska Medical Center) Executive Office

In memory of Drexel Sibbersen, Jr.

Chera Tremblay ('08)

Ann Van Hoff, honorary alumna

\$500 AND UP

Carole Engquist ('83)

Ann Van Hoff, honorary alumna

DONATE

Donations to the scholarship fund are welcomed at any time throughout the year. This is an excellent way to recognize or memorialize someone while helping students meet the financial challenges of their college education. Donations may be sent to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Make checks payable to "Alumni Association Scholarship Fund." The Alumni Association is very grateful to all who have so generously donated.

If any errors have occurred in the listings, notify vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu. All attempts have been made to correctly acknowledge all donations made within this time period. Apologies are extended for any omissions or errors.



DR. ANDREIA NEBEL STANDS ALONGSIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, RACHEL THOMPSON, AFTER RECEIVING THE HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD ON SEPT. 19 AT THE ALUMNI DINNER.

Honorary Alumni Award Update

PTA Program Director Dr. Andreia Nebel 2014 recipient

We announced in the January/February 2014 edition of the *Alumni Times* that the Alumni Association Board had decided to reinstate the Honorary Alumni Award. This award is being given for the first time in several years, and the award presentation will be a yearly tradition at the September alumni dinner. The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor individuals who are not Clarkson College graduates; have strong commitment and extraordinary leadership to the organization; and have made significant contributions to the organization's well-being in support of its Mission and goals. This year's recipient was Dr. Andreia Nebel.

Dr. Nebel was chosen for her total support and involvement in the overall Mission and Values of the College. Dr. Nebel is the Director of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program and an Associate Professor at Clarkson College. She has been with the College since August 2004. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont. in May 1999. She majored in Health and Human Development, as well as completed all course work for the athletic training curriculum. She received her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. in May 2002.

Dr. Nebel is a very strong supporter of the Clarkson College Alumni Association. She keeps her graduates apprised of the upcoming events and encourages their participation. She has participated in many

of the events herself, as well as recruited many of the PTA alumni to volunteer. Dr. Nebel is an extremely ethical and honest individual who expects the same of her students. She stresses professionalism with them and has a very unique way of supporting them and encouraging them to reach higher than they think they can go. She is a strong believer in community involvement and encourages her students to do the same through her example and expectations.

Dr. Nebel has several professional affiliations, including being a member of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association (NPTA). She is also a Nebraska Student Special Interest Group (NSSIG) Liaison for the NPTA. She is a Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) site reviewer. She is a Therapy Ed PTA Board Preparation Instructor and a mentor for first-year Clarkson College students. Her work extends into the community through her involvement with Lutheran Family Services, Healthy Families, Special Olympics, the Open Door Mission, MS Forward and other initiatives.

On a personal note Dr. Nebel is married to Michael Nebel. They have two children—a son, Tye, and a daughter, Ryley. Living with the family are their two dogs Byzkit and Tank. The Nebels live on an acreage outside of Thurman, Iowa.

Proving She's Prepared to Be the Best

Alumna Adrienne Carney takes on role as the Director of Nursing and Surgical Services at Kearney Regional Medical Center, a new acute care hospital in Kearney, Neb.

By Mikaela Yeager, Marketing Specialist



ADRIENNE CARNEY

Eight years ago, Adrienne Carney was celebrating the completion of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Clarkson College and settling in comfortably to her job as a staff nurse in the operating room at Methodist

Hospital. Just seven years, two degrees and an ample amount of experience later, Adrienne made a significant career leap when she became the Director of Nursing and Surgical Services at Kearney Regional Medical Hospital—a title that would make even the most seasoned nurse proud. So, what was it that Adrienne, just 29 years old at the time, had that earned her the job?

Let's start with her education. When Adrienne graduated with her BSN degree in 2006, she didn't call it quits there. Four years later, she became a two-time Clarkson College graduate when she earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree with a focus in Health Care Administration, which she considers to be her proudest moment as a Clarkson College student. "I realized as I was presenting the outcome of my scholarly project that I had gone from learning the curriculum in the program to actually understanding the big picture and why each portion of the program was vital to the outcomes we learned to strive for," she said.

But, even as accomplished as Adrienne felt after earning her master's degree, she quickly developed an itch to take her education yet even further. In 2013, she added DNP to her credentials when she successfully completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus in Clinical Systems Administration program at Creighton University.

Adrienne's nursing career advanced at a similar pace as her degrees. A year-and-a-half into her position at Methodist Hospital, Adrienne then accepted a similar staff nurse

role at Children's Hospital and Medical Center where, after just one year of service, she received a promotion and became the Education and Performance Improvement Manager for the Surgical Services department. Shortly after she enrolled in the DNP program at Creighton University, Adrienne accepted a position as a medical device sales representative with I-Flow, a division of Kimberly Clark Healthcare. "This role was both a clinical and a sales position, which allowed me to travel throughout the state and become involved in the regional anesthesia programs in many different hospitals. One of the connections I made during my time in medical device sales led me to my current position."

Now, more than one year into her position at Kearney Regional Medical Center, Adrienne is running full force. As the Director of Nursing and Surgical Services, she is responsible for the operation of the following departments: Med-Surg, ICU, Pre-Op and PACU, Outpatient Services, Endoscopy, the Operating Room, Sterile Processing, Informatics, Medical Staff Affairs, the Emergency Department (opening in the future), Clinical Education and Employee Health, and Interventional Radiology and Cardiology. There are currently 75 employees that report either directly to her or to managers in her departments.

"One of the most exciting things about this position is the fact that I was the second employee to be hired on by the Board of Managers, and I have been involved from the very beginning," said Adrienne. "We moved into the facility in October 2013 and saw our first patient in December." Adrienne is also very involved in the decision-making on both an operational and a strategic level. "I actively participate with reporting and giving input to our Board of Managers, which is made up of a group of business leaders and physicians that have become some of my most valued mentors and friends."

Any major leadership position is posed with challenges, and as the director of a start-up hospital, Adrienne experiences more than

her fair share of them. "The idea of starting something from the ground up (literally my first tour of the hospital required a hard-hat) was what drew me to this opportunity. Challenges in this role are a daily occurrence, which keeps me on my toes and keeps me constantly thinking of creative ways to approach situations."

"The idea of starting something from the ground up was what drew me to the opportunity."

ADRIENNE CARNEY,
D.N.P., R.N., CNOR

Adrienne attributes much of her success not to her high level of knowledge or expertise but to her ability to seek out the answers in instances when she is uncertain. "I learned that valuable piece of information first during my graduate education at Clarkson College. "When I am working with the managers in my departments, I ask them to identify issues, search for proposed solutions, and then collaborate with me on choosing the one that works best for our patients, employees and organization."

Adrienne's rapid advancement in the nursing sphere is a cogent testament that commitment, quality education, experience and versatility can lead to significant payoff. Clarkson College is proud to have played a role in Adrienne's success and wishes her well as she continues her career path as a premier leader in nursing.

Have a story to share?

