Allen College planning five new academic programs

Allen College has begun taking steps to add five new academic programs to its undergraduate and graduate offerings. Planning efforts are under way to add programs for a master’s degree in occupational therapy (MOT); a master’s degree in community/public health nursing (MSN); a bachelor’s degree completion program for dental hygienists (BHS-DH); a bachelor’s degree in public health (BHS-PH); and a doctor of education (EdD) in health professions education.

“Each program has been suggested to fulfill an unmet need in the state,” said Dr. Nancy Kramer, vice chancellor of academic affairs. “The overall purpose of adding the new programs is to improve healthcare services to the citizens of the state. Each program addresses unique needs and populations.”

While the clinical practice programs will help healthcare providers better meet community needs, the EdD program will help address the state and national shortage of doctorally-prepared nursing and health science educators, Kramer said.

The new program development process begins with approval by the Board of Trustees to pursue planning and continues through work with consultants, advisory committees, curriculum development, approvals and appropriate accreditation, Kramer said. The MSN program in community/public health nursing program is slated to start in fall 2013, while the remaining programs will start no later than fall 2014 if they receive final approval.

Part of the process also involves seeking input from professionals in these specialty areas to determine support and interest in the programs. For the MOT program, local and statewide practicing therapists, including

Dedicated education unit starting 2013

Allen College administrators are working closely with Allen Hospital clinicians to launch a dedicated education unit (DEU) at the hospital in 2013. An education model that is gaining popularity as a way to counteract the shortage of nursing faculty nationwide, a DEU is a unit within a hospital that is dedicated to teaching upper-class nursing students while at the same time providing optimal patient care.

“A DEU is designed to provide students with a positive clinical learning environment that maximizes the achievement of student learning outcomes, uses proven teaching/learning strategies and capitalizes on the expertise of both clinicians and faculty,” said Dr. Nancy Kramer, vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Allen College has been exploring the development of a DEU since January 2011, when a planning committee formed, comprised of representatives from the College and clinical practitioners from the hospital. The clinical collaboration committee has recommended a surgical unit in the hospital for the pilot program, and has clarified roles for clinical unit nurses and faculty.

“The partnership between faculty and practice provides a synergistic environment to best educate the next generation of nurses, and the opportunity for nursing staff to stay fresh and motivated in their roles as mentor and role model,” Kramer said. “It also helps faculty remain grounded in clinical reality.”

Assistant professor Sarah Steele and unit head nurse Rita Borrett are overseeing the DEU. In July 2011, they attended a national conference on the development and use of DEUs for nursing education.

The planning committee meets regularly and has recommended nursing staff to serve as clinical instructor/nursing educator associates. The College will provide a workshop for staff in the summer, and will determine a student selection process. The program is slated to launch in the 2012-2013 academic year.

According to Allen Chancellor Dr. Jerry Durham, “The DEU partnership with Allen Hospital is a win-win for everyone—students, faculty, staff and patients. I know the Allen nurses will be great role models for our students who will benefit greatly from the expert mentoring of experienced clinicians. Students will gain greater insight into the day-to-day activities of their mentors and learn how to prioritize care and solve clinical problems.”

Construction of the new Winter Hall is nearing completion.
For the second consecutive year, Allen College has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Allen College’s selection for the Honor Roll is recognition from the highest levels of the federal government of our commitment to service and civic engagement on our campus and in our nation.

The College’s Center for Engagement, Learning and Leadership (CELL), implemented only three years ago, has spearheaded our efforts in the service and service-learning arenas. Much of the praise for this honor belongs to faculty members Mary Brown and Dr. Anna Wagle, and to staff member Kristin Teig Torres, who have developed and implemented the College’s service/service-learning activities.

For the most recent academic year, Allen College students, faculty and staff provided almost 8,000 hours of service through course-related community service, personal community service and service-learning. Allen College has established 20 community partnerships that are the focus of students’ service-learning and service projects. Eight faculty members developed a service-learning component for their courses last year by participating in the CELL-sponsored Service-Learning Faculty Scholar program. Finally, the College’s faculty/student-operated free health clinic at the Salvation Army, led by Dr. Roselle Dobson, experienced growth of 79 percent in 2011 by providing care for 849 patients.

