

Alumni Times

QUARTERLY CLARKSON COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



CLASS OF 1963 ALUMNAE GREET ONE ANOTHER & SHARE STORIES DURING THE EVENT. NINETEEN OF THE 33 LIVING GRADUATES PARTICIPATED IN THE BRUNCH.

Celebratory Reunions, Reminiscing Kicks Off Alumni Weekend

Alumnae enjoy conversation & trips down memory lane

Howard Hall on the Clarkson College campus was buzzing with excitement and hugs as classmates gathered for the annual Alumni Brunch on Thursday, Sept. 19. The alumnae came from near and far (Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota and several places in Nebraska) to catch up with peers. Many had not seen one another in years, and the greetings were filled with enthusiasm.

The stories, laughter & memories

Alumna Rosean Porter made many phone calls to graduates to see if they could attend and hosted the class of 1953 as they celebrated their 60-year reunion. Seven graduates from the class were able to join in the celebration. They had many great stories to share of their time in training. Ruth Muchemore did the honor of speaking on their behalf and shared some interesting facts about their educational process. About six months prior to graduation, they were put in charge of the unit they were

working on at the time. She said she didn't realize how scary that was until about 10 years later! Other women from the class said several of them were married a year before they graduated and were placed on a different floor of the dorm so as not to "contaminate" the unmarried girls.

The class of 1963 was the largest group with 19 in attendance for their 50th reunion. This class was the first class to graduate from the Kiewit Hall nursing dorm. This being the first graduating class after the reinstatement of the Clarkson School of Nursing, a unique tradition was started. The last day of working on the floor at the hospital was celebrated by having the doctors sign the students' uniforms. Alumna Linda Hartman Baker brought hers to share. Dr. Walter Cotton's signature was still very readable on the back yolk of her uniform. All of the signatures were in red.

continued on page 5

INSIDE:

- 2 President's Message: New Year, New Alumni Association Board
Strategic Plan Update, Procedure & Implementation
Online Giving
- 3 Alumni Scholarship Donations
125th Anniversary Alumni Scholarship
- 4 Academic Achievement Scholarship
Convocation Ceremony Recap
Class of '63 Gives Special Donation
- 5 Alumni Weekend Events: Dinner & Continuing Education Event
- 11 Alumni Referral Program Update
Alumni Outreach Program
- 12 Mission of Mercy
- 13 Graduate Capstone Review
- 16 Physical Therapist Assistant Program: From Good to Great
- 17 Ravel-Unravel with Project Interfaith: Exploring Diversity
- 18 August 2013 Clarkson College Graduates

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

New Year, New Alumni Association Board



I hope everyone has had a safe and fun summer. The new Alumni Association Board officers and members took office in June, and you will see some familiar faces again this year. We are prepared for

a fun and engaging year with many exciting events planned.

Taking a step backward to September, the annual events were a huge success. The 125th anniversary dinner at Joslyn Art Museum was a beautiful and entertaining night. It is always so fun to see new students participate in Convocation and be infused with the traditions Clarkson College holds so dear. It is equally enjoyable to meet and hear the graduates of years past visit and share stories of when they were students at Clarkson College!

The Alumni Association will continue to give back to the College community, publish quarterly newsletters and organize special events and programs to bring alumni together.

I feel so privileged to be the Alumni Association President this year and will strive to serve the Board and our Alumni Association members to the best of my ability. While the deadline for membership applications was Aug. 31, we will gladly still accept them if you haven't gotten yours mailed. I have no doubt this year will be our best yet!

Rachel Thompson, M.S.N., R.N. ('04, '12)
Alumni Association President
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Strategic Plan Update, Procedure & Implementation

By Dr. Louis Burgher, Clarkson College President



I promised to share the essence of this year's Strategic Plan with you. Our plan includes four Critical Success Factors (CSFs), each with five or six goals.

CSF-1 continues a five-year future assessment

of the College. We are beginning a new accreditation process for 2018, and we hope to increase graduation rates by 10 percent in two years and 20 percent in four years. We are examining a doctoral degree in Nurse Anesthesia, a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, an Acute Care Assistance track in the Master of Science in Nursing program, and the future of our Practical Nursing program.

CSF-2 addresses our capacity constraints. We will update our master facilities plan by 2016, remodel faculty offices, vacate the Ed Tech building, assess our HVAC system and develop a lactation room on campus.

CSF-3 is to enhance our student experience. We are looking at advancing our use of mobile devices in the classroom, as well as the adequacy of staffing in our Library.

We hope to collaborate with nearby campus resources for improved student health services. We also are reviewing community service at Clarkson College.

CSF-4 continues efforts to improve the learning environment. We have a faculty committee developing a program on academic honesty and a comprehensive recitation plan. We are evaluating our College community meetings as well as the potential to go "paperless" by 2015. Finally, we may need to upgrade our campus student information system.

Each year, we accomplish upwards of 91 percent of the goals.

As we say, "That's a lot of stuff," it is typical of the task load we shoulder every year to help shape a growing, dynamic institution. Upwards of 85 people are involved in this plan, and it begins every January with an all-campus retreat. Each year, we accomplish upwards of 91 percent of the goals. This year will be no different.

Online Giving: A Unique Way to Give Back

Looking for ways to help the Alumni Association? Simply begin using Yahoo! powered GoodSearch.com as your search engine, and they'll donate about a penny to the Alumni Association every time you search online.

Before you surf the web, enter "Alumni Association - Clarkson College" in the search box at GoodSearch.com to show your support for the Alumni Association.

Have some online shopping to cross off of your list? Check out the "coupon and deals" section of GoodSearch.com where you can shop at more than 900 top online retailers. A percentage of your purchase costs will be donated to the Alumni Association.

For quick access to online shopping and browsing, download the GoodSearch tool bar at GoodSearch.com.

Alumni Scholarship Donations

Sept. 1, 2012 through Aug. 31, 2013

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

UP TO \$99

Cynthia Arbaugh ('78, '09)

In memory of Pat Arbaugh.

Susan Bristol ('78)

In memory of James Canedy Sr. and in honor of Patricia Perry.

Nicholas Denich ('10)

Diana Denker ('64)

In memory of Marsha Green, Pat Perry and Maxine Jacks.

Carla Dirkschneider ('07)

Colleen Dummer ('95)

Debbie Floreani ('75)

In memory of Sandy Peppers Thrasher and Neva Hannah.

Norma Hintz ('87, '88)

In memory of her husband, Donald Hintz.

Jean Huff ('71)

In memory of Dr. Patricia Perry.

Gary Javitch ('95)

Joan Killinger ('64)

In memory of Thomas M. Davies.

Minna Krumland ('93)

Rosemary Lebeda ('00)

Carol McCall ('68)

In memory of Marcia Green Stoller.

Patricia Morgan ('49)

Letitia Naprstek ('68)

In memory of Shar Hansen.

Cheryl Olomon ('71)

Susanne Soppe ('78)

In memory of Arthur Adams and Thomas Adams.

Liz Svatos, College employee

Chera Tremblay ('08)

Marcia Weeks ('65)

In memory of her grandmother, Virda Fitzgerald.

Barbara Lynch Young ('55)

In memory of her father Tom Lynch, and in honor of mother Mae Lynch.

\$100 TO \$499

Lygia Arcaro ('98)

Mathew Beeman ('07)

In memory of William Bailey III, U.S. Army.

Annette LeRoy, honorary alumna

Ruth Siefert ('66)

In memory of Emory and Frieda Briggs.

Ann VanHoff, honorary alumna

\$500 AND UP

Marlin G. Stahl, M.D.

DONATE

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

125th Anniversary Alumni Scholarship

Current student recipient
announced, donors appreciated

Thanks to the several alumni donations honoring the 125th anniversary of Clarkson College, the Alumni Association was able to award an additional scholarship this year. The recipient of the 125th Anniversary Alumni Scholarship is Amy Wise, a fourth year Bachelor of Science in Nursing student.

