

# Alumni Times

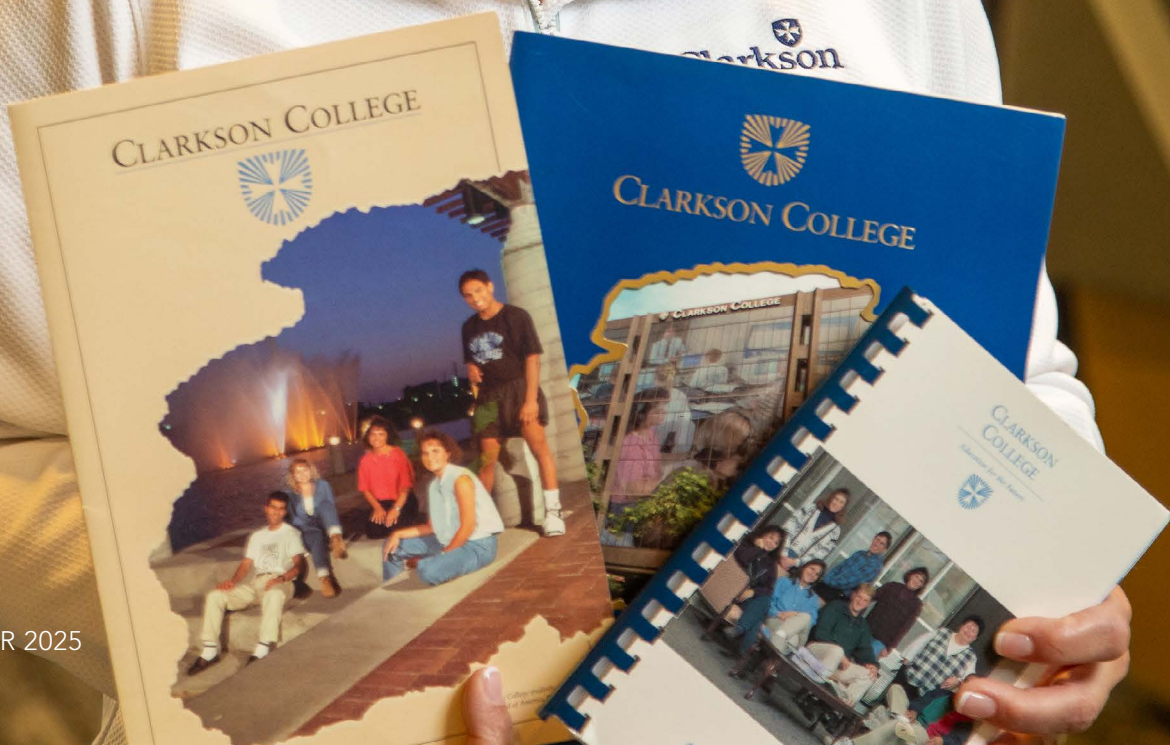
THE LATEST FROM CLARKSON COLLEGE

▶  
*Ready to Work for You  
New Board Members Named*

▶  
*Celebrating Our  
Outstanding Alumni*

▶  
*Sculpture Honors  
Servant Leader*

**THE DAWN OF  
A NURSING  
CAREER**



WINTER 2025



# high five



DR. RACHEL HOLM  
ACADEMIC TRAVEL &  
MISSION ADMINISTRATOR

## 1 What books have you been reading lately? (aka, what book is on your nightstand?)

I recently finished *The Women* by Kristin Hannah and started *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden while traveling with our ATA group to France. I like to balance something I can learn from with a little bit of brain candy.

## 2 What is your favorite comfort food?

I often joke that I have the palate of an 8 year old but it is really no joke. Think macaroni and cheese, chicken nuggets, tacos, and cookies. Luckily, I enjoy cooking, so I do force myself to eat a balanced diet. But if I'm indulging, it is nothing fancy.

## 3 If you could have dinner with any person (dead or alive), who would it be and why?

My paternal grandmother, Alberta Ogden, died before I was born. I have been told that I resemble her in different ways - so much so that some of my extended family called me "Berta" when I was younger.



## 4 What is a hobby that you enjoy that would shock people to know?

I climb mountains! Big ones! I have summited Long's Peak, a "14er" in the Rocky Mountain National Park. My dad is a big hiker and got me interested in it.

## 5 What are the top three things on your bucket list?

1. Return to my favorite ATA destinations. My husband, Ryan, and I have been blessed to travel with ATA, and we keep a list of the destinations to which we hope to return someday.

2. Leave a legacy at Clarkson College. This institution has allowed me to grow in so many ways - it has truly become one of the loves of my life. I hope to ensure the success of Clarkson College beyond my years of service.