New programs fulfill unmet needs in the state

The new programs will expand the arena of healthcare professional programs we offer, as well as potentially expand our reach into bordering states with several of these programs,” Kramer said. “They will also expand our enrollment numbers.”

Allen Foundation has awarded 12 Allen College undergraduates in their final year of study the Winter Family Promises to Keep Award. This unique award provides financial support for deserving students while also creating a vision of philanthropy through this relationship that will benefit future generations of Allen College students.

The program selects eligible students who have demonstrated a potential for positively changing the lives of other people through philanthropy and service to their communities. Selected students receive an award, typically ranging from $2,500 to $5,000, in their final year of undergraduate study. In return, award recipients are asked to consider making donations over a 15-year period following graduation to the Winter Family Promises to Keep Award fund maintained by the Allen Foundation.

A key goal of the Winter Family Promises to Keep Award is for Allen College to receive an annual gift from 100 percent of the award recipients. This award reflects two promises:
• The promise that the College will support the worthy recipient in keeping their promise to the family.
• The promise that the College will support the worthy recipient in keeping their promise to the family.

Applications are now being accepted for 2013 graduates. Deadlines are April 1, 2012, for May 2013 graduates; June 15, 2012, for August 2013 graduates; and December 1, 2012, for December 2013 graduates. For more information and an application, visit allencollege.edu or contact Rhonda Gilbert at gibberrs@ihs.org.
2011-2012 outside scholarship recipients

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations that offered scholarship assistance to Allen College students during the 2011-2012 academic year. Congratulations to the recipients. Allen College institutional scholarship recipients and donors were acknowledged in the fall newsletter.

Field Memorial Scholarship
Trust Scholarship
Kylie Wayne
Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way Scholarship
Sarah Scott
Grundy County Memorial Hospital Scholarship
Jessica Thompson
Lehigh Hanson Inc. Scholarship
Kyle Wayne
Harvest Evangelical Free Church Scholarship
Amber Renaud
Hillcrest Home Inc. Scholarship
Nicole Smith
Horsefly Scholarship
Andy Holland
Iowa Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship
Brittany Keppler
Iowa Health Care Association Scholarship
Whitney Wubben
Iowa Hospital Education Research Foundation Scholarship
Brittany Keppler
Kokos Area Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship
Anonymous Recipient
Memorial Hospital Association Inc. Scholarship
Kylie Wayne
Mercy Hospital Foundation Nursing Education Scholarship
Stephanie Sparks
Kenneth G. Meyerhoff Trust Scholarship
Whitney Woss
Mid American Baptist Women's Ministries Scholarship
Heidi Iehl
Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center Scholarship
Breezy Coleman
Northeast Iowa EMS Inc., Corporation Scholarship
Anonymous Recipient
National Tractor Parts Dealer Association Scholarship
Megan Schriver
New Hampton Dollars for Scholars
Krisann Winter
Auto M. Nielsen Trust Scholarship
Kristin Sommernfeldt
Northeast Iowa EMS Inc. DBA Chickasaw Ambulance Service Scholarship
Lacey Graf
Punchard Educational Fund Scholarship
Kathryn K楣
Quinn Healthcare Scholarship
Rebekah Ludwig
Clarence and Olive Richman Scholarship
Kaitlin Crie

New faculty and staff

Allen College is pleased to welcome the following new faculty and staff.

Anne Doyle, International Admissions Counselor
Anne Doyle received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Master of Arts degree in education student affairs from the University of Northern Iowa. She is married to Tim, an Allen College alumnus, and they have two children: William, 8, and Sydney, 3. Prior to joining Allen College, Doyle worked for Hawkeye Community College for 15 years as the international student services coordinator. In her spare time, Doyle enjoys reading, spending time with family, walking and traveling.

