

Alumni Times

QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Online Graduate Nursing Program Receives Top Ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist



U.S. News & World Report ranked Clarkson College No. 4 out of 101 eligible institutions in the category of 2013 Best

that granted CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) or NLNAC (National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission) accredited graduate degree programs in Nursing. Among them, 101 (36 percent) said they would be offering an online Master's in Nursing degree program in accordance with *U.S. News* standards.

To measure overall program quality and effectiveness of the online programs, *U.S. News* assessed the following distinct indicators: student engagement and accreditation, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, and admissions selectivity. The average score of the top 50 colleges and universities that made the rankings was 63.2, 11 points below the score received by Clarkson College.

"Clarkson College is pleased to be ranked among and above such nationally renowned colleges and universities," said Dr. Louis Burgher, President of Clarkson College. "This honor demonstrates our ability to compete at a national level, as well as meet growing industry demands and expectations for future health care professionals."

Online Graduate Nursing Programs.

This is the second year *U.S. News* offered a Top Online Education Programs for Higher Education category and the second year Clarkson College applied for and achieved top-ranking status in that sector, this time earning a total of 74.2 out of 75 possible points. *U.S. News* implemented the category last year to give consumers a clearer picture of the growing importance of online education in the college experience and the unique formula necessary to make online degree programs successful.

"Attaining this status is a direct reflection of faculty excellence and administrative support," said Dr. Pat Coyle-Rogers, Director of Graduate Nursing at Clarkson College. "This national recognition of our online MSN programs speaks to the quality of our educational processes, the work ethic of our students and our commitment to the Clarkson College Mission of preparing students to professionally provide high quality, ethical and compassionate health care services."

U.S. News & World Report sent statistical questionnaires to 471 institutions

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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 vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu.

Giving Back to Your Alma Mater



I love spring. I hope you have time this spring to go out and enjoy the beautiful weather as well as participate in a few of the fun Alumni Association events planned for this spring and summer.

The College is celebrating its 125th anniversary

year. To celebrate this occasion, the Alumni Association is asking alumni to give us their stories of caring. Turn to page 6 to find the details on how to send us your stories. We can't wait to receive them.

In addition, we will be electing a new Alumni Association Board this spring. The Board is preparing for the nomination and election process. Nominations were accepted in March and elections will take place this month. In June, the 2013-14 Alumni Association officers and board members will be in place. If you are interested in becoming an officer or board member, please feel free to contact me at webertrish@clarksoncollege.edu or Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu for more information. Without the dedication from Clarkson College alumni, the Alumni Association wouldn't be what it is today. I applaud the individuals who have dedicated their time and energy to the Alumni Association! Please consider serving as an officer or board member.

Over the next few months, the Alumni Association Board will continue to offer alumni activities and serve as a liaison between the College and alumni. The upcoming table trivia event in June is one of my all-time favorite events that the Alumni Association hosts. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know by giving myself (402.552.3308) or Rita VanFleet (402.552.3516) a call. We would love to have you join us. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely yours,

Trish Weber, M.H.A., R.T.(R), (C.T.)
('93, '08, '11)
Alumni Association President
PH 402 552 3308
webertrish@clarksoncollege.edu

Memory Book Submissions

Honored anniversary classes' information needed

Every year during the September Alumni Brunch, anniversary classes are celebrated, and those attending receive a memory book honoring their graduation year. The next Alumni Brunch will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19 and will honor classes 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003 for their respective anniversaries.

Memory books are made for people attending from each of these classes, and a section is reserved in the book for attendees to update their class members on life events occurring since graduation. To make this section possible, graduates from the honored classes are asked to provide information about him/herself.

The information shared can be about family, career, honors, hobbies, travel, etc. Photos are also welcomed to accompany the information.

If you are a graduate from one of these classes, please send your information to Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or by mail to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Your information is what helps to make the memory books interesting.

Alumni Cookbooks Available

Looking for new recipes for your spring and summertime functions? Save yourself some time by investing in an alumni cookbook, and have more than 250 recipes at your fingertips. For \$18, you'll have peace of mind while you support the Alumni Association, current students and Clarkson College.

To purchase your cookbook, send a check or money order made out to "Alumni Association of Clarkson College" to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Alumni E-mail Update

By Larry Vinson, Director of Technology & Computer Services

The Clarkson College IT department would like alumni to know that they may request an alumni e-mail account to use after graduation. This is a different account than the one used as a student—that account is discontinued after approximately 12 months. To request an alumni e-mail account, simply e-mail alumniirequest@clarksoncollege.edu or call the Clarkson College IT help desk at 402.552.3911.

To establish your alumni e-mail account, the IT department will need your first and last name, graduation date and a current e-mail address and telephone number so they can contact you with your alumni account login and password information. Once completed, your new alumni e-mail account will be lastname.firstname@clarksonalumni.net, such as smith.john@clarksonalumni.net.

College Continues to Think Strategically; Leading with Success

By Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College President



The College is humming with activity. In addition to the hard work of offering a quality education to 1,200 students and achieving ranking as the fourth best online Graduate Nursing program in the

nation, we are once again initiating a new strategic plan. This is our annual process that begins with an environmental assessment in December, progresses to an all-campus retreat in January and culminates in a new plan submitted to the Board in March. We score our success against the plan on a quarterly basis, reporting that score to the Board. Virtually all of our new programs, projects and successes are an outgrowth of this process each of the last six years.