3. Watch my daughters become mothers. I would love to experience being a mother to my daughters as they grow into mothers themselves.

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### On the Cover

Dawn Fichter, BSN 1996, had a big adventure during her undergraduate years. See page 8 to read all about it!

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▶ The phenomenon that was Taylor Swift's worldwide Eras Tour served as the perfect theme for Spirit Week 2024. "Clarkson College Eras" was a fun way to honor our rich history and celebrate our current students. Daily activities included an all-campus Open House, lunch with The Pancake Man, Legacy Series Lunch, Heritage Garden Walk, and a full slate of alumni focused events including a Saturday brunch.



The public was invited to campus for our annual Open House.



There was no shortage of celebratory food including a fun lunch from the Pancake Man.



Alumni gathered for a delicious brunch on Saturday, September 28.

## ▶ Stay Connected

Stay connected and see all the events and benefits of being part of the Alumni Association by following us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** at **@clarksoncollegealumni**. Remember, you are automatically a member when you graduate, and you will always be part of the Clarkson College family.

# OUTSTANDING ALUMNI FETED AT ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

**C** September's Spirit Week offered opportunities to celebrate our alumni all week. At the annual banquet September 27, the Clarkson College Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award was awarded to two of our great alumni, Allyson Doerr and Melanie McCoy. This award recognizes the extraordinary support individuals who have had significant impact on Clarkson College or the healthcare community in which they reside.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

### ALLYSON DOERR

Allyson Doerr grew up in Pierce, Nebraska where her passion for healthcare began in high school after job shadowing a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). This experience solidified her career aspirations. She earned her BSN from Midland University in May 2011 and began working as a staff nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Creighton University Medical Center later that year.

In 2013, Allyson was accepted into the Clarkson College nurse anesthesia program, a moment she describes as both thrilling and fortunate as it allowed her to remain in Omaha. During her clinical training, she worked with various CHI hospitals in the Omaha metro area with Immanuel Medical Center as her home base. She developed a strong connection with her mentors at Immanuel, ultimately joining their team as a CRNA after completing the program.

Allyson administered her first anesthetic as a student registered nurse anesthetist (SRNA) in 2015 and officially became a CRNA in 2017. In 2019, she took on the volunteer role of student clinical coordinator for SRNAs at CHI Immanuel and Mercy Council Bluffs. Over the years, she has streamlined processes and created handbooks to ease students into their clinical experiences.

Reflecting on her journey, Allyson credits Clarkson College with preparing her for a fulfilling career and making her high school dream a reality. Outside of her professional life, Allyson lives with her husband, Jacob Phillips, and their three huskies—Maximus, Archie, and Poppy. She volunteers with Taysia Blue Husky Rescue

and enjoys gardening and houseplants, with a focus on preserving Nebraska native plants. Her home is certified as a Nebraska Pollinator Habitat, reflecting her passion for conservation and nature.

### MELANIE ANN FINCH-MCCROY

Following graduation from Omaha's Central High School, Melanie attended Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, where she began her pre-nursing course work. She returned to Omaha and completed her education at Clarkson College, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her career spans over 40 years and includes working in ICU/CCU and cardiac catheterization lab settings. She recently retired from Charles Drew Health Center, Inc. where she served as the Director of Nursing for 23 years. She found it fulfilling to have the privilege of serving the community in which she was raised. Melanie could be seen in the community performing blood pressure screenings at health fairs, walking or covering first aid stations at the Juneteenth, Native Omaha day and Benson parades, assisting with the administration of flu vaccines at Nelson Mandela School and as a participant in the Community Earn a Bike project.

Melanie is a lifelong member of Omaha's Zion Baptist Church and attributes her success as a nurse to her Christian upbringing. She serves as President of the Deaconess Ministry, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Ministry, member of the Usher's Nurses ministry, Women of Faith ministry, Culinary ministry, Health & Wellness ministry and she is an active participant in the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School & Discipleship Academy. Through this involvement, Melanie has participated in the Free Clothing Community Give Away, Homeless Impoverished Saints' Dinners (serving the homeless community), St Joe Villa Project (providing a mini-church service to the residents), Easter service for the residents at Immanuel Fontenelle Home, and Good Neighbor Sundays, where the church goes out into the community to share the ABC's of Salvation.

Melanie is a member of the North Omaha Optimist Club, a youth service organization, whose goal is to make the future better by bringing out the best in the children within the Community. Melanie is also a member of the Omaha chapter of The Links, Inc., an exclusive non-profit organization based upon the ideals of combining friendship and community service; she has been a



Allyson Doer and Melanie Ann Finch-Mccroy were honored at the annual dinner September 27.



