A Letter from the HEAD OF SCHOOL

There is no doubt that we live in a networked age and that personal connections are an important asset. Still, it comes as something of a surprise to many of our students when they discover that in the real world, it is not (only) what you know, but (also) who you know that determines professional success. So, while students in The Clarkson School (TCS) gain knowledge and technical skills in their classes at Clarkson, we have developed programing that develops “soft skills” and helps Schoolies get connected with other Clarkson students, faculty/staff and alumni.

On campus, we have built mentorship programs between upper class TCS alums and current Schoolies, and we stress the importance of building relationships with faculty (which according to the Gallup-Purdue Index 2014 is the most important factor determining overall well-being of college graduates). We would now like to build relationships off-campus and I especially invite our alumni, parents and friends of The Clarkson School to get involved.

In this edition of The Bridge, you can read about Clarkson alumni who have been recruiting at Clarkson, and have given presentations as Alumni Panelists to our students in both our First-Year Seminar and our Personal and Professional Development Program (PPDP); Clarkson School alumni who we have met on one of our field trips; the Clarkson Embedded Alumni Program; and our commencement speakers. We’d love to see other members of The Clarkson School family on campus, whether giving presentations to classes or the PPDP, or informally meeting with students over coffee or lunch. And we’d love to invite you to dinner in your city on one of our field trips (though unfortunately we probably won’t be able to make it to Honolulu!). We will soon be announcing an Alumni Mentoring Program, which will put Schoolies in touch with people who can help them to visualize and realize their career path, and provide alumni the opportunity to nurture the potential of talented, young leaders. We hope that you will participate.

Talking of talented, young leaders, it is remarkable how recent cohorts of Schoolies have included active entrepreneurs as well as academically successful students. Business School faculty love to have Schoolies in their classes and several students have started businesses in collaboration with the Shipley Center for Innovation and the Reh Center for Entrepreneurship at Clarkson. You can read about a “Pet Pita” that helps administer medication to cats and dogs, and about a backpack that helps provide an education in Haiti. Even while still in college, some Schoolies are changing the world!

Finally, I’d like to welcome new staff member Kathleen O’Leary who has been hired as Associate Director of Student Life and Alumni Relations, a joint appointment in Honors and TCS. Kathleen started in July and has made an excellent transition, though we are still working to convert her from college football to hockey! And there is another new addition to the TCS family: Jenny Townsend, Assistant Director of Advising, gave birth to a baby girl, Maya, on August 26, which means she will be in the TCS Class of 2031.
Alumni Getting Involved
As Panelists
Each fall, Clarkson School students are required to take a PE100 First-Year Seminar course to aid them in the transition from high school to college life. This past year, we invited alumni to one of the classes held during the Fall Career Fair. Our Alumni panelists answered questions about majors, careers and offered words of advice to our current students. This year, the following alumni came back to share their experiences:

Ann Marie Lubert ’89, General Electric, GE
Jared Lozo ’07, North America Product Manager, Transportation Vertical
Market, Crane
Ryan Sands ’08, ’09 (MBA), Value Stream Manager, Aerospace Group, Crane

As a result of students attending the Fall and Spring Career Fairs, four of our current Clarkson School students interviewed and were offered an internship for this summer. We hope to continue the tradition of having alumni return as panelists and meet with our students.

On Field Trips
Whether sking at Smugmgle’s Nest in Vermont or visiting museums in Montreal, our field trips offer everyone shared experiences that contribute to personal development, build community and create long-lasting memories of The Clarkson School. This past year, we contacted alumni living in Rochester, N.Y., to join us for dinner during a fall trip. We felt this was a great opportunity for the current and former Schoolees to network. Erika Brown TCS ’06, CU ’09, Matt Nearpass TCS ’94, CU ’97 and Chris Snelling ’86 joined us in Rochester to “break bread” with our students on the trip. Erika says, “I still hold TCS very close to my heart. I not only accepted its invitation to enroll at TCS, but also worked for The Clarkson School office. I continue to promote and share my experiences of TCS through social media and my own cover letter that goes to potential employers. TCS and Clarkson are a huge part of who I was and am today.”

Chris Snelling says, “I joined a group called Clarkson Embedded Alumni a couple of years ago which was initiated by Jeff Taylor (Clarkson Career Center Director) and Bob Lockwood of Clarkson 1986 and very much enjoy being a part of the group. The group consists of about 10 alumni, young and old, from both the Business and Engineering schools. The Clarkson Embedded Alumni group visits the Clarkson campus for two all days in the early spring to interact with students who are interested in talking to us about what we do, current trends, future visions, etc. in our career fields. By joining this group, he now feels connected to Clarkson once again and enjoy participating in this alumni/ student dinner prior to the Clarkson/PET hockey game.”