I attribute our success to a Mission that is relevant to what we are here for, to the fact that all our staff and faculty provide input (more than 90 serve on this year's planning teams) and the process is transparent to everyone. I take to heart a quote by famous management guru Peter Drucker: "If you

don't know where you are going, any place will do;" and another attributed to Mike Tyson: "Everyone has a plan until they get hit!" Well, we do know where we are, and we hope to not get hit.

Several studies by experts on strategic planning have concluded that around 90 to 95 percent of strategic plans would be regarded as failures, either being unproductive and fruitless or bereft of significant outcomes. The plans that were successful often made all the difference in a company's success. Here at Clarkson College, we plan continuously. We expect our plans to be proactive, to ask the right questions and to be a constant dynamic process. It is my belief that communication of the plan must be continuous and that the president must ultimately be responsible for leading the planning and assessing its outcome.

These are some of the reasons as to why we have exceeded a 90 percent goal completion rate in each of our plans over the last six years. Stay tuned, and we will share this year's plan when it is complete.

Get Creative: Annual Alumni Membership Renewal

Are you looking for a unique gift for a fellow graduate or a mentor who is a Clarkson College alumni? Needing a fun way to celebrate Nurse's Day, Radiologic Technology week or Physical Therapy month with a Clarkson College grad? Give the gift of an Alumni Association membership!

With membership renewal time just around the corner, now is the perfect time to purchase a gift or renew your membership. The membership year runs from June 1 through May 31 with memberships becoming delinquent on Aug. 1.

Each membership helps the Alumni Association provide programs and activities to support students and the College. In return, members have access to the Library and its services, activities, a quarterly newsletter and networking opportunities.

If you would like to renew, initiate or give an Alumni Association membership, complete and submit the form on page 7.

125 YEARS

2 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

UNLIMITED WAYS TO HELP CURRENT & FUTURE STUDENTS

In the last issue, we announced the additional Alumni Association scholarship to celebrate the 125th year anniversary of Clarkson College. We have received donations for this scholarship and wanted to sincerely thank those who have assisted with this fund.

In the spirit of the 125th anniversary of Clarkson College, you are invited to participate in a campaign to raise additional monies for the Alumni Scholarship Fund by making a donation with "125" in it. Whether it's \$12.50, \$125 or \$1,250, your donation will help the Alumni Association to offer two scholarships this year. The scholarships are an excellent way to assist Clarkson College students, and any donation is appreciated.

Anniversary classes (1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003) interested in participating together and submitting one gift in honor of their class are encouraged to do so. Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet would be happy to assist in this effort.

DONATE

Checks should be made payable to Alumni Scholarship Fund and mailed to Alumni Coordinator, 101 South 42nd Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131. Questions may be directed to Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516. All donors will be recognized for their donations in the October/November issue of the *Alumni Times*.



It's a Turkey! Third Annual Bowling Tournament a Hit

The third annual Alumni Bowling Tournament was held Saturday, January 26 at Scorz Sports Plaza in Ralston, Neb. Forty participants compiled the ten teams competing in this year's tournament.

The competition between the teams was strong, and team "Fo Sho...Three in a Row" fiercely defended their two-time grand champion status. Also defending the two-time winning title of Best Outfit were the "Disco Balls." Despite their best efforts, neither team took the top prizes this year. However, "Pin Atas" maintained their three-time last place team status.

Those in attendance could attest to the intense competition for the tournament's top prizes. This year's participants went above and beyond with their outfits and team names.

Even new alumni participated in this year's tournament. The "ACL Terrors" consisted of Kimberly Grimes, Lindsey Svoboda, Sara Lantz and Shaylee Dirks, four students from the Physical Therapist Assistant program's December 2012 graduating class.

This year's grand champion team and best team name was awarded to "Scared SPLITless," led by Carla Dirkschneider ('07), with Joan Blum's ('81, '86) team "Pin Atas"

taking last place. The highest individual men's score went to Matt Anderson from "Scared SPLITless," and Erin Jordan from "Fo Sho...Three in a Row" achieved the highest individual women's score. The best team outfit went to "Loose Cannons" captained by Andrea Nebel.

The Alumni Association Board thanks each participant for supporting another successful Alumni Bowling Tournament. If you are interested in forming a team for next year's tournament, contact Rita VanFleet at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.



FROM TOP, THE "PIN ATAS" MEMBERS PAM STANOSHECK ('95, '08), MARY DISHMAN ('85, '91, '09), RENEE RUHKAMP ('09) & JOAN BLUM ('81, '86) SMILE AS THEY TAKE LAST PLACE. THE "LOOSE CANNONS" TEAMMATES KAREN ABOUD ('05, '12), ANDREIA NEBEL, CHERA TREMBLAY ('08) & JANET HUSTAK ('08) FLEX THEIR GUNS & TAKE BEST TEAM OUTFIT. ALINA CHEFFER, MOLLY KAPALIS, BECKY KEMPER & NATALIE VRBKA OF THE "STRIKING TURKEYS" BROUGHT AN ADORABLE MASCOT.

