Clarkson College Begins New Alumni Referral Program

By Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, and Denise Work, Director of Admissions

Many of our students tell us an alumnus inspired them to pursue a career in the field of health care. Clarkson College and the Alumni Association want to recognize the impact you have on prospective Clarkson College students.

We are excited to introduce our new Alumni Referral Program. For every student that lists you as an alumni referral on their application, the College will send you a $25 pre-paid American Express gift card once they begin classes. You will also have the option to apply this $25 gift toward an Alumni Association membership or renewal. To receive this token of our appreciation, the student needs to provide your name as an alumni referral on their application. Students can apply online at www.clarksoncollege.edu, or an application can be mailed out to them.

Clarkson College now offers online and on-campus options in Nursing, Health Care Business, Radiologic Technology, Medical Imaging, Imaging Informatics, Physical Therapist Assistant and a host of Professional Development opportunities. If you haven’t visited us on the Web recently take a look for yourself at www.clarksoncollege.edu/Programs/ and help us spread the word.

We realize that our graduates are our best representatives to promote Clarkson College. We thank you for being such a positive role model!

Alumni Cookbooks Still Available

It is not too late to purchase an alumni cookbook! Send $18 via check or money order made out to “Alumni Association of Clarkson College” to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Money raised by this project assists the association in supporting students, the College and alumni activities. The cookbook contains more than 250 recipes from alumni, faculty, staff and friends.
President’s Corner: Reflecting on Another Successful Year

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. This is the time of year I spend reflecting on the past year and setting goals for the new year. As a whole, the Alumni Association has many things to reflect upon. Participation in alumni and College activities has increased, as well as communication between the College and alumni. The alumni archives were moved to a new location and are currently being cataloged and stored safely. Membership is holding steady, and the Alumni Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary in June with activities being planned.

I want to applaud all of the alumni who have helped make this year a success. Without your dedication to Clarkson College, the Alumni Association would not be the vibrant association it is today. There is an amazing energy and a sense of family within the Alumni Association at Clarkson College. I have met many wonderful alums and look forward to meeting more as the new year progresses. My goal for my last few months as president of the Alumni Association is to increase membership and participation in alumni activities. Please review the newsletter and think about volunteering in any way for the Alumni Association. The rewards are plentiful.

Until we talk again,

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

Correction in October/November Issue

In the October/November 2009 issue of the Alumni Times, the picture on page 12 of Deloris Navrkal and Ginger Shinn incorrectly lists them as being from the class of 1964. They are graduates from the class of 1954. Apologies are extended for this error.

Alumni Board Elections Coming Soon

Nominations for the Alumni Association board members and officers will be held during the month of March 2010. If you would like to be on the board, please send your name and a brief paragraph about your intent as a board member to vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or mail it to Rita VanFleet, alumni coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. You may also want to consider nominating someone you know. Candidates must be paid members of the Alumni Association. The position of president must be filled by someone who has had one year of service on the board. Ballots will be sent to all paid Alumni Association members in April 2010 for voting on officers and board members.

Sigma Theta Tau International Receives Chapter Key Award

By Judi Dunn, Director of Professional Development

The Omicron Epsilon chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing was recently informed it has been selected as a recipient of the 2009 Chapter Key Award.

The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors chapters who excel in chapter related activities such as:

- Membership recruitment and retention
- Publicity and programming
- Professional and leadership development
- Local, national and international collaboration.

Carol Huston, president of Sigma Theta Tau International, states, “Your chapter’s entry is an outstanding reflection of the work of a vibrant chapter.”

The Omicron Epsilon Chapter was honored at the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International’s 40th Biennial Convention on Nov. 1, 2009, in Indianapolis, Ind.

Current Omicron Epsilon Chapter President Sue Michalski and President-elect Judi Dunn were present to accept the award.
I had a dream to go to Africa and volunteer in a hospital, but I never imagined where it would end up taking me. As a private practice women’s health care nurse practitioner in Omaha, I was fortunate to be able to provide the best and most technologically advanced care to my clients. I enjoyed the diversity of clients and often felt that working with the poorest and neediest was the most rewarding. I dreamed of volunteering at a hospital or clinic in Africa.

