



# Allen College Communicator

## Allen College awards a record amount of scholarships

The Allen College Scholarship Selection Committee has finalized the scholarship awards for the 2021–2022 academic year. For the first time in the history of Allen College, the total amount of funding distributed to students exceeded one million dollars!

“The support our donors have shown to our students is truly amazing” stated Renae Carrillo, Director of Financial Aid. “It is remarkable to work with our students and see firsthand how these scholarships impact our students’ ability to pay for their education.”

The distribution of scholarship awards has experienced tremendous growth over the last ten years. During the 2011-2012 academic year, just over \$400,000 in scholarship awards were distributed. Even as recent as five years ago, approximately \$530,000 was awarded.

In the last five years, fundraising efforts have resulted in the scholarship distribution to almost double. Mike Lind, Executive Director of the UnityPoint Health – Allen Foundation works with donors to help establish the scholarship funds. “It has been very energizing to see the growth of our scholarship fund over the last several years,” Mike said. “Our donors know that their contributions are an investment in the healthcare workforce. The work that Allen College students perform after graduation really resonates with donors.”

The Allen Foundation has a total of 196 donor scholarships established for Allen College, with five of these scholarships being established in the last 12 months.

Every Allen College student is eligible to apply for an institutional scholarship. For the 2021–2022 funding cycle, every Allen College student who completed the scholarship application process, 291 total students to date, received a scholarship award. The Allen College scholarship awards are in addition to other forms of financial aid that students may receive.

The growth of the scholarship fund has been the result of a tremendous amount of work by multiple individuals. Dr. Jared Seliger, Allen College President, praised the collaboration to build the scholarship fund. “It takes a team effort working with donors to cultivate gifts. Mike and his team in the Allen Foundation do a remarkable job acquiring the gifts and our Scholarship Selection Committee and Financial Aid Office put in countless hours matching the donor awards with the students. We all have the same goal to do whatever we can to lessen the financial burden on our students.”

The students who receive an Allen College scholarship express a tremendous amount of gratitude for the support they receive. “I have an opportunity to see many of the thank you notes and cards our students write to their donor or donors” Seliger said. “It is so inspiring to understand how these scholarships impact our students. I speak for all our students when I say ‘thank you’ to everyone who has contributed to success of our scholarship program. The success of our students and our institution would not be possible without your support.”

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## Allen College Mission Statement

Allen College offers educational healthcare programs of excellence to a diverse community while instilling the values of service, inclusion and lifelong learning.

# President's Communication

## For the Times They Are A-Changin'



Dr. Jared Seliger

Not that long ago, a song came across my playlist that really caused me to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. The title of this article is a lyric written by the brilliant musician Bob Dylan from a song with the same name. Although Dylan's lens for writing the song was America in the mid-1960s, the lyrics are still very relevant today.

In the three-and-a-half years I have been President of Allen College, I did not anticipate how rapidly the higher

education landscape would evolve in such a short amount of time. What is changing in higher education the most are the students and how we are meeting their needs to be successful at college and in the workforce.

To ensure that Allen College's Trustees, leaders and faculty/staff are making decisions that are in the best interest of our students, we spend a significant amount of time surveying our students to solicit feedback gathering data on what they expect from their experience at Allen College. Students complete an annual student satisfaction inventory, a semesterly "pulse check" survey, course and instructor surveys, clinical/fieldwork surveys, an exit survey and a post-graduation survey conducted at least six months after graduation.

The development of the current Allen College strategic plan relied heavily on the data we have gathered from our students. A major focal point of the strategic plan is to provide an exceptional student experience. We know that our people, facilities, technology, curricula and affordability influence how our students experience Allen College. As an institution, we need to constantly evolve these resources to ensure our continued success.

This edition of *The Communicator* highlights how Allen College is adapting to meet our students' needs. You will read about our newly renovated Pauline R. Barrett Collaboration Center which has new permanent offices for faculty as well as private and collaborative study spaces for our students.

This edition also showcases how Allen College has engaged our community to allow a record distribution of scholarship funds to our students in 2021-2022. Finally, you will read about how our Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) faculty are using a renovated laboratory and classroom space on the fifth floor of Allen Hospital to deliver a unique hybrid curriculum for students enrolled in our DPT program.

I am very excited about all of the initiatives we have implemented on our campus which ensures that our students have access to the best possible resources to be successful at Allen College and go on to a fulfilling career in healthcare.