FROM TOP, SARA LANTZ ('12), SHAYLEE DIRKS ('12), LINDSEY SVOBODA ('12) & KIMBERLY GRIMES ('12) FORM TEAM "ACL TERRORS." THE "DISCO BALLS" TEAM MEMBERS MARK WHITE, JODY WOODWORTH, TRISH WEBER & BOB WOODWORTH GET FUNKY. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, BRETT & SARAH SOBOTKA & ERIN & BRANDON JORDAN ('06), COMPOSED TEAM "FO SHO... THREE IN A ROW."

FROM TOP, DALE & JEANETTE ('72, '86) KASSMEIER & ED & SUE ('89, '09) LEUTZINGER SHOW THEIR HUSKER FOOTBALL PRIDE AS TEAM "BIG RED STRIKERS." TEAM "I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT A GUTTER" SHARON MANTZ, DENISE BOJAN, MEGAN WICKLESS-MULDER & KIM ERICKSON.

FROM TOP, "THE TURKEY HUNTERS," GREG SCHWALB, GRETCHEN JOPP, PAM SCHWALB & IVAN JOPP WERE ON THE HUNT FOR STRIKES. MIKE DIRKSCHNEIDER, CARLA DIRKSCHNEIDER ('07), MATT ANDERSON & JEAN DELFS OF "SCARED SPLITLESS" TAKE EVENT CHAMPION WINNERS & BEST TEAM NAME AT THE BOWLING TOURNAMENT.

Honorary Memento: 125 Ways Clarkson College Cares

This year, Clarkson College celebrates its 125th anniversary of preparing students to be the best in health care. The focus of this celebration is on our core Value of Caring.

Clarkson College defines Caring as an empowering relationship through an attitude of empathy, compassion and respect for those with whom we interact and serve.

Take a moment and think back to when you were a student. Recall a time when you, a classmate or an instructor went that extra mile to make a difference. It is moments like these—so special, so caring—that live in hearts forever and deserve a celebration. We appreciate you sharing the moment that stands out to you, and we look forward to making it a part of our honorary memento.

Participate

We invite you to submit a brief example (50 words or less) of a time when you or someone you witnessed from Clarkson College demonstrated our Value of Caring. Perhaps it was an instructor that went above and beyond to ensure students comprehended the materials. What was unique about the instructor and what did they do to take your learning experience to the next level? Or maybe it was a fellow student that was able to give the care needed in a clinical experience

before it was expected. What happened and how did the student demonstrate compassion for the patient? Maybe you assisted a family in need through your involvement in a Clarkson College service project. Tell us how that experience made an impression on you. The possibilities are many, and we hope you can take a moment to share with us a time that stands out to you.

Clarkson College will compile and publish a list of the top 125 ways Clarkson College cares to support our esteemed Value of Caring. This list will be the honorary memento at our 125th anniversary celebration this September, and each alumnus who submitted a memory and/or joins us at the celebration will receive a personal copy.

Send in your example

Submit your example of Caring to Rita VanFleet via e-mail at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu or postal mail at Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131 by June 1. A photo that nicely complements your statement is encouraged but not required.

Thank you for taking part in our celebration. Above all, thank you for Caring.



CUPCAKES ON DISPLAY DURING THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY MEETING HELD JAN. 17.

2013: 125 Years in 365 Days

A look at how we're celebrating our anniversary

January 17: Community Meeting

- › Presentation from Alumni President Trish Weber about history of Omaha and Clarkson College.
- › Anniversary cupcakes shared with the College community.
- › Distribution of logoed cinch sacks to faculty and staff members.

May 17: Spring Garden Walk Celebration

- › A brick will be dedicated in the Heritage Garden to honor the 125th anniversary of Clarkson College.
- › A tree has been planted in the Courtyard to celebrate the 125th anniversary milestone.

July 2: 125th Working Day of 2013

- › In observance of the 125th working day of 2013, cupcakes will be distributed to students, faculty and staff.

September 19-20: Alumni Events

- › Annual Alumni Brunch and alumni dinner to celebrate this year's anniversary classes and the Clarkson College 125th anniversary.

Alumni Association Membership Form

Annual membership drive runs through Aug. 31

The Alumni Association Board would like to invite you to renew or begin your membership in the Alumni Association. Thanks to membership support this past year, the Alumni Association was able to present a student scholarship, provide snacks for students during finals week, sponsor a continuing education event, provide iPads for the iPad Academy and assist with several other activities. The support of our graduates is necessary for the Alumni Association to continue providing these functions.

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Dues should be received no later than Aug. 31. As a member, you will receive the quarterly *Alumni Times* newsletter, invitations to alumni events and periodic special mailings. Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago should mark "Nifty Fifty" below to receive [free membership](#) in the Alumni Association.

ABOUT YOU

Please print.

Name _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Spouse's Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Employer Information

Current Employer _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Position/Title _____

Education

Class of _____ Nifty Fifty Yes No

Degree(s) Earned _____

Giving Back

I would like to receive more information about tax-deductable gifts.