We want to hear it! Sharing what our alumni have been up to is one of our favorite things. Contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516 or vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu. We would like to feature you in an upcoming issue of the *Alumni Times*.

Capstone Review by Alumni Association Board

Graduate capstone project review for August 2014 graduates

Each semester, the master's degree-seeking students prepare a Capstone project that reflects an investigation into a question of practical importance by utilizing the critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies, theories and principles learned throughout their course of study. The final outcome of this 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 advisors from each of the graduate programs submitted their top project abstracts to the Alumni Association Board subcommittee for review. The committee rated and ranked each submission following the established rubric. Three winners were awarded: David Larrick's abstract *Business Plan for a Free Standing, Unaffiliated, Non-Franchised, For-Profit Urgent Care Center* (advisor Dr. Jody Woodworth) was awarded first place. Second place went to Theresa Neff for her abstract *Knowledge of Screen Time Recommendations among WIC Clients & Caregivers* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg). Amber Benson was awarded the third place certificate for her abstract *The Effects of Policy Review & Education on Nurse Identification of Patients at Risk for Suicide* (advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg).

The August graduates presented their projects on Friday, Aug. 1, 2014. Health Care Business Program Director Carla Dirkschneider presented the certificates of awards from the Alumni Association to the three winners during their presentations.

Business Plan for a Free Standing, Unaffiliated, Non-Franchised, For-Profit Urgent Care Center by David Larrick

The rising number of insured Americans, lengthy waits for primary care, and long delays and high costs for emergency room visits are driving demand for urgent care services. While there are more than 9,000 urgent care centers in the United States, the Urgent Care Center Association of America (2011) estimates the industry will add 300 more each year to meet this demand. Given the strength of the industry, the establishment of

a viable for-profit urgent care center hinges on generating start-up capital, market selection, business location, start-up execution, and operational modeling. The purpose of this business plan was to address these variables, conduct a needs analysis, attract investors and lenders, and launch the proposed business. In depth market research, including a survey of area residents, established that the proposed market has the population and demographics necessary to support market entrance. Models were then developed, using industry standards for volume, patient acuity, payer mix and reimbursement rates, to forecast growth and revenues based on current and potential market usage. Finally, the business plan was validated using a five year pro forma developed by calculating detailed start-up and operational costs, investment capital and repayment rates, projected volumes and revenues, and the costs associated with growth and inflation. Positive returns, from the point of inception, proved the proposed business model could be viable even with aggressive cost estimates and conservative forecasts for volume and revenue.

Knowledge of Screen Time Recommendations among WIC Clients & Caregivers by Theresa Neff

Childhood obesity is a national epidemic (CDC, 2012a) and various behaviors increase risk for childhood obesity, including overuse of screen time (Steffen et al., 2013). In response, the American Academy of Pediatrics [AAP] (1999) recommends limits on daily screen time use. Excess use is commonly noted in children of clients using WIC services; thus this is population at high risk for childhood obesity (Proctor et al., 2003). The purpose of this research is to describe WIC caregiver awareness of AAP recommendations. This exploratory, descriptive study was conducted at a WIC office in metropolitan Indianapolis. Caregivers utilizing WIC services completed a multiple-choice survey concerning their knowledge of professional recommendations about screen time use. Results suggest the majority of caregivers using WIC services are unaware of the AAP recommendations. Health care providers have a duty to intervene.

Prochaska's Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change (TTM) explains that tailoring an intervention to an individual or population's level of knowledge and motivation results in the most successful behavior change. Based on the TTM theoretical framework, the best intervention to address the WIC population's lack of knowledge is education. The health care provider can play a pivotal role by educating high-risk clients in efforts to increase compliance with AAP recommendations. Findings can also guide future research to identify educational modalities that increase adherence to screen time limits.

The Effects of Policy Review & Education of Nurse Identification of Patients at Risk for Suicide by Amber Benson

Medical/Surgical nurses are in a prime position to assess suicide risk in hospitalized patients, but many cite barriers to doing so (Valente & Saunders, 2004). This study aimed to determine the effects of an educational program on identifying patients at risk for suicide, personal barriers to assessment, and following hospital policy while performing suicide risk assessments. Nurses from the medical/surgical and intensive care units completed a pre-test on their knowledge of suicide, perceived barriers to assessment, and personal feelings on the topic. A brief educational program covered these topics, in addition to reviewing hospital policy on risk assessment. A post-test administered one month later completed the quantitative one group pre-test/post-test experiment. Twenty-eight nurses completed the pre-test and educational program, while 26 completed the post-test. A one-tailed t-test was used to analyze results. The educational program was effective at increasing nurses' knowledge of suicide statistics, risk factors, and hospital policy ($p=.003$). No statistical significance was found related to nursing perception of the importance of screening for suicide risk.

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Capstone Review by Alumni Association Board

Nurses were able to identify personal barriers, with a statistical significance seen in those who sensed no barriers to assessing suicide risk following the educational program ($p=.003$) Nurses should receive additional education on assessing suicide risk in hospitalized patients.

This program was effective in increasing knowledge of suicide risk and decreasing barriers to performing an appropriate assessment. A larger study would be appropriate to determine if these findings hold true.

GRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECTS

Sarah Afanou *Assessing the Likelihood of Referral to Diabetes Self-Management by Primary Care Providers*, advisor Dr. Cathy Messinger

Violeta Asuncion *Health Care Educational Sessions for Filipino Immigrants in Omaha, Nebraska*, advisor Carla Dirkschneider

Cynthia Banks *The Role of Probiotic Therapy in Managing Inflammatory Bowel Disease*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Tamara Bireline *Barriers to Preventive Screenings and Care: From Rural Patient's Perspective*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Victor Bycroft *Utilizing Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation as a Means to Improve Healthcare Team Communication & Reduce Adverse Patient Events*, advisor Siti Arshad-Snyder

Christopher Charles *Physical Therapy Service Line for Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction & Headache Pain Treatment Business Plan*, advisor Bradley Pfeifer

Karoweso Chipendo *Protein Supplement in Dialysis Patients & the Effect on Hospitalization*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Amy Dillon *Evaluation of a Pilot Nurse Residency Program on Nurse Retention*, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

Stephanie Greiten *Implementing an Interactive Nutrition Curriculum to Improve healthy Lifestyle Choices*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Kristen Harms *Patient Knowledge & Expectations of Antibiotics for Upper Respiratory Infections*, advisor Dr. Cathy Messinger

Jessica Heggen *Patient Perception Regarding Treatment of Elevated Low-Density Lipoproteins: Dietary Supplements or Statin Therapy*, advisor Dr. Cathy Messinger

Trisha Hittenmiller *The Utilization of Intravenous Acetaminophen for Post-Operative Pain Control*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Terrilee Jackel *Shift-Working Registered Nurses, Daytime Sleepiness Scores & Shift Worker Sleep Disorder*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Kathy Jacobitz *Evaluation of Nebraska 911 Communications Centers' Utilization of the Poison Center*, advisor Dr. Mark White