Danielle Fortsch, Library Assistant
Danielle Fortsch received her Bachelor of Liberal Science degree in the medical administrative assistant program and a diploma from the medical secretary program from Hawkeye Community College. She most recently worked as a manager at Sears Roebuck & Company and continues to work for Sears as a consultative sales associate. Fortsch is a soccer and football fan, especially for the Iowa Hawkeyes. She also enjoys watching movies in her spare time.

Dr. Terra McEnany, Assistant Professor
Dr. McEnany received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and Master of Science in Nursing degree with a family nurse practitioner focus from Allen College, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the University of Kansas. She also earned her post-master’s certificate as an acute care nurse practitioner from Allen College. McEnany now teaches in the MSN acute care program. She is married to Kevin and they have two children: Shaelyn, 14, and Teegan, 8. They reside in Independence, where they are active in their community, works as a nurse practitioner for Buchanan County Health Center. She also works at Allen College’s Ambulatory Surgery Center at United Medical Park. In her spare time, she enjoys her family and pets, camping, kayaking, soccer, University of Iowa athletics, reading and playing piano.

Juanita Williams, Outreach Recruiter
Juanita Williams received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology degree from the University of Wisconsin Madison and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from St. Louis University in Missouri. She has done course work toward a master’s degree in public health. Williams is married to Dennis Hubbard and they have two children: Jess, 23, and Jordan, 20. Prior to joining Allen College, Williams worked for the Black Hawk County Health Department and Wartburg Franciscan Healthcare. She has worked in a wide variety of nursing settings, including cardiac surgical intensive care, cardiac rehab, women’s health, mental health, home health, public health and clinical development. In her spare time, Williams enjoys hiking, volunteering at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and her church, as well as traveling.

Allen College students raise funds for Allen Child Protection Center

In November 2011, Allen College students organized a campaign to raise funds for the Allen Child Protection Center. Working in teams of four, five or six members, students engaged their peers, families and friends in this fundraising effort. During a two-week period, the Allen College Night Out for Kids Campaign involved 150 participants in collecting donations for the center and raised $58,266.

The students took time out to celebrate their success with an event sponsored by area businesses and associations. Located in Cedar Falls, Iowa, the Allen Child Protection Center conducts evaluations and interviews to provide immediate help for children in northeast and north central Iowa who have been physically or sexually abused.

TOP: Allen College Honors Students pose for a photo during an event to celebrate the success of Allen College student fundraising for the Allen Child Protection Center. (Front row, l-r) Heidi Demmer, Desyre Swope, Ashley Fugigbarn, Triptil, Anna Deutsch, Freep, III; (Behind) Brittany Keppler, Greely, Whitney Woss, Huber, Madison Aitken, (Middle, l-r) Samantha Dukato, Mason City, Paige Benenato, Desage, Ashley Nolan, Guthrie Center; Jessica Sherman, Randalla, Victoria Knuston, Hampton. (Back row, l-r) Keri Scholmann, Highland, Megan Schafer, Waterloo, Bethany Kurnell, Dinkerton.

BOTTOM: Janine Year Allen College nursing students Megan Schafer, Waterloo, Kristen Nolan, Waterloo, Marisa Dennis, Waterloo, and Brigitte Jungen, Evansdale, celebrate the success of Allen College student fundraising for the Allen Child Protection Center.

Dr. Andrea Addington presented a lecture on “Caring for Refugees: Measuring Cultural Competence in Nursing Settings” at the Cross Cultural Health Care Conference: Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Interventions in Honolulu, Hawaii, in October 2011.

Dr. Andrea Addington and Doreen Mingo became our newest Certified Nurse Educators by successfully completing the National League for Nursing Academic Nurse Educator Certification exam. They join numerous other Allen College faculty members with this distinction.

Suzanne Bellinger became certified in Inpatient Obstetrics by the National Certification Corporation.

Dr. Russel DeDonis presented “Developing Advocacy through Service” at the Fourth Annual DNP Conference in New Orleans in September 2011.

Dr. Russel DeDonis, Cindy Jenness, Jacque Leutzinger, Denise Pruelle, Jared Seliger, Mavis Thuls and Lindsey Vogel were selected as Allen College Service-Learning Faculty scholars for this academic year.