I would like to invest in the future of Clarkson College by:

Being a guest lecturer

Spending time assisting with alumni activities

Mentoring or tutoring current students

CLASS NOTES

We enjoy hearing from you! Submit your professional and personal news for the Class Notes section of the *Alumni Times*. If you've presented or have been published within the past year, we would love to hear about it. Class Notes are printed in the January/February and July/August issues.

Attach an additional sheet if additional space is needed.

MEMBERSHIP

Alumni Association dues are \$25 per year. The membership year runs June 1 through May 31. Please make checks payable to "Alumni Association of Clarkson College." Alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago receive free membership in the Alumni Association.

Membership dues \$25

Contribution to the Alumni Scholarship Fund \$ _____

In memory of (name) _____

In honor of (name) _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

SUBMIT

Send your completed membership form and survey (located on the back of this form) along with payment to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

An Unexpected Hospital Guest

By Marcia Fitzgerald Weeks, 1965 graduate



After having worked for years in an exciting emergency department and a busy critical care unit, just before I decided to retire, they asked me to take on the education job for our small rural hospital on the Mendocino Coast of northern California. Sounds pretty routine to me—well, there was a surprise today! While I was teaching orientation to the 10 new hires, a four-foot juvenile black bear showed up at our hospital, which is located in a residential area.

The picture was taken of "Yogi" as he was looking into our surgery department. No, he did not get into the hospital. Our surgery RN was eating her morning donut—now we know what he was after. Most of the staff went outside, scared him off, and Yogi waddled apparently back to the river. We all tried to remember how you call a "Code Bear!" Ah, the things they did not teach us at Clarkson College!

Alumni Association Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey. Your input is greatly valued and assists the Alumni Association in providing programs and activities for alumni members, meeting regulatory requirements for Clarkson College and updating alumni information.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Would you be interested in seeing the Outstanding Alumni Award reinstated?

Yes No

Would you be interested in participating in the iPad Academy?

Yes No

List any continuing education topics that would be of interest to you.

List any events you would like to see the Alumni Association sponsor.

Spring Garden Walk: Friday, May 17 at 11 a.m.

Use the form below to register for the annual Clarkson College celebration

Event details

Join us for the annual Spring Garden Walk in the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden as we celebrate the dedication of new bricks and boulders. Simply fill out and submit the form to make your reservation.

If you are interested in creating a memorial to a loved one, consider donating a brick, bench boulder or amphitheater seat.

Contact Kim Erickson at 402.552.2587 for more information.

The Heritage Garden is located in the center of campus at Clarkson College. Parking is available south of the Residence Hall in Lots 51 and 52 via 41st Street.

RSVP by April 15

Send your completed Spring Garden Walk registration and/or donation form with payment to Clarkson College Alumni Association, attn: Kim Erickson, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

Event Registration

Name Phone

Address

City/State/Zip

E-mail

Program(s) completed

Class of

Yes, I will attend the Spring Garden Walk.

No, I cannot attend but:

Update my information in the Clarkson College alumni records.

I would like to contribute \$ to the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of or in honor of .

Contact me about other giving or educational opportunities.

Payment Options

Check: Enclosed and made payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association.

Credit Card: Contact me regarding credit card transactions.

Questions

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

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Would you like to see articles about alumni serving in the armed forces?

Yes No

Have you served or are you serving in the armed forces? If yes, please list which branch.

No Yes

Do you have any professional or personal stories that would make interesting future articles in the *Alumni Times* newsletter?

No, I do not have any stories I would like to share at this time.

Yes. Please describe:

List topics of interest that you would like to see in the newsletter.

Alumni Weekend: Event Reservation Form

The Alumni Association Board is finalizing the details for September's Alumni Weekend events. This year marks the 125th anniversary of Clarkson College, and the graduating classes of 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003 are recognized as this year's anniversary classes. All Clarkson College alumni are invited to participate in this fall's festivities.

If you are interested in reserving your spot for the fun, complete and return the RSVP form. Additional event information will be sent to you as September approaches. If you are an alumnus from an anniversary class and would like to assist with the fall events, please let us know. Completed forms may be submitted to Alumni Coordinator, Clarkson College, 101 South 42 Street, Omaha, Neb. 68131.

RESERVATION

Contact Information

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

Program(s) completed

Class of

Additional Information Request

I would like additional information on the following events:

Alumni Brunch: Thursday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. in Howard Hall

Alumni Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 19 at noon in Howard Hall

Convocation: Thursday, Sept. 19 at 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral in Omaha, Neb.

Continuing Education Event: Friday, Sept. 20 from 7:30 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall. "Working with the Non-Compliant Client."

125th Anniversary Dinner: Friday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Joslyn Art Museum Fountain Court

Assistance & Participation

Yes, I will assist with my class' anniversary activities.

No, I am not interested at this time.

I am unable to attend this year's Alumni Weekend.

Fundraiser: Decorated Table Trivia Brunch

Use the form below to register for the June 1 event & join in the fun!

The Alumni Association is looking for table leaders to help with our unique fundraising opportunity: the third annual Decorated Table Trivia event.

On Saturday, June 1, the Alumni Association will host a brunch from 10 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus. Tables will seat eight people and sell for \$80 (\$10 per person). Food and beverages will be provided.