My husband sold irrigation for Valmont in Africa, and I asked him to search for a place I could volunteer. He visited many hospitals and arranged for me to spend a month in Naivasha, Kenya, at a public hospital which serves more than 300,000 people in a 50 mile radius. I arrived with two large suitcases of medical supplies and equipment, including a fetal monitor and teaching booklets. I stayed with a friend who drove me to the hospital each morning. I spent the days circulating to different departments where the staff showed me their usual care routines. The staff was very warm and welcoming and spoke very proper English. The patients spoke Swahili and also had a warm shy smile when I was with them.

I thought I was prepared for what I might find, but I had no idea what these nurses and patients endured on a daily basis. One nurse in pediatrics had 60 sick children to care for, and many toddlers were burned from cooking fires in their huts. Some of the children with infectious diseases, such as malaria, pneumonia and diarrhea, were all in the same ward and some of them were sharing beds. Each child usually had a family member who actually did most of their care. Abandoned babies and children without a family sometimes died due to lack of care and someone to feed them.

Maternity was where I ended up spending most of my time. I will never forget my first day in that department. There were 20 women in labor in one central room. Family was not allowed due to the overcrowded conditions, and women were quietly moaning and swaying until it was their time to go to the one large delivery room to deliver on a cot – directly next to another mother giving birth. After they delivered, they carried their baby to a large ward where they shared a bed with another mother and child. The midwives who delivered the babies were very smart and thankful for any help. While I was there, I taught classes on how to interpret the fetal monitor I had brought, and soon the nurses were saving lives by detecting fetal distress before birth and responding to the emergency.

The nursery was a 12 foot by 12 foot room with 10 wire cots with two preterm or sick babies in each one. There were so many very small pretermers, and the only device attached to them was a feeding tube or an IV. No monitors blinking or tubes attached to their tiny bodies like I was used to in the States. Their mothers would come every three hours, sit on a bench in the middle of the room and pump their breast manually to tube feed their babies. There were no infant warmers to maintain their temperature – just a space heater on the floor. It would break my heart each morning to find another baby died of hypothermia during the night. This is such an easy problem to fix in Omaha and most other cities in the world.

Each evening, I shared these stories with my host, Igal, who owns a flower business in Naivasha. Igal soon said, “What they need is a maternity hospital. Let’s build one.” We met with an architect, chose a plot of land near the current maternity unit and began to involve the staff and the community in our plans. From there, the plan was for me to go home to obtain used medical equipment donations. I thought my contacts with various hospitals and health professionals over the years would provide what we needed. I arrived in America with a mission and a new spirit of purpose.

I was head nurse of obstetrics at Clarkson Hospital in the 1980’s and was involved in the planning when they built the first birthing rooms in Nebraska. I felt many aspects of my past nursing career had prepared me for this challenge. I now knew what drove me to Kenya, and my life changed from that day forward.

My first visit was in October 2004, and in May 2007, we held the groundbreaking ceremony. One-thousand community members and the Minister of Health in Kenya attended the day-long ceremony. By this time, we had 10 board of directors for Friends of Naivasha in Omaha, and three of the board members (my Africa sisters) attended these festivities with me. The staff at the hospital hosted a party for us when we left, and after all the tears and hugs, their lives were also changed forever and our overall efforts were intensified. The local flower farms donated plumbing supplies, cement, windows, doors and other needed building supplies. Igal obtained a grant to start construction, and as the monetary donations came in, we built the hospital. Since 2004, we have shipped 10 40 foot containers of medical equipment and supplies generously provided by health care providers in Omaha. A recent fall 2009 fundraiser in Omaha raised the $30,000 needed for the roof to go up.