Amy is a very goal-oriented individual who has high expectations for herself while pursuing her education and in her future. She is excited to be a Clarkson College student, saying, "Clarkson College has been such a breath of fresh air after coming from a local community college for my associate's degree."

She has found that the instructors and staff show that they care for each of the students. She was thrilled to be awarded this special scholarship and thanks those who have made it possible.

A sincere thank you to donors

The Alumni Association and Clarkson College would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who donated to the 125th Anniversary Alumni Scholarship.

Doris Jirak ('49); Joan Bolter ('92); Jo Anne Pfister ('53); Mercedes Randolph ('12); Carol Engquist ('83); Sharon Schuett ('71, '86); Linda Miller ('64) In honor of the class of 1964; **Patricia Wills ('55); Dr. Judith Stern** In memory of Dorothy M. Burgher; **Maureen Kelpel ('72, '83); Karen Verdirame; VanFleet, Rita ('67, '94, '06)** In honor of Mary Margaret Schaffner; **Samuel Thompson** In memory of Dora Margarette Parker Rowland ('20); **Marjorie Kline** In memory of LouEllen Kline ('54); **Sara Saunders** In memory of Joann Frisch; **Janet Danforth-Bacon ('73); Members of the class of 1963, including Sara Worm, Judith Swanson, Mary Vondra, Judith Vidito, Linda Baker, Laurel McReynolds, Sara Saunders and Judith Janak** In memory of Mary Sorgenfrei Donaldson

Academic Achievement Scholarship

First recipient announced

By Mikaela Knipe, Marketing Specialist

Clarkson College is pleased to announce that Andrew Kummer was awarded the 2013-14 Academic Achievement Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000 per semester. Kummer is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and has maintained a 4.000 cumulative grade point average throughout his 46 credit-hour tenure at the College.

The Scholarship Committee reviewed nine applications from very worthy, qualified candidates. The eligibility criteria for the scholarship are as follows:

- › Undergraduate, full-time student who has successfully completed 24 semester hours at Clarkson College.
- › 3.90 or higher cumulative grade point average at the end of the spring 2013 semester.
- › Eligible students who currently receive a Clarkson College academic scholarship may apply for the Academic Achievement Scholarship. The Academic Achievement Scholarship would replace a prior awarded scholarship.

Kummer grew up in Parkston, S.D. and attended Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, S.D. He received a degree in Electronics Technology and Bio-Medical Technology. He then attended Bellevue University and received a degree in Healthcare Management.

Now in pursuit of his third degree, Kummer remains focused and disciplined. "The program at Clarkson College is challenging and requires hard work and dedication," he said. "I manage my time well and prioritize tasks to balance life and school. My friends and family have also been very supportive."

Kummer expects to graduate in December 2014 and hopes to earn a job working in an ICU. Eventually, he would like to return to school to become a certified nurse anesthetist.



ATTENDING ALUMNAE STAND AS THEY'RE HONORED DURING THE CEREMONY.

Convocation Ceremony Recap

Welcoming new students & new school year

The annual Convocation ceremony was held on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the historic Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Omaha. The annual ceremony is held to welcome incoming students and to reflect on the great traditions and history of Clarkson College and the Cathedral. Attending the ceremony were 94 incoming students and their families/friends, College faculty and staff and the Board of Directors, along with the event's distinguished guests—our alumni.

Convocation began with The Very Reverend Thomas Hurley, retired Dean and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Clarkson College President Dr. Louis Burgher welcomed everyone and introduced the event's guests.

The Very Reverend Thomas Hurley spoke about how the journey we are on is just a "snapshot" in time and how health care as we

know it today will look much differently in the future. His talk was inspirational and spirited.

Carla Dirkschneider, Alumni Association Secretary, spoke about the Maltese Cross, its history and relationship to the College. The Alumni Association gifted new students with a badge holder with the Maltese Cross emblem on it to serve as a reminder of the ideals for which it stands.

Faculty Senate President Amy Clark and Student Government Association President Amanda Hanlin welcomed the new students. Katie Kirkpatrick, Assistant Professor of English and recipient of the 2013 Dr. Patricia Book Perry Faculty of the Year Award, gave an exceptionally inspiring speech about personal accountability.

A final benediction was given by The Very Reverend Thomas Hurley. A reception in the social hall was held following the ceremony.

Class of '63 Gives a Special Donation

In honor of the Clarkson College 125th anniversary, the Alumni Association created a one-time scholarship.

The class of 1963 organized a collection in memory of Mary Sorgenfrei Donaldson, a classmate who died a few years after graduation. Mary was an exceptional nurse, a wonderful person and had the honor of being crowned Miss Clarkson from their class. All of the 1963 graduates who attended their 50th reunion made contributions (see names on

page 3). The total amount they collected for the scholarship was \$600.

Interested in making a difference?

Donating to the Alumni Association scholarship fund is a great way to assist current students with their education. For more details, contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at 402.552.3516 or via e-mail at vanfleetrita@clarksoncollege.edu.

From page 1

Celebratory Reunions, Reminiscing Kicks off Alumni Weekend

The stories shared by the class of '63 were as interesting as those of the class of '53. Judy Janak told about her first experience bathing a patient. She enlisted the assistance of a few students, and they had the patient bathed, turned and spiffed up only to have the instructor come look at the patient and announce to the students that she had expired. They must have been really engrossed in the bathing process! This class also remembered one of their classmates who died from a brain tumor a few years after graduation—Mary Sorgenfrei Donaldson. She had been crowned Miss Clarkson and was remembered as an exceptional person. Gloria Triggs brought copies of her statement showing how much her educational process cost back in the '60's.

The class of '63 alumnae were dedicated bridge players. Many nights, they played into the early morning hours and would vow to not stay up that late again. That all changed the next night. Linda Hartman Baker, Melissa Van Way and Mary Vondra were hostesses for this class.

Fiona Halley was the hostess for the eight attending 1973 graduates. She brought numerous photos, and the alumnae enjoyed revisiting memories from their time in training. One of their fondest memories was that of Dr. Patricia Perry, former Dean and College President. They remembered how much she cared for and took a special interest in each of them.

Other classes were represented in smaller numbers. Judith Robbins and Chandra Baumann represented the class of 1983, and Sharon Wilwerding came for the class of 1988. Jackie Parmenter ('93) relayed a story about her adventures with Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06) when they did their community rotation together for the BSN program on the Indian Reservation in Macy, Neb. They were back-roading around the reservation while waiting to visit their clients and went down a small dirt road into a farmstead, only to be greeted by two gentlemen with rifles pointed at their car! What a fast getaway that was.

Other alums in attendance were Bette Moller ('77), Joann Morris ('54), Kate Higgins ('54), Rita VanFleet ('67, '94, '06), Jeanette Kassmeier ('72, '86), Trish Weber ('95, '08, '11), Mary Breci ('96), Kelly Jackson ('05), Carla Dirkschneider ('07) and Chera Tremblay ('08).

Dr. Louis Burgher shared the successes of this past year at Clarkson College and welcomed the alumnae back. Lots of catching up and sharing of life experiences were done between the attendees.

After brunch, a tour of the College was given by Student Ambassadors Amanda Hanlin and Hanah Zehnder. Of special interest to the touring group was the new Simulation Lab.

Educational cost breakdown for the class of 1963

Six semesters of schooling were required, costing \$115 per semester. Omaha University fees totaled \$60, books cost \$105, uniforms were \$80, \$180 was spent on insurance/health, activity fees were \$30, achievement tests cost \$10, and \$25 was needed for graduation. For the first nine months (before clinicals began), a \$50 monthly room and board fee was charged. The entire cost of an education at Clarkson School of Nursing for the class of 1963 was \$1,630.