## Students supporting students

The Allen College Ambassadors student organization is comprised of approximately 30 students representing various Allen College programs. Advised by Beth Sullivan and Sarah Craw, the Ambassadors represent Allen College students at campus events, on college committees and in the community. They assist in coordinating engagement activities and advocating for student needs.

Having witnessed and experienced the toll COVID took on college students last year, the Ambassadors organized activities in the spring semester to address campus needs. To raise money to support the Student Assistance Fund, the Ambassadors sold t-shirts to members of the Allen College and UnityPoint Health – Waterloo teams.

The Student Assistance Fund is used to help students with temporary financial emergencies that could impact their

ability to stay enrolled. The Ambassadors raised over \$1,500 to contribute to this fund.

The Ambassadors also coordinated a scrub and textbook drive to collect gently used items to provide through the Allen Exchange. The Ambassadors encouraged students to donate materials at the end of the term rather than reselling them. More information about the Allen Exchange can be found on page 4.

The drive was met with enthusiasm, especially from graduating students who were eager to share their apparel with others. Dozens of scrub sets and more than thirty textbooks were donated and have since been distributed to current students.

Using their firsthand experiences and leadership, the Ambassadors organized to own the moment and support their peers.



Allen College Ambassadors



## Allen Legacy Program

UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital, Allen Foundation and Allen College are excited to announce a new program to reward and retain future workforce in the Cedar Valley!

The Allen Legacy Program is an exciting collaboration between UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital, the Allen Foundation and Allen College to honor the legacy and tradition started by Henry B. Allen in 1925 (nearly 100 years ago). This new program honors his legacy of giving back to the community where he and Mary Allen lived and prospered. The program’s goal is to ensure Allen Hospital continues to have a highly skilled workforce providing exceptional care to the patients and communities we serve.

### Eligibility and Benefits

Currently, the Allen Legacy Program is available only for BSN students but as it grows the plans are to include additional programs. The program provides financial assistance to Allen College Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students who in exchange are guaranteed employment and commit to work at Allen Hospital upon graduation and securing an Iowa nursing license.

Employment will be coordinated through the UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital Human Resources Department and placement will be made in coordination with Nursing Leadership based on which unit(s) are in high need of nurses.

UnityPoint Health – Waterloo has a strong culture driven by values we live every day. We want to encourage Allen College students to join us when they graduate to help us provide our second century of care to the Cedar Valley.

To learn more about supporting this new program, call the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960.



*Gerard Circle honors the work of longtime Allen physician and philanthropist Dr. Russell S. Gerard. Membership in Gerard Circle symbolizes a lifelong commitment to quality health care in the Cedar Valley and we are grateful for the impact these gifts make each and every day.*



## Gerard Circle Spotlight: Jan '69 & Bruce Erpelding

Jan and Bruce joined Gerard Circle in 2015. Jan’s initial connection is with the Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing where she graduated from the diploma program in 1969. She has stayed connected with Allen College and is a past member of the Allen College Alumni Association Advisory Board.

Both Jan and Bruce are employed at UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital. Jan spent the first 10 years of her nursing career at Allen Hospital and returned in 1998 and Bruce joined the plant services team in 2010.

When asked why they are inspired to give back to the Allen Foundation, Jan says, “In my experiences, I’ve really seen what philanthropy can do – especially for health care.”

Jan, who has spent over 50 years working as a nurse, had a dream to start a scholarship at Allen College. When a memorial scholarship was established in honor of a friend, she was inspired to begin her own.

Over their years as employees of Allen Hospital, the Erpeldings have often generously donated through their bi-weekly paychecks.

The Erpeldings feel that there is never enough to go around and that giving makes things possible. “You can make something happen for a patient, a student or a fellow team member. You really can help make someone’s dream come true.”

Jan and Bruce were inspired to become members of the Gerard Circle. They had always honored and respected those in the Gerard Circle giving society. They aspired to be a part of this group because of their belief that it is so important to give back. Jan knew Dr. Gerard as a surgeon during her time at the Allen School of Nursing.

Their favorite hobby or interest can be answered in one word, “Grandchildren!” The Erpeldings have seven grandchildren and they enjoy partaking in any activity the grandkids do.

Thank you Jan and Bruce for your dedication and philanthropy.