Chelsie Jones *Paper Dust Particulate Exposure: Occupational Allergens to Paper Shredding & Paper Recycling Employees*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Sherry Kropatsch *Effects of a Dyspnea Management Program on Nebulized Morphine Use in Hospice Care*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Julie Langerock *Perceived Barriers of Clinic Patients that Influence Lowering Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) Levels*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Michaela Lintner *Subjective Quality of Life and Insulin Regimens in Patients with Type II Diabetes*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Carrie Lutzen *Primary Care Providers Referral of Adult Type 2 Diabetic Patients*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Stephanie Marrs *Weight-Related Terms Preferred by Primary Care Patients with BMI 25-29.9*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Kelly Moyer *An Examination of the Knowledge Base of Physicians, Residents & Nurses Related to Palliative Care Referral in Acute Care Setting*, advisor Dr. Michele Heston

Jena Neesen *Nurse-to-Nurse Report: Communication Between Emergency Department & Inpatient Units*, advisor Dr. Deb Boucher-Payne

Sharon Pitt *Comparison of Melatonin & Other Drugs for Management of Pediatric Insomnia in Autistic Children*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

RaKay Reyes *Business Plan: Organizational Support, Sponsorship & Management of Employee Intramural Sports Activities*, advisor Justin Avery

Yulia Reyes *Innovative Teaching Tool Approach to Diabetes Education for the Hispanic Population*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Mallory Roling *Evaluating Antibiotic Use for Adult Sinusitis Patients Following Nurse-led Education Preceding the Office Visit*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Kristi Ross *Advanced Care Planning Education Initiative for Nurses in a Rural Critical Access Hospital*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Shanda Ross *Improving Patient Satisfaction in a Multi-Disciplinary Team Setting*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Leslie Spethman *Utilizing Telehealth to Improve Access for Rural Diabetic Patients*, advisor Dr. Jody Woodworth

Ashley Turner *Breastfeeding: A Benefit to Mother & Baby*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

AUGUST 2014 GRADUATES

Sarah Versackas *Barriers for Parents with Limited Health Literacy & ESL in Primary Health Care*, advisor Dr. Deb Boucher-Payne

Craig Walker *Primary Care Provider Perceptions of HPV Vaccination Patient Handouts Provided to Parents of Adolescent Males*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Tashonda Williams *Pediatric Readmissions: The Discharge Process*, advisor Carla Dirkschneider

Tiffany Wilson *Implementation of a Standardized Handoff Communication Process to Improve Nurse Satisfaction & Accountability During Change of Shift*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Simply visit the Clarkson Service League Library online at <http://bit.ly/1mfiVI3>. Type the author's name or a few keywords into the search box and hit enter. The Power Search link can be used to conduct a more advanced search.

Questions or comments may be directed to the Library at 402.552.3387 or via e-mail at library@clarksoncollege.edu.

Mother Knows Best

By Kathryn Arris Higgins, class of 1954

I recently found my mother's photo album, and it indeed opened up Pandora's Box for me. I remember vividly arguing with my mother my senior year in high school. "Yes you will." "No I won't." That was the dialogue the two of us had all year long. Since I was the editor of the North Platte High School weekly newspaper, as well as the editor of the yearbook, I thought I was another Willa Cather in the making. I had applied and been accepted to the University of Missouri School of Journalism. I was on my way, but my mother had other ideas. "You will go to nurses training" was her continual mantra. Looking for a compromise, I said "OK," but only if I can attend Children's Hospital in Denver, Colo. Again her reply was "no." She told me that I would be going to Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Omaha, Neb. As she herself was a graduate from this school in 1926, she felt she knew what was best for me. I knew little of what to expect.

I remember visits to Omaha when my mother would meet with one of her classmates and talk about their experiences in nurses training. This classmate's husband was a maintenance man at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital at the time, so he updated us on the current happenings at the hospital. It all sounded so foreign to me, but my mother and her friend laughed at their antics and mischievousness.

So, off I went in fall of 1951 for my voyage as a nurse in the making. Yes, I too, attended Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. The hospital was located at 26th and Dewey Streets, and the nurses' dorm was half a block away. That formidable fortress still stands today, even though the hospital is gone. But, instead of housing nursing students, it is now vacant. Strict dorm rules were enforced. Lights had to be out at 9:30 p.m. with house mother Mrs. Nichol flashing a light in our faces to make sure all was well. Miss Fickel, our day-time house mother who sorted our mail and answered the telephone, was our other pro-tem. All rooms were assigned alphabetically. Since both our last names started with "A," I met my forever friend, Ginger. We had two weeks of vacation yearly and one "overnight" a month. Weekend hours extended to 11:30 p.m.

Classes were at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) during our Probationary Period. We made visits to the lower floor where medical students had their cadavers in their formaldehyde bath. Attendance at weekly chapel services with Father Heidric was mandatory. I hoped to never be assigned to 4 North with the dreaded Miss Frana Shields (I wonder if my Mother and Miss Shields were classmates). Autopsies in the basement of the hospital were also mandatory. We had floor duty and classes at Nebraska Psychiatric Hospital and completed pediatric rotations at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Who will ever forget the iron lungs that lined the halls as every room at that time was filled? Or Miss Patach teaching us skills needed in the operating rooms? Or Mrs. Shukert making sure that the diabetic trays were filled correctly? And what about OB and Nursery rotation? All I can remember is feeding and cleaning, and then starting all over again with feeding. After every rotation came the dreaded evaluations! Some good, some bad, some that made my mother proud.

Looking at my mother's photo album, I found out that our student uniforms were virtually the same. We did not wear the white bib until we passed the probationary period or our nurse's caps until after capping ceremonies. At the time of capping, my beau told me that he knew he had lost me to nursing when I returned from the altar, wearing my new nurses "crown" with the biggest smile on my face he had ever seen.

Life-long friendships, practical, hands-on experience used in my professional life, as well as my personal life. Having a vocation that would never go out of date and always be needed. These are just a few rewards of my journey as a nurse. Thanks, Mom. You did know best.



KATHRYN ARRIS HIGGINS ('54) & HER MOTHER MARIE BRICH ('26)



CLASS OF '64 ALUMNAE LINDA MILLER & FRAN ANDERSON GREET ONE ANOTHER AS THE ALUMNI WEEKEND BEGINS.



ALUMNAE FROM '54 CATCH UP DURING THE ALUMNI BRUNCH.



KATE HIGGINS SHARES A STORY WITH HER '54 CLASSMATES.



ALUMNAE FROM THE CLASS OF '64 CATCH UP DURING THE ALUMNI BRUNCH.

Reunions Full of Reminiscing

Annual Alumni Brunch brings stories & laughter to attendees

Greetings and hugs were everywhere as alumni gathered on Thursday, Sept. 18 for the annual Alumni Brunch. Rekindling friendships and sharing memories of their days in college and nursing school were how the anniversary classes of 1954, 1964, 1974 and 1989 spent the morning. Several non-anniversary class alumni were also in attendance.