Cindy Jenness has been appointed to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Visiting Nurse Association.

Dr. Nancy Kramer has been selected to serve on the nominating committee in 2012 for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Dr. Kramer passed the Pediatric Mental Health Specialist certification exam. The purpose of this exam is to recognize and validate those pediatric primary care providers who have added knowledge, skills and expertise in the early identification, intervention and collaboration of care of children and adolescents with mental and behavioral health concerns. Specialty certification in child and adolescent behavioral health and mental healthcare provides additional recognition, beyond APRN certification, of practice knowledge and expertise in child and adolescent behavioral and mental healthcare.

Dr. Kramer also presented three full-day live webinars on Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) preparation for Nurse Tim Inc.

Dr. Kramer agreed to serve as a chapter writer for FA Davis’ second edition of Maternal Child Nursing Care. She will also be writing an evidence-based research piece for each of the 35 chapters in the new edition.

Jackie Meyer has been appointed assistant dean of graduate nursing.

Doreen Mingo received a Certificate in Distance Education from Thomas A. Edison State College.

Jared Seliger presented “Will PET/CT” complement or compete with PET/CT” at the Missouri Valley Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine annual meeting on October 15, 2011, in Lake Ozark, MO.

Sarah Steele and Dr. Anna Weepie completed the certified online instructor program through the Learning Resources Network (LERN).

Kristin Teig Torres earned a Master of Arts (MA) degree in philanthropy and nonprofit development from the University of Northern Iowa.

Lindsay Vogel graduated with a post-master’s certificate in the gerontological nurse practitioner (GPN) program at St. Louis University.

Dr. Anna Weepie has been appointed assistant dean of undergraduate nursing.


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Dr. Anna Weepie has been appointed assistant dean of undergraduate nursing.


New volunteer opportunity for Service-Learning students

The Reading Buddy Program

Students in Mary Brown’s Service-Learning classes this spring have the option of a new service project. The Reading Buddy program launched in January at Highland School, formerly McKinstry Elementary, in Waterloo. The project pairs Allen College students with second graders who need extra help with reading.

“This program gives students the opportunity to work with a caring mentor from the community,” said Cory Levendusky, second grade team mentor from the community. “These mentors are helping guide students as they develop their reading fluency and comprehension skills.”

Allen College students visit the second-grade classrooms on Mondays and Fridays and work with kids in four different classes. Consistent with the mission of service-learning, the Reading Buddy program helps nursing students by exposing them to different populations within their community.

“I believe that a program like this teaches nursing students that volunteering helps people of all ages and creates a healthier community for us all,” Levendusky said. “Nursing students who volunteer get to experience the joy of making a difference in the life of a child.”

ACE-SAP clinic thrives with new funding

The Allen College Engagement and Salvation Army Partnership (ACE-SAP), founded in 2008 to provide free healthcare services to those in need, had a record year in 2010-2011. The clinic served 849 patients, volunteered 1,685 student and faculty hours, provided more than $120,000 of care and volunteered 1,685 student and faculty hours, in 2010-2011. The clinic served 849 patients, volunteered 1,685 student and faculty hours, provided more than $120,000 of care and volunteered 1,685 student and faculty hours.

The clinic was awarded a $20,000 grant from the Guernsey Charitable Foundation, $11,255 from the Cedar Valley United Way and $10,000 from the landfall grant through the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. ACE-SAP received $3,987 from the Floyd County Community Foundation to provide mobile clinics in Floyd County.

“We used the Des Moines University mobile clinic to hold a clinic in Charles City,” said Dr. Russelle DeBonis, Allen College associate professor and ACE-SAP coordinator. “The grant will allow us to do two per year in rural areas of Floyd County.”

These grants helped the clinic see a 79 percent increase in the number of patients from 2010 to 2011. And many patients means more experience for Allen College students.

“This type of service is important experience for our students,” said DeBonis. “It increases their understanding of the issues of poverty and insurance, and how they impact healthcare.”

