



Allen College Communicator

Allen College Celebrates 30 Years of Progress

Dr. Jane Hasek was the vice president of education at Allen Hospital 30 years ago when she took on the monumental task of incorporating a college.

"I believed very strongly in it. It was my passion, and I thought it was something that needed to be done," said Dr. Hasek, Allen College's founding chancellor.

Five years later, the 10 administrators, faculty and staff of Allen College watched the first 31 students receive their diplomas for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree — the only program offered at that time.

This year — Allen College's 30th anniversary — we celebrate these milestones, the visionaries who helped make it happen and the college's many years of success.

Persistence Was the Key to Founding

Dr. Hasek said the incorporation of Allen College was nine years in the making. The question wasn't if, but how it would get done, she said.

Models and curricula from other colleges around the nation were explored. Opinions and insight were sought from people across the Cedar Valley and academic leaders in the field. The need and demand for nurses was measured.

A plan was set in motion, but the road to incorporation was a little bumpy. Although there was broad support for incorporating the college, Dr. Hasek and her team ran into financial and political obstacles that had to be worked through.

"The college is indebted to Dr. Jane Hasek for steering the college through this byzantine process whose successful outcome was never

assured," said Dr. Jerry Durham, who succeeded Dr. Hasek as chancellor.

Allen College was successfully incorporated in 1989. Its singular focus on nursing and health sciences made it the first of its kind in Iowa.

"We were humbly proud. We believed in what we were doing and believed in the course. We were all very proud of this success," Dr. Hasek said.

Over the following years, Drs. Hasek and Durham built Allen College's team of top-notch faculty and its reputation for quality programs, advanced degrees and ability to keep pace with the healthcare industry.

"The partnership with other multiple institutions and collaboration with other higher education institutions is a hallmark of Allen College," added Dr. Durham.

Allen College has grown from fewer than 200 students in the early years to over 600 students enrolled and from one degree program to three nursing degree programs and seven health science degree programs — four of which are graduate programs. A doctoral program in physical therapy is planned.

College Continues to Evolve for Today and Beyond

Dr. Jared Seliger, president of Allen College, said it continues to evolve as an organization — through the advancement of technology, enrollment of students, hard work of faculty and staff and building the campus.

"Our greatest accomplishment has been each graduation. We are training high-quality healthcare professionals who will impact people's lives and ensuring they will be effective in the workforce. We get to watch the hard work pay off," Dr. Seliger said.

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To receive an electronic copy of this newsletter instead of a mailed copy, contact Rhonda.Gilbert@allencollege.edu with your email address.

Allen College Mission

Allen College is committed to preparing exceptional healthcare professionals through educational programs of excellence; to developing and sustaining a diverse community of learners, faculty and staff; and to promoting community service, scholarship, and lifelong learning.

President's Communication



Dr. Jared Seliger, President

Throughout 2019, Allen College is engaging in a comprehensive strategic planning process that will serve as the college's roadmap for 2020-2024. Allen College is on a five year cycle of developing and navigating through strategic plans.

The current plan entitled "Honoring our Legacy, Building our Future" was developed in 2014 and has guided us to tremendous outcomes over the last five years.

During the last five years,

- We have prepared outstanding healthcare practitioners as evident by our enrollment, graduation and certification pass rate scores.
- We have developed academic programs of excellence responsive to the needs of Iowa and the nation by opening the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program and developing the soon-to-be open Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.
- We have promoted a commitment to lives of service for all members of the Allen College community by strengthening our involvement in the community through service learning.

Even though Allen College has demonstrated sustained success, our institution must continually evolve to remain a thriving, sustainable entity. Our 2020-2024 strategic plan will be the culmination of a year-long process that included input from all members of the campus community.

The process was kicked-off by the Allen College Board of Trustees during a Board retreat in March 2019. The Board set the overall direction for the development of the new strategic plan.