ABOVE, LINDA HARTMAN BAKER ('63) & HER UNIFORM WITH DOCTOR SIGNATURES IN RED. MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1963 ENJOY CONVERSATION & BREAKFAST.



JANET DANFORTH-BACON, FLONA HALLEY, KATHY PARR & GLADYS PIERCE, ALUMNAE FROM THE CLASS OF '73.



JUDY SWANSON ('63) STANDS WHILE GIVING A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MARY SORGENFREI DONALDSON.



PRESIDENT DR. LOUIS BURGHER SHARES CLARKSON COLLEGE RANKINGS & STATISTICS FROM THE PAST YEAR.



CLASS OF 1953, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ROSEAN PORTER, RUTH MUCHEMORE, MARY BREINIG LEONOVICZ & BONITA RITTENBURG MORTENSEN. BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MARILYN ENGH WOOD, BEVERLY BROWN GOTTSCH & MARY JENSEN OSBORN.



AT LEFT, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KELLY JACKSON ('05), J.J. KASSMEIER ('72, '86) & JACKIE PARMENTER ('93). STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CHERA TREMBLAY ('08), JOANN MORRIS ('54) & KATE HIGGINS ('54).

AT RIGHT, ALUMNAE MARY BRECI ('96) & BETTE MOLLER ('77).



AT LEFT, SHARON WILWERDING ('88), CHANDRA BAUMANN ('83) & JUDITH ROBBINS ('83).

AT RIGHT, CLASS OF 1973, SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, FLONA HALLEY, KATHY PARR, GLADYS PIERCE & JANET DANFORTH-BACON. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MARIETTA HOFFERBER, TERESA ROHRET-ERICKSON & JANE HARPENAU.



CLASS OF 1963, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KAREN HOUFEK, MARILYN UHE, SARA WORM, RUTH ANNE HARTMAN & MARY VONDRA. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, LINDA BAKER, JUDITH JANAK, SHARON SCHMID, GLORIA TRIGGS, SARA SAUNDERS, JUDY SWANSON, MELISSA VAN WEY, JOANNE SHAW, SUZANNE SALMINEN, LAUREL MCREYNOLDS, JUDY VIDITO, BEVERLY BRASEL, CAROL IRLBECK & ANN LAMBERTY.



EVENT ATTENDEES ENJOY CONVERSATION & DINNER IN JOSLYN ART MUSEUM STORZ FOUNTAIN COURT.

Anniversary Dinner: Event Recap & Summary

A classy, enjoyable evening for our 125th historical milestone

Joslyn Art Museum Storz Fountain Court was the setting for the dinner commemorating the Clarkson College 125th anniversary and the anniversary classes of 1953, 1963, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 2003. The evening began with cocktails and music by the Mahr String Quartet. The Storz Fountain Court was decorated for the occasion, and a "GoBo" of the Clarkson College logo and "125 Years" illuminated the walls above the podium. Tables were simply decorated with a floral bouquet and a gift for all attendees in the form of a booklet highlighting historical events of the College.

Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, welcomed the guests and introduced The Very Reverend Thomas Hurley, who gave the opening invocation. Rachel Thompson, Alumni Association President, acknowledged the College Board, the Alumni Association Board and guests. College President Dr. Louis Burgher gave a short speech and introduced three students who discussed their decision to attend the

College and how their education is preparing them for their career paths. The students were Michelle Glow, Radiologic Technology student and Alumni Scholarship recipient; Jordan Blackwill, Nurse Anesthesia student; and Amy Wise, Undergraduate Nursing student and 125th Anniversary Scholarship recipient.

Dinner was served following the presentation. Much conversation and story sharing was done during this time, especially with the anniversary classes who continued their reunion remembrances. Friends of the College, staff and faculty also enjoyed socializing with one another. Once dinner was completed, the galleries on the main floor were open for guests to visit. This event was well attended, and many positive comments about the evening were received.

A visual recap of the evening

The pages that follow highlight our 125th anniversary celebration.

CLARKSON COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & THEIR SPOUSES, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SUSAN BURGHER, DR. LOUIS BURGHER, ROBERT HOWARD, DIANE & JIM CANEDY, THE VERY REVEREND THOMAS HURLEY & DIANE HURLEY.



ATTENDING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CLARKSON COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERS, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JEANETTE KASSMEIER, CARLA DIRKSCHNEIDER, RITA VANFLEET, RACHEL THOMPSON, NICOLE HARDIN & CHERA TREMBLAY.



STUDENT SPEAKERS & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JACINDA BLACKWILL, MICHELLE GLOW, & RACHEL & CLARK THOMPSON. BACK ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JORDAN BLACKWILL, AMY WISE'S FATHER & AMY WISE.



SANDY BYERS ('88), JUDITH ROBBINS ('83), CHANDRA BAUMANN ('83), SHARON WILWERDING ('88) & JUDITH FRANCES ('88) PAUSE FOR A PHOTO DURING COCKTAIL HOUR.



CLASS OF 1973, SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, FLONA HALLEY, JANE HARPENAU & JANET DANFORTH-BACON. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KATHY PARR & GLADYS PIERCE.



FLONA HALLEY ('73) SHARES MEMORIES FROM THE "CLOSEUP" PUBLICATION.



DR. LOUIS BURGHER SHARES MEMORIES & LAUGHS WITH FLONA HALLEY ('73) & JANET DANFORTH-BACON ('73).



CLARKSON COLLEGE FACULTY & ALUMNAE (MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK). SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, NINA WARDELL & SHARON SCHUETT.* STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, ANN VANHOFF (HONORARY ALUMNA), JOAN BLUM,* JOANN ACIERNO* & MARY DISHMAN.*



CLASS OF 1963, FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JOANNE SHAW, SANDRA FREEBERG, BEVERLY BRASEL, JUDITH JANAK, MARY VONDRA & LAUREL MCREYNOLDS. MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, SHARON SCHMID, GLORIA TRIGGS, JUDY SWANSON, SARA SAUNDERS & JUDY VIDITO. BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MELISSA VAN WEY, SARA WORM, ANN LAMBERTY, MARILYN UHE & LINDA BAKER.



A LOOK AT THE SET TABLES BEFORE THE FESTIVITIES BEGAN.



ABOVE LEFT, A CLOSEUP OF THE TABLE'S FLORAL CENTERPIECE, EVENT PROGRAM & GUEST GIFTS, BOOKLET HIGHLIGHTING THE PAST 125 YEARS & A CLARKSON COLLEGE STONE PAPER NOTEBOOK. ABOVE RIGHT, GUESTS ENJOY THEIR EVENING IN THE STORZ FOUNTAIN COURT.



COLLEGE STAFF & THEIR GUESTS. SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, KAREN VINSON, LEANN MORIN, JODY (GUEST OF CHRIS SWANSON) & CHRIS SWANSON. STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, LARRY VINSON, JACK MORIN, LINDA NIETO & LIZ SVATOS.

Working with the Non-Compliant Client

Continuing education event summary & recap

An educational offering was sponsored by the Alumni Association with the assistance of the office of Professional Development. Seventy-seven registered for the event, which was held on Friday, Sept. 20 in Howard Hall from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Joe Councill, M.S.N., R.N., Undergraduate Nursing Assistant Professor and alumnus of Clarkson College, opened the session discussing non-compliance and how to handle the barriers. Joe gave several examples and stressed that the relationship between the client and the care provider should be one of partnership and not one with a paternalistic approach. He stressed that the goals and wishes of the client should be addressed and respected.

Linda Dabelstein, B.S.N., R.N., Risk Management Coordinator at The Nebraska Medical Center, followed Councill and discussed the ethical issues related to non-compliance. One of the things Linda stressed was that documentation is crucial to maintaining cohesive care between caregivers, and it also protects against a potential law suit.