DeBonis said after volunteering at the clinic, students’ intent to volunteer always increases. Students also show vast improvement in their attitudes toward and knowledge about community healthcare and socioeconomic issues, based on pre- and post-service student self-evaluations.

Allen College students and DeBonis are grateful for the generous funding. They’ve seen firsthand how the clinic impacts the community.

“Most of the funding goes to lab testing and medications,” said DeBonis. “Patients without money or insurance don’t know where their important health numbers, and some even go off their medications.” ACE-SAP provides free testing at the clinic, as well as medications through an agreement with Hy-Vee Pharmacy.

Working with children rewards nursing students with valuable lessons

Some of the most valuable lessons nursing students learn don’t come from textbooks or professors—even though they happen in classrooms. Instead, service-learning students last fall learned the most from middle-school students at George Washington Carver Academy in Waterloo.

Two of the project options in Mary Brown’s classes in fall 2011 involved education at Carver. One group taught Junior Achievement (JA), a national, volunteer-based program that teaches youth about business and economics. Sherica Smith, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) student from St. Louis, was assigned to teach JA to an eighth-grade class. Doing so was not her choice.

“I just can’t deal with kids,” Smith said. “I have no patience and no tolerance. I thought it was going to be a nightmare.”

Instead, Smith found her students to be interested and engaged. Unlike inner-city youth she had encountered in St. Louis, her JA students were proud of their intelligence and not embarrassed to participate. The experience changed her perspective.

“It definitely taught me not to judge, and to give them a chance,” Smith said. “I really think that I needed Junior Achievement more than those kids needed me.”

Kimber Moler, an Upper Division BSN student, also worked at Carver, helping out in a sixth-grade special-needs classroom. Each of the students

Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant spurs success

Recipients of Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) Grant funds are seeing the impact of the funding upon their student careers. In December 2011, the Office of Diversity Services (ODS) hosted a family celebration for NWD scholars.

Dr. Russelle DeBonis, NNU 590 Advanced Physical Health Assessment

“Today, Allen College will launch a six-week summer nursing camp for juniors and senior-level high-school students who are interested in nursing. The program will expose students to a variety of nursing careers, while strengthening their science, math and study skills in preparation for a career in nursing or allied health, Mingo said. Students will also travel to various healthcare facilities each week to learn how members of the healthcare team work together to improve the health of the patient.”

“Every day we’ll invite different RN guest speakers, who will come during lunch to talk about their positions,” Mingo said.

“Twice a week the students will also meet RN mentors who will problem-solve, network and share relevant ideas and tips to motivate and encourage the students to continue on their career path.”

Twenty-five area students will be invited to participate and will be given a stipend for doing so.

“We don’t want them to have to choose between work and an educational program which will affect their future,” Mingo said.

“Students often lack the experience and financial support to participate in academic enrichment opportunities funded by the scholarship and retention portions of the NWD Grant. These programs are aimed at increasing retention and graduation rates.”

Mid-school career days, male student recruiting fairs, nursing and best practice peer-to-peer mentoring, and success seminars are all ongoing programs that are now funded by the grant, although these efforts to recruit and retain historically underrepresented students were underway before the College received the federal NWD grant. These programs—all aimed at recruiting and retaining students from groups underrepresented in nursing—continue to help Allen College increase awareness of
Graduation Recap

Fall Commencement Ceremony

Allen College’s 2011 fall commencement ceremony was held on Friday, December 16, at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. The College awarded the Bachelor of Health Sciences degree to two students majoring in Medical Laboratory Sciences; the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree to 40 students (including 11 RN to BSN students); and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree to four students.

Recipients: ShanQuiesha Robinson

Recipient: Brittney Bennett

For each graduation, the nursing faculty of Allen College select the graduating with the highest cumulative grade point.

JANE E. HASEK EXCELLENCY IN NURSING AWARD

Each year Presidential Awards are given for excellence in academics to a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program who is graduating with the highest cumulative grade point.