A meeting was held with the Allen College Student Ambassadors in April to get the students' perspective of what the current needs of our students are. The faculty and staff were able to provide their initial input during a planning session in May.

The information gathered from the Board, students, faculty and staff was used to create the first draft of the plan.

Later this fall, members of the Allen College community will have an opportunity to review the draft and make any suggestions. Additionally, the draft of the 2020-2024 strategic plan draft will be available on the Allen College website for review and feedback by our alumni and friends.

I am very proud of the hard work and dedication of the Allen College faculty and staff who ensured we were successful in our "Honoring our Legacy, Building our Future" strategic plan. I am also confident that our new strategic plan will provide a path of continued success into the future.

Allen College Celebrates 30 Years of Progress—continued from page 1

Dr. Hasek was confident Allen College would be a success, but she is still surprised by how fast the number of students and programs has grown.

Dr. Seliger attributes this growth to two factors.

"First, it's the people we have working here. Allen College has a highly qualified team of faculty and staff members who provide opportunities for students to be successful and are also dedicated to their jobs. Second, healthcare is a sought-after profession, as healthcare is on an upward trajectory and there is a need for it," he said.

As Allen College rises to meet changing healthcare needs and expands education to online, these former and current college leaders all predict an even brighter future for Allen and its students.

Allen Through the Years

Then – the early years

Programs

- 1 baccalaureate nursing degree program

Facilities

- Offices and classrooms located in Allen Hospital and Dack Hall

Administrators, faculty, staff

- 10 administrators, faculty and staff

Students

- 176 students enrolled

Now – 2019

Programs

- 1 associate degree program
- 2 baccalaureate degree programs with multiple tracks
- 2 master's degree programs with multiple tracks
- 2 doctoral degree programs with a third program in development

Facilities

- 5 academic buildings on campus
- Additional classrooms and office space planned within Allen Hospital

Administrators, faculty, staff

- 88 administrators, faculty and staff

Students

- 619 students

Dr. Linda Allen Retires from Board

When Dr. Linda Allen retired as president of Hawkeye Community College at the end of June, she also retired from the Allen College Board of Trustees.

Dr. Allen served on the Allen College Board of Trustees eight years and most recently as the secretary/treasurer.

Dr. Allen was instrumental in creating a collegial relationship between Allen College and Hawkeye Community College that benefits the colleges' student bodies. Thank you for your service to Allen College.

**AUG 27
2019**



ALLEN COLLEGE
**DAY OF
GIVING**

#allinforallen

Complimentary Estate Planning

If you're thinking about planning for your future, we can help. Allen Foundation offers complimentary estate and retirement planning assistance sessions on a monthly basis.

This free service ensures you reduce/eliminate estate taxes so you can leave more to your loved ones and charitable organizations.

To find out more or to schedule your confidential appointment, please contact the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960.

Allen College Day of Giving

Join Allen College and the Allen Foundation on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 for the Allen College Day of Giving!

You can make a difference for current and future students of Allen College by donating toward the Gerard Hall renovation project. Gerard Hall is Allen College's oldest academic building and needs updates to provide our faculty and growing student body with innovative spaces that facilitate teaching and learning.

Contributions at every level make a difference and will continue to make Allen College a leader in healthcare education.

Honor the philanthropic legacy of Dr. Russell and Jane Gerard and make a gift on August 27. Take part in one of our fun challenges:

30 Over \$30 Challenge

In 1989, Allen College was incorporated and we are celebrating the 30 year anniversary! When 30 gifts are made over \$30, a gift of \$1,000 will be unlocked.

1995 Challenge

When 19 alumni who graduated from 1995 to present make a gift, the Allen College Alumni Association will unlock a gift of \$1,995.

President's Power Hour

From 5 to 7 p.m., all gifts up to \$3,000 will be matched by Allen College president Dr. Jared Seliger.