# Focus on students

## Gerard Hall Renovation—“The Pauline R. Barrett Collaboration Center” in honor of Mrs. Barrett

The UnityPoint Health – Allen Foundation recently successfully completed a capital campaign entitled “For Allen For You.” Allen College had several fundraising projects embedded within the campaign and one of those projects was recently completed.

Gerard Hall, Allen College’s first academic building, has not had any significant infrastructure upgrades to the second-floor office suite since it was constructed in 1995. The suite did not offer office privacy for faculty to meet with peers or students. Also lacking were conference spaces and meeting rooms.

Providing a modern work and study space was crucial for student and faculty satisfaction.

A steering committee consisting of Allen College faculty, staff and leaders met throughout the process with everyone having an opportunity to provide input to optimize the space for our campus’ needs. The renovated

space includes private offices for faculty, open study and collaboration spaces and three conference rooms for meetings or group studies.

Construction began in early 2021 and was completed in mid-June. The updated space is named “The Pauline R. Barrett Collaboration Center” in honor of Mrs. Barrett, a longtime friend and donor to Allen College.

“Updating the Gerard Hall office suite was an important goal for our campus to achieve” said Jared Seliger, Allen College President. “When I was a faculty member, I had an office in Gerard Hall for several years, so I had a firsthand understanding of the challenges working in that space. I think our faculty and students will really appreciate the space. I think our faculty and students will thrive in this new space and it is a great way to honor Mrs. Barrett’s contributions to our campus.”



Some of the collaborative spaces and one of the conference rooms are shown in the pictures.

## Introducing the Allen Exchange

The Allen College food pantry was founded last summer under the name “Care Mart” to combat food insecurity among students.

This spring, the pantry expanded to include Allen College polos, scrubs, textbooks and other donated school supplies to provide student access to the materials needed in their programs. Through this expansion, it has been renamed Allen Exchange, as many of the items have been donated by current students seeking to support their peers.

The Allen Exchange is located in the Barrett Forum Computer Lab where

students can access items 24/7 using their student IDs. Free lunch and snack food items are available near campus microwaves for students in need of single-meal assistance while on campus.

You can support the Allen Exchange by dropping off food or supply donations to the front desk in Winter Hall or by making a gift to the UnityPoint Health – Allen Foundation online at <https://www.unitypoint.org/waterloo/donate.aspx>. Please be sure to designate your gift to the IMPACT Allen College fund.



# Academics/Service/Community Outreach

## Occupational therapy students partner to benefit local children

A group of volunteer Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT) students had an opportunity to participate in a program for early intervention addressing water skills for children. The event was held due to a unique partnership with the Panther Academy of Water Safety (PAWS), Cedar Falls Schools and the University of Northern Iowa Speech and Language Pathology Program.

PAWS is a program that was designed with the goal of offering adaptive swim lessons to individuals of all ages in a one to one context.

Allen OT student volunteers participated in a 5-week program offering therapeutic intervention for Cedar Falls preschool special education classrooms. The

students had the opportunity to interact with the children in the water promoting skills such as communication and direction following while engaging in play during a unique water sensory experience.

This opportunity has also provided experience for interprofessional skills regarding collaboration with speech language pathologists and teachers. Faculty plan to integrate future opportunities such as this into coursework.

The MS in OT program takes pride in affording community involvement for students and are proud of the dedication and enthusiasm that these students have taken to provide advancement for the community and their education.



Left to right: Hope McDermonnt, Tina Kajtazovic, Rylee Andresen, Paige Shanno, Maddy Germann. Not pictured: Micah Mord

## OT students meet needs of ALS patients

Allen College Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT) students continued to meet the needs of patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and their caregivers throughout the pandemic by hosting virtual learning labs.

Through a community partnership with the ALS Association Iowa Chapter, students provided education to Iowans battling ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease. In November of 2020, first year MS in OT students and faculty provided virtual caregiver education. Each caregiver had the opportunity to engage in various educational opportunities

such as safe transfers, power wheelchair basics and introduction to adaptive equipment for daily living tasks.

Second year MS in OT students collaborated with students from the speech language pathology (SLP) program at the University of Northern Iowa and the respiratory therapy program at Des Moines Area Community College to provide a virtual caregiver learning lab in March of 2021. Students had the opportunity to advocate for caregivers, provide education and observe interprofessional interventions.



MS in OT students provide education about safe modifications for the bathroom

## Allen College occupational therapy students collaborate with UNI speech language pathology students

A group of second year Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT) students collaborated with UNI Speech Language Pathology students in April to offer an additional learning opportunity related to high tech devices.