Recipient: Stephanie Behne

ACADEMIC HONORS

**Magna Cum Laude (3.71-3.89 GPA)**

*Summa Cum Laude (3.9 GPA or above)

**Magna Cum Laude (3.71-3.89 GPA)**

*Cum Laude (3.5-3.7 GPA)

The following graduates were recognized for their awards and honors during fall graduation activities.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Each year Presidential Awards are given for excellence in academics to a student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program who is graduating with the highest cumulative grade point.

Recipient: Stephanie Behne

JANE E. HASEK EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARD

For each graduation, the nursing faculty of Allen College select the 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 was named in recognition of the first Chancellor of Allen College, Dr. Jane Hasek, for her visionary leadership in the establishment of the College.

Recipient: Brittany Bennett

ALLEN COLLEGE SERVICE AWARD

Selection of the Allen College Service Award is made by the Allen College faculty for a student who has provided outstanding service to the College and as an ambassador in the community, demonstrated a strong commitment to the core values espoused in the College philosophy.

Recipient: ShantQuiesha Robinson

Congratulations to the Following Fall Graduates!

Bachelor of Health Sciences –

Medical Laboratory Science

Jennica Fox

Kristen Hurst*

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Ashley Beck

Stephanie Behne*

April Bellfield

Brittney Bennett*

Lynnea Bigler-Keune

Sarah Bischoff

Ashley Boeck-Nielsen

Erica Bright, RN

Teresa Calpepper, RN

Kacie Eleen

Charity Fecht, RN

Sara Feerbach

Caillen Geilenfeldi**

Aimee Grant, RN

Alysha Harli

Michaela Haugland

Lisa Hayes

Gabrielle Holwick, RN

Kayla Joens

Darlene Jess, RN

Martha Keim

Brittany Kepper*

Ashley Kimball**

Victoria Knutson

Kristina Lawrence

Nicole Moon

Tammi Noonan, RN

Tasha Oppermann

Meghan Ran debecker

Katura Rentey*

ShantQuiesha Robinson

Audrey Salow

Dianne Schultz, RN**

Sarah Schultz

Noel Seawel

Sherry Seelase, RN*

Jessica Sherman

Lisa Solberg, RN

Brittney Van Haenen

Kimberly Wood, RN*

Master of Science in Nursing

Emily Ball

Jessica Collum

Emily Pederson

Samanthu Schutt

ACADEMIC HONORS

*Summa Cum Laude (3.9 GPA or above)

**Magna Cum Laude (3.71-3.89 GPA)

*Cum Laude (3.5-3.7 GPA)

In response to a chronic and growing shortage of mental health specialists in Iowa, Allen College initiated an adult psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (APMHN) track of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program in 2008. The first cohort of eight students completed the track in 2010 and passed the national certification examination required to work as psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners. A second cohort of 13 students will complete the APMHN track in 2012. In early December of 2011, the Iowa Board of Nursing approved Allen College’s request to shift the focus of the track from adult to family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (FPMHN).

The change will expand the focus of the track to include populations through the life span from infancy through older adult. The College requested the change to reflect recommendations embedded in the 2008 Consensus Model for APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education. Multiple APRN stakeholder nursing organizations worked for nearly four years to complete this model in efforts to achieve greater alignment of the elements needed to prepare APRNs to be competent practitioners and ensure public safety. In 2010, a joint task force of the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association recommended "that there will be one entry educational focus for the future: PMHNP with preparation across the lifespan, addressing mental health promotion and mental illness diagnosis and treatment."

Allen College will implement the curriculum changes by the 2012 fall semester. Students enrolling in the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner specialty courses in the spring of 2013 or thereafter will be prepared for subsequent changes to the national certification exams and will quality to sit the family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner exam.

IBN Accreditation

Allen College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs received full approval for a period of six years from the Iowa Board of Nursing (IBN). This approval came after an on-site visit and a review of a self-study report and supporting documents. Congratulations to Dr. Kendra Williams-Perez, Dr. Nancy Kramer and the nursing faculty and staff who have worked hard to maintain high quality academic programs and services in the School of Nursing.