I taught classes on how to interpret the fetal monitor...soon the nurses were saving lives...
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 Off 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 vanfletrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Compassion Beyond Boundaries: Alumnae Makes Her Dream Become Reality

We are half way done with the 84 bed Naivasha Women’s Health Care Centre (NWHCC). There will be a high-risk nursery with isolettes and infant warmers for 20 infants, an isolation nursery, two surgical suites, 14 semi-private birthing rooms with ultrasound and lab, an HIV and high-risk prenatal clinic, and the first mammography and colposcopy machine in Naivasha. The cost of this total project is $800,000. We have raised the first $400,000 and are working hard to get the rest. One-hundred percent of the donations you would need for scrapbooking and card making. Novice to experienced are all invited to attend.

We are half way done with the 84 bed Naivasha Women’s Health Care Centre (NWHCC). There will be a high-risk nursery with isolettes and infant warmers for 20 infants, an isolation nursery, two surgical suites, 14 semi-private birthing rooms with ultrasound and lab, an HIV and high-risk prenatal clinic, and the first mammography and colposcopy machine in Naivasha. The cost of this total project is $800,000. We have raised the first $400,000 and are working hard to get the rest. One-hundred percent of the donations you would need for scrapbooking and card making. Novice to experienced are all invited to attend.

Interested in helping to continue the progress at the NWHCC in Naivasha, Kenya?

Feel free to contact Cindy via e-mail at cberkland@conl.com. If you are interested in watching the building progress of the NWHCC, visit www.nwhcc.info.

The hospital project takes a lot of time but is very fulfilling. Every time I go to Naivasha to check the hospital progress, I find another need I want to get involved in. I feel empowered to make a difference, and nothing can stop me now! All I need to do is tell the story, show how great the need is, explain how we can help and then others will want to get involved. One person can make a difference when you spread the word and involve others in your dream. You should join us and make a difference. You will love Kenya!

Scrapbook Day on Feb. 27

The Alumni Association has reserved the work room at Archivers at Village Pointe in Omaha on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The day will be spent creating scrapbook pages. This will be a good time to catch up on your holiday pictures. Come and join in the fun of scrapbooking! Alumni are welcome to bring guests.

Scrapbooking tools (decorative scissors, punches, etc.) will be available for use. Other supplies will be available for purchase or you are welcome to bring your own. The store has an extensive inventory for purchase of all the supplies you would need for scrapbooking and card making. Novice to experienced are all invited to attend.

Space is limited to 32 people, so sign up soon. Please contact Sandra O’Talken at 402.552.3365 or 402.552.3365 to reserve your spot. Cost for the workday, including lunch and snacks, is $20 per person. Reservations will close as soon as the 32 slots are filled so get your reservation in early.

Clarkson College Spotlight: Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging Programs

By Ellen Collins, Director of Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging

The Radiologic Technology (RT) and Medical Imaging (MI) programs have so much exciting news to report. The RT program recently received notification of continuing accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). This continuing accreditation was granted for the maximum eight years. Twenty-seven RT students graduated August 2009, 15 of which also received their Bachelor of Science degree in MI at the same time they received their Associate of Science in RT. The remaining 12 graduates are currently working toward their bachelor’s degree in MI, demonstrating that 100 percent of the RT students participate in post associate degree coursework. In addition, all 27 RT graduates passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification on their first attempt. These outstanding statistics are possible through the strong resources available to our students.

Faculty Updates

One of our strongest resources is our faculty. Their diverse knowledge in the field and their dedication to our students is outstanding. The RT/MI department currently has six faculty, three of whom are graduates of the Clarkson College RT program. They are working as a team to provide a seamless curriculum between the RT and MI programs to provide the community with well rounded technologists who are marketable upon graduation.

Shelli Weddum was promoted to assistant director and is also working toward her Master of Science in Health Care Administration. In her new role, she is very busy with clinical site visits while continuously looking for new sites for our students. She also advises the RT students along with her other administrative duties. Weddum has been with the College for eight years.

Dr. Anna Hagenau has been with the program for seven years. She teaches heavily in the RT program as well as teaching our digital and mammography coursework for the MI program. Hagenau has played a major role in keeping the students informed of the imaging changes from film/screen to digital. This was not only done for the RT students but was implemented into the required major digital course and her mammography class to meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements.