This offered the opportunity for patients to explore technology to enhance communication, provide hands free options for accessing phones and computers and learn to control their

environment through completion of tasks such as turning on the lights or a fan in an alternative way.

These interprofessional events provided opportunities for students to apply classroom knowledge, gain insight from working with members of the community, learn from students in other disciplines and meet the needs of the community.



MS in OT student demonstrates use of GlassOuse device to access a computer

# Academics/Service/Community Outreach

## BSN students help at COVID-19 vaccination clinics

During the 2021 spring semester, 78 Allen College Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students had the opportunity to partner with several area organizations to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to members of the community, including the University of Northern Iowa, ACE-SAP Free Clinic, Buchanan County Public Health and Butler County Public Health agencies.

- University of Northern Iowa – 262 hours of service
- ACE-SAP Free Clinic – 60 hours of service
- Buchanan County Public Health – 124.5 hours of service
- Butler County Public Health – 402 hours of service

The students provided nearly 850 hours of service to the community through this experience.

Although all clinics provided the nursing students with the opportunity to be involved in a variety of roles within a mass vaccination clinic, the strongest partnership formed was with the Butler County Public Health Department.

Nearly all of the students who were enrolled in NU:450 Community & Public Health Nursing traveled to Allison to assist with their mass vaccination clinics from mid-February through mid-May. Allen College was able to partner with Butler County Public Health and their director, Jennifer Becker, BSN, RN, MEI (Allen College RN-BSN alumni, 2002 and Allen School of Nursing diploma alumni, 1993). They assisted vaccinating nearly 42% of the eligible population by mid-May.



## Mission nursing in Guatemala

In May 2021, nine undergraduate nursing students and one faculty member (Dr. Abigail Nieman) travelled to Canilla, Guatemala as part of the course NU:445J Mission Nursing. The trip was organized via Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls in partnership with Adonai International Ministries (AIM).

The students spent the 2021 spring semester meeting one to two times a month to learn about poverty and the impact of the Guatemalan health care system on citizens.

While in country, students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Latin and Mayan population through providing nursing care. The students were partnered with AIM nurses who are from the area to care for several patients during clinic days. The students had a variety of experiences including assisting with pre-natal ultrasounds, numerous ear exams, pediatric respiratory exams,

lab draws and vital signs. Clinics were held on site at the AIM Hospital and Clinic, as well as in remote areas located in the mountains.

Students were also able to hear the AIM missionaries' stories and see the impact these missionaries have made in Guatemala over the past twenty years.

Dr. Nieman stated, "It is truly a unique experience to view and engage in healthcare in a developing country and be able to translate that care back to patients in the states. It grows a person - both emotionally and spiritually - both of which help care for patients back home."



Photo 1: BSN students Makayla Hauser and Madison Stelken reconstituting oral antibiotics to send home with patients at the pediatric clinic in the mountains.

Photo 2: Leaving the rural clinic in Chiminisjuan, Guatemala. (L-R) BSN students Payton Ries, Skyler Luzum, Cheyenne Swinton, Madison Stelken, Makayla Hauser, Carley Pint and Zoe Rezac. Not pictured Emma DeNeui and Dr. Abby Nieman.

Photo 3: Allen College BSN students and nursing staff from Adonai ministries in Canilla, Guatemala.

# Academics/Service/Community Outreach

## First Doctor of Physical Therapy class admitted



Having achieved Candidacy accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), Dr. Eric Arguello, Program Director, and the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) faculty welcomed the first cohort of DPT students to Allen College in January of 2021. The cohort is comprised of five students, all from Iowa.

The innovative, blended program has coursework online with immersion labs in the semesters with clinical courses. During the first semester, students experienced anatomy immersion labs in the Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education (PASE) lab at Saint Louis University in addition to physical therapy clinical immersion labs at Allen College in space renovated for the program.

In the fall of 2020, Allen College completed a full renovation of the 5 north, south and east wings of Allen Hospital to house the Allen College DPT Program. The \$2.5 million renovation provided the DPT Program with extensive laboratory space for the practice of clinical skills, including exercise physiology and research laboratories, as well as administrative, teaching and student study and lounge space. The physical therapy labs are equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment including network-connected teaching podiums, monitors throughout each lab and a motion-activated camera system for broadcasting instructor content throughout the lab.