Lead the fun

Table leaders are needed to purchase a table (you may sell your seats), create a theme for the table and decorate the table according to the theme, including tableware. Table leaders can do this on their own or share the fun with their guests. Several rounds of trivia will be played during the brunch, and prizes will be given for the best decorated table and for the overall trivia winning team.

There are 12 tables for sale for this event. A few of last year's table themes included Baby Shower, Birds and Bees, Shoes, Prom, Wedding Day, Husker Football and Angry Birds.

Register your table

I am interested in becoming a table leader for the Decorated Table Trivia event on June 1 from 10 a.m. until noon.

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

E-mail

Phone Class of

Program(s) completed

I have enclosed \$80 to reserve my table. Please make checks payable to Clarkson College Alumni Association.

The theme for my table will be

RSVP by May 17

Reserve your table and register your theme by filling out the table reservation form above or by contacting Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516, 800.647.5500 or vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu.

Student Unexpectedly Meets Biological Grandfather During Nursing Shift

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

For nearly three years, Nursing student Aubrey Sertterh has worked at The Nebraska Medical Center as a patient care technician on the second floor in Pre-Op/PACU. No two days on the job are ever the same, but some days are slightly more strange (and unforeseen) than others.

At 21 years old, Sertterh had never met her biological father. All she knew of him was his name and that he was half Irish. Then, on July 3, 2012, something unexpected happened. "I was working in the extended stay area of my department and the phone rang," she said. The secretary was not at the desk, so Sertterh answered. She was told a patient named Don Parmenter was on his way to the Pre-Op/PACU. "I felt my heart stop and my stomach drop," Sertterh said "I could not believe what I had just heard, and, for a brief second, I was speechless." Don Parmenter was the name of Sertterh's biological father.

"Growing up I had always thought about meeting my biological father/family, but I never thought that it would happen the way that it did."

AUBREY SERTTERH, BSN STUDENT

Immediately, Sertterh looked down at the procedure schedule on the desk in front of her and saw that the patient was 84 years old, which didn't add up. At that point, it was time for her to clock out, but she couldn't leave for the day without knowing more about the patient with her father's name.

"He ended up going to PACU/Recovery first instead of coming straight to extended stay, so I walked by the spot he was in just to get a look at him," she explained. "I was so nervous

and scared, but I really want to go and talk to him. I told a couple of my co-workers about what was going on, and they helped me build up the courage to go speak to him."

So, Sertterh went into the locker room where patient belongings are stored, picked up the bag labeled "Don Parmenter" and made her way into his room.

Sertterh: *Hi. Do you know any other Don Parmenters?*

Parmenter: *Yes, my son. Do you know him?*

Sertterh: *No, not really, but I think he dated my mom.*

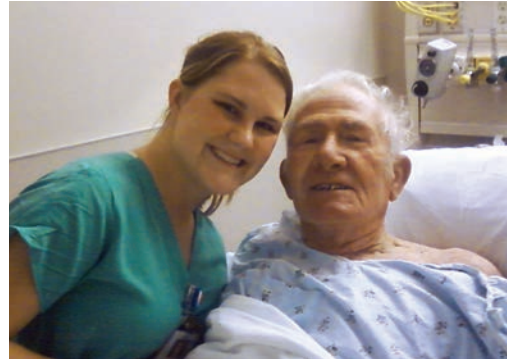
Parmenter: *Oh really? What's your mom's name?*

Sertterh told him her mother's name and age. Parmenter then asked, "Well what's your dad's name?" Sertterh's eyes began to swell. Without her saying a word, Parmenter realized who she was to him and who he was to her.

The newly united grandfather and granddaughter spent some time getting acquainted with one another. Sertterh learned she had an 18-year-old half-brother named Gage who just graduated high school. A nurse came in to take their photo, and then it was time for Parmenter to make his way to extended stay. Sertterh escorted him down the hall, and that was when she met her uncle, Ron, who was in disbelief when he learned about Sertterh's connection to his family. "Then, we exchanged our goodbyes and said we would keep in touch," she said.

About a month later, Sertterh and her fiancé took a trip to Gering, Neb. to visit Parmenter and meet more of her long-lost relatives. "I met Gage (half-brother), Donnie (biological father), Barbara (great aunt) and my grandma," she said. "They told me that I have a lot of family now (about 130 first-, second- and third-cousins), most of whom live in or around Gering. Everyone was very nice and accepting of me into the family."

Just a couple of weeks ago, Sertterh made another trip to Gering over Spring Break. "My grandpa is now 85 years old and still rides



STUDENT AUBREY SERTTERH & HER BIOLOGICAL GRANDFATHER, DON PARMENTER, THE DAY THEY MET. OVER SPRING BREAK, THEY WENT ON A HORSEBACK RIDE IN PARMENTER'S HOMETOWN OF GERING, NEB.

horses, so he and I went on a two-hour long horseback ride together." She was able to meet more family members during a dinner outing and also found out she has two half-sisters. One is about 30 years old and lives in Montana; the other is 22 and lives in Lincoln, Neb.