The implementation of digital into her mammography course allows our students enrolled in the MI program to meet the requirements to perform mammography. She also plays an active role as president of our Alumni Association. Weber recently passed her ARRT Computerized Tomography (CT) registry.

Chelsea Boring is an active member of our team teaching in both the RT and MI programs. She teaches the RT Patient Care and Procedures courses. She also teaches online in the course. The store has an extensive inventory for purchase of all the supplies you would need for scrapbooking and card making. Novice to experienced are all invited to attend.

Above: The 15 new inductees into the RT/MI Lambda Nu National Honor Society; Benson High School anatomy students perform dissections with the supervision of RT/MI students on campus. The RT/MI faculty, clockwise from top left: Trish Weber, Ann Hagenau, Shelli Weddum, Ellen Collins, Chelsea Boring and Kelly Eaton.
MI program teaching Angiography and Pathophysiology. Boring will be developing and teaching the RT Pharmacology course, which will be offered online. This will be the first RT class that has been offered online. Boring has been with the College for three years.

The newest addition to our team is Kelly Eaton. Eaton graduated from Southeast Community College and joins the College with seven years of experience working for Methodist Hospital as our clinical liaison. Eaton returned to the College to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging and PACS certificate. Following graduation she assumed a new position at Methodist Hospital as a PACS systems analyst before joining the RT/MI team four months ago. Eaton will be teaching the MI PACS courses along with RT courses.

Classroom Facilities Update
A classroom “facelift” in lower level room seven began in December 2009. Currently the classroom does not accommodate the increase in student numbers for the RT/MI programs. An expansion to lengthen the classroom will be made to accommodate 30 students. This expansion will allow the faculty to better utilize the equipment available to our students.

New Opportunities and Curricular Changes
New efforts are being made to increase MI student numbers. Mark White, director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Herman Oosterwijk, president of O’Tech Inc., and myself will speak at the 24th Annual Student Radiographer’s Seminar and Educator’s Conference in Atlanta on Feb. 20-23. In addition, a booth will be sponsored by the College and manned by Aimee Middleton, the academic liaison for recruitment and public relations, in an effort to promote online education. An LCD TV monitor will be hung and current MI online coursework will be demonstrated so students can see the ease of taking an online course. A $1500 scholarship will be given away as a drawing for all students or technologists who stop by the booth and leave their e-mail address.

The department is very excited about a new offer to registered technologists beginning Jan. 11. The ARRT CQ2011: Continued Qualifications states that ARRT certifications awarded Jan. 1, 2011, and thereafter will be time-limited to 10 years. Prior to the end of the 10-year period, the individual will be required to demonstrate continued qualifications in order to continue to hold the certification. In an effort to help our fellow technologists we are offering a one-time-only opportunity for working technologists to take theory coursework in the post-primary areas of CT, MRI, Mammography and Bone Densitometry in hopes of furthering their knowledge needed to successfully pass the ARRT examination in these areas prior to the Jan. 1, 2011 deadline. Postcards were mailed in November 2009 to all registered technologists in a seven state radius with postcards to follow. An e-mail blast was also sent to all Clarkson College alumni. We are running the courses every semester for one year.

New challenges to implement the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) curriculum changes into the current RT curriculum will be a main focus for the department in 2010. Cross-sectional anatomy, CT concepts and CT competencies plus additional digital information will need to be added to the current curriculum.

Professional and Service Involvement
The RT/MI students continue to be involved in both community service and service-learning. Students enrolled in MI 410, Cross Sectional Anatomy, had the opportunity to work with the Benson High School anatomy class to broaden their knowledge of anatomy. Students enrolled in the hybrid and online Cross Sectional Anatomy classes designed activities for the Benson anatomy class. The activities included lectures and discussions in addition to having the Benson students visit campus to perform a sheep brain and heart dissection. The feedback from both the Benson and Clarkson College faculty and students was overwhelmingly positive.