During the presentation at our annual dinner, Rita shared how surprised and honored she felt to be the inaugural recipient of the Miss Minerva Ryley Award. She admires Miss Ryley, an 1898 graduate of the Bishop Clarkson Memorial School of Nursing and the founder of the Alumni Association. Miss Ryley's lifelong dedication to the school, its students, and the Alumni Association set a remarkable example. Rita recounted how Miss Ryley, always clad proudly in her nursing uniform at alumni events, exemplified professionalism and pride in her alma mater. Miss Ryley's attention to detail and her lighthearted reminders about uniform skirt lengths remain fond memories of her character and leadership.

Rita praised Trish for embodying the same qualities as Miss Ryley—dedication, support, and unwavering commitment to Clarkson College and the Alumni Association.

member for 10 years and has served as treasurer and currently serves as the Correspondence Secretary.

In 2019, Melanie was honored to be the recipient of the Legacy Award for Health & Wellness, presented to her by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Greater Omaha Chapter.

Melanie was happily married to the late Anthony McCroy; they were blessed to have one son, Christopher Anthony McCroy, a 2016 graduate from Morehouse College, in Atlanta Georgia and current student at UCLA, where he is working on his Doctorate in Educational Administration. Melanie enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, spending time with family and helping others.

## MISS MINERVA RYLEY LEGACY AWARD

### PATRICIA WEBER

The Alumni Association invites Clarkson College alumni to nominate an alumnus who has contributed in an extraordinary way toward the College or the Association. Awardees of the prestigious Miss Minerva Ryley Legacy Award have a strong, dedicated commitment and have given a large amount of time to advocate, support or contribute to the Alumni Association and alumni. Our 2021 recipient, **Rita Van Fleet**, had the privilege of passing the torch to the 2024 awardee, Trish Weber.





## The Power of Recognition

Receiving the Miss Minerva Ryley Legacy Award at this year's Alumni Dinner was a moment of immense pride for **Trish Weber**. "To be recognized by the Clarkson College Alumni Association and to receive the award from my mentor, Rita Van Fleet, was deeply humbling," she shared.

For Trish, the award is not just a personal achievement but a testament to the power of giving back. "Rita has been a role model and inspiration for me," she said. "Her leadership and dedication to the Alumni Association have shaped the community we cherish today."

Trish emphasized the importance of recognizing and celebrating individuals who continue to uphold the spirit of Clarkson College. "This award connects me to the legacy of Miss Minerva Ryley, a woman who dedicated her life to this institution," she said. "It motivates me to continue contributing to the college's mission and to inspire others to do the same."

As Clarkson College moves forward, Trish calls on all alumni to honor the past while shaping the future. "Let us celebrate the extraordinary individuals who make a difference," she said. "Together, we can ensure the legacy of Clarkson College remains strong for generations to come."

Trish Weber, M.H.A, R.T. (R) (CT) ARRT serves Clarkson College as Assistant Director and Associate Professor in the Radiography & Medical Imaging Programs and Technology.

### A CAREER SHAPED BY CLARKSON COLLEGE: A REFLECTION BY TRISH WEBER

In this reflection, Trish Weber shares her thoughts on how Clarkson College affected her life and career.

"I feel like every step of my career here at Clarkson College, at just the right time, is an opportunity to fuel my passion, an opportunity to change healthcare.



Trish Weber demonstrating the power of new technology to fellow alumni.

My journey began as a student in the radiography and medical imaging programs, where I first discovered how innovation and technology can transform healthcare. Clarkson College taught me the value of patient-centered care and the importance of lifelong learning, principles that have shaped every step of my path.

One pivotal moment was the creation of the 3D Printing and Training Center. Seeing the growing need for skilled professionals in medical 3D printing, we launched the nation's first Medical 3D Printing Specialist certificate. This wasn't just about technology—it was about making medical 3D printing accessible to everyone. Our collaboration with industry leaders brought cutting-edge advancements right to the Clarkson College doorstep. In 2022, when the 3D Printing and Training Center opened its doors, it did so with a mission: to make 3D printing and visualization a universal language in personalized healthcare.

The center has since become a place of discovery and understanding, where clinicians and patients can better visualize diagnoses, and where research

and simulation thrive. New doors kept opening, and in 2023, our partnership with 3D Systems allowed us to offer FDA 510(k) cleared, patient-specific devices to the healthcare community.

Every day, my heart swells with gratitude. I'm privileged to play a role in improving patient care and supporting clinicians. I think often of the legacy left by our founders, **Bishop and Meliora Clarkson**, who began this mission 137 years ago to serve the community and train compassionate healthcare professionals. I also draw inspiration from trailblazers like Dr. Patricia Book Perry, who broke boundaries in healthcare education.