WAYS TO GIVE

Give online at www.allencollege.edu/dayofgiving

- Call the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960
- Send your donation or visit the Allen Foundation at 1825 Logan Ave., Waterloo, IA 50703

We're going #allinforallen!

Contact beth.sullivan@unitypoint.org or call (319) 226-2016 to learn more.

In Remembrance

Ernest Bernard
Scholarship Donor
July 5, 2019

Betty Denner
Class of 1950 Allen Memorial
Hospital School of Nursing
June 23, 2019

Peggy Haan
Class of 1956 Allen Memorial
Hospital School of Nursing
April 8, 2019

Marian Hastings
Scholarship Donor
May 7, 2019

Erma Roethler
Class of 1948 Allen Memorial
Hospital School of Nursing
May 21, 2019

Juanita Sage
Scholarship Donor
April 13, 2019

Faculty and Staff

Loch Appointed as Provost



Dr. Bob Loch
Provost

Allen College is pleased to welcome Robert “Bob” Loch, PhD, MBA who was hired to serve as provost/chief academic officer on June 10.

Dr. Loch has nine years of experience as a program director and faculty for an accredited nuclear medicine technology program and almost five years as a dean of allied health programs at an

institution affiliated with a health system. He also has held roles as a manager of a student success center and an academic advisor.

Dr. Loch most recently served as dean of the School of Allied Health at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines. During his tenure there, Dr. Loch gained a wide range of teaching, advising, leadership and administrative experience.

Dr. Loch’s position is unique because not only does he serve as provost of Allen College, he is also fulfilling the same role at St. Luke’s College in Sioux City, Iowa. St. Luke’s is also a UnityPoint Health affiliated organization and the leadership from both institutions collaborated to develop this dual role. Because of his previous experience working at an educational institution affiliated with a health system, Dr. Loch states that he is very comfortable here at Allen and St. Luke’s.

“Having Dr. Loch serve across both campuses enhances our ability to offer quality, affordable healthcare education. Dr. Loch has the skills and experience to continue the advancement of both

institutions,” says President Seliger.

Dr. Loch holds a doctorate degree in education from Iowa State University, a masters degree in business administration from Drake University and a bachelor’s degree from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota in nuclear medicine technology.

Dr. Loch also serves on the Board of Directors for a certifying body for nuclear medicine technology and as a peer reviewer and site evaluator for a program accrediting body and the Higher Learning Commission. “I find that these activities help keep me up to date with current issues and trends in education, and specifically in healthcare education,” says Dr. Loch.

“While I still have much to learn, I already feel ‘at home.’ I am excited for the opportunities that this unique position provides. As the provost and chief academic officer of Allen and St. Luke’s Colleges, I can already envision the synergies between the campuses and see the amazing potential to play to the strengths of each campus,” stated Dr. Loch.

Dr. Mingo: Great Nurse, Great Teacher, Great Impact



Dr. Doreen Mingo

Dr. Doreen Mingo was named one of Iowa’s 100 Great Nurses in 2014, but her impact on nursing and Allen College is even more broad and long-lasting.

In her nearly 15 years with Allen College, Dr. Mingo has worked to increase diversity, shared her love of nursing with countless students and helped middle and high school students explore their interests in nursing and health science careers.

“Increasing passion for nursing into undergraduate and graduate students, encouraging students to complete nursing goals and bringing pipeline programs to the community are considered some of my greatest achievements while at Allen College,” says Dr. Mingo, who is leaving the college after the summer semester.

Dr. Mingo’s legacy also includes a nearly \$1 million 2012-14 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Resources & Services Administration. It remains the largest grant in Allen College history and helped recruit and support minorities and men on campus.

As coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion Services, Dr. Mingo has played an instrumental part in increasing diversity at Allen College. She is well known for her love for nursing and students.

“Dr. Mingo is a fantastic person. The legacy that she will leave is her passion for wanting the students to be successful,” says Allen College president, Dr. Jared Seliger.