Additionally, each lab contains 13 brand new battery-operated Cardon high-low treatment tables allowing the labs to be reconfigured to meet the needs of each specific course. Labs are also equipped with all the mobility equipment, patient assessment tools and treatment modalities needed to make the Allen College DPT Program a success. The labs were reviewed by an onsite visitor from CAPTE and found to be exceptional for meeting student and faculty needs.

Clinical education is an integral component of the Allen College DPT curriculum, and the faculty designed a curriculum to meet accreditation expectations and to provide optimal learning experiences for the students. Clinical education begins with a 4-week clinical experience in the third semester of the first year and concludes with three full-time, longer clinical experiences near the end of the curriculum.

Dr. Chris Wiedman, the Director of Clinical Education (DCE), has established partnerships with several major health systems as well as private physical therapy clinical groups across the state of Iowa, the Midwest and nationally. Forty-four of these clinical partners provided placement offerings for the inaugural cohort of Allen DPT students, who will complete their first clinical experience in August/September of this year.



1st class of Allen College physical therapy students

# Commencement

Allen College awarded 105 degrees at its commencement ceremony on December 18, 2020 and 127 degrees at its commencement ceremony May 7, 2021 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Allen College conferred the following degrees:

## School of Health Sciences

- 16 Associate of Science in Radiography degrees
- 24 Bachelor of Health Sciences degrees (5 Diagnostic Medical Sonography, 17 Medical Laboratory Science, 2 Public Health)
- 24 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy degrees
- 1 Doctor of Health Professions (EdD) degree

## School of Nursing

- 91 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees
- 72 Master of Science in Nursing degrees
- 4 Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees

The speaker for both commencements was Dr. Jared Seliger, President of Allen College. Dr. Seliger remarked that the graduates of 2020 and 2021 will be joining many other graduates of Allen College who have gained the knowledge to improve the health of the community they serve. There have been difficult times with sacrifices made by all, and students have had to adapt to different class formats and experiences they would not have before imagined. The accomplishments of the students during this global pandemic shows immense strength, courage and resilience. The future of healthcare is in good hands.



## Nurse Practitioner students complete an Academic Emphasis in Rural and Underserved Populations

During the 2021 spring commencement ceremony, some of our nurse practitioner students were recognized for the first time for completing an Academic Emphasis in Rural and Underserved Populations. The emphasis was developed to meet the needs of our graduates who are increasingly recruited to these settings. The intent is to equip these new healthcare providers with knowledge, competence and resources to provide exceptional care to patients in rural or farm settings and to low income patient populations who currently struggle with disparity in health outcomes. Students attended two seminars providing content on issues encountered by these patient groups and completed 150 hours of clinical in rural and/or underserved areas.

# Graduation Awards

The following graduates were recognized during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 commencement ceremonies.

## **Jane E. Hasek Excellence in Nursing Award**

The nursing faculty select the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduate who best incorporates the values and beliefs of the mission and philosophy of Allen College in his/her professional and personal life. This award has been named in recognition of the first Chancellor of Allen College, Dr. Jane Hasek, for her visionary leadership in the establishment of the Allen College. The recipients: [Lauren Helle](#)

## **Allen College Service Award**

Selection of the Service Award is made by the faculty. The faculty nominate a student who has provided outstanding service to the college as an ambassador in the community and demonstrated a strong commitment to the core values espoused in the college philosophy. Recipient: [Laurel Johnson](#)

## **Advancing Healthcare Transformation Award**

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program faculty select a graduate from their program who has demonstrated exemplary involvement in a quality improvement initiative to receive the Advancing Healthcare Transformation Award. The award is funded through an endowment established by

Gail Nielsen to contribute to the education of MSN students. Recipient: [Kristal Graves and Kayln Boge-Kleiss](#)

## **M. Sue Waschek Baldwin Medical Laboratory Sciences Endowed Award**

This award was established by the Waschek and Baldwin families in Sue's memory. The MLS faculty select the most outstanding graduate from the MLS program. Recipient: [Kirsten Burris](#)





# Alumni News



## Beth Sullivan

### ALUMNI RELATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org or (319) 226-2016

### Allen College is on Facebook!

Check out the Allen College page for updates and events near you!

### Alumni Updates

Have you moved, gotten a new phone number, or changed email addresses? Update your contact information by emailing Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org or calling (319) 226-2016. This is also a great way to let us know what your communication preferences are (i.e. wish to receive mail or not receive mail).