After all attendees were welcomed back to campus, Clarkson College President Dr. Louis Burgher shared the latest statistical and financial information with the group. Enrollment for the fall semester is strong with a total student headcount topping off at 1,210, and tuition and fees remain competitive with Clarkson College being the second most affordable private higher educational institution in the state. Dr. Burgher also announced that plans to construct a new multi-story parking garage adjacent to the campus on the east side have been approved.

Alumni Association President Rachel Thompson gave an overview of various achievements that have been realized at the College in the last year. The completion of the renovated fifth floor faculty offices was the largest capital improvement made to campus.

Sharing their college experiences

Susan Bristol, a member of the Alumni Association, took the opportunity to capture some of the stories of those present at the Alumni Brunch. She stated, "As I listened to their stories of struggle and victory, I realized that they all conveyed a sense of warmth and fulfillment. They had been through a lot in school, but they had graduated as knowledgeable, strong people. The affection and pride for Clarkson College resounded in all of their stories." As the alumni bustled with excitement and enjoyed their brunch, they shared the following stories with her:

Class of 1954 memories

All remembered Mrs. Eisenoch, the nursing arts instructor. Platitudes and lessons learned from her included "A good nurse is always moving." "A good nurse is resourceful." Apparently, Mrs. Eisenoch didn't believe that nurses should ever sit down. "You can always find something to do."

One classmate talked about how she had to come back on a Saturday to clean a hospital room. It was a corner room, no less, which had more to clean. She said she even put "green bug powder" into all the drawers in the room.

Another classmate related how she hated the electric shock treatments in her psych rotation. One patient always wanted her to be present for every one of her shock treatments. "It was hard to take," the retired nurse said.

She also related how they did insulin therapy while playing classical music in hopes that the patient's condition would improve. Her concern was that the patients would not "come out of it" since they were pretty much unconscious from the insulin.

One alumna said, "You had to be on time in full uniform. If you were a minute late for class, the doors were closed and you couldn't get in." She recalls one classmate who missed class by one minute. Not only was the classmate locked out of the class, but she had to write a 5,000-word term paper.

Another alumna told a story about having to go retrieve a patient's handkerchief from the laundry room in the basement. As she was sifting through the dirty laundry in her white uniform, cap, white hose and shoes, she was pelted with meconium-filled diapers that had been tossed down the chute from the nursery. What a mess! She started to cry and was told by her supervisor that "nurses don't cry."

The students worked 7-11 a.m. and then again from 4-7 p.m., going to class in between. They were required to attend and participate in two autopsies. Most agreed that they were fine until it came to the human head. One told of going home one night after an autopsy and her friend, another student, stepped on a light bulb. The sound frightened them, and they ran the rest of the way.

Another alumna told how she had a "two in one" autopsy, so she was able to fulfill the requirement without going back. The patient had had a heart attack and was also in a car accident, so that counted as two separate autopsies. She also related how it was scary because, just as the head was being exposed, the lights went out.

The class remembered the food from nursing school, and they liked one particular cook who made special dishes for them. One night when their favorite cook appeared to be absent, the students chanted "We want Annie! We want Annie!" It turned out that Annie had been killed when getting off of the streetcar. The students felt so bad.

There were many stories about taking care of psych patients. One nursing graduate told of a time she assisted a confused man. She had worked a shift and then doubled back and worked again. The man said, "Didn't I just see you last night?" "Wow, He is better today," thought the student. Later, he said, "Did I tell you I'm from Ireland?" The student was very impressed because, indeed, he was Irish. Then, the doctors came, and she was expressing how alert and clear the gentleman was acting. The patient looked at the doctors and said, "I greased my bottom and slid down here on a rainbow." The student nurse felt really dumb after that.

Class of 1964 memories

They told how students weren't allowed to be married until the end of their senior year, and that they had to have good grades.

Their rotations were quarterly. The students who had psych first did their clinical at the Hastings Regional Center. One classmate described it as a dark, old and dreary place with a tunnel. She recalls a female patient yelling at her, "Get away from me, you chippy." The nurse said, "I didn't even know what a chippy was!"

Another classmate thought Hastings was great. "That's where I would have liked to go if I needed help," she said. Of course, the Hastings Regional Center is long since closed.

The class of 1964 told of how most of them came to Clarkson School of Nursing right out of high school. They took their general studies courses at UNO, and their nursing classes were at the Kiewit building. Ann Anderson, their director, "kept us in line" they said. One classmate told how she even had Ms. Anderson as a patient. It was quite an experience providing care to her director.

The class of 1964 was the second class to be

in the new school at Kiewit. They had a curfew but were allowed to stay out until 1 a.m. once a month. If a student became engaged, they gathered in a circle and sang the song "Tell Me Why" while passing the engagement ring around. The ring stopped at the girl who was engaged, and everyone congratulated her. Then, they all had a Bavarian mint. "It's hard to find Bavarian mints now," the classmate said. "I sure liked them."

The class of 1964 agreed that the food during nursing school was amazing and that you could have all you wanted. "I gained 10 pounds my first year," commented one student. They had to eat dinner at 4:15 p.m. so they didn't "compete" with the visitors and employees. So, by 8 p.m., they were hungry again. Many went to the snack bar and bought hot fudge sundaes. On the weekends, they went to the basement of Kiewit where food was brought to them. They remember that the person who served their meals was Susie.

Class of 1974 memories

An alumna from the class of 1974 told of having class at 7 a.m. and watching biology films. "It was hard to stay awake."

Class of 1989 memories

A nurse who had gotten her diploma from an out-of-state school then came to Clarkson College for her BSN degree told of how she would study until 2 a.m. and then get up to go to class at 7 a.m. She was married and said that every time she registered for classes, she was pregnant. When she took her state board's exam, she was seven months pregnant. She has four children now. She thought there might have been a fertility goddess at the College during her time there.

In closing Susan Bristol said, "I have many wonderful stories about my college years, as well. I met so many smart, friendly people while I was a student, many of whom I still see. Alumni Weekend is a great time to reconnect with old friends and to meet new friends who share the same roots and traditions of being a Clarkson College/School of Nursing graduate. Be sure to come next year. I promise you will hear wonderful stories."

ALUMNAE Q&A

THEIR VIEWPOINT
OF THEIR COLLEGE YEARS

What was one thing you experienced in school that you didn't expect?

Class of '54 The hardest thing was finding transportation to/from classes and rotations for psych and at Children's Hospital & Medical Center and UNMC.

Class of '64 Being so homesick; trauma of inserting a NG tube down each other's noses; giving shots; anatomy class; and classmates becoming like family.

Class of '74 The friendships.

Class of '89 How kind and sincere everyone was and continues to be. "It felt like I was with extended family," one alumna said. Also, how the instructors went the extra mile for you to succeed.

Who was the most influential person you met during school and why?

Class of '54 Minnie Eisenoch, R.N., our nursing arts instructor—a very strict, but good instructor. "If you made the bed and it had mitered corners, she would look at the corners from the ground," shared a former student of Ms. Eisenoch's.