I am lifted up daily by mentors at Clarkson College who have shown me unwavering support and belief. Their encouragement reminds me that innovation is a team effort, and our collective spirit fuels this journey.

I am grateful—for the past, for these opportunities, and for the chance to shape a future where technology, care, and community come together to make healthcare better for everyone."



Sculptor Les Bruning and artist Jason Schleicher at the forge at Omaha's Hot Shops.

# Forged in History

NEW SCULPTURE HONORS MR. BRUCE LAURITZEN

▶ **THE FEBRUARY 2024 LOSS OF** philanthropist and business leader, **Bruce Lauritzen**, impacted the Clarkson College community and the community at large. Throughout the region, Mr. Lauritzen, the great-great grandson of **Bishop Robert and Meliora Clarkson** and the chairman of First National Bank of Omaha, was known as a servant leader and supporter of healthcare. Clarkson College chose to commemorate Mr. Lauritzen's life of service by commissioning a new sculpture for the Clarkson Service League Heritage Garden.

The design incorporates the themes of knowledge and history. Local artist, **Jason Schleicher**, provided a sketch of a sundial positioned on an open book to renowned sculptor, **Les Bruning**. At his workshop in north downtown Omaha, Mr. Bruning forged the bronze sculpture.

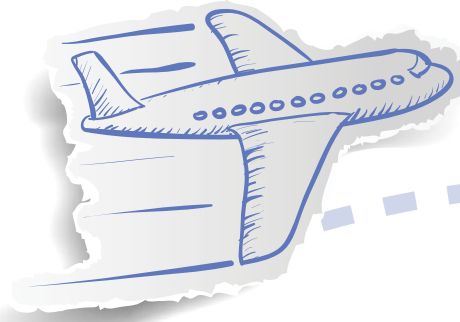
The sculpture was dedicated to the memory of Bruce Lauritzen at the 18th annual Heritage Garden Walk held on September 26 during Clarkson College Spirit Week. The College was honored to have Mr. and Mrs. Clark Lauritzen and Bishop J. Scott Barker of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska in attendance.



Bishop J. Scott Barker with Clark and Emily Lauritzen.



The new sculpture was created in the Hot Shops forge of Les Bruning.



# The Not-so-typical Adventures of a '90s Nursing Student

Students heading off to college may hope to experience thrilling adventures. This was true for young **Dawn Brinkhoff** when she enrolled at Clarkson College in 1992. Her yearning for excitement, however, didn't necessarily involve an elevator at Kiewit Tower. But when she found herself alone and stuck, she mustered her strength to pry open the heavy metal doors and climb to the floor above to safety.

Such was the life for a co-ed away from home and living on-campus as a full-time nursing student. Dawn lived in Kiewit Tower for one year and then at a school-owned apartment near 44th and Dodge Street. She was involved in campus activities, serving as a Resident Assistant for two years and as student government president for one year. She was also a student ambassador and enjoyed a work study job in the "skills lab." During her time at the College, Nursing was the majority program with classes held only in what is now referred to as the Main Building. General education coursework was completed at Bellevue University.

Two factors originally drew Dawn to Clarkson College. During high school, she was inspired by her

Dawn Fichter and Melissa Coen remain good friends, 30 years after encountering a knight in shining armour.

part-time job at a local nursing home. Participating in the "Clarkson Explorers" program sealed the deal. This group, comprised of area high school students, visited campus six times during the school year and explored healthcare careers during field trips to Clarkson Hospital (now Nebraska Medicine).

In the summer of 1995, between her junior and senior years at Clarkson College, Dawn set off on a real adventure. Alongside her roommate Melissa (Gray) Coen and six fellow students led by Dean Chuck Beauchamp, the group travelled to Chester, England to study for two months at Chester College (now known as University of Chester). They integrated with the English students, going to class and eating in the cafeteria. They were officially completing a Community Health nursing course and worked with a visiting health nurse traveling by train, bus, or foot for clinicals. They performed tasks such as mother/baby visits and childhood immunizations. The United Kingdom's National Health Service introduced a new way of doing things with emphasis on preventative health.

Fridays were free days, and their adventures took them to Scotland and Wales. Taking advantage of a few extra days granted for observance of Independence Day, the group took a boat overnight to Ireland, enjoying a boisterous on-board bunch of Elvis impersonators. They also had an opportunity to visit Melissa's Aunt Tilly, an English resident. At the end of





their stay in England, they enjoyed exploring Rome and Paris during a 10-day tour.

With a memorable adventure or two under her belt, Dawn earned a BSN in 1996. She credits professors Dr. Mae Timmons and Dr. Fay Bower with inspiring her and many lifelong friendships forged for sustaining her.