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As Commencement Speakers
In May 2014, Mathew Nearpass was asked as our Alumni Speaker at The Clarkson School Commencement. Matt is the director of International Product Management at Harris Corporation in Rochester. Matt manages the International Product Management organization and reports to the Vice President of Product Management & Engineering. After The Clarkson School, Matt went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Clarkson and has completed the executive program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

Matt comments, “I can’t thank you enough for making me a part of your commencement ceremony. It was great speaking with not only your students, but parents and support staff as well. The quality of the students and their results are as high as they have ever been; you should be very proud.”

In May 2015, Oleg Dulin TCS ’97, will be traveling back to Clarkson to deliver this year’s alumni speech at The Clarkson School Commencement. After the Clarkson School program was launched at Clarkson, During his sophomore year, he founded Luxus Users Group (Clarkson Open Source Institute) as part of Clarkson’s ACM chapter to help spread the knowledge of open-source software. He was offered a co-op at IBM Global Services in Southbury, Ct. Following his experience, he worked at startups, owned his own consulting company, then joined a Wall Street company in Jersey City, working on high-frequency-trading software for seven years. Oleg completed his Master of Computer Science while working full-time at New York University. Today, Oleg is chief scientist at Liquid Analytics, a mobile-first startup focusing on Big Data analytics software.

He is married with two wonderful kids who he hopes will grow up to be scientists and make great scientific discoveries and advancements and discoveries. We look forward to welcoming him back to campus this May!

TCS Alumni Who Stayed
Bryce Bandish TCS ’12
A desire to help pets and pet owners inspired Bryce Bandish, a current student and former TCS student, to turn a childhood invention into a new company. Featured in a Clarkson news release “Clarkson University Student Entrepreneur Develops Product to Handle Pets with Ease,” Bryce had worked with Clarkson’s Shipley Center for Innovation and Reh Center for Entrepreneurship for two years to develop the Pet Pita, a salt and inexpensive way to immobilize a cat or dog. Made of canvas and fleece, the Pet Pita allows pet owners to comfortably medicate, treat and handle their pets at home or on the go.

An entrepreneur from East Dummerston, Vt., Bryce came up with the idea for the product in fifth grade because his cat, Rudy, would not cooperate when it came time to administer his flea medicine. Bryce then cut out a piece of fabric designed to comfortably immobilize the pet for the procedure. “The whole idea originally was to make medication a less painful experience for your cat, dog or you,” he says.

The idea for the Pet Pita fell to the wayside, Bandish said, until he came to Clarkson. As a chemistry major with a business minor, he said the Shipley Center for Innovation and Reh Center for Entrepreneurship have taught him how to apply his creative thinking in both science and business endeavors. “I learned to think in a completely scientific way, and then I brought in this business element,” he says of Pet Pita. “I was able to combine scientific and analytic elements into a business application.” At the 2014 New York Business Plan Competition, Bandish was named “Rookie of the Year” in the products and services category.

Kenneth (Tyler) Cline TCS ’12
Kenneth (Tyler) Cline TCS ’12 was named Clarkson’s First All American and Co-Male Athlete of the Year in June 2014. Tyler, who came from Tuxedo, N.Y., has been a member of the Clarkson University Golf team since Fall 2011. As a freshman, he was the Liberty League’s top qualifier and lead the Cline averaged 74.05 shots per round, and that number dropped to 72 when just considering the full fall season. Regardless, his average dropped by more than three strokes from 2012 when he averaged 77.6 strokes, and was nearly five shots better than his 78.3 average scoring round from his freshman season in 2011.

Dan Ward TCS ’91, CU ’94

With nearly two decades as an engineering officer in the U.S. Air Force, Dan explored these questions during tours of duty at military research laboratories, the Air Force Institute of Technology, an intelligence agency, the Pentagon and Afghanistan. The pattern he noticed revealed that the most successful project leaders in both the public and private sectors delivered top-shelf products with a skeleton crew, a shoestring budget, and a cannonball schedule. Excessive investment of time, money or complexity reduced innovation. He concluded the secret to innovation is to be fast, inexpensive, simple and small.

FIRE presents an entertaining and practical framework for pursuing rapid, frugal innovation. A story-titled blend of pop culture and engineering insight, FIRE has something for everyone: strategic concepts leaders can use as they cast a vision, actionable principles for managers as they make business decisions, and practical solutions to make their own products, processes and designs, build, assess and test new products.