Class of '64 Clarice Weiderhold, R.N., on the fifth floor; Mrs. Evanoff; Mrs. Dunn; Trudy Bergren, roommate and great influence and role model; housemother Mrs. Rich; Norma White, roommate and a very goal-minded gal; the three or four girls who lived close to us in the dorm and are still friends of ours today.

Class of '74 Dr. Pat Perry.

Class of '89 Dr. Pat Perry and instructor "Pat" Ella Tisdale. Dr. Pat Perry was very bright but had such humility, integrity and sincerity. "It showed she truly cared about her staff and students." Ms. Tisdale stood out with her caring heart, sensitivity and professionalism. "She made sure you knew your stuff."

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ALUMNAE ATTENDEES EN ROUTE TO THE NEXT TOUR DESTINATION WITH OLLIE THE TROLLEY.



DEAN LOYA STANDS BY THE MAUSOLEUMS OF BISHOP CLARKSON & HIS WIFE, MELIORA.



ALUMNAE & DEAN LOYA TAKE A PHOTO NEAR THE TRINITY CATHEDRAL ALTAR DURING THE TOUR.



LINDA MILLER ('64) & MARY GROOTHUIS ('64) STAND BY THE ORIGINAL PULPIT THAT IS STILL USED TODAY AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL.

Omaha Tour Held During Alumni Weekend

Ollie the Trolley took on a new role this year. Typically, faculty, staff, students and alumni are transported to Trinity Cathedral for Convocation; however, the College recently made the decision to omit Convocation from the sequence of affairs held at the beginning of each new academic year.

With alumni already on campus for the Alumni Brunch and Heritage Garden Walk, the Alumni Association decided to utilize Ollie the Trolley for an afternoon tour of some of the historical sites in Omaha. The tour started at the College and proceeded to Kiewit Hall where the classes of 1964, 1974 and 1989 lived. Then, the class of 1954 was able to see their dorm, which is no longer occupied, at 520 South 26th Street.

A stop at Trinity Cathedral for a short tour was next in line. Dean Loya met the Trolley and gave the group an excellent and very heartfelt historical tour of the Cathedral. He shared many points of interest about the interior. The pews are original, as well as the pulpit and the stained glass windows. The windows along each side of the pews each represent an Episcopal parish in Nebraska. The stain glass windows surrounding the altar are all original with the exception of one. The window of St. Matthew is a replacement. This was necessary after the windows were removed and sent out for restoration. The one of St. Matthew went missing, so, when returning the other originals, a new one had to be made to replace the original.

Bishop Robert Harper Clarkson and his wife Meliora are buried in individual mausoleums in the north garden of the church. These serene resting places were picked by Bishop Clarkson and now pay tribute to the work he and his wife carried out for the Episcopal diocese, Clarkson Hospital and the College.

The tour included many of the well-known landmarks of Omaha, including Joslyn Art Museum, T.D. Ameritrade Ball Park, Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, Old Market District, Durham Western Heritage Museum and the Henry Doorly Zoo.

As the Trolley wound its way through the downtown area, several of the bronze sculptures were viewed. These sculptures compose the works of a small group of artists and are representative of "The Spirit of Nebraska Wilderness" and "Pioneer Courage."

The tour was very well received, and those who had not been back to Omaha in several years were very impressed with the cleanliness and progress the downtown and surrounding areas had achieved. They all agreed that the tour should be a permanent part of our annual Alumni Weekend celebration.



CLASS OF 1964, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, FRAN ANDERSON, CAROL OSBAHR, LINDA PLETTNER, DIANNE JOHNSON, KAREN DORF. MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, VIRGINIA MCDERMOTT, LINDA WAX, LINDA MILLER, BETTY TOWNSEND & SUSAN CAMERON; BACK ROW, MARY GROOTHUIS, LINDA TAYLOR, SUSAN GARWOOD, LORI GREEN & DARLENE ANDERSON.



CLASS OF 1954, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JOAN CARVER, JOANN BROWN & LAVONNE SHODEEN. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KATE HIGGINS, JOAN LEE, DELORIS NAVRKAL & NADINE DUNKER.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MARY KAY WHEELER ('74), ROBERTA HAMAN ('89) & MYRNA VASTA ('74 & '89).

ALUMNAE Q&A

THEIR VIEWPOINT OF THEIR COLLEGE YEARS

What is your fondest memory of school?

Class of '54 Receiving our caps and bibs.

Class of '64 Friends, neighbors (Plett and Sarge) in the dorm; walking in the tunnel; card games; camaraderie of the girls; dorm life with all the new sisters, who ranged in age from right out of high school to some with two years of College behind them already.

Class of '74 The dorm and capping ceremony.

Class of '89 "It seemed I easily conceived throughout nursing school," shared one alumna. "Every time I would register for classes in the BSN program, I became pregnant. I was practically pregnant all through nursing school, and I even graduated pregnant."

The class gatherings at the Brunch kept things lively as the alumni shared stories with one another and caught up on each other's lives.

PTA Program Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary

By Dr. Andrea Nebel, PTA Program Director & Associate Professor

Clarkson College pride filled Sempeck's Bowling and Entertainment in Elkhorn, Neb. on Thursday, Sept. 18 as more than 75 alumni, family members and faculty enjoyed dinner, bowling and guest speakers to commemorate the program's 20th anniversary.

Dr. Kirk Peck began the PTA program in fall 1994 and served as its first director. Dr. Peck was the honorary guest speaker at the celebration. He welcomed the evening's guests, shared how proud he was to see the program continue its success and expressed how much he has always enjoyed the small community atmosphere of Clarkson College. He commended the commitment of Clarkson College students and recalled a student who made a daily commute from Grand Island, Neb., which is 146 miles away from Omaha.

To date, the PTA program has graduated more than 375 students who are currently employed throughout the country. Members from each graduating class were in attendance, including new and current PTA students. Many shared how proud they were to be Clarkson College graduates and enjoyed getting together with fellow alumni.

Current faculty member and alumna Chera Tremblay ('08) said, "It was really special to have so many classes represented at the event and to see their families. Health care is about relationships, and to see these relationships maintained after graduation is rewarding."

Since its inception, the program has progressed and grown by adding faculty members, clinical sites, laboratory and clinical space, and an accelerated transfer option. Despite the many changes, the dedication of the PTA faculty members to students and the physical therapy profession remains the same.

As the current director, I have to share that I love working at Clarkson College. To be a part of this program for more than 10 years feels amazing, and it is exciting to look forward to the next 10 years. To see students pursue their careers, grow professionally and observe all they accomplish outside of their professional careers—both within their communities and families—is inspiring.



HOWARD HALL WAS FULL OF EVENT ATTENDEES LISTENING TO CAPT. MATHEW BEEMAN DURING HIS PRESENTATION.