The Radiologic Technology Student Association (RTSA) and the Lambda Nu honor society were busy during the fall 2009 semester sponsoring two separate families to provide them with Thanksgiving meals and gifts for Christmas. This involved raising money through sales of butter braids and personal time and donations from the students and faculty.

The RT/MI Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the radiologic and imaging sciences Nebraska Delta Chapter inducted 15 new students this fall. The national chapter also awarded 14 scholarships out of the 49 applicants that applied this year. Out of those 14 scholarships awarded, one Clarkson College RT student received a $500 scholarship.

Clarkson College to Offer CRNA Program
Clarkson College is excited to announce that they will be offering a new Master of Science in Nursing program with a specialization in Nurse Anesthesia. Mary Hoversten, MS, CRNA, has been hired as program administrator.

Hoversten has developed a vision, set up clinical sites and identified faculty and staff for this program. She prepared the self-study information for the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthetists Education Programs. The Council will visit the College on Jan. 22, 2010, for their accreditation review. Accreditation is expected in late spring 2010 with the inaugural Nurse Anesthesia class beginning their coursework in fall 2010. Once accredited, it will be a 30 month program, starting with a 12 month didactic phase followed by 18 months of clinical.

To learn more about the Nurse Anesthesia specialization, or to apply, visit the college Web site, www.clarksoncollege.edu/Programs/Nursing/Nurse_Anesthesia or contact the Admissions office at 800.647.5500 or 402.552.3100.

Game Night Held Oct. 15, 2009
The Alumni Association hosted its second game night on Oct. 15, 2009 at Upstream Brewing Company in West Omaha. The group in attendance again decided on Bunco as the game for the evening. Alumni and guests enjoyed the company of one another and the challenge of getting a Bunco. The waiter assigned to the party room was a lot of fun and also joined in a game or two. All agreed to continue with the game nights.

The next game night will be held at Howard Hall on campus March 18, 2010 from 7 – 9 p.m. Alumni are invited to join in the fun and also encouraged to bring a guest. Light refreshments will be available.

At left: Bunco participants rolling the dice during game night.

HLC Update
In the spring 2009 issue of the Alumni Times, it was reported that evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of College and Schools (HLC/ NCA) had visited the College on March 16 – 18, 2009. The preliminary results of the report were presented to the College on March 18, 2009, by the evaluators. At that time, they granted the College eight years of accreditation.

All of the documents and evaluator’s information were then submitted to the review committee at HLC. This committee gives the final recommendations after conducting a comprehensive evaluation. The review committee discussed information with Dr. Louis Burgher and Dr. Jody Woodworth. After a final review, the panel changed the accreditation from eight years to 10 years.

“We are proud that the HLC recognizes the rigorous academics provided by Clarkson College and our contribution in providing qualified and ethical health care professionals,” said Dr. Burgher. “The College is committed to providing the best health care education possible and our 10 year accreditation renewal affirms that commitment.”

The next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for the 2018-19 academic year.
The family spent three years in Hawaii while Roger was stationed there. Have a son and daughter and four grandchildren. Roger passed away in 1994. I stay busy and currently live in Colorado Springs, Colo. Belong to a bowling league and a hiking group. Have hiked most weeks for the past 10 years except when traveling, which I really enjoy. Gone fishing at favorite lodge in Elfin Cove, Alaska past six years and take at least one other trip each year.

Joan Morris Lee ('54)
I live in Jupiter, Fla. and do volunteer work at the Jupiter Medical Center as the liaison person in the family waiting room. I communicate with the recovery room nurses, surgeons and the patients’ families. I have a little black toy poodle named Yogi who is quite the companion. I have five children, three in Omaha, one in New York City working at the United Nations and one in San Francisco. I have four grandchildren (two boys and two girls) and one great granddaughter who is one year old.

Bill Koile ('08)
Graduated in December 2008 with a Master of Science in Health Care Business Leadership degree and currently lives in Gretna, Neb. Bill is the business manager for the Cardio Vascular Service Line at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and he has recently been given additional responsibilities by being promoted to manager of the Cardiac Rehab area. Bill is enjoying the challenge of the new management position.