While still an undergraduate, Dawn's nursing career began at Methodist Hospital in the post-partum department and as a CNA. After graduating, she accepted a full-time job at Children's Hospital in the pediatric intensive care unit then spent seven years in pediatric cardiology. During this time and with a growing family, Dawn transitioned into a role as a school nurse. She then earned a post-secondary teaching certificate through the University of Iowa and taught in the Missouri Valley (Iowa) school district as school nurse and health science teacher for 14 years. She also served on the Harrison County (IA) Board of Health, including a few years as Chair.

She earned a master's degree in nursing education from Nebraska Methodist, utilizing a nurse/faculty loan program where 80% of loans

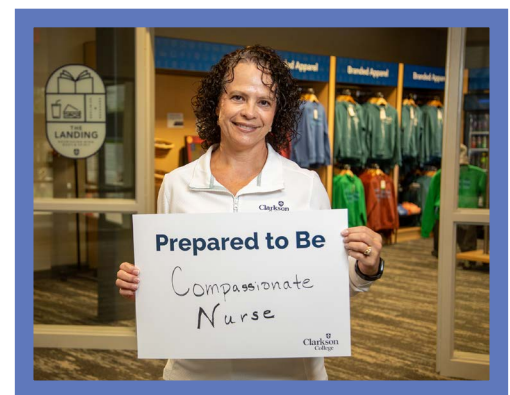
were forgiven if she worked as a nurse educator. Dawn returned to Clarkson College in 2017 as an instructor. With a continued desire to learn, she completed her Doctor of Education in Public Health Policy in 2023. She currently serves as an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Nursing Clinical Program Administrator for the Undergraduate Nursing Program at Clarkson College.

Dawn credits her career in nursing for many opportunities and flexibility to meet the needs of her growing family. She and her husband Daryl are the parents of three children, Riley, Alec, and Nikayla.

As Clarkson College continues to expand its program offerings, Dawn is proud to see that the reputation of the College continues. Graduates are highly regarded within the healthcare system. As the profession advances, Dawn believes the future of nursing will offer many opportunities and challenges. As nurses contribute significantly across various fields, she will continue striving to improve public health. She is committed to guiding her students in discovering their passion within their nursing careers.



Dean Chuck Beauchamp escorted a group of students to Chester, England.



Dr. Dawn Brinkhoff Fichter, BSN '96, EdD '23, returned to her Clarkson College roots and is now an associate professor in the Undergraduate Nursing program.



CONGRATULATIONS  
AND "THANK YOU" TO  
THE NEWLY-ELECTED  
MEMBERS OF THE  
CLARKSON COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
BOARD



**Kathryn Partusch, MSN, RN, CCRN**  
**Position: Director**

Kathryn Partusch graduated from Clarkson College in 2020 with her BSN and works as an ICU nurse at CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center–Bergan Mercy. With a passion for nursing education, she earned her Master's in Nursing Education from Nebraska Methodist College in 2024. In her free time, Kathryn enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing bingo, and reading. She joined the Alumni Association Board to give back to Clarkson College and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals while fostering connections among alumni.



**Madelyn Flowers, MSN, RN**  
**Position: Director**

Madelyn Flowers earned her BSN from Clarkson College in 2019. She currently works as a labor and delivery nurse at CHICUMC Bergan Mercy and has additional experience in pediatric critical care and travel nursing. With a master's degree in nursing education, she is a clinical instructor at Clarkson College, teaching maternal/child and fundamentals of nursing. Married in 2023, she welcomed her first child, Jameson, in 2024. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.



**Rachel Holm, EdD, LCSW, MSW**  
**Position: Director**

Rachel Holm is the Academic Travel & Mission Administrator at Clarkson College. She manages the Academic Travel Abroad (ATA) program and leads mission trips, locally and internationally. As a faculty member, she has taught cultural competence, community health, and end-of-life care, and continues teaching Death and Dying. She holds a doctorate in Healthcare Education and Leadership from Clarkson College and a master's in Social Work from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Rachel is married with six children and enjoys traveling, sports, and mountain climbing.



**Marsha Yembi, EdD, MSN, RN**  
**Position: Director**

Marsha Yembi is a three-time graduate of Clarkson College and currently teaches in the Undergraduate Nursing Program. In her free time, she enjoys attending her daughter's dance competitions, soccer, and volleyball games, as well as reading books and watching Wheel of Fortune. She joined the Alumni Association Board to give back to the institution that shaped her career, mentor students, and connect with fellow alumni.