Continuing Education Event: Care Under Fire

Each year, the Alumni Association organizes an educational event as part of the September festivities. It is a challenging task to establish a topic and objectives to be presented. This year, it was decided to hold an event that was a bit outside of the norm but one that could be shared with health care workers to bring to the forefront the situation we, as U.S. citizens, are facing regarding the wars in the East and the result of traumatic injuries to those who so courageously defend our freedom. It was our distinct honor and pleasure to have one of our own alumni, Captain Mathew Beeman, R.N., B.S.N, spend the morning with us on Friday, Sept. 19 sharing his first-hand experiences as a flight nurse and instructor with the United States Air Force 375th Aero Medical Evacuation Squadron from Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Capt. Beeman gave an exceptional presentation. He compared the injuries and treatments that have progressed from the Revolutionary War, to the Civil War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam, concluding with a snapshot of the challenges of medicine in the military today.

Capt. Beeman intertwined the roles of the nurse, radiology tech, physical therapist assistant and those in business roles as he shared the information in a very engaging and passionate manner.

He was very adamant that his education at Clarkson College was the best and prepared him for the roles he has been given during his military career. He stated, "I was way more prepared than my peers" and credits that to his instructors at Clarkson College.

Reviews from this presentation were exceptional, and the Alumni Board will be hard-pressed to meet the challenge of matching his expertise, passion for his work and compelling delivery style. He communicated a difficult message about what our soldiers experience and how everyone—from the initial field medics, trauma team, those in the hospitals and later rehab—work diligently to restore them to health, both physically and mentally.

Capt. Beeman was very emphatic that we, as citizens of the United States, need to "always be ready." He shared with us his personal views on possible terrorist infiltration into our country and stressed that we should always be aware of our surroundings and situations. He continually advised the audience to "always be ready."

Many of the evaluation comments were also a personal message to Capt. Beeman—thanking him for his service to our country.



CLASS OF 1964 ENJOYING THEMSELVES AT THE PLAYERS CLUB. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KAREN DORF, MARY GROOTHUIS, LINDA PLETTNER, DIANNE JOHNSON, BETTY TOWNSEND, VIRGINIA MCDERMOTT, DARLENE ANDERSON, SUSAN CAMERON, LINDA TAYLOR, LINDA MILLER, LINDA WAX & FRAN ANDERSON.



MICHAEL & DR. ANDREIA NEBEL, CARLA DIRKSCHNEIDER & CHERA & JOEL TREMBLAY CELEBRATE DR. NEBEL'S HONORARY ALUMNI AWARD.



LEFT, ALUMNI COORDINATOR RITA VANFLEET & ALUMNI PRESIDENT RACHEL THOMPSON ENJOY A SUCCESSFUL REUNION. RIGHT, ROBERTA HAMAN & CAPT. MATHEW BEEMAN CHAT DURING DINNER.



Dinner Concludes Alumni Weekend

The September Alumni Weekend activities culminated in a dinner at the Players Club in Omaha. The anniversary classes once again had a chance to gather together and visit. Other alumni enjoyed listening and sharing with them about their experiences during their time at Clarkson College.

A special presentation was given at the dinner. The reinstatement of the Honorary Alumni Award was bestowed upon Dr. Andrea Nebel, Director of the Physical Therapy Assistant program at the College. It was with great pleasure and gratitude for all her work that Rachel Thompson, President of the Alumni Association Board, presented Andrea with a plaque and gift on behalf of the Alumni Association (see complete article on page 5).

The "Q Street Quartet" provided the after-dinner entertainment. They had a lot of fun singing the songs that had been composed by some of the alumni. Lyrics for "You Are My Sunshine" were written by Joann Morris, class of 1954, and Linda Plettner, class of 1964. Lyrics for "Bicycle Built For Two" were written by Linda Plettner. Fran Rosicky Anderson, class of 1964, wrote the lyrics for "This Little Light of Mine." The quartet sang many favorites and animated their songs through gestures and props. They ended the evening's entertainment with "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood.



AT TOP, J.J. KASSMEIER ('72, '86) & MYRNA VASTA ('74, '89) SHARE MEMORIES. AT BOTTOM, Q STREET QUARTET SINGS WITH LYRICS WRITTEN BY ALUMNI.



JUDI DUNN RECEIVED A GIFT OF APPRECIATION FOR HER DISTINGUISHED YEARS OF SERVICE FROM MARSHA CRAVENS & THE OMICRON EPSILON CHAPTER.



MORE THAN 30 OF THE 85 STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO ATTEND THE INDUCTION CEREMONY.

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Clarkson College is seeking talented candidates to teach behavioral health in our undergraduate nursing program.

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Record Inductees at Omicron Epsilon Induction Ceremony

By Mikaela Yeager, Marketing Specialist

The Clarkson College Omicron Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing was pleased to induct a record 85 new graduate and undergraduate students into the society on Oct. 4. More than 110 nursing students and family members attended the induction ceremony, which included a special recognition of Director of Professional Development Judi Dunn, M.S., R.N., for her tireless dedication to the Clarkson College STTI chapter over the last decade.

Also a guest speaker, Ms. Dunn emphasized the lifelong benefits of belonging to the nursing profession's most notable honor society. "STTI offers a substantial amount of resources, networking, leadership training and other valuable experiences for nurses. I have found that through the other STTI nurses I have met internationally, across the U.S. and here in Nebraska that my horizons have broadened, my leadership capabilities have been strengthened and my confidence to take on new endeavors has increased."

Ms. Dunn has been a member of STTI since 2004, previously serving two terms as secretary and one as president (2010-2012). She currently serves as the membership and induction coordinator and the College liaison.

The new inductees were invited to join the Clarkson College Omicron Epsilon Chapter based on their high grade point average, class rank and leadership characteristics. Fifteen of the inductees received a free one-year membership, funded by Omicron Epsilon. Recipients were selected based on a written essay submitted prior to the induction ceremony.

"We are very fortunate here at Clarkson College to have a very vibrant and active chapter that brings together a wealth of knowledge, experience and community service," said Ms. Dunn. A college of nursing has to have an established honor society in place for 10 years prior to undergoing the chartering process to become an official STTI chapter. The Clarkson College Chapter was chartered in 1998.

The Board of Directors leading the College chapter has been ambitious to continuously grow and strengthen its student base. The current board members include:

- › President: Marsha Cravens, M.Ed., M.S.N., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Vice President: Peggy Mazzeo, B.S.N.
- › Director: Joan Blum, A.R.N.P., M.S.N., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Director: Jane Langemeier, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Director: Jo Freel, B.S.N., R.N.
- › Director: Loretta Pierce, M.S.N., R.N., CNE, NE-BC
- › Director: Maurice Davis, B.S.N, R.N.
- › Secretary: Layna Himmelberg, Ed.D., R.N., C.N.E., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Treasurer: JoAnn Acierno, M.S.N., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Membership/Induction Coordinator & College Liaison: Judi Dunn, M.S., R.N., Director of Professional Development
- › Faculty Counselor: Linda Jensen, Ph.D., M.N., R.N., Associate Professor of Nursing
- › Faculty Counselor: Kate Fuller, M.S.N., Nursing Instructor
- › Leadership Succession Chair: Michelle Bomer, M.S.N., R.N.