After a short break, a panel discussion was carried out using client case studies. Joe Councill; Nicole Hardin, M.S., R.T.(R) (M), (CIIP); Andrea Nebel, P.T., D.P.T.; and Gretchen Jopp, RHIA, CPC; participated in the discussion and answered questions from the audience.

Alumni Referral Program Update



CARLA STEPPAT, THIS YEAR'S IPAD DRAWING WINNER.

Our alumni continue to support the College by referring students and sharing the educational and programmatic experiences while attending Clarkson College. Many of our students choose to attend Clarkson College based on a referral or conversation with a graduate. Your impact on prospective students and future health care providers is beneficial, and the College and Alumni Association would like to recognize and thank you through our Alumni Referral program.

How the Alumni Referral Program works

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

In order to receive these tokens of our appreciation, the student needs to provide your name as an alumni referral on his/her application. Students can apply online at ClarksonCollege.edu or an application can be mailed to them.

This year's drawing winner

Congratulations to Carla Steppat, this year's iPad winner. Carla is a December 2012 graduate from the Master of Science in Nursing program, majoring in Family Nurse Practitioner. She currently works as a nurse practitioner at the South Dakota Human Services Center.

When asked why she chose Clarkson College to pursue her Master's degree, Carla said, "Clarkson College impressed me because the programs are challenging but rewarding at the same time. I heard great things from prior alumni and that impressed me about the school, as well. I feel confident referring students because I know they will get a great educational experience like I did."

Carla has an iPad she uses for research and resources at her clinicals, and she is thrilled to have one for leisure. "Clarkson College is a top notch school with great faculty and students. The school is a great fit for anyone! Hopefully everyone has a great experience like I did," she said.

"I feel confident referring students because I know they will get a great educational experience like I did."

CARLA STEPPAT

Alumni Cookbooks Available

Looking for new recipes? 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 Outreach Program for Clarkson College

By Jena Dickinson, Health Care Business Program Graduate

An Alumni Outreach Program is currently being piloted for the fall semester with the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Clarkson College. The overall goal of the program is to partner with our alumni to gain awareness about Clarkson College in their local area, as well as build and strengthen our relationships with educational and professional organizations in their communities.

Based on their dedication and leadership as former students of the PTA program, Valerie Combs, Tiffany Bence and Jacque Murphy have been selected to participate. They will partner with the Academic Outreach Liaison at Clarkson College and serve as an Alumni Liaison for the next year. We are very grateful for their commitment to Clarkson College and our PTA program.

Clarkson College is excited for the opportunity to partner with a new group of alumni and learn about the impact they are making within their local communities.

EVENTS:

Saturday, Nov. 23 – Craft Day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Howard Hall. for more information, contact Rita VanFleet at 402.552.3516.

January – Fourth annual bowling tournament at Scorz Sports Plaza in Ralston, Neb. Event date to be announced.

May – Annual Spring Garden Walk. Event date to be announced.

Saturday, June 7 – Decorated Table Trivia event from 10 a.m. to noon.

Mission of Mercy

A reflection of a mission assigned while serving our country

By Mathew Beeman, B.S.N., FN, Captain, USAF

Editor's Note: Mathew Beeman is a Captain in the United States Air Force and a 2007 Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduate. He is currently a flight nurse assigned to the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. This article contains his private views and in no manner speaks on behalf of the United States Air Force or government. Certain mission details were kept vague to protect the operational security of military operations.



THE FLIGHT CREW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CAPT. MATHEW BEEMAN, B.S.N., FN; CAPT. DANNY STUART, ACNP, FN; SENIOR AIRMAN JOSH LARWOOD, EMT; TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHRISTINIA WISKOWSKI, EMT; & TECHNICAL SERGEANT ELLEN PORTER, EMT.

The massive C-17 transport aircraft shuddered as the pilots changed the aircraft's aerodynamic configuration for a tactical landing into a rugged region of Afghanistan.

The loadmaster gave the verbal five-minute warning for lights out. My crew of two flight nurses (FNs) and three aeromedical evacuation technicians (AETs) leapt into action, preparing for landing and running our checklists. My weapons AET passed out 9mm handguns that we placed into our holsters. We then draped our seats with our body armor to protect our vital organs and arteries from bullets that could come up through the bottom of the aircraft. I took my seat, glancing at my checklist one last time to ensure completion, and secured my safety harness. The interior lights went from white to a dull ominous red. I felt the aircraft rapidly sink.

During descent, I reflected on the mission because this one was certainly out of my routine mission profile. My original mission was to take 13 patients from my base in Southwest Asia to definitive care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During my initial mission brief, I was notified by Command and Control (C2) that we were being additionally tasked on an urgent mission to Afghanistan to pick up a critical patient that had suffered crush injuries and was in a coma. My team was to be augmented with a Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) that consisted of a critical care physician, critical care nurse and respiratory therapist. Their role was to provide one-on-one care to the critical patient.

Upon arrival to our aircraft, I immediately briefed the pilots and loadmasters that the mission load had changed, and that we would need more space for patients and some cargo would have to be unloaded. Once the cargo was out of our way, we began turning the massive aircraft into a flying hospital. Litter stanchions were built from kits and bolted into the floor. Oxygen lines were plugged into the aircraft's liquid oxygen system (LOX) with electrical outlets strung and connected to each stanchion.

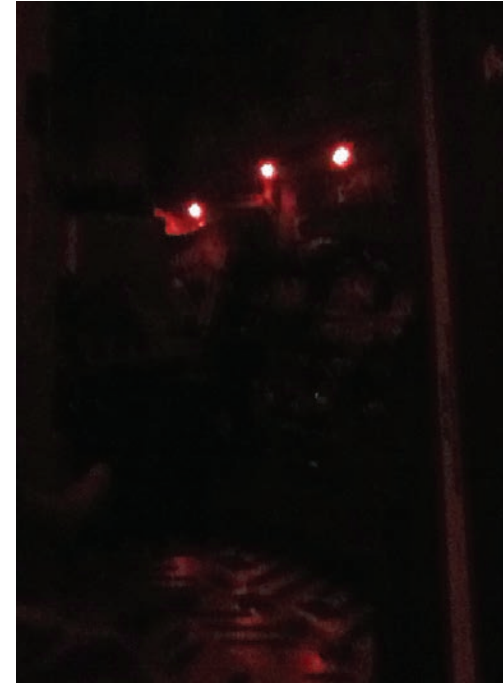
An ambulance bus pulled up to the aircraft as we finished the pilot's emergency action review briefing. Once the patient report was received, we loaded our patients, tended their needs and secured everyone for takeoff. Some of my patients were extremely distressed when I updated them that we would have to first fly into Afghanistan to pick up more patients. They were expecting an eight-hour flight to the beautiful Deutschland, not a trip back to the war zone many of them had just left. I looked at my watch as the power of the C-17's four turbofan engines was released, and we climbed into the night sky. Four hours had already passed since our initial alert.

During the flight to Afghanistan, the CCATT physician was anxious about the status of his patient. I took him to the flight deck, and we phone patched the Afghan hospital via the satellite radio. We found out the patient had

received more than 100 units of blood, had no neurological activity and an open abdomen. Prognosis was poor. The goal was to get him to Germany so his family could be there for his last moments. My physician was worried about him surviving the flight, but we were his only hope.

My eyes had just adjusted to the red lights inside the aircraft when the feeling of a giant hand pressed on my stomach. The aircraft's pattern took on that of a roller coaster as our pilots tactically maneuvered through the altitudes reachable by the Taliban's weapons. Over the headset, I listened to the pilots as they feverishly ran their checklist trying to set the blacked out C-17 onto the runway and avoid the jagged mountains that surrounded us. I felt the aircraft flare out and, with a gentle thump, we touched the runway. I watched my trauma bags go from vertical to horizontal as the pilots applied full reverse thrusts and brakes. I prayed for my carabinieri to hold so my trauma bags would not be flung across the aircraft compartment at 120 mph!