**Karen Abboud, PTA, MHA, CLT**  
**Position: Director**

Karen Abboud is an Associate Professor in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Clarkson College, with extensive experience in clinical education and geriatrics. A certified lymphedema therapist, she also practices Reiki and meditation. Married for nearly 25 years, she enjoys spending time with her family and their numerous pets. Karen is passionate about supporting Clarkson College through the Alumni Association.



**Bill Koile, MBA, MS**  
**Position: President**

Bill Koile has a long-standing connection to Clarkson College, with an MHA from the college and an MBA from the University of Colorado. He serves as the Interim Director of Solid Organ Transplant and Medicine Specialties at Nebraska Medicine. He's also adjunct faculty at Clarkson College and is pursuing an EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership at the College. Residing in Valley, NE, Bill is deeply involved in his community and family life, coaching sports and engaging in outdoor activities. He is passionate about mentoring and advocating for Clarkson College.



**Kendra Swanson, MHA, R.T. (R) (MR)(CT)(ARRT)**  
**Position: Secretary/Treasurer**

Kendra Swanson, a three-time Clarkson College graduate, is an instructor in the Radiography and Medical Imaging Programs and works as needed at Cass Health. With a background in radiologic technology and medical imaging, she enjoys reading, spending time with family, and farm life. She values the Alumni Association for its networking and support opportunities.



**Jenette Smith, Ed.D., DipACLM, M.S.**  
**Position: Vice President**

Dr. Jenette Smith earned a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Healthcare Education & Leadership from Clarkson College. She is certified in Lifestyle Medicine and has a master's degree in Health Education/Studies in Aging. Dr. Smith is faculty in the EdD programs at Clarkson College and is involved in numerous academic committees. Residing in Colorado, she enjoys spending time with her family and the outdoors. She is dedicated to advancing the mission of Clarkson College and engaging with alumni.

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**"Alumni, let's stay connected! I encourage you to get involved with the Alumni Association and stay engaged with the college. Your insights and support are crucial as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."**

**BILL KOILE,**  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

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## **Travel to Ireland**

**WITH ACADEMIC TRAVEL & MISSION**  
**MAY 3–12, 2026**

Cost: \$4089 per traveler  
Payment plan available  
Financial aid available for those who qualify  
Bring your favorite travel companion

**Contact: Dr. Rachel Holm, MSW, LCSW**  
Academic Travel & Mission Administrator

HolmRachel@clarksoncollege.edu  
402.552.3104  
clarksoncollege.edu/academics/  
academic-travel-abroad

# Fall 2024 Graduate List

## Certificate in Computed Tomography

Yessenia Guadalupe Flores-Santiago

## Certificate in Health Information Management

Lyrice Baxter  
Heidi Troxel

## Certificate in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

Jessica M. Lehman  $\lambda$   
Ashley Summers  $\lambda$

## Associate of Science in Health Information Technology

Jazmin Leah Cawthon

## Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Collin J. Burdess  
Alyssa Donley *summa cum laude*  
Emily Hevi  
Jaiden Inselman  
Madisen Rose Jelinek *summa cum laude*  
Elizabeth Ann Larson *summa cum laude*  
Erika A. Piper  
Carrie Simonson *summa cum laude*

## Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Faythe Bohnert *cum laude*  $\Sigma$   
Nuria E. Villatoro

## Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Business

Denise Beber – Health Information Administration  $\Sigma$   
Rachael Hubbard – Healthcare Business Management  
Amy Smith – Health Information Administration *magna cum laude*  $\Sigma$   
Brennen Smith – Healthcare Business Management

## Bachelor of Science Medical Imaging

Hannah N. Borgmann  
Melody Lynn Edmiston  
Yessenia Guadalupe Flores-Santiago

Raina M. Hutton  $\lambda$   
Jessiza M. Lehman *with distinction*  $\lambda$   
Chloe Jean Sales  $\lambda$   $\Sigma$   
Madison Stark  $\lambda$   
Fredy Suarez Diaz Roehrich *with distinction*  $\lambda$   
Ellana L. Willis *summa cum laude*  $\lambda$

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jano Muna Ahmed Jama *summa cum laude*  
Afoua Badaama Badjaglana *summa cum laude*  
Alexa Renee Benda *summa cum laude*  
Tara Lynn Beneux  
Simon Elliott Brock  
Trenton Brown *cum laude*  $\Sigma$   
Savana Marie Burrow  
Jagger DeRossett  
Emily Jean Drake  
Kaitlyn Duros  
Callie Emshoff *summa cum laude*  $\Sigma$   
Ashley Erlewine  
Brittany Fleck  
Kylie Marie Gonsior *with distinction*  
Lauren Lu Gowing  
Jacob Louis Hamsa  
James Ryan Hartigan *with distinction*