As an associate professor, she has taught classes in the undergraduate nursing program, as well as the

Continued.

Faculty and Staff

Dr. Mingo—continued

graduate nursing program. In 2012, Dr. Mingo started the Summer Nurse and Health Careers Camp for high school students.

Hannah Bockhaus, a traditional nursing student and Dr. Mingo's student assistant, has worked with the careers camp for two summers.

"Summer camp is her baby, and making a difference alongside her in the lives of high school students has been a blast," says Hannah, who credits Dr. Mingo with helping her define her career path in nursing.

Dr. Mingo says she is leaving to pursue an exciting new journey and encourages her students and peers to keep moving forward as well.

"You got to believe and persevere. Whenever you run into an obstacle, you have to figure out a way to go over, under, around or straight through to get to your goal on the other side," Dr. Mingo says.

The faculty, staff and student body wish Dr. Mingo the best as she continues to change lives.

Farewell to Faculty

In addition to Dr. Mingo, the Allen College faculty, staff and student body thank five additional faculty who are not returning in their faculty role this fall.

Shelby Allen-Benitz served as an assistant professor for three years in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. Shelby is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and is increasing her hours in clinical practice.

Dr. DeAnn Ambrosion, professor, retired after serving in a faculty role at Allen College for 17 years. Dr. Ambrosion taught primarily in the MSN program. Dr. Ambrosion led the Quality Matter (QM) initiative at Allen College. QM is a leader in quality assurance for online education and has received national recognition for its peer-based approach and continuous improvement in online education and student learning.

Kathi Bower served as an assistant professor for six years in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and MSN programs. Kathi is a family nurse practitioner. Prior to her role as an assistant professor, Kathi taught as an adjunct instructor and also served as the outreach coordinator for Allen College.

Kathi is increasing the hours of her nurse practitioner practice at the Allen Women's Health Center.

Dr. Cindy Hahn, director of the occupational therapy program and professor for the past five years, successfully led the efforts to open a master of science in occupational therapy (MS in OT) program at Allen College. The first cohort of MS in OT students began in 2015.

Dr. Denise Pralle, professor, is an expert and advocate for community/public health. Over her 17 years at Allen College she led numerous student service trips to the Dominican Republic. Dr. Pralle taught in the BSN and MSN programs.

These faculty have made a significant impact on the quality of education at Allen College and will be missed. Their combined expertise and dedication to nursing and occupational therapy education was evident throughout their years at Allen College. We wish them the best on their next endeavors!

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Lisa Brodersen, coordinator of institutional research and effectiveness and professor, passed the National League for Nursing's Certified Nurse Educator examination on January 4, 2019.

Dr. Dana Clasen, associate professor, was appointed director of the DNP program for the Allen College School of Nursing.

Dr. Denise Dermody, assistant professor, was appointed director of Allen College's occupational therapy program. Dr. Dermody was also elected to the position of Representative Assembly (RA) Representative – Iowa of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The appointment began on July 1.

Dr. Michele Friedman and Dr. Cristina Ortiz, associate professors, achieved Quality Matters certification for their

courses. Allen College is committed to implementing the QM standards for the design of online and hybrid courses.

Dr. Angela Fritz McHone, assistant professor, was appointed academic fieldwork coordinator for the MS in OT program.

Dr. Doreen Mingo, associate professor, was nominated to receive a 2019 YWCA Women of Persimmon award. Nominees were honored at a luncheon April 11.

Drs. Ashley Ollendieck and Emily Schuldt, associate professors, both successfully completed the exam for Certified Nurse Educators (CNE).

Dr. Cristina Ortiz, associate professor, was appointed director of the MSN program for the Allen College School of Nursing.

Dr. Jeremy Whitaker, director of the Public Health Program and assistant

professor, was elected president-elect to the Board of the Iowa Public Health Association. He will hold the president-elect position for two years before transitioning to the presidency for two additional years.