The pilots quickly got us off of the runway and parked between some barriers that offered a little bit of protection. I was notified by C2 that the hospital at this base needed to be cleared out to make room for a high number of inbound patients. Based on these new orders, I pulled my team together to discuss the plan. We would have to convert the entire



THE AMOUNT OF LIGHT CAPT. BEEMAN'S CREW WORKS UNDER WHILE FLYING OVER ENEMY TERRITORY.

C-17 into a hospital, and redo our oxygen and electrical calculations. I notified the loadmaster that all of the cargo would have to be embarked except for the pallet carrying a few sedated German Shepherds returning home. The CCATT team deplaned to do a bedside transfer, and loadmasters scrambled to get the cargo off as we constructed more stanchions and connected oxygen and electrical lines. Amongst all of the action, we had to ensure our patients onboard were cared for and stayed safe. We received report on our new patients and enplaned them.

I looked at my watch; the CCATT team had not yet returned, and I pondered the complexity of them trying to get their patient hooked up to all of the aeromedical equipment. We were running out of time. For aviation safety purposes, all aircrews are limited on how many hours they can fly and work during a mission. I did some quick calculations, and we were already 10 hours into our crew duty time. I had only eight hours to terminate the mission in Germany and had to make a decision.

I went to the flight deck and made a call to request the Air Mobility Command General to waive my flight duty time (our pilots were augmented, so their flight duty period was 24 hours versus our 18). Meanwhile, the CCATT team arrived, and the cumbersome work

of getting the 300lb litter safely onboard began. The patient was surrounded with equipment that included a ventilator, IV pumps, fluid warmers, wound vacs and compression devices.

The CCATT physician gave me the thumbs up that his patient was ready for flight. The pilots started their take off checklist as my team prepared more than 35 patients for flight, paying special attention to pain and nausea management. The number four engine spun into life as the pilot gave me the General's waiver approval and his blessing on our mission. The pilots maneuvered the aircraft to the end of the runway as the sun began to peak over the mountains. They needed to get us out of here quickly. We signaled our litter patients to hold on tight as the four powerful turbofans spun up to a deafening roar. I braced myself as we raced down the runway and the pilots pulled the C-17 into a sharp climbing turn.

The eight-hour flight to Germany went by very quickly. There was a very large reception at Ramstein to receive our wounded warriors. It was up to my crew to manage the chaos and get everyone safely deplaned into the awaiting ambulance buses. It took approximately two hours from landing to deplane patients, reconfigure the aircraft, fax C2 mission paperwork and turn in our weapons to the armory. We each settled into our aircrew quarters after eating a square meal. We had been awake and working hard for more than 24 hours.

As I walked to my bed, my emotions reflected back to the young CCATT patient whose hours were numbered. I thought about his family and if he had children like me and was tormented about the thoughts and feelings going through their heads. I hoped God was with them at this time. I started a prayer to Him but never got a word out. My body hit the bed, and I succumbed to exhaustion. I think that was His way of saying, "I got it from here, Airman."

Have an interesting story to share? We would love to hear from you! For story ideas or questions about the Alumni Times, contact Rita VanFleet, Alumni Coordinator, at vanfleetrta@clarksoncollege.edu or 402.552.3516.

Graduate Capstone Review

Capstone project review for August 2013 graduates

The Capstone project provides each Master's program student with the opportunity to investigate a question of practical importance by utilizing the critical thinking skills, knowledge, strategies, theories and principles learned throughout the course of study. The final outcome of this experience includes completion of a scholarly, evidence-based document that can be further revised for potential publication or an actual document that can be used by practitioner, educators, administrators or clients.

The August 2013 graduate Capstone projects were reviewed by the Alumni Association Board subcommittee. There were 20 submitted by the advisors for consideration. Of those 20, three were chosen utilizing the established rubric. Kathryn Triplett's abstract, *Developing a Nurse-Driven Algorithm to Facilitate Early Extubation after Open-Heart Surgery*, placed first. Second place was awarded to Megan Rutledge for her abstract, *Increasing Folic Acid Awareness: Informational Brochure Development for Adolescent Females*. Third place winner was Bradley Pfeifer for his abstract, *MHA with Senior Care Specialization Business Plan*.

Developing a Nurse-Driven Algorithm to Facilitate Early Extubation after Open-Heart Surgery by Kathryn Triplett

Background Nurses (RNs) play a large role in managing airway and circulation support after open-heart surgery, particularly in regards to the extubation of a patient from the ventilator. Patients can have various physiological and psychological responses to open-heart surgery; the differing levels of patient stability influence their weaning and extubation times. De (2004) found RNs were the health care team members most likely to ensure timely and safe extubation.

Purpose This capstone project developed a nurse-driven early extubation (EE) algorithm for the cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU) nurses at a 560-bed acute care

continued on page 10

From page 11 Graduate Capstone Review

facility in South Texas. Compared to the current extubation practices, the algorithm could influence the length of time open-heart patients spend on the ventilator.

Methodology Utilizing the search engines of CINAHL, EBSCOhost, MEDLINE and ProQuest, a review of scholarly literature was completed. Evidence-based articles relevant to open-heart surgery and ventilation extubation criteria were incorporated into the algorithm. The CVICU manager, the Clinical Nurse Specialist and cardiovascular surgeons served as clinical and content experts for the final version of the EE algorithm.

Brief Description A one-page algorithm was composed to guide the CVICU RN in weaning and extubating patients after cardiac surgery. The components of ventilator weaning readiness, ventilator weaning implementation and extubation readiness were included. The algorithm meets the requirements of the Texas Board of Nursing *Six-Step Decision-Making Model for Determining the Nursing Scope of Practice*.

Recommendations for Use Utilizing the EE algorithm, CVICU nurses could influence the length of time open-heart patients spend on the ventilator. A three-month trial implementation of the EE algorithm is planned, following formal staff education.

Recommendations for Future Research Further quantitative research on the effectiveness of EE and its influence on open-heart patient ICU and hospital length of stay should be studied. Additional research should be completed to continue to refine the EE protocol criteria.

Increasing Folic Acid Awareness: Informational Brochure Development for Adolescent Females by Megan Rutledge

Background Folic acid has been proven to decrease the risk of neural tube defects and miscarriage when taken by women prior to becoming pregnant. Despite this knowledge, more than half of women do not take folic acid prior to pregnancy. The majority of women are unaware of the importance of folic acid.

Purpose The purpose of this project was to review relevant literature regarding folic acid efficacy and recommendations. An educational brochure was developed, aimed specifically toward adolescent females aged 15–18 years in order to increase their awareness of the role of folic acid and the importance of taking folic acid daily during reproductive years.

Methodology A review of literature through EBSCO host, CINAHL, ProQuest, Medline, PubMed and various other internet search engines revealed information to support the purpose of this project. Recognition of barriers potentially preventing more women from taking folic acid is essential, therefore Nola J. Pender's Health Belief Model was used as a theoretical framework for the development of the educational brochure.

Brief Description For easy distribution and maximum material space, a tri-fold brochure was created. The brochure was designed to be visually attractive, using large fonts, contrasting colors, pictures and bullet points. Information was presented in an easy to read format at an eighth grade reading level. Information presented within the brochure includes the recommendation for folic acid daily, what folic acid helps to prevent and who specifically should be taking folic acid.

Recommendations for Use Research has identified modifiable risk factors for the development of neural tube defects (NTD). The goal of the brochure was to provide adolescent females with evidence-based information in order to decrease the risk of a pregnancy affected by NTD. These brochures will be distributed to accepting high schools and physician's offices in an effort to get the brochure to the intended audience.

Recommendations for Future Research Further research on actual folic acid awareness, usage and rates of NTD's may change the focus of NTD prevention.