The next Omicron Epsilon Chapter orientation event will be October 23 from 5-7 in room 308. Dr. Linda Jensen and Regan Small, 2014 Clarkson College MSN graduate, will present on two abstracts: "Nurses' Perceptions of Ethical Issues in an Academic Hospital Setting" and "Designing Service-Learning Projects for an Online Course in Healthcare Delivery." Dr. Jensen and Ms. Small were invited to present at the 2014 STTI International Research Congress held July 24-28, 2014 in Hong Kong. This was the third time the Omicron Epsilon Chapter has had a member speak at congress.



Tremblay Receives Clinical Excellence Award

By Mikaela Yeager, Marketing Specialist

Chera Tremblay, P.T.A., B.S., accepted the 2014 Clinical Excellence Award from the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association (NPTA) on Oct. 11 at the NPTA Fall Conference, held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Neb. The award recognizes Ms. Tremblay's leadership, enthusiasm, creativity and expertise in the practice of physical therapy (PT).

The NPTA is the principal membership organization for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in Nebraska. Its mission is to advance and promote the profession of physical therapy, supporting its members in order to improve and advocate for the physical health and functional abilities of the individuals and communities they serve.

"I love what I do, and this award shows me that I am continuing down the right path," said Tremblay. "I am fortunate to work with such an exceptional team of faculty, and I look forward to the advancement we will see within the PTA profession within the next several years."

Ms. Tremblay earned a B.S. degree in Exercise Science from Wayne State College in 2004 and her A.S. degree in PTA from Clarkson College in 2008. Upon graduation, she began working for Nebraska Orthopaedic Hospital (NOH) outpatient orthopedics and aquatic therapy. She returned to Clarkson College in 2010 as an instructor and Academic Coordinator of

Clinical Education (ACCE) for the PTA transfer program. She continues to work with patients at NOH on an as-needed basis.

Ms. Tremblay's teaching assignments include Clinical Practicum II, III, and IV (PTA 220, 240, and 245) and assisting with PTA 120 therapeutic modalities I and PTA 210 therapeutic modalities II. She is also involved in various professional organizations, such as the Omaha Sports Medicine Alliance (OSMA), the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the NPTA.

"I do not consider what I do in my profession a job but rather a path in my life I have selected for a reason," Tremblay said. "I have strong compassion for high-quality patient care, and that includes helping students maximize their potential in a career path focused on helping others."

Dr. Andreia Nebel, PTA Program Director, submitted a nomination letter for Ms. Tremblay to be considered for the Clinical Excellence Award. She emphasized Ms. Tremblay's strengths as both a PTA and instructor and the many accomplishments she has achieved as a professional in the field. "Her dedication has helped us update curriculum to reflect current practice, improve classroom activities through more integrated case study scenarios and student

presentations, and she is now working on ways to improve clinical instructor communication."

On top of maintaining PRN hours in orthopedics, Ms. Tremblay is a .75 FTE instructor and has served on the Clarkson College Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association Board. She coordinates biannual clinical newsletters, established a new clinical education database, continuously forms new clinical contracts, and conducts additional clinic visits and calls outside of midterm clinical course student assessments.

"Her participation in national webinars and APTA educational leadership conferences, state and local meetings, and her dedication to the community is second to none," said Dr. Nebel. Additionally, Ms. Tremblay organizes and participates in various service projects throughout the community, as well as all educational events related to physical therapy on campus.

"It is a pleasure to work with someone who respects the ideas of others, and has the drive to continue to expand and grow our curriculum, our alumni relations, and our clinical education presence. Chera embodies what it is to truly contribute to your profession and excel."



GENERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SARAH FLANAGAN WORKS IN HER NEW FIFTH FLOOR OFFICE.



THE VIEW VISITORS SEE AS THEY STEP OFF OF THE ELEVATORS ONTO THE FIFTH FLOOR. THE NAVY FLAG FEATURES THE TEXT "WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE" ALONG WITH ENCOURAGING TEXT TO WELCOME STUDENTS & GUESTS.

Campus Renovation: Fifth Floor

During the last accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission it was recommended that Clarkson College create private offices for faculty. In order to meet that recommendation and create a more comfortable and private work setting for faculty, a renovation project was completed Aug. 1. The new private offices will allow for faculty and students to meet in a comfortable and confidential setting.

The project completely renovated the fifth floor of the main building, which previously had 36 cubicle work spaces for faculty. The cubicles were removed and 37 private faculty offices were constructed and furnished with all new furniture, including desks, chairs and bookshelves. Additionally, the fifth floor reception area, which houses two administrative assistants responsible for assisting faculty, was renovated to feature a more inviting granite service counter and a glass wall looking out to the elevator lobby. This has created an attractive and welcoming environment for our students, as well as increased the security of the area. Staff will now be able to see students and visitors approaching the faculty suite from the lobby through two new glass wall panels that have been installed.

The planning of this project has been ongoing for over a year. There was a very short construction work timeline for this project, as it was strategically scheduled during the summer semester to minimize operational disruption. New furniture was installed by Aug. 11, and all phones and computers were installed by Aug. 18. The faculty began moving into their new offices on Aug. 19, and the fifth floor was fully functioning by the first day of the 2014 fall semester. The project received financial support of approximately \$450,000 from the Clarkson Regional Health Services Foundation in order to make the renovation possible.

Dr. Tony Damewood, Vice President of Operations at Clarkson College, stated "We are very proud to open this new office suite that will allow our faculty and students to collaborate and more comfortably reach their academic goals. This renovation is one of many that have been completed in the last decade at Clarkson College in order to enhance the educational experience of our students and create a better working environment for our faculty."

Program Spotlight: New General Education Classes

By Clarkson College General Education Faculty Members

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

Cadaver Applications in Anatomy

Offered in the spring and summer semesters, this upper-level elective course is available to both undergraduate and graduate students. A partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) provides an experience typically reserved for medical students. Rather than studying a two dimensional textbook diagram, students will uncover actual organs embedded in the context of surrounding structures. Students dissect and study donor bodies in conjunction with case studies highlighting each body region.

Students have commented on the challenging nature of the course as well as their surprise at discovering anomalies, disease processes and surgically implanted devices. This unique opportunity also instills an appreciation for those that donate their bodies and the importance of this generous gift. For more information on body donation, visit donatemybody.org.

Mary Balken proposed and developed the interagency agreement enabling the Cadaver Anatomy course to first be offered in the summer of 2009. Mary also developed a capstone course taken in the third semester of the Nurse Anesthesia program.

Mary's hard work and dedication in coordinating UNMC Cadaver lab tours has benefitted many others including: area high school students, first level anatomy students, faculty, staff and alumni.