"Growing up I had always thought about meeting my biological father/family, but I never thought that it would happen the way that it did," commented Sertterh. "I am very grateful to have my wonderful mom, Layna, and the most amazing dad, Martin, who took me in as his own when I was born and adopted me when I was 2-and-a-half years old. I feel very blessed that I finally got to meet the other half of my blood-related family and am very happy with the way that it happened. Looking back at how my life has gone so far, I wouldn't change one thing about it."

Clarkson College Achievements & Accomplishments

A brief overview of what's happened at the College in the past five years

It has been five years since our 120th anniversary celebration. Since then, the College continues to grow. The list below touches on endeavors and activities that have occurred since 2008. For further information on a few items, refer to the *Alumni Times* issue noted in parenthesis. To view past issues, visit ClarksonCollege.edu and select the "Alumni Newsletter" on the "Alumni & Friends" tab.

2008

- › Celebrated the 120th anniversary.
- › Added food vendors four days a week on campus in the Student Center.
- › Launched the Center for Teaching Excellence department to provide faculty with support for their teaching mission.
- › Signed an agreement with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to provide our faculty with teaching access to the Sorrell Science Simulation Lab and Cadaver Lab.
- › Held the SimplyWell health screening on campus at Howard Hall for the first time.
- › Implemented the College Intranet.

2009

- › New Mission and Values (July/August '09).
- › Physical Therapist Assistant transfer program (July/August '09).
- › Alumni Referral program (January/February & July/August '10; July/August & October/November '11).
- › Higher Learning Commission (HLC) granted the College an eight year accreditation. After a later review, the College was given a 10 year accreditation.
- › Started the Writing Lab in fall 2009.
- › Alumni Association donated two picnic tables for the Courtyard.

2010

- › New rebranding unveiled (October/November '10).
- › Nurse Anesthesia program (January/

February & July/August '10).

- › Alumni Association donated two benches for the Courtyard.
- › Completed the Visitor Center on the first floor, creating a consolidated location for student services.

2011

- › The Giving Campaign started for the Alumni Scholarship Fund.
- › Library relocated to a new space (January/February '10; April/May '11).
- › Offered free Metro bus passes for students and employees.
- › Microsoft Office 2010 and Internet Explorer 8 installed on campus computers.

2012

- › Skills Lab renovation and construction of a state-of-the-art Simulation Lab (October/November '12).
- › iPad Academy began in conjunction with the Alumni Association.
- › Academic Travel Abroad partnership with Bryan LGH and Methodist.
- › *U.S. News and World Report* listed the Clarkson College Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program as one of the top online nursing programs in the United States (April/May '12).
- › National Society of Leadership and Success (October/November '12).
- › HLC approved the doctoral program offerings of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor in Health Care Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) (page 10).
- › Bachelor's degree in Health Care Services (October/November '12).
- › First Nurse Anesthesia class graduated in December.
- › Several overall facilities improvements have been undertaken (remodel of bathrooms, new furniture in student study areas and classrooms, courtyard upgrade, signage upgrade, painting throughout the College).

2013

- › *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Clarkson College No. 4 out of 101 eligible institutions in the Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs in the nation (cover story).
- › Career Services online employment search resource added to the College website (January/February '13).
- › Received 2012 Well Workplace Gold Award from Wellness Council of America for our quality and excellence in worksite health promotion (January/February '13).

EVENTS:

Friday, May 17 – Annual Spring Garden Walk at 11 a.m. in the College Courtyard. RSVP by filling out the form on page 8.

Saturday, June 1 – Decorated Table Trivia Brunch from 10 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall. See page 9 for details.

Thursday, Sept. 19 – All Alumni Brunch at 10 a.m. and annual paid-alumni luncheon meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Both events to be held on campus in Howard Hall.

Convocation at Trinity Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. All alumni are invited to attend. Transportation to the event will be provided.

Friday, Sept. 20 – "Working with the Non-Compliant Client" continuing education event from 7:30 a.m. to noon in Howard Hall.

Join us as Clarkson College celebrates its 125 anniversary with a dinner in the Joslyn Art Museum Fountain Court at 7 p.m.



DEAN OF NURSING DR. AUBRAY ORDUÑA ANNOUNCES THE GOOD NEWS TO THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY DURING A BREAKFAST CELEBRATION HELD IN HOWARD HALL ON DEC. 12, 2012.

DNP & Ed.D. Programs Approved

First classes begin this fall; Enrolling students now

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

After more than two years of research, countless late-night and weekend planning sessions and a site visit from the Higher Learning Commission last August, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Doctor in Health Care Education and Leadership (Ed.D.) programs are now officially a part of the academic nomenclature at Clarkson College.

The College first received word of the accreditation announcement on Dec. 6 in a letter from HLC addressed to Dr. Burgher. For the administrative and directorial personnel involved in the operational measures taken to develop and propose the programs, this accomplishment is a commendable new mention on their lists of accolades.

"Attaining this status is a direct reflection of administrative support and faculty diligence," said Dr. Pat Coyle-Rogers, Director of Graduate Nursing. "Being able to offer degrees at the Doctoral level is a natural progression of our nationally recognized graduate nursing programs."

The 39-credit hour DNP program addresses contemporary aspects of expert clinical practice and offers in-depth knowledge on

leadership, health care systems design and evaluation, evidence-based practice and applied research. The 45-credit hour Ed.D. program offers students a foundation in outcomes assessment, learning theories, curriculum and program development, transformational leadership and research to strengthen the ability to implement innovative educational approaches. Both programs are offered entirely online with part- and full-time options available.