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The Clarkson School Class of 2015."

Since he had heard about The Clarkson School, he thought TCS should apply as it would be a great experience for her. Though a bit hesitant, Olivia applied and received a call from TCS informing her of her acceptance. She remembers sitting with a high school friend when she got the call. She put the phone on mute and started jumping up and down and screaming in excitement. Since Olivia’s arrival at TCS last August from Hudson Falls, N.Y., she has become her dorm floor’s representative on The Clarkson School Council, member of The Clarkson School

Amy Yang TCS ‘15

How does a student from Macungie, Pa., hear about The Clarkson School? Yang learned that there were opportunities for high school seniors to advance in their studies by attending college early. She came across The Clarkson School while doing some research on early college programs. Amy says, “The Clarkson School seemed like a great opportunity for me to expand in the educational, social and professional areas of my life. I thought that moving away from my comfort zone of high school into college life early would be a good experience for me.”

At Clarkson, she is involved in some of the same activities that she was involved in during high school. She is a member of the Tennis Club and Inter varsity Christian Fellowship. She also got involved in an activity she never thought she would enjoy: country swing dancing. Now, she is a part of two different swing clubs and occasionally shows up to the Ballroom Dancing Club. She just learned how to do her very first flip, and dancing has become her favorite activity on campus. Off campus, she is involved in a local church called New Hope. She attends their services on Sundays and occasionally is a volunteer at the nursery there.

Currently, Amy has a keen interest in majoring in computer science and digital science. With this, she is involved in a program that was a Clarkson School alumna who was able to provide him with more information on the program. He was instantly intrigued with the thought of starting college a year early. The entire three-hour car ride home, he didn’t stop talking about TCS and how much he wanted to go to a college close to home where she could obtain a degree towards her dream career of designing energy efficient and sustainable homes. When researching the standardized test score range suggested for admission into Clarkson, she stumbled upon information on The Clarkson School. She applied, was accepted and is now a member of our community where she quickly established herself as a leader.

On campus, Nicklas is a member of the Clarkson Open Society Institute (COSI), which is a club that focuses on learning and teaching others about the use of computers, networking and computer programming. Last semester, he took a project working on remaking the COSI DNS servers, which was an awesome learning experience. He also plans to join IDEA Club, which is a digital arts club that puts on events and sponsors trips to art and animation studios as well as video game development companies. Currently, he is working on a game for the IDEA Club’s Game Jam. Off campus, Nicklas is starting his own company that produces Web design and development, graphic design services and PC and mobile games development. The company has three websites, two mobile games and two PC games in development. In the future, he would like to establish a connection with Clarkson so he can offer internships and job opportunities with his company for other students.

As a double major in Computer Science and Digital Arts & Sciences with a minor in Business, Nicklas wants to continue expanding his company. He states, “If my company is not as successful as I would like it to be by the time I graduate, I would like to work at another video game company or growing my company on the side.” In the future, he would like to establish a connection with Clarkson so he can offer internships and job opportunities with his company for other students.

Krissy Govertsen TCS ‘15

Krissy Govertsen felt her journey to The Clarkson School from Valatie, N.Y., was far from ordinary. Given that neither of her parents graduated from high school nor had the opportunity to acquire a higher education, the entire college experience to her was uncanny. She didn’t know what to look for, where to go or what kind of degree she wanted. While many of her friends had the desire to attend their parents’ alma mater, Krissy noted that she did not have that opportunity. She later learned that her uncle, who lives in Florida as a successful businessman, went to Clarkson. After this newfound family connection, Krisy went to Clarkson. After this newfound family connection, Krisy went to Clarkson University, she started researching information on the Internet and found other people who knew who had also gone to Clarkson. Krissey knew she wanted to go to a college close to home where she could obtain a degree towards her dream career of designing energy efficient and sustainable homes. When researching the standardized test score range suggested for admission into Clarkson, she stumbled upon information on The Clarkson School. She applied, was accepted and is now a member of our community where she quickly established herself as a leader.

She was elected to represent her floor on The Clarkson School Council, joined the Yearbook Committee as the Public Representative and was accepted into the Fast Track Honors Program this spring. Krissey serves on the Student Activities Committee for the Clarkson University Senate Association (CUS.A). She also keeps busy as a member of the Society of Women Engineers on the Girl Scout Committee. Krissey aspires to pursue a position in N.Y. as an environmental engineer. She envisions herself working for a small engineering firm at first and then designing Green Energy Home blueprints that she could sell to developers and home builders. Krissey has come a long way this past year and is very grateful to her parents for what they have done so far to help her reach her dreams. She states, “The Clarkson School is truly a very special program that made my transition from home to college so much easier. The students are respectful, the faculty care about the students and there is easy access to tutoring. The diversity within The Clarkson School community is what I love the most. While we are different in many ways, we are still able to live together as a harmonious family. I am truly honored to be a member of The Clarkson School Class of 2015.”