Save the Date

**Fall 2010 Reunions**
This fall, the Alumni Association will be honoring the graduates from the classes of 1950 (60 years), 1970 (40 years), 1980 (30 years), 1985 (25 years), 1990 (20 years) and 2000 (10 years). We are looking for host/ hostesses for each one of those classes. If you are interested in hosting a host/hostess or would like to assist with the reunion planning, please contact Rita VanFleet via phone at 402.552.3516 or e-mail at vanfletrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

Dr. Aubrey Orduña
The College is pleased to announce that Dr. Aubrey Orduña has been promoted to dean of nursing. In her new role she will oversee the nursing programs, curriculum development and nursing faculty at the College. Orduña has been with The Nebraska Medical Center/Clarkson College for more than 34 years serving in a variety of capacities including instructor, clinical nurse specialist and director.

Dr. Aubrey Orduña

Orduña Promoted to Dean of Nursing at Clarkson College
By Kelsey Archer, Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Cindy Schlotfeld
Clarkson College is pleased to announce Cindy Schlotfeld has been named director of undergraduate nursing. As director of undergraduate nursing, Schlotfeld will oversee the undergraduate nursing program, curriculum development and faculty. Schlotfeld previously served as the assistant undergraduate nursing program director. She has been with the College for more than seven years. Prior to joining the Clarkson College faculty, Schlotfeld worked in the field of nursing for The Nebraska Medical Center.

Cindy Schlotfeld

Schlotfeld Named Director of Undergraduate Nursing at the College
By Kelsey Archer, Assistant Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Save the Date

**Alumni Board meetings**
(open to any paid member, 4-6 p.m. at the College) Jan. 27, Feb. 23, March 23, April 27, May 25 and June 22, 2010.

**Saturday, Feb. 27**
— Scrapbook day. Alumni and guests are invited to the Archives in Village Pointe in Omaha from 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. for a day of scrapbooking. See page 6 for more information.

**Thursday, March 18**
— Game night from 7 — 9 p.m. in Howard Hall. Bunco will be featured. Alumni are welcome to bring a guest. For more information, see page 9.

**Saturday, June 5**
— Alumni Centennial Luncheon at Joslyn Castle. Ollie the Trolley will take attendees on a historic tour of Omaha, bring them to the Castle and return them to the College after the luncheon.

**Saturday, Sept. 18**
— Continuing Professional Education (CEU) event for alumni and guests from 8 a.m. until noon. More information in the April/May newsletter.

**Academic Travel Abroad Update**
This past December, Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) visited Italy. Check out the next issue of the Alumni Times to read more about their fun travel adventures abroad.

**Save the next issue of**
**Alumni Times**

**Dr. Aubrey Orduña**

**Cindy Schlotfeld**

**Bill Koile**

**Joan Morris Lee**

**Jackie Parmenter**

**Dorothy Fox Teesdale**

**Marjorie Oudin Creamer**

**Alumni Class Notes**
Class notes will be published in the January/February and July/August editions of the Alumni Times newsletter. We are always happy to hear from alumni and want to share the information with others. If you have a story or information that you would like to share in this section, please let us know. Information can pertain to achievements, awards, marriages, births, deaths, travel and other significant news.

When sending information, please include maiden name, if applicable, and year(s) of graduation and program. E-mail your information to Rita VanFleet, alumni coordinator, at vanfletrita@clarksoncollege.edu, 402.552.3516 or write to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

**1950s**
**Dorothy Fox Teesdale** ('51)
I currently live in Lowell, Mich., and I worked up until 2004. I enjoy the Clarkson College news. Since retirement, I enjoy volunteering for Senior Neighbors, Inc., RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program); Grand Rapids Audubon Club; Lowell Historical Association; and Lowell Area Art Counsel.

I started a support group for those with peripheral neuropathy in 2001 with seven people, and today we have more than 400 people in a 60 mile radius of Grand Rapids, Mich. I enjoy being busy but my health has made me slow down.