"We are approaching these new offerings in a conservative and thoughtful manner," stated Dr. Burgher. "Two years of research has shown us there is a demand for these programs. Our numbers will remain small as we focus on quality in the near future."

Applications for the DNP and Ed.D. programs and website information detailing the objectives, requirements and curricula for the programs can be found on the College website at ClarksonCollege.edu.

New Program: Long Term Care Administration Certificate

By Carla Dirkschneider, Director, Health Care Business

Beginning this fall, Clarkson College will offer a new certificate program for Long Term Care (LTC) Administration. This LTC Administration Certificate will provide students with the educational knowledge to take the Nursing Home Administrator Board Exam, as well as get started on the required 640 hours of practicum. The certificate will be 100 percent online and is comprised of 11 courses for a total of 32 credit hours.

The greatest aspect of the new certificate program is that it combines both clinical aspects—such as basic medical terminology and common disease processes associated with the elderly population—as well as the administrative aspects of LTC—such as finance, management and human resources. A student will be able to obtain the LTC Administrator Certificate in as little as one year.

For further information about this certificate or any of the Clarkson College Health Care Business programs, contact Carla Dirkschneider, Health Care Business Program Director, at dirkschneider@clarksoncollege.edu or via phone at 402.552.6295.



REUBEN JACKSON, PTA STUDENT & 2013 APTA MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, MEASURES A CLASSMATE'S KNEE FLEXION & EXTENSION RANGE OF MOTION.

PTA Student Is One of Two Nationwide to Receive Minority Scholarship

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Reuben Jackson shot up a fist pump during his break in PTA lab a couple of weeks ago. "Wow, Reuben's really excited," said a classmate who noticed the arm celebrating in the air next to him. "Oh yeah," Reuben said with a smirk. "I am very excited."

A fist pump was Reuben's response to the news he received just seconds earlier while checking his voice mail. It was that kind of unexpected news, like being told you're the recipient of the 2013 American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Minority Scholarship, that makes celebrating that much sweeter.

"I want to help people, & I love to see the results of my work."

REUBEN JACKSON, PTA STUDENT

The Physical Therapist Assistant Education Program selected Reuben as one of two minority students across the nation for the

annual scholarship in the amount of \$3,000. He will be recognized and is invited to attend an awards and honors ceremony at APTA's Conference and Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 27.

On top of meeting all eligibility requirements, Reuben has other stand-out qualities that made him a choice candidate. Born in Liberia and amidst the turmoil brought on by civil war, Reuben and his family migrated to the U.S. in 2000 through a political asylum program offered by the Catholic Social Services. They were situated in Hastings, Neb., the place Reuben considers home and where he remained through and beyond his high school graduation.

When the time came to explore colleges, Reuben knew a career in health and fitness was the track for him. A close friend of his was enrolled in the Physical Therapy program at Creighton University and encouraged Reuben to apply. When Reuben said it was important to him to be hands-on and client-facing, his friend suggested he look into the PTA program at Clarkson College. After researching the program, Reuben knew it was

the right fit, and he enrolled in August 2011.

Approaching his final semester in the program, Reuben says he predicts a long and successful future as a practicing PTA. "I want to help people, and I love to see the results of my work," he comments. "I love to motivate and encourage people, especially during a difficult time of recovery."

Currently, Reuben is an assistant manager at Famous Footwear in Lincoln and also works as a Health Screener for Health Fitness where he visits area companies and checks employees' blood pressure, body mass index, glucose and cholesterol levels. For employees with abnormal results, Reuben consults them on what they can do to improve their condition.

Upon graduation and passing the PTA board examination, Reuben hopes to find a job somewhere in the northern region of Colorado.



FROM LEFT, THE FAMILY OF TOM & KARI KELLY, CLARKSON COLLEGE FACILITY SERVICES COORDINATOR, ENJOY THE ANNUAL EASTER EVENT. THE EASTER BUNNY TAKES A MOMENT WITH A LITTLE ONE ATTENDING THE EGGSTRAVAGANZA WITH HIS FAMILY.

Ninth Annual Easter Eggstravaganza

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Employees on campus over the weekend? Children missing out on Saturday morning cartoons? There is a logical answer for all this nonsense, and it involves a balloon artist, face painter, puppeteer, Pancake Man and the Easter Bunny. This may sound like a wild combination of characters, but it is they who supplied all the fun and entertainment at the ninth annual Easter Eggstravaganza, held in Howard Hall on Saturday, March 16.

Employees and their families trickled in around 9 a.m. and were greeted by the Easter Bunny, who gave each child a basketful of colorful eggs, each stuffed with sweets, stickers, bouncy balls and miniature yo-yos. Adding to the warm welcome, Student Activities Council (SAC) dressed up the room with brightly colored vinyl table cloths, crayons and coloring books and Easter decorations all along the walls.

Providing the fuel for the festivities was the ever famous Pancake Man. Hot cakes flew in the air, and (most) landed safely atop paper plates to be coated with butter, syrup and a side of sausage.