### Alumni Spotlights

If you or someone you know would like to participate in our Monthly Alumni Spotlight series, please contact Beth Sullivan. Look for these spotlights on the Allen College Facebook page and on the Allen College website—alumni tab.



Allen College - UnityPoint Health®

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Mark your calendar... Alumni Events & Activities



2019 Des Moines Happy Hour

### 2021 Alumni Happy Hours – Save the Date

Alumni Happy Hours are back!

We look forward to hosting these fun get togethers this August at the following dates and locations. Each Happy Hour will take place from 5-7 p.m.

Be on the lookout for more information to come soon.

Tuesday, August 3 – Rochester, MN

Tuesday, August 10 – Des Moines

Tuesday, August 17 – Cedar Rapids/ Iowa City

Tuesday, August 31 – Cedar Falls/ Waterloo

All alumni are welcome to attend any of the four events to enjoy free food and drinks on the Alumni Association.



### Day of Giving | August 31, 2021

The Day of Giving is about generosity, the Allen College family and helping students achieve an exceptional healthcare education. Every gift matters, and each means even more when we give together!

On **Tuesday, August 31**, we invite you to take part in the Allen College Day of Giving to support the new Allen Legacy Program and the IMPACT Allen College fund.

You can get involved by following the Allen College Facebook page, sharing posts and spreading the word. There will be various challenges and matches throughout the day to help make an impact for Allen students. Be on the lookout for more information to come via email, mail and on social media.

When you support the Allen College Day of Giving, you are giving the gift of education. Please contact [Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org](mailto:Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org) if you have questions or are interested in supporting.

## Persistence and perseverance.

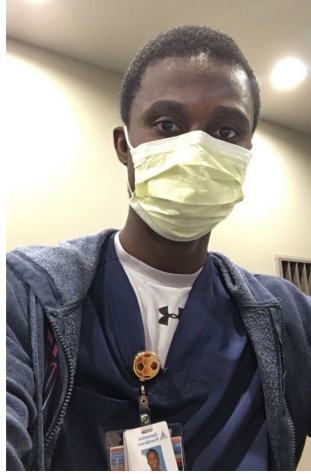
These are two words that can best describe Allen College alumni Collins Boadi.

Collins arrived to the United States on a student visa in August 2014 from the Western African country of Ghana where he lived with his parents and three siblings. He came to the U.S. to attend Wartburg College where he started as a biology major and discovered the option of attending Allen College to become a registered nurse. After completing one semester at Wartburg College, Collins transferred to Hawkeye Community College to complete the pre-requisite courses required for admission to Allen College. Collins was admitted to Allen College and started the pre-licensure program in January 2017.

Collins was not eligible for many scholarships due to not being a United States citizen; this required Collins to take out student loans to pay for his education. He supplemented his income by working 20-40 hours/week at Friends At Home, an affiliate of Friendship Village in Waterloo as a certified nursing assistant. Collins did not allow his heavy work schedule to interfere with his academic responsibilities.

While attending Allen College, Collins met his wife Emily through a friend in Cedar Falls. Emily, also a registered nurse, is from Manly, Iowa. Collins was able to obtain a green card and is now considered a permanent resident of the United States. Collins will be able to apply to become a United States citizen in 2024 (individuals can apply for citizenship 5 years after becoming a permanent resident).

Collins and Emily moved to Waco, Texas in June 2019 after both successfully passed the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN). Collins initially worked at Providence Health Center in Waco, Texas on a cardiac telemetry nursing unit. In August of 2020, Collins entered the world of travel nursing. He has had three assignments since becoming a travel nurse. The



first assignment was in Brenham, Texas, the second was in Freehold, New Jersey and Collins will be starting his third assignment in a few weeks in Austin, Texas. Travel nursing has allowed Collins to pay off a significant portion of his student loans, which is something Collins is determined to do, and has also allowed Collins the ability to travel across the United States and experience the registered nurse role in a variety of settings.

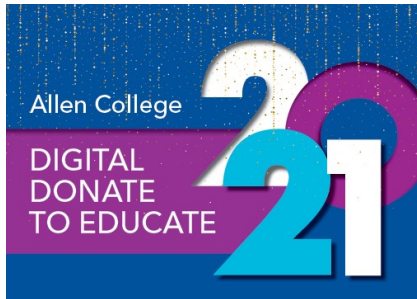
When asked if Allen College prepared Collins for his role as a professional nurse, Collins' reply was "Oh yes!" Collins gave credit to Dana Wedeking, recently retired Allen College Student Success Coordinator, for providing him with the resources and tools to help him be successful with his coursework. He also gave credit to the staff in the financial aid office for helping him to secure the loans that he needed to cover the costs of his tuition.