**Marjorie Oudin Creamer** ('54)
I have not worked in nursing since 1973. Worked in the office with my husband until 1981 when we retired.

**1990s**
**Jackie Parmenter** ('93 and '09)
Graduated with her Master’s in Nursing from Clarkson College in August 2009. She is currently director of perioperative services at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Jackie and her husband Phil have twins, Kelli and Philip who are 26 years old. Kelli was married this summer and Philip is finishing his degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Trish Weber** ('95 and '08)
Currently teaching in the Radiology program at Clarkson College in Omaha, Neb. In August 2009 successfully passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certification exam in Computed Tomography. Is working on a Master’s degree at Clarkson College.

**Ann Seckman** ('98)
I have earned my Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree from Chatham University in August 2009. My research project was Simulation as a Confidence Builder in Bachelor of Science in Nursing students. I am currently teaching at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes – Jewish College in St. Louis, Mo.

**2000s**
**Bill Koile** ('08)
Graduated in December 2008 with a Master of Science in Health Care Business Leadership degree and currently lives in Gretna, Neb. Bill is the business manager for the Cardio Vascular Service Line at The Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and he has recently been given additional responsibilities by being promoted to manager of the Cardiac Rehab area. Bill is enjoying the challenge of the new management position.
December 2009 Clarkson College Graduates

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

Lynette A. Kardell, Associate of Science in Health Information Management
Stacie Adcock, Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business Management
Melinda M. Neely, Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business Informatics
Becky Ann Heller, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging
Mark Bruce Lents, Master of Science in Nursing
Gale R. Dunahoo, Master of Science in Nursing Care Administration
Julie Ann Lawlor, Master of Science in Nursing Care Administration

MALTÉSE CROSS CERTIFICATE
Joanna Lynne Fastje, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Christopher Jason Huddleston, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Dawn Marie Longmeyer, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

November 2009 Clarkson College Graduates

ACADEMIC HONORS
Academic honors are conferred on Bachelor of Science and Associate of Science degree candidates who, upon graduation, distinguish themselves by maintaining a high cumulative grade point average. To qualify for academic honors, students must have completed the minimum required residency hours.

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

Please note: Honors designations were based upon most current information at press time. Clarkson College apologizes for any errors or omissions.

Service at Clarkson College: Making an Impact in Our Community
By Brooke Wiseman-Dowse, Community Outreach and Diversity Coordinator

As a requirement for graduation, Clarkson College students complete service in the community. Through the completion of service activities, students have the opportunity to engage in the community around them, connect classroom theory with practice, and grow as individuals. The service activities students complete take on many different forms. During the 2008-2009 academic year, students from Clarkson College worked with 150 different community agencies. While most of the agencies were located in the Omaha metropolitan area, Nebraska and Iowa, students also completed service in Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. Service experiences completed by Clarkson College students included preparing and presenting preventative health care information to elementary and secondary students, working with expectant and teenage mothers, educating community members on mental health issues, assisting with donation drives, helping new immigrants/refugees who are relocating to Omaha and presenting the new ICD-10 regulations via a webinar.

One student wrote, “At first I was a little hesitant about the idea of community service required through a class at Clarkson [College]. I was worried about setting aside enough time to finish these hours on a weekly basis while also finding the time to work a job and do homework for school. After my experience at [the community agency], however, I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in community service activities. I believe community service is one of the most rewarding activities we can participate in that provides us no financial or physical benefit. It is a learning experience in which we can grow personally as well as allow those we work with to thrive in their daily lives…Although I am the stereotypical working student, I plan to continue working in the community agency because I know organizations like this rely on people like [me] to continue to provide services for those in need.”

As Clarkson College alumni we invite you to become involved with the service activities our current students are working on. We are always looking for new and different agencies or individuals with whom we can work. Additionally, we invite you to participate in the events our students develop and present.

Get involved with service activities at the College! If you have an interest in becoming involved in student service activities, contact Brooke Wiseman Dowse at 402.552.2948 or service@clarksoncollege.edu.