The children finagled their way around from Poppin' Penelope, who bent and twisted balloons into everything from octopuses and sea turtles to flowers and fishing poles, to the opposite end of the room where they could get their face painted with a colorful and elaborate design. The children could also exercise their own creativity at a craft table that offered egg decorating and a sticker project.

The featured act was a puppet show that included a variety of elaborately constructed marionettes. One of the most memorable of the bunch was a fluffy, white ostrich that hatched an egg. Kids in the audience "oo-ed and ah-ed" when out of the egg came a small, baby ostrich.

Alumni Coordinator Rita VanFleet brought her daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons to the Easter Eggstravaganza and said Chuck MacDonell and the SAC members did an excellent job of putting the event together. "My grandsons had a very good time, and so did we as adults."



NURSING STUDENTS JOSHUA HANES & AMANDA HANLIN WERE CROWNED 2013 MR. & MS. CLARKSON COLLEGE.

Mr. & Ms. Clarkson College Crowned

The 2013 Mr. and Ms. Clarkson College crowning took place on Jan. 30 during Casino Night festivities. This year's crowns were presented to Bachelor of Science in Nursing students Amanda Hanlin and Joshua Hanes.

Amanda is from Pierce, Neb. and expects to graduate in May 2014. She would like to work in the labor and delivery department and attain her Master's degree in midwifery or women's health.

Joshua is native of Weeping Water, Neb. and expects to graduate in August 2014. He hopes to be a traveling nurse where he can assist underdeserved populations all throughout the world.

In Memorium

Class of 1939

Ethel M. Bein passed away on Jan. 18, 2013.

Class of 1955

Lois A. Dohse passed away on Jan. 28, 2013.



THE NEW RESIDENCE LIFE TEAM: STUDENT CENTER DIRECTOR CHUCK MACDONELL; RESIDENT ADVISORS JOSHUA HANES, LAURA FRITZ & TAYLOR ASHMORE; & SAMANTHA PETERS, ASSISTANT RESIDENCE HALL DIRECTOR.

MacDonell Assumes Role as Residence Hall Director

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Many know him as the man with a plan for all the fun on campus. As the Director of the Student Center for more than 12 years, Chuck MacDonell has coordinated a countless number of employee- and student-related activities, overseen facilities issues and spearheaded the Mentoring and Tutoring programs, among other services offered within the Success Center.

Traditionally, MacDonell's duties ended where the walls of the Residence Hall began, but now he's stretching his responsibilities beyond the beaten Student Center path as the newly appointed Director of Housing. Considering his scope of experience in working with students, MacDonell was a choice replacement.

MacDonell's official start date was Jan. 1, and he held a pizza social on Jan. 9 to introduce himself to the residents and answer any questions they had about plans moving forward. "I knew a lot of them, but there were also a lot of new faces," MacDonell said. "We also had some new students who had a chance to meet their fellow residents."

MacDonell mentioned how impressed he was with the organization and community-based environment established in the Residence Hall

and has a goal to meet the standards set by past leadership. Helping support that effort is the also newly hired Assistant Resident Director Samantha Peters who currently works on campus as a Writing Consultant in the Writing Lab.

The Assistant Resident Director will have set office hours and will assist MacDonell with the daily operations of the Residence Hall. This also includes working with the Resident Advisors (RAs), planning activities, etc.

Residents can rest assured that the number of social events they're used to is not taking a downturn. Currently, MacDonell and the RAs are making plans for spring activities.

MacDonell feels his biggest challenge will be juggling his new position with his current role as Student Center Director. "On a smaller scale, it will be a challenge to learn all of the names and faces of the residents!" he said. On the flipside, MacDonell expressed his gratitude for the "great team of RAs" he inherited and is very excited about working with them.

Along with the addition of MacDonell as the new Director was a shift in management. Since it was built in 2004, the Residence Hall has been managed by America First Properties, but that is no longer the case. Clarkson

College is now managing the Residence Hall in an effort to reduce expenses and maintain quality services to the students and faculty who reside in the space.

"Our main goal is to always provide a high quality learning environment for our students, faculty & staff."

TONY DAMEWOOD, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

"Not only will the College save money in management fees, but there is also potential cost savings by absorbing services including maintenance, cleaning and grounds care into the processes that are currently used by the rest of the College," said Vice President of Operations Tony Damewood. "Our main goal is to always provide a high quality learning environment for our students, faculty and staff, and we believe that this change provides an opportunity for the College to best use its resources," he added.



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Academic Travel Abroad: France/ Germany 2014

Come join other alumni, staff and students as they explore France and Germany April 27–May 8, 2014. The 12-day adventure includes Black Forest villages, famous castles, churches, museums, a champagne cave and two free days in Paris and Munich. You may also join students as they visit two hospitals to learn more about European health care.

Your favorite travel companion is welcome to join you. Everyone pays the same student rate of \$3,277, which includes round-trip air (from Omaha) and land transport, three- and four-star hotels, medical and travel insurance, private motor coach and local guides, admission fees, all breakfasts and two dinners.

If this trip is meant for you, contact Dr. Pat Brennan at brennan@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.6125 for more information. The itinerary and registration form may also be found under the Alumni & Friends tab at ClarksonCollege.edu.

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