MHA with Senior Care Specialization Business Plan by Bradley Pfeifer

Background The care that is provided to the senior market has changed significantly over the last 20 years. Due to legislative,

economic and market conditions, providers have expanded their services beyond the traditional skilled nursing facilities to include care that is provided in communities and in the home. The increased complexity has created a gap in training and education for executives that lead these organizations. The Master's of Health Care Administration with a specialization in Senior Care degree program will create a new, more relevant category for advanced education in this market. Currently, there are three known programs that offer some level of advanced education and specialization for the long-term care market on an online basis.

Purpose The aim of this project is to determine whether or not Clarkson College should offer an advanced health care administration degree that provides a focus in senior care.

Methodology Industry research was conducted using the Clarkson College online library. An online survey was also administered to members of the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) to assess the demand for educational programming of this nature. In addition, personal interviews were conducted with executives of five of the largest providers of care to the senior market in Omaha and the program manager for the Division of Public Health Licensure Unit for Long-Term Care Facilities at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Lastly, telephone interviews were conducted with the President and CEO of both the ACHCA and the National Association of Long-Term Care Administrative Boards (NAB).

Brief Description This business plan includes an executive summary, description of the program, an industry review, target market identification, competitive assessment, SWOT analysis, promotions and communications plan, management plan and financial plan. The entire plan is aimed to meet the education needs of executives that lead organizations that provide services to the senior care market.

Recommendations for Use The business plan recommends that Clarkson College offer a Master's of Health Care Administration with a specialization in Senior Care services.

GRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECTS AUGUST 2013 GRADUATES

Lisa Doom Anderson *Development of a Collaborative Personal Medical Record Tool*, advisor Dr. Michele Heston

Rebecca Anderson *EMDR Treatment for Reactive Attachment Disorder: An Overview for Caregivers*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Karen Betjacob *Effectiveness of the Patient Centered Medical Home in Improving Hemoglobin A1C*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Angela Blankenship *Perspectives Regarding Complementary & Alternative Medicine in Faculty of a Small Midwestern College*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Brooke Bynam *Analysis of Emergency Department Visit Variables & Practitioner Practices for Patients with Pharyngitis*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Wendy Chapin *Educational Intervention to Improve Parental Consent of HPV Vaccination in Males Ages 9-17*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Kristin Christensen *Improving Nutritional Intake of Hospitalized Patients: The Protected Mealtime*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

Gayla Davis *Ensuring a Safe & Seamless Transition of Care for Patients Being Discharged from the Hospital with Central Venous Access Device*, Dr. Regina Nailon

Erika Dunn *Infusion Nurses' Knowledge of Immunoglobulin Therapy*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Leslie Fennel *Business Expansion of Silvery Memories*, advisor Dr. Pam Schwalb

Carly Frost *Decreasing Adult ICU Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections: A Chart Review Quality Improvement Study*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

Rebecca Heits *Education to Increase Students' Knowledge of Sleep/Obesity Connection*, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

Megan Hinrichsen *Development of an Evidence-Based Brochure Regarding RSV in High-Risk Infants/Children*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Paul Inserra *Decreasing Emergency Department Waiting Room Times*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

Patricia Kirkpatrick *Does Formula Feeding Contribute to Obesity?*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Cassandra Kuhl *Development of an Evidence-Based Brochure: Prevention of Childhood Obesity*, advisor Dr. Deborah Bahe

Stephanie Leader *Development of an Evidence-Based Educational Brochure about Comorbid Anxiety in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Marla Melgoza *Effective Handoff Communication Brochure to Foster Patient Safety for Nurses in a Midwest Hospital*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Jane Miller *Sleep & Fatigue Countermeasures Education: The REST Program*, advisor Dr. Nina Wardell

Michelle Mizell *Measuring the Effectiveness of Educating Women in Nutrition & Increased Activity for Weight Loss*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmelberg

Hailey Munsch *An Educational Pack for Ongoing Management of Hemophilia Patients in the Amish Population*, advisor Dr. Michele Heston

Bradley Pfeifer *MHA with Senior Care Specialization Business Plan* advisor Dr. Pam Schwalb

Stefanie Roberts *Evidence-Based Brochure for Elementary Students: Skin Cancer Prevention*, advisor Dr. Aubray Orduña

Megan Rutledge *Increasing Folic Acid Awareness: Informational Brochure Development for Adolescent Females*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

Melanie Schmidt *Steroid versus Saline Injections for Pain Management*, advisor Dr. Layna Himmeberg

Michele Schultz *Development of Depression/Suicide Screening & Treatment Guidelines*

for Teens with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, advisor Dr. Deborah Bahe

Jeaniffr Snide *Innovation & Transformation: Development of an Implementation Manual*, advisor Dr. Regina Nailon

Kathryn Triplett *Developing a Nurse-Driven Algorithm to Facilitate Early Extubation after Open-Heart Surgery*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Stacy Visser *Simplified Evidence-Based Brochure for Newly Diagnosed Type 2 Diabetics Discharged from Hospital*, advisor Dr. Gloria Gross

Tara Wenta *Nurses' Approach to the Pain Management of the Surgical Patient with a Mental Illness*, advisor Dr. Jane Langemeier

Sara Wilke *Clinical Guideline to Screen for PTSD in War Veterans*, advisor Dr. Linda Jensen

April Williams *Breast Health Education for African American Women: A Brochure for Primary Care Providers*, advisor Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers

Alissa Wormington *Evidence-Based Guideline Regarding Interventions for Barriers to Receive Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine*, advisor Dr. Mae Timmons

Amanda Worner *Identification of Early Warning Signs for Code Blue Activation Outside of the ICU*, advisor Dr. Regina Nailon

Interested in reading an unpublished abstract from this or a previous semester? Visit the Clarkson Service League Library's online catalog at <http://bit.ly/14F8diD> and complete a search on a topic that interests you.

To view the actual documents—which can include the final paper, poster presentation, PowerPoint and brochures—click "View Media List" and the title of the document you wish to browse.

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



Physical Therapist Assistant Program: From Good to Great

By Dr. Andrea Nebel, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director & Associate Professor

We are so thankful to all of the current students and alumni of the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. Because of them, the program is approaching its 20-year anniversary!

The program opened in fall 1994 and has maintained the commitment to educate high-quality physical therapist assistants as well as support them in their community endeavors. I can attest to the past 10 years and want to share some of the highlights:

- › **Renovated lab and classroom space.** That is right. PTA students no longer write on treatment tables—they have desks!
- › **Continued service in the community.** Main service partners include the Special Olympics Fun Fitness Program; Multiple Sclerosis Forward Balance, Strength and Agility Programming; Lewis and Clark Middle School Healthy Living Program; and Fall Prevention Tips and Balance Screens at local churches and assisted living facilities. More than 200 students have served the community with well over 2,000 hours of physical therapy-related service.
- › **Creation of the only PTA transfer program in the Midwest.** This program was implemented in fall 2009. It was created for prospective students who have completed extensive prerequisite work or have an associate's or bachelor's degree. Since its inception four years ago, more than 70 students have graduated from the transfer program.

- › **Expanded clinical education.** Our clinical education continues to grow and develop as we contact alumni to serve as our students' clinical instructor(s) and assist with their clinical education. The PTA program continues to place students in a variety of settings—both inside and outside of the Omaha metro area—to serve the country at large, to maintain success in becoming great clinicians and to aid in job placement.
- › **Success of our graduates.** Thank you for staying in touch. Our graduates continue to be successfully employed, work in a variety of settings and place above the national standards on the National Board Examination.
- › **Future plans.** Our faculty members work on many committees here at the College, as well as on the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association and the American Physical Therapy Association. Current work is being done on the feasibility of a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapist Assistant, consortium outreach, and educational programming for educators and clinicians.

I encourage all of you to stop by and see the many PTA program and College updates and visit with faculty members. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for being a part of something great as a result of the work you've done and support you provide!