2009 Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College Crowned and Honored

Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College were crowned on Nov. 11, 2009, during the “Awesome ‘80s” student Lip Sync Contest held in Howard Hall.

Mr. Clarkson is Derek Brester. Derek is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student from Howells, Neb. Ms. Clarkson is Molly Rich. Molly is a BSN student from Omaha, Neb. Both are on the Student Activities Council and involved in intramurals.

At left: Molly Rich and Derek Brester are crowned the 2009 Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College.
Nine nursing students set out to help a Sudanese family as part of their mental health nursing service project at Clarkson College.

All Clarkson College students must complete a minimum number of service hours in order to graduate. The College defines service as an activity in which students engage in a relationship with an identified agency or group that is mutually beneficial to both parties. While volunteering at the Open Door Mission, to meet their service requirement, the group of students worked with a Sudanese family. “Due to cultural differences, it was difficult for this family to adapt to acceptable American cultural guidelines necessary to stay at the Open Door Mission,” said Rebecca Quinn, current nursing student.

Quinn explained people were unable to help because of waiting lists or they did not offer assistance after they have been in the country for more than 10 days. After running out of places to turn, the group decided to take what they learned and do a cultural spotlight. They shifted their focus to increase awareness of the Sudanese culture for their peers and faculty at Clarkson College.

“We decided to focus on cultural awareness, considering Omaha has the largest Sudanese population in the country,” said Nicholas Denich, nursing student at the College. “We felt that this would be a beneficial and positive approach considering the great number of Sudanese individuals in Omaha and the surrounding area.”

They then began to research the Sudanese culture. The group contacted local agencies to find a speaker, visited with local church groups and dined at Sudanese restaurants. Through their research the group was referred to the Church of Resurrection by the Episcopal Church.

 “[The reverend] is a Sudanese, born and raised, who works with the church and travels around the continent to raise money for their Sudan Paloi Mission in the Twic East Country of Southeast Sudan,” said Quinn. Through this reference they were able to connect with Robin McNutt who works closely with Daniel Kuot, the reverend at the Church of Resurrection.

They arranged for McNutt to present at the College on Nov. 3, 2009. She shared pictures and spoke of her travels to Sudan, and attendees were also able to sample traditional Sudanese dishes. The students conducted pre- and post-presentation surveys and found that the knowledge was gained largely in the area of social relationships between men and women in the Sudanese culture. Eighty-four percent of participants somewhat or strongly agreed that the presentation had a positive impact on their career as a health care professional. The students involved were also greatly impacted by this service project.

Ellis explains they learned many things differ between our cultures, and it is not best to judge someone on their actions. He found research explained why certain behaviors and customs were considered acceptable in the Sudanese population that we viewed as very primitive and socially unacceptable in our culture.

“We felt that this would be a beneficial and positive approach considering the great number of Sudanese individuals in Omaha…”

“I have learned how difficult it must be for a new person or family starting out in this country. Even nine nursing students who were born in America and speak English could not help, which says a lot about how difficult it must be for a person that has just arrived and does not understand English very well, if at all,” Denich said.
Save the Date!

Spring is coming soon, and we want you to join in the festivities! We are planning the annual Spring Garden Walk for Wednesday, May 19. Mark it on your calendar and keep an eye out for more details!

Above: Benson High School students and EMTs participate in Project Saving Grace, a mock mass casualty drill held at the school.

Benson High School Mock Mass Casualty Drill

By: Carla Dirkschneider, Director of Health Care Business and HIM Programs

On Oct. 23, 2009, Benson High School’s health professions class and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) put on a mock mass casualty drill called Project Saving Grace. The trauma scene entailed a bus load of passengers who were in a horrific accident and the first responders were two vans full of Benson High School students. The students were responsible for getting all the wounded off the bus, assessing the injuries as minor or life-threatening, treating all wounds until EMTs arrived and maintaining the peace of the patients and visitors at the site. The students had to perform CPR, treat head wounds, broken bones, shock and also treat minor cuts and abrasions. Dr. Jody Woodworth and Carla Dirkschneider represented Clarkson College as evaluators of the students during the drill.