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MS in OT) faculty and students had scholarly work accepted for presentation at the 2019 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference & Expo in New Orleans April 4-7. **Dr. Kate Reiter and two recent MS in OT graduates** presented a poster entitled: OT Student Perspectives of Professionalism Across Education Levels. **Dr. Denise Dermody** presented a poster entitled: Special Education Teachers' Perceptions of Implementing Alternative Seating Options in Special Education Programs.

Academics/Service/Community Outreach

Continued CCNE Accreditation

The School of Nursing received continued Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation for all nursing programs: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), as well as initial accreditation for the post-graduate advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certificate program.

The CCNE Board of Commissioners granted accreditation for all of Allen's nursing programs through June 30, 2029, the maximum length of accreditation allowed.

"CCNE serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. Accreditation by CCNE is an indication of confidence in the ability of the parent institution to offer a program of quality, deserving of public approbation" (www.aacnursing.org/CCNE).

ALS Caregiver Learning Lab Interprofessional Opportunity

Students and faculty from Allen College and the University of Northern Iowa teamed together with the ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) Association, Iowa Chapter to provide a caregiver learning lab in March. The students from occupational therapy, nursing, speech-language pathology and social work developed educational stations for caregivers after learning about ALS and the impact it can have on patients and families.

Individuals who are caring for a family member or friend diagnosed with ALS were invited to Allen College to participate. Each caregiver had the opportunity to engage in various interactive educational opportunities presented by the students, such as safe transfers, power wheelchair basics, introduction to adaptive equipment for daily living tasks, communication devices and assistive technology, feeding tube considerations and tips for taking care of themselves.

This interprofessional service learning event also provided opportunities for students to apply classroom knowledge, gain insight from working with members of the community and learn from students in other disciplines.

A caregiver learning lab will be offered again next spring and the ALS association is coordinating with other institutions across the state to provide similar events.



OT student demonstrates adaptive eating utensil

First BSN White Coat Ceremony

Class of December 2019 Accelerated BSN



Last winter the Allen College School of Nursing conducted its first ever White Coat Ceremony for 53 BSN students from the class of accelerated BSN students who will graduate December 2019 and the traditional BSN students who will graduate in December 2020

Though White Coat Ceremonies have been conducted by medical schools for more than 20 years, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing has recently coordinated an effort to offer similar events at nursing schools.

During the ceremony the students were presented their white coat and pins, recited an oath, listened to an address by Patrick Colwell, BSN, RN – 2002 alumnus of Allen College and celebrated at a reception with their guests.

Ceremonies will be held each semester for BSN students who are entering the first clinical nursing course, NU:335 Fundamentals of Clinical Nursing

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation is responsible for creating the first white coat ceremony and very generously provided pins for our students.

Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge

Allen College occupational therapy (OT) students hosted a Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge event on July 22.

Through their Contemporary Service Delivery and Community Outreach course

OT students planned and organized a program for 40 participants from the Boy Scouts of America. The scouts had an opportunity to learn about person first language and through activities explored accessibility, independent living aids and myths/truths about persons with disabilities. The OT program looks forward to a continued community partnership with the Boy Scouts organization.



OT students host merit badge event

Academics/Service/Community Outreach

Seeking SoDA Volunteers

Training will be offered this fall for a new volunteer program, the Social Determinants Advocate (SoDA) Volunteers program, which was piloted in two clinics last year. Because of its success, the program is being continued and expanded.

The program was created to address barriers to healthy living that often effect low income persons. Issues commonly identified are the ability to afford medications, healthy food and transportation. These barriers have been shown to have a great impact on people's health outcomes. SoDAs assist patients, who have identified these issues, to navigate the system and connect with services.

SoDAs receive 15-18 hours of training focusing on connecting and communicating with patients and on accessing community resources. Volunteers generally serve in the clinic once a week (for 3-4 hours). Volunteers have found the work rewarding and are excited about making a