Ball Welcomed as New Director

Mary Ball became the new Center for Teaching Excellence Director this past summer

Where are you originally from?
Tekama, Neb.

What is your educational background?
I have a Bachelor's degree from UNL and a Master's degree in Education from University of Phoenix. I am currently working on my Ed.D. in Higher Education and Adult Learning.



What is your professional background?
I taught high school for several years and then shifted over to higher education. I have been in higher education for the past eight years as faculty and staff. I have spent those years teaching in the classroom and then building numerous online courses for several different colleges. This foundation has helped in my past position and will help me in this current position. My most rewarding time is spent providing faculty with tools to accomplish their goals in the classroom.

What interested you in applying at Clarkson College?
I was really excited about the "feel" of the College. Clarkson College is really respected, and I feel very comfortable and welcomed here.

What are you most looking forward to about your new position?
Meeting new people, learning with and from others and assisting the CTE with providing faculty with the resources to create optimal learning environments for students.

How do you enjoy spending your leisure time?
I love to read about new technologies and how they are being used in education.

What is something others may not know about you but you wouldn't mind sharing?
I am a "closet" Duck Dynasty fan.

Ravel-Unravel with Project Interfaith: A Partnership Exploring Diversity

By Monica White, General Education Assistant Professor

Clarkson College has an ongoing partnership with community agency Project Interfaith. If you have not heard of this organization, Omaha is proud to boast of the amazing programming and outreach done to provide diversity education through the lens of religion/spirituality. Alumni would likely enjoy the programming that occurs all year long and can find updated information at projectinterfaith.org.

"Core 1: Effective Interventions in the World of Health Care" is the first of three Core classes students now take at Clarkson College. Alumni might better recognize "HC 102: Health Care Communication" or previous seminar classes through General Education completed in their first year. Beginning fall 2010, Clarkson College rolled out the newly redesigned and updated Core classes. Core 1 has a focus on cultural competency in health care, holistic assessment and becoming more aware of one's own journey and worldview that can unintentionally impact patient care.

Core 1 integrates service hours in the class and began partnering with Project Interfaith in fall 2010 as one of many possible community agencies where students could complete their hours. The seed for the now internationally known and utilized Ravel-Unravel program began from a project that fall where students used flip cameras to video-record volunteers on five questions related to their religious/spiritual identity, beliefs and possible stereotyping they have experienced.

The amazing response that grew from this project now encompasses more than 900 voluntarily recorded video clips on a wide range of religious/spiritual perspectives (all viewable at ravelunravel.com) and includes a supplementary college curriculum. Core 1 piloted this curriculum in 2012-13 and now formally includes it in the ongoing Core 1 experience.

Students are led through activities utilizing video clips from the Ravel-Unravel website, followed by small group discussion and reflection about topics such as worldview and identity; values; stereotyping/bias; context and culture; hospitality and integrating all

concepts together. These activities provide a safe way to consider such topics from outside of oneself, and reflect on personal perspectives and how this might impact health care providers caring for a richly diverse patient population. The activities are all done through the lens of spirituality/religion, thus also providing additional exposure to the range of religious/spiritual expression we may encounter.

Student feedback has been amazing and positive, as they have the opportunity to hear authentic voices from a range of religious/spiritual belief systems; consider their own worldview and how it might impact those they care for; and provide a safe forum to discuss a deeply held value topic without the need to become defensive. Sarah Kirke shared, "This class helped to open my eyes and mind to things that I didn't even realize I was thinking [stereotypes] and has honestly changed the way I view others in day-to-day situations. We have a long way to go on building our tolerance and relationships in this country, but I believe things like this will help get that ball rolling." Jennifer Cupak noted, "I've really enjoyed the group conversations that we've had, and it's such a pleasure to try to look at the world through someone else's words and experiences—not only through the discussions but through the Ravel-Unravel videos that I've watched."

We practice skills such as listening without having to agree; seeking clarification when something isn't clear or might sound offensive; and asking questions about religious/spiritual beliefs that impact how one experiences the world. We connect the role of religion/spirituality to health and how it is often drawn upon during times the health care provider may be interacting with the patient. Students have shared how such insight has already changed the way they interact with patients through work and clinical, as well as how they consider current events and their community.

After using the Ravel-Unravel curriculum with 275 Clarkson College students, we saw significant shifts in student comfort levels with having conversations about religion, spirituality, culture and identity. Before using

the curriculum, only 37 percent of students surveyed felt "somewhat comfortable" or "very comfortable" having conversations on those topics. After using the curriculum, the percentage of students surveyed who said that they were "somewhat comfortable" or "very comfortable" having these conversations jumped to 77 percent.

We welcome everyone to check out the amazing program ravelunravel.com and join the conversation!

Let Us Hear About Your Travel Wishes

Where in the world would you like to visit?

We would like to hear your input on what destinations interest you for future Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) trips. Several alumni participate in the annual ATA trips, and your input pertaining to travel destinations is important.

Let us know where you'd like to go by ranking the below destinations from one to five, with one being your top selection and five being your last choice. E-mail your travel destination preferences to ATA Coordinator Dr. Patricia Brennan at brennan@clarksoncollege.edu.

England and Scotland: travel from London to Edinburgh

Italy: travel from Rome to Milan

Ireland

Austria to Czech Republic: travel from Vienna to Prague

Spain: travel from Granada to the Spanish Riviera

August 2013 Clarkson College Graduates

Academic Excellence Awards

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

Marietta Mae Boettcher
Diploma in Practical Nursing

Megan Lynne Stuhr & Deborah Joy VanDerHart
Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Chelsey Morgan Cech & David Aron Roth
Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Chelsey Morgan Cech
Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Cathy Kay Lowrey
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business

Mindy Kay Royster
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Bradley D. Pfeifer
Master in Health Care Administration

Jane Elizabeth Miller
Master of Science in Nursing

Certificate in Imaging Informatics

McKinze Marie Anstey
Andre Sean Bentley ****
William Austin Garbers
Dianne L. Lowe Σ**

Diploma in Practical Nursing

Marietta Mae Boettcher ****
Jonnell Dominique Brewer
Eboni Iman Brooks
Jacqueline Renee Clerc **
Jamie Michelle Lorraine Flores ****
Rayna Geraldine Johnson
Kristen R. Lawton *
Kelsey Michelle Lulow **
Anne Elizabeth Mitchell
Elizabeth Marie Schonder
Sereene C. Talkington
Howard Taylor Jr.
Nicole Marie Waters
Amy Paige Wilde

Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Robyn Nicole Beaty
Preston Richard Beller
Christopher Michael Bohaty ****
Jennifer Michelle Debus ****
Lora Rae DeLair ***

Savannah Kristine Hake
Jacob Jeffery Holbrook *
Reuben Telquie Jackson
Kristen Anne Kaluza
Dayna Rae Kathman
Andrea Marie Lightfoot
K. Ryan Meyer **

Danielle Marie Micek
Annie G. Peterson Σ**
Emily Powers ****
Tracy A. Risch
Chadd Michael Russell
Megan Lynne Stuhr ****
Kelly Alan Summerfield **
Deborah Joy VanDerHart Σ****

Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology

Deborah Anderson Σλ**
McKinze Marie Anstey
Taylor Trimble Ashmore λ
Dylan Boyle
Nicole Leigh Carroll *
Chelsey Morgan Cech λ****
Abby Rose Deis
Melissa Kay Elkins
Tara R. Forest
Kyla Hartog
Michaela Nicole Hobbs λ*
Samantha R. Hrabik Σλ*
Brian R. Juhl
Elizabeth Jane Kroeger λ
Ahmed Naciri λ****
Mikaela Lee Nedved
Tanya C. Patterson
Ashley M. Pecoraro ****
Rebecca J. Pickett
David Aron Roth λ****
Laura Louise Rutten λ****
Lauren Marie Shirk λ***
Alyssa Elizabeth Steele λ***
Blair Thompson λ****
Abby Marie Tunning

Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Deborah Anderson Σλ**
McKinze Marie Anstey
Taylor Trimble Ashmore λ
Chelsey Morgan Cech λ****
William Austin Garbers
Dianne L. Lowe Σ**
Alyssa Elizabeth Steele λ***
Blair Thompson λ****

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business in Health Information Management

Melinda M. Husman
Megan Amanda Kennebeck **
Summer Jo Shurila Σ
Charlene Diane Warsocki

Bachelor of Science in Health Care Business Management

Cathy Kay Lowrey **
Ariel Alexis Rathjen

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Kerri Lynn Adkins
Sara Jo Biel
Derek Ryan Brester †
Rebecca Marie Coffey
Jennifer Margaret Dawson †
Clara Hung Drake
Melinda M. Floersch
Tabitha Rae Fritz
Elizabeth Garcia
Brittany Anna Gaytan
Ashley Groene ***
Katherine Ann Hartig Σ
Dawn Elizabeth Hoskins †**
Mary Anne Iannucci
Seithon Kpokoudjo Σ
Brandon Travis Larreau
Jennifer Mahoney
Stacy Renée Militsakh †
Mark Palacio
Nicole Marie Privitera †**
Shay Nicole Prochaska
Stefanie D. Qahhaar
Connie Sue Radke Σ†**
Dana Marie Ratigan *
Ashley Rene' Rawlings Σ
Mindy Kay Royster †****
Whitney Jean Ruffcorn *
Laura G. Schaefer Σ
Brandi Michelle Scott
Alaina Rae Wiebelhaus †

Master in Health Care Administration

Leslie Ann Fennell
Bradley D. Pfeifer Σ

Master of Science in Nursing

Rebecca Leigh Anderson
Karen Betjacob †
Angela J. Blankenship
Brooke M. Bynum
Wendy Lynn Chapin
Kristin Marie Christensen
Lisa Catherine Doom-Anderson †

Erika A. Dunn
Carly Kay Frost
Rebecca June Heits Σ†
Megan Marie Hinrichsen
Paul Anthony Inserra
Patricia Gail Kirkpatrick †
Cassandra Lynn Kuhl
Stephanie M. Leader
Laura Ann Lombardo
Marla J. Melgoza Σ
Jane Elizabeth Miller
Michelle Sue Mizell Σ

Honor societies at the College:

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

Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing

Halima Nene Anaza

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 number of required residency hours.

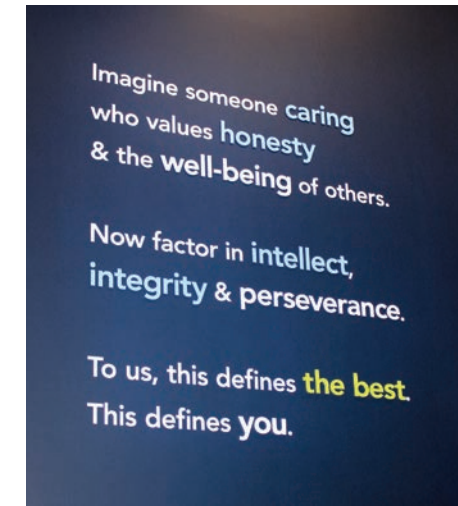
Honors are distinguished by:

- **** 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

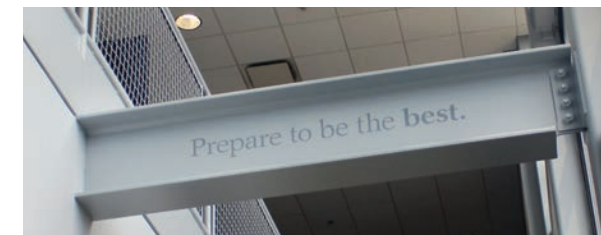
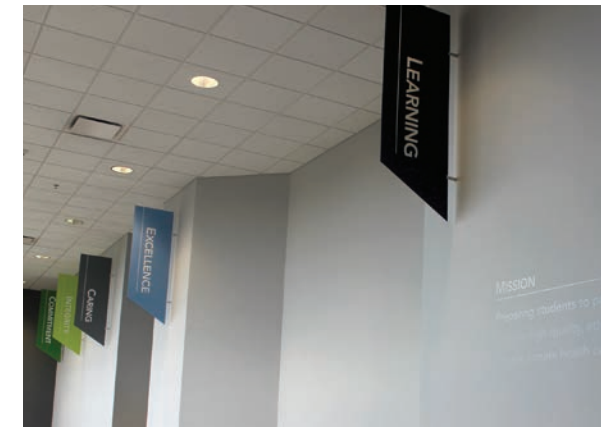
Honor societies at the College:

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

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, TEXT DESCRIBING HOW CLARKSON COLLEGE DEFINES THE BEST. THE COLLEGE MISSION & VALUES ON DISPLAY OUTSIDE OF HOWARD HALL. THE COLLEGE TAGLINE ABOVE THE STAIRS IN THE STUDENT CENTER.



Building the Brand & Defining "The Best"

By Jina Paul, Director of Marketing

When people think about branding, they typically go straight to advertising, such as billboards and radio spots. Yes, external brand advertising is a key component to telling our story and conveying our message about what Clarkson College has to offer. However, we also recognize that environmental branding should take a front seat and be a part of the mix, too.

Incorporating your brand into a physical space is an opportunity to shape the overall mindset of all who enter its doors. It tells a visual story about who an organization is, what it stands for and why people want to be a part of it.

When you step foot onto the Clarkson College campus, without a doubt you feel you are a part of a close-knit community. You see pride and determination on the faces of students, faculty and staff. You know everyone is working hard to do their part for the end result to equal success.

Over the past couple of years, the Clarkson College Student Center has evolved into an inviting environment to visit, study and work.

It's a space that now reflects who we are as a college and gives you a feeling of inspiration and a reminder of purpose.

This past summer, the final touches to brand the space were achieved by installing the Clarkson College Mission in vinyl letters on the wall outside of Howard Hall. In addition, new, large vertical banners highlighting the College Values now adorn the upper level area, accentuating the grandeur of the space. To round it off, at the top of the staircase you are now greeted by a feature wall with inspiring text describing how we (Clarkson College) define "the best."

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. If you haven't had a chance to experience it yourself, please know you are invited and always welcome. Our alumni have shaped us into who we are today, and our future graduates will carry on this legacy. Thank you for being a part of "the best" and helping us feel confident to not only say it, but to display it in a way that demonstrates pride and success.



Prepare to be the **best**.

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AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

NOV. 26 FROM 9 A.M.–3 P.M.

HOWARD HALL, CLARKSON
COLLEGE CAMPUS

To register for an appointment, use
sponsor code 009959 to schedule your
appointment online or call 1.800.RED.
CROSS (1.800.733.2767).

Donors Needed to Participate in Upcoming Blood Drive

Your generosity aids those in need

In fall 2012, general education course Core I: Effective Interactions in the World of Health Care, taught by Monica White, added another community agency to their long list of agencies the students work with during the semester. The students began recruiting and hosting American Red Cross blood drives as one of the group service projects. Students work in conjunction with the American Red Cross staff and have worked to steadily increase the number of donors and blood donations with each blood drive.

Clarkson College is proud of the Core I students' continuing efforts to educate individuals about blood donation and support the blood drive staff at each event. Our June 2013 blood drive saw an all-time record at Clarkson College of 42 units donated.

Participate as a donor

It is not easy for everyone to donate and takes intentional choice and willingness to become a donor. The students and faculty would like to encourage Clarkson College Alumni to donate at the next blood drive. Consider marking your schedule for the drive held at Clarkson College on Nov. 26.

To register for an appointment, use sponsor code 009959 to schedule your appointment online or call 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).