August 2014 Clarkson College Graduates

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

Darrel Gene Moreland
Diploma in Practical Nursing

Kara Anderson
Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Michelle Marie Glow & Jessica Wirth
Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Lindy Jill Randel
Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Cassie Dawn Voge
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Kathy Lynn Jacobitz
Master in Health Care Administration

Amber Brooke Benson & Kristen Julianna Harms
Master of Science in Nursing

Certificate in Imaging Informatics

Justin Dwayne Bauer λ
Shelby Elizabeth Keller Σλ
Kelly Ann Sindelar λ

Diploma in Practical Nursing

Jennifer Elise Bartusiak
Lauren Theresa Boyer ***
Michelle L. Durland
Amanda Dawn Glantz
Alexis Hess
Julia Joy Moertl
Darrel Gene Moreland ****
Gabriela Edwiges Rivas
Heather N. Stanley
Jennifer Valencia Taylor
Luka Thor
Jamie Lyn Wiebelhaus

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Kara Anderson Σ****
Lindsey Marie Drake
Lindsey Jean Farris ****
Lance Dwight Fox Σ

Susan Patricia Ehrhart Gillum Σ***
Theresa Ann Hoffman Σ****
Toni Kay Hulinsky **
Christy Anna Neneman ***
Machell Louise Owens ***
Rachael Grace Pattavina
Holly Anne Steidlmayer Σ****
Michael James Stevens
Joss Lynne Vanderhoof
Adam Caleb Wetzel

Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Julie Anna Bartman
Justin Dwayne Bauer Σλ
Patrick Gregory Bendlin λ
Alyssa Nicole Bern λ
Jamie Bryant Σλ
Lori A. Evridge
Michelle Marie Glow Σλ****
Kofi Wodi Gunubu
Dustin A. Hahn
Stacy A. Henkel λ***
Jaime Lynn Hoge ****
Shelby Elizabeth Keller Σλ
Joshua Ryan Patterson λ
Lindy Jill Randel Σλ**
Kelsey Nicole Rutt Σλ
Taylor M. Schwieger Σλ***
Kelly Ann Sindelar Σλ
Lauren Elizabeth Stuva λ***
Ashley M. Uhrich Σλ
Sara Jill Waddell Σλ
Shelby Lianne Waite λ
Danielle Josephine Wheeler
Jessica Wirth Σ****
Conner Thomas Young λ
Lauren Elizabeth Young λ

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Justin Dwayne Bauer Σλ
Paige Michele Burkhardt
Michael John Dutt
Kofi Wodi Gunubu
Shelby Elizabeth Keller Σλ
Rebecca J. Pickett λ
Lindy Jill Randel Σλ**
Kelly Ann Sindelar Σλ
Shelby Lianne Waite λ

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Services
Deanna Rae Wilson **

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Administration
Jamie Leigh Meister

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Management
Angela Rose Koehler Σ

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Lindsey Brigman Σ
Molly Suzanne Bruckner Σ
Abigail Marie Colburn *
Jena Coy
Ashley Anne Creglow Σ
Jacquelyn Dyan DalPonte ***
Hannah Renee Engelkamp
Nicolette Lynn Ethofer
Megan Elizabeth Ingram Σ
Sydney A. Kalhorn
Amber Lynn Kragaskow
Amanda Montgomery ***
Alyssa Victoria Rivera Σ
Ashley Elizabeth Roecker Σ
Kathryn Marie Schiermeyer Σ
Rachel Scott Σ
Breanna Lee Shupe Σ
Megan Marie Svagera
Cecilia Marie Sweet
Bethany Ann Tischer
Amanda R. Tuck
Kara R. VanderJagt *
Cassie Dawn Voge ***
Shelby J. Wurdinger ***

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Care Information Administration

Abby Jo Gutshall

Master in Health Care Administration

Violeta Gabat Asuncion Σ
Victor Scott Bycroft
Christopher Alan Charles
Kathy Lynn Jacobitz
David Michael Larrick
RaKay Marie Reyes Σ
Leslie Ann Spethman Σ
Tashonda Renee Williams

Master of Science in Nursing

Sarah Marie Afanou
Cynthia Yufen Banks
Amber Brooke Benson Σ

Tamara S. Bireline
Brittany M. Bogart
Karoweso Margaret Chipendo †
Amy Lynn Dillon
Stephanie Jo Greiten
Kristen Julianna Harms
Jessica Marie Heggen †Σ
Trisha Lynette Hittenmiller
Terrilee Jackel
Chelsie Dionne Jones †
Sherry Renee Kropatsch †
Julie Ann Langerock
Carrie Elizabeth Lutzen
Stephanie L. Marrs
Kelly Jean Moyer
Jena Marie Neesen †
Theresa Rose Marie Neff
Emily Christine Nolan †
Sharon Louise Pitt
Yulia Reyes
Mallory Lynn Roling †Σ
Kristi Lynn Ross †Σ
Shanda D. Ross
Ashley Nicole Turner
Craig Alan Walker
Tiffany Anne Wilson

Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Rebecca Lynne McCann

Academic Honors

Honors are distinguished by:
**** Summa Cum Laude
3.85 and above
*** Magna Cum Laude
3.75 through 3.84
** Cum Laude
3.65 through 3.74
* With Distinction
3.50 through 3.64

Honor Societies

λ Delta Chapter Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

† Omicron Epsilon Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

Σ National Society of Leadership and Success Sigma Alpha Pi Interdisciplinary Honor Society



COLLEGE STAFF MEMBERS TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THE SUNSHINE & COMPANY DURING THE EVENT.



ALUMNAE & COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS LISTEN AT THE CEREMONY.



TWO OF THE SIX NEW GARDEN BRICKS.



DR. BURGHER DISCUSSES THE GARDEN'S SIGNIFICANCE & HISTORY.

Heritage Garden Walk Incorporated into Alumni Weekend Festivities

This year, the Heritage Garden Walk was held on Thursday, Sept. 18 following the Alumni Brunch. It is typically held in the springtime but was moved to the fall so the Alumni Association could incorporate it into their annual festivities.

The Heritage Garden is a beautiful spot on campus and holds the bricks, boulders and benches that have been dedicated to friends and loved ones of the Clarkson College community. All funds raised through the Garden Walk go toward the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Alumni, faculty, staff and students attended this year's dedication ceremony. Under sunny skies and beautiful weather, Dr. Louis Burgher, President of Clarkson College, lead the invocation and enlightened attendees about the statue of Puck from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which resides in the east side of the garden.

Dr. Martin Stahl, President of the Clarkson College Board of Directors, acknowledged the Alumni Association's continuance of the dedication ceremony and the years of service

by the Clarkson Service League. Up until this year, the annual Garden Walk was supported by the Clarkson Service League. The Alumni Association accepted the responsibility to sponsor the dedication ceremony to maintain the tradition set forth by the Clarkson Service League.

Alumni Association President Rachel Thompson acknowledged this year's dedicated bricks:

- › Brick dedicated to Captain Winifred Jane Williams Parker, Class of 1942
- › Brick dedicated to Dale Svatos
- › Brick dedicated in memoriam to Purdue University
- › Brick dedicated in memoriam to South Carolina State University
- › Brick dedicated in memoriam to University of California, Santa Barbara
- › Brick dedicated in memoriam to Seattle Pacific University.

Following the dedication, cookies and punch were served in the Student Center lower level.