Megan Hollander  
Ellee Nicole Houghtaling *summa cum laude*  
Matthew Michael Huser  
Samantha Jolene Kennison  
Jenna Kuphal *summa cum laude*  
Lindsay Marie Kusleika *summa cum laude*  
Michaela C. Langdon  
Austin Lee *magna cum laude*  
Emma Meloccaro *with distinction*  $\Sigma$   
Molly Ann Miller *cum laude*  $\Sigma$   
Vance Miyamoto  
Lester Lloyd Nofuente *with distinction*  
Ikeoluwa Esther Ogunfeibo *summa cum laude*  
Lisa Marie Palermo  
William Thomas Roddy *summa cum laude*

Nina Rose Schendt  
Jie Shen *summa cum laude*  
Janelle Renee Sorensen *cum laude*  
Kayja R. Speeks *with distinction*  
Andrea Stump *summa cum laude*

## Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Patrick John Burke *magna cum laude*  
Matthew Gleason *magna cum laude*  
Mark McGloin *with distinction*  
Ariana Renn *summa cum laude*  
Naomi J. Sather *summa cum laude*

## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Health Information Administration

Jennifer Hirschbrunner

## Master in Healthcare Administration

Leslie Anne Lucas  $\Sigma$   
Mindy A. McCuen  $\Sigma$   
Katherine R. Pursell  
Grant Patrick Ryan  $\Sigma$   
Molly Ann Sadler  
Meagin Skutnik

## Master of Science in Nursing

Chantal Mahussi Aholoukpe – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  $\Sigma$   
Julia Bartolome – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Andria Barragan – Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  $\dagger$   
Kayla Blomstedt – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Rhonda Bragg – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Cassandra A. Callahan – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Samantha Lynn Duffield – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Stephanie Dushan – Nursing Education  
Isabelle Fidler – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Kierstyn Erin Fishell – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Elizabeth Gasper – Nursing Education  
Miranda Grevlos – Nursing Education  
Katie Marie Griffith – Nursing Education  
Abigail Lipman Handrich – Nursing Education  
Layne Holzer – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Michelle Sarah Huerter – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Kaylie Grace Huntley – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Megan Johnson – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Gloria Akorfa Kpenu – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Allison McLendon – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sarah Most – Nursing Healthcare Administration  
Felicia A. Noonan – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
Mia Rabon – Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
Jose Bullecer Rebustes III – Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
Lucas Richardson – Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
Emily Salava – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Danielle Sierks – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Shawn Michael Skok – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Larissa Smith – Family Nurse Practitioner  $\Sigma$   
Jennifer Daniele Smithberg – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Sadie Thompson – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Casey L. Vlach – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Corrine Waddell – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Mackinsey S. Whitmore – Family Nurse Practitioner  
Jessica Diane Young – Family Nurse Practitioner  $\Sigma$

### Post-Graduate Certificate in Nursing

Andrea Thacker – Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner  
 Doctor of Education in Healthcare Education and Leadership  
 Sandra Jean Burns  
 Rachel Thérèse Zeiger Σ

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

Samantha Arnett – Family Nurse Practitioner  
 Mikaylah Kathleen Avis – Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
 Corey Burton – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Molly Considine – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Cory Arden Drietz – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Tavia Farmer – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Jessica Gintonio – Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
 Thomas Joseph Janing Jr. – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Ashley K. Johns – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Steven Kelm – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Jake Kitchens – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Jessalynn Dee Lasike – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Carrie Jo Leighow  
 Emily Elizabeth Mattes – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Micaela Myers – Family Nurse Practitioner Σ  
 Pricila Pedersen – Family Nurse Practitioner  
 Theresa Rhylander – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Steven Mark Schelling – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Nevada Schnatz – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Rachel Steen – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Wesley Stonell – Nurse Anesthesia  
 Jessalyn Kristine Wein – Nurse Anesthesia

### 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, a student must have completed the minimum required residency hours. Honors are distinguished as follows:

\*\*\*\* 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

Honor societies at Clarkson College include:

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

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

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

*Note: Names and honors designations are based upon current information at press time. We apologize for any errors.*

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

These awards are presented to the graduate in each program with the highest grade point average who meets policy requirements.

#### Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Alyssa Donley

#### Bachelor of Science in Community Health

Faythe Bohnert Σ

#### Bachelor of Science in Health Information Administration

Amy Suzanne Smith

#### Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging

Ellana L. Willis λ

#### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Afoua Badaama Badjaglana  
 Callie Emshoff Σ  
 Jenna Kuphal  
 Ikeoluwa Esther Ogunfeibo  
 William Thomas Roddy  
 Jie Shen  
 Andrea Stump

#### Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant

Ariana Renn  
 Naomi J. Sather

#### Master in Healthcare Administration

Katherine R. Pursell  
 Molly Ann Sadler  
 Meagin Skutnik

#### Master of Science in Nursing

Miranda Grevlos  
 Katie Griffith  
 Abigail Lipman Handrich

### Doctor of Education in Healthcare Education and Leadership

Sandra Jean Burns

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

Emily Elizabeth Mattes  
 Micaela Myers Σ

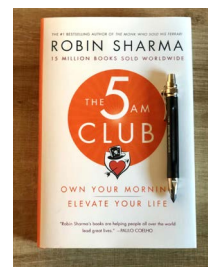


SAVE THE DATE! SPIRIT WEEK 2025 WILL BE HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF CLARKSON COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 22–26



# ▶ New & Noteworthy

Our Alumni Book Club met February 4 to discuss Robin Sharma’s “The 5 AM Club.” The jury is still out to see how many of the participants will embrace this “evolutionary morning routine to maximize productivity, activate best health and bulletproof serenity in this age of overwhelming complexity.



Clarkson College officially celebrated the renovation of Howard Hall at a ribbon-cutting February 24. Students, faculty, staff, and the community benefit from an enhanced environment with upgraded acoustics and AV systems, a new retractable stage, and lighting and temperature control improvements. This important hub of campus life was made possible through the generosity of **Mr. Robert S. Howard** who wielded the big scissors to cut the ribbon.

Mr. Howard and his wife, Catherine Wynne, were on hand to celebrate with the College.

A representative sampling of artifacts from the archives is included in a new display case, placed in the hallway adjacent to Howard Hall. This mini museum will soon expand with the addition of a mannequin modeling the uniform of Miss Minerva Ryley, a 1898 graduate and the esteemed founder of our Alumni Association.



A fun group of alumni rolled into Scorz Event Center in Ralston for our annual bowling event February 22. The winners of the Best Team Costume—“We Are On Strike”—included **Abby Weber, Haley Weber, Mark Weber** and **Trish Weber**. The Best Team Name was awarded to “Spar-ile Technique.”





## Catch Up With Our Alumni

**Laurie Pearson**, a 2015 graduate of the Clarkson College LPN program, has built an impressive nursing career rooted in dedication and resilience. Her interest in nursing began at Omaha's Rose Blumkin Jewish Home where she worked as a CNA/Med Aide beginning in 2001. When back problems kept her from lifting, she chose to further her career by pursuing a degree.

In 2012, Laurie began working on her prerequisites to apply for nursing school. When deciding which school to attend, a visit to Clarkson College changed everything. From her first interaction, Laurie felt valued and supported. The admissions team provided a welcoming tour, answered her questions, and guided her through the financial aid and application processes with care and efficiency.

Laurie fondly recalls her two years at Clarkson College as among the best of her life. She received a comprehensive education, developed close relationships with supportive instructors, and formed lifelong friendships with her classmates. Upon graduating in 2015, Laurie returned to the Rose Blumkin Home, where her career flourished. She started as a med nurse and quickly advanced to evening charge nurse, a role she held from December 2015 to May 2024.

In May 2024, Laurie accepted a new position as Nurse Manager, Infection Preventionist, and Staff Development Coordinator within the Rose Blumkin organization. She credits Clarkson College with preparing her for the challenges and rewards of her LPN career. Outside of work, she continues to embrace her commitment to lifelong learning and service in the nursing field.



After graduating from the Clarkson College LPS program in 2010, **Kelsey Nagel** began her nursing career as an LPN at Omaha's Ambassador Health Pediatrics. Upon completion of her BSN in 2013, she worked on the pediatric floor at UNMC. In 2016, Kelsey moved to San Diego, where she became a med-surg float nurse at Rady Children's Hospital. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she ventured into travel nursing, spending time in the Bay Area and in Los Angeles.

Now settled back in San Diego, Kelsey works per diem on a pediatric floor at Kaiser Permanente. Outside of work, she enjoys life with her goldendoodle. She is thrilled to be expecting her first child!

Kelsey attributes her success to the strong foundation she gained at Clarkson College, which prepared her for a dynamic and fulfilling nursing career.



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# Clarkson College

## *of Health Professions*

### NEW LOGO HIGHLIGHTS HEALTHCARE FOCUS

A sub-brand of Clarkson College was officially introduced in January 2025. "Clarkson College of Health Professions" was created to educate the public and strengthen the brand by celebrating the institution's purpose.

Nationwide, the demand for a stronger healthcare workforce persists. Adding "Health Professions" to the name allows the public to instantly recognize Clarkson College as a healthcare education and training-focused institution.

While you may begin seeing the logo on a variety of materials, this new brand will not change the name of the institution; Clarkson College remains the official name.