Allen College to offer family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program

In early December of 2011, the Iowa Board of Nursing approved Allen College’s request to shift the focus of the track from adult to family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (FPMHN). The change will expand the focus of the track to include populations through the life span from infancy through older adult. The College requested the change to reflect recommendations embedded in the 2008 Consensus Model for APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Education. Multiple APRN stakeholder nursing organizations worked for nearly four years to complete this model in efforts to achieve greater alignment of the elements needed to prepare APRNs to be competent practitioners and ensure public safety. In 2010, a joint task force of the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses and the American Psychiatric Nurses Association recommended "that there will be one entry educational focus for the future: PMHNP with preparation across the lifespan, addressing mental health promotion and mental illness diagnosis and treatment."

Allen College will implement the curriculum changes by the 2012 fall semester. Students enrolling in the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner specialty courses in the spring of 2013 or thereafter will be prepared for subsequent changes to the national certification exams and will quality to sit the family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner exam.

NMT program receives accreditation

On October 27, 2011, Allen College’s Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT) program received accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT).

The College launched the NMT certificate and degree programs in 2009, and faculty and administration have been working since then to receive accreditation, said program director Jared Seliger.

“From the time I started here, accreditation has always been a top priority,” he said. “You have to let the program play out to collect the data to submit. From start to finish, well over a year’s worth of work goes into this. The paperwork is substantial. We submitted information about the program and all of our clinical sites.”

Accreditation from JRCNMT was a two-part process, beginning with a self-study that documents the program’s curriculum, policies and procedures to ensure they meet the committee’s standards. This was followed by a site visit by JRCNMT evaluators who came to Allen College to verify the accuracy of the information in the self-study.

Allen College received an initial three-year accreditation, which is the maximum allowed for a new program, Seliger said. “To be accredited as such a new program really speaks a lot to the quality of the program and the administrators here at Allen College.”

Like most accreditations, the JRCNMT accreditation assures students who choose Allen College’s NMT program that they’re getting a quality education that meets high standards in the field. But this accreditation goes beyond that.

“The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB) exam is going to require all programs to be accredited by 2016,” Seliger said. “So if we weren’t accredited by then, our students couldn’t take the NMTCB exam and they couldn’t get certified. Most employers require applicants to be board certified.”
Alumni Activities

A full-scale card drive was held to secure donations from Allen College alumni for the Winter/Hall Matching Scholarship Funds. Twenty-five Allen College students worked the phones for three nights in a row, asking alumni to contribute to the scholarships.

A graduation party was held on Friday, December 9, 2011, for the Allen College December graduates. The party was held at Beck’s on University Ave. in Waterloo, and was hosted by the Allen College Alumni Association. The Alumni Association hosts parties three times a year to celebrate Allen College graduates as they transition from students to alumni.

A Denver, CO, alumni reception was held Monday, January 9, 2012, at Racine’s Restaurant in downtown Denver.

Allen College Alumni & Friends attended a performance of Spamalot on Sunday, January 15, at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI campus. A reception followed the matinee production.

The second annual Allen College Alumni Association fundraiser, Donate to Educate, was held on Saturday, February 18, 2012, in Barrett Forum. The evening featured a wine tasting, silent and live auctions, and first-class musical entertainment.

Allen College Commencement & Alumni Dinner

Friday, May 4, 2012
10 a.m. Tours of the Hospital and College
11:30 a.m. Lunch in Barrett Forum on the Allen College Campus
1 p.m. Rehearsal for Commencement – Class of 1992 is asked to gown and walk in Commencement
3 p.m. Commencement – Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
5:30 p.m. Social Hour – Park Place Event Center, Cedar Falls
6:30 p.m. Dinner

All Allen College alumni are welcome to attend. There will be special recognition for 25-year and older classes. Individual invitations were mailed in March.

Alumni College Class Gift Challenge

Why give to the Class Gift Challenge? Alumni say...

Name: Dana Wedeking
Allen College Program: Diploma, BSN, MSN

“It was a way for me to give back to the institution that gave me a career I love, and a way that I could help a future nurse to realize his or her dream—it is just the right thing to do.”