Staff Updates

Kathleen O’Leary

Kathleen O’Leary joined The Clarkson School as Director of Student and Alumni Relations in July 2014. She has spent the past nine years working in higher education student affairs, including student support, housing, student conduct and academic advising. Most recently, she worked at Arizona State University, but was excited to leave the desert to head east and begin to explore the North Country. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame for both her undergraduate and law degrees, Kathleen is an avid college football fan and is learning to love college hockey. She is enjoying getting to know our students and has been impressed from the start by their intellectual curiosity.

On August 26, 2014, Jennifer Townsend, Assistant Director of Advising, welcomed a new addition to her family. Jenny and husband Ethan are pleased to announce the addition of future Golden Knight Maya Luna Townsend. She was born on August 26, 2014.

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Alumni Family Award

Students with a brother, sister, aunt, uncle or cousin who attended The Clarkson School or Clarkson University can qualify for a $500 award.

Alumni Legacy Award

Students with a mother, father, grandparent or grandmother who attended The Clarkson School or Clarkson University can qualify for a $1,000 award.

The award-winning student, referred by a Clarkson School alum, will be provided $1,000 per year. A student can only receive one award, regardless of the number of referrals.

Give to The Clarkson School Scholarships

Your contribution to these scholarships helps students who meet the rigorous requirements of The Clarkson School, but lack the financial means to attend. By sustaining these scholarships, you’re giving deserving students the opportunity to learn and do more — and to start new, when they’re ready.

The Clarkson School Alumni Referral Award

The award-winning student, referred by a Clarkson School alum, will be provided $1,000 per year. A student can only receive one award, regardless of the number of referrals.

Only one award will be granted regardless of the number of legacy connections.

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Current Students (continued from page 5)

Yearbook committee and has worked for Knightline at the Alumni Association. She really enjoys talking with Clarkson alumni and informing them of current activities on campus.

Olivia initially thought she wanted to pursue a major in chemistry. Within the first two months in the lab however, she decided to change her focus to forensic psychology. This semester, she is pursuing classes in the psychology major and will be enrolled at the University of Virginia this fall, pursuing a career in Traffic and Transportation Engineering.

Bryce had a minor in Environmental Science at the University of Virginia. He will intern at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this summer in Washington, D.C., and will work part-time at a law firm.

Laura LaCoombe TCS '10 graduated from Clarkson in 2013 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He is currently pursuing his career with Atlas Copco Comptec LLC, a custom turbo compressor company in Voorheesville, NY. In his job, Robert commissions custom compressors all over the world. In 2014, he visited 11 different countries and 23 states. He is thankful for the opportunity to see the world while building a concrete foundation for his career.

John Lindsay TCS '14 participated in The Fund for American Studies program in Washington, D.C., last summer. He was set up with an internship, provided with housing and attended classes.

He was given the opportunity to nominate students for the program this summer. If he does nominate a student, he/she will have first access to scholarships for the program. Their website is www.dontscholarships.org.

After completing The Clarkson School in May 2014, John decided to attend George Washington University to pursue his bachelor’s degree. He loves his degree and hopes to get into law school after graduation.

He has planned a TEDx event for GWU that will have 21 speakers and over 1,000 attendees.
Give to The Clarkson School

Many students have the aptitude and motivation to enroll in TCS, but lack the financial means. By contributing to scholarships, grants and other aid programs, you help these students begin college earlier and realize their futures faster.

Go to www.clarkson.edu/giveback to make a gift. When giving online, please choose “Other” for a gift designation, noting it is a commitment to The Clarkson School.

Make a Referral to The Clarkson School

Do you know a bright high school age student (sophomore or junior) who would thrive at The Clarkson School? Your recommendation may earn them a $1,000 Alumni Referral Scholarship additional to Alumni Family and Alumni Legacy scholarships! Please contact or have them contact Matthew Rutherf, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, mrutherf@clarkson.edu.

Save the Date!

TCS Turns 40!

The Clarkson School turns 40 years old in 2018! We’re planning a big reunion on July 12-15, 2018, and we’d like you to join us! If you’d like more information — or to let us know you’re coming — send us an email at tcs@clarkson.edu.