Collins was able to travel back to Ghana to see his family in December of 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, Emily was not able to travel with Collins. While in Ghana, Collins gave some of his time by volunteering with International Volunteer Head Quarters (IVHQ) Ghana (pictures to the right). While Collins is not able to visit his family physically on a routine basis, he does keep in touch with them via weekly video conference calls. Collins' family did want to attend his graduation from Allen College, but were unable to obtain visa's to do so.



When asked what the most rewarding aspect of his nursing career has been, Collins said "helping patients get back to themselves and just helping my patients to feel better." Collins has credited his clinical and classroom experiences with helping him become the professional nurse he is today. Collins continues to exemplify the attributes of an Allen College graduate and demonstrates the Allen College FOCUS values in both his professional and personal life.

# Alumni News



**More than  
\$30,000  
raised**

In February 2021, the Allen College Alumni Association's digital scholarship benefit, Donate to Educate, raised more than \$30,000 to benefit students. There were 50 virtual silent auction items and 5 raffle prizes.

#### Raffle Winners

Pandora Bracelet: Zoe Schaefer  
YETI Cooler: Sarah O'Connell  
Custom Dollhouse: Brenda Corwin  
Galena Couple's Trip: Cristina Ortiz  
Galena Golf Trip: Zoe Schaefer

The Alumni Association thanks all of the event sponsors, donors and Donate to Educate supporters for adapting to a new, virtual method. This event makes a large impact for Allen College nursing and health sciences students through scholarship support.

## In Remembrance

**Dr. Margaret Burke**  
Class of 1965  
April 4, 2021

**Kelly Luchtenburg**  
Class of 2006  
February 16, 2021

**Doris Childs**  
Class of 1956  
November 17, 2020

**Marian Ottens**  
Class of 1959  
June 6, 2021

**Sharon Eames**  
Class of 1968  
March 21, 2020

**Matthew Rolinger**  
Former Allen Foundation  
Director  
June 8, 2021

**Eilene Ender**  
Class of 1951  
February 18, 2021

**Beverly Shirk**  
Class of 1953  
October 6, 2020

**Marjorie Fleig**  
Class of 1951  
October 2, 2020

**Mildred Sickles**  
Class of 1954  
August 9, 2020

**Claudia Kaestner**  
Class of 1961  
June 9, 2021

**Sally Walker**  
Class of 1977  
March 9, 2021

**Mary Klinzing**  
Class of 1951  
August 1, 2020

## Thompson & Associates services offered free to alumni



Dr. Eddie Thompson of Thompson & Associates offers complimentary estate planning services free of charge to Allen College alumni, friends of the college and UnityPoint Health employees on a monthly basis.

Estate planning helps assure you that the assets (including property, insurance policies, retirement accounts, cash on hand, etc.) you have worked hard for during your life transfer to your loved ones and your valued charitable organizations in the way you intend.

The following confidential services are available:

- Estate Planning 101 – what you need to know to get started
- Estate Plan Review – a valuable second opinion on your current plan
- Comprehensive Estate Planning Services
- Consultation with Your Attorney, CPA, or other planning professionals
- Ask Thompson & Associates – telephone and e-mail question and answer service

Contact the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960 or email [Michael.Lind@unitypoint.org](mailto:Michael.Lind@unitypoint.org) to schedule your in-person or virtual appointment with Eddie.

## Alumni scholarly award program

The Allen College Alumni Association (ACAA) is excited to announce that the next round of Alumni Scholarly Award applications is **due Friday, August 6**. Learn more and apply online at [www.allencollege.edu/acaascholarship](http://www.allencollege.edu/acaascholarship).

The Alumni Scholarly Award aims to assist Allen College alumni in advancing their career through certifications, research or other types of continuing education (not intended for tuition assistance).

A total of \$2,000 will be awarded per year, and the awards will be given to four recipients at a maximum of \$500 each. The ACAA will accept applications twice yearly. Contact [Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org](mailto:Beth.Sullivan@unitypoint.org) with questions.



# Allen College UnityPoint Health

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