Name: Jeff Gram
Allen College Program: RN-BSN
Class: 1995, 1996

“Allen College provided me with the foundation to excel in my profession as a registered nurse (RN). To continue the tradition of excellence that Allen College has become known for, I felt it was important to pay it forward so others can have the same opportunity that I and other alumni have had. I encourage my fellow classmates and colleagues of Allen College to join me in paying it forward for the future of our profession.”

For more information on the class gift challenge, visit allencollege.edu. Click on the alumni tab.

To donate, make check payable to Allen College Alumni Association and indicate class year. Send to Allen College, 1825 Logan Avenue, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Why give to the Class Gift Challenge?

Donate to Educate, was held on Saturday, February 18, 2012, in Barrett Forum. The evening featured a wine tasting, silent and live auctions, and first-class musical entertainment.

JOIN THE FUN

Allen College Alumni & Friends are planning a 2012 trip to France and Italy. At press time, there are 18 people signed up to take the once-in-a-lifetime trip to see the sites of Paris, Florence, the Tuscan countryside and Milan.

CEUs are available.

Student Snapshots

Names: Huichuan “Helen” Wang
Program: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
Graduation Date: December 2012
Homestow: Kunming, China

About Helen:
Helen chose Allen College for many reasons. One of her biggest draws to the BSN program was the excellent staff and faculty, as well as the high overall pass rate. Upon graduation, Helen plans to stay in the United States with her husband and find a job, hopefully working in a hospital operating room or intensive care unit. She also plans to remain an active community volunteer.

Helen is one of this year’s winners of the Winter Family Promises to Keep Award. "Allen College provided me with the foundation to excel in my profession as a registered nurse (RN). To continue the tradition of excellence that Allen College has become known for, I felt it was important to pay it forward so others can have the same opportunity that I and other alumni have had. I encourage my fellow classmates and colleagues of Allen College to join me in paying it forward for the future of our profession.”

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Student Snapshots

Names: David Palmer
Program: Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
Graduation Date: August 2012
Homestow: Waterloo, IA

About David:
When David was researching nursing schools, he determined that Allen College was simply the best for him. He’s currently pursuing his accelerated BSN degree and plans to continue at Allen College in the newly revised family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (FPMHNP) program.

Could it also be one of this year’s Winter Family Promises to Keep Award recipients? He said he can’t express what the award means to him.

“Just like that, I have a 4-year-old daughter. Without this funding, I would have to work part time. And being a parent, going to school full time, plus working part time is next to impossible.”

After graduation, David plans to give back to the College and the community. He is a mentor for the Waterloo schools and has several nonprofit organizations on his list to help. Next year, he’s travelling to Kenya to help children there, and plans to do that on a regular basis.
You can help shape the future of Allen College and Allen Hospital by donating to Allen College. Your generous donations will help finance special projects to enhance the quality of our education and the realm of our services. Contact Allen College or Allen Foundation to find out how you can make a difference, or donate online at www.allenhospital.org/foundation.

Visit us online at www.allencollege.edu.

Transcripts

All transcript requests may be submitted in writing and mailed to:

Allen College
Attn: Transcripts
1825 Logan Ave.
Waterloo, IA 50703

Transcript fees:
Immediate Service - $8
48-Hour Business Service - $6
Faxing Service - $13
Student Copy - $6

Please include the year you graduated, your name at graduation, the address where the transcript should be mailed and the transcript fee, payable to Allen College.

For a copy of the transcript request form, please visit our website at www.allencollege.edu. Use the page search menu to find the form. Direct any questions to Enrollment Management by calling 319-226-2000 or by emailing allencollegeadmissions@ihs.org.

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2012 Calendar of Events

Friday, May 4  Allen College Spring Commencement
5:30 p.m.  Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls (open to the public)
6:30 p.m.  Alumni Reunion Social Hour, Park Place Event Centre, Cedar Falls
       Alumni Reunion Dinner

May 11-21  Tour Paris & Italy with Allen College Alumni & Friends
Watch for pictures in the fall newsletter.

For information on alumni reunion activities, view the Alumni Events page of the Allen College website at www.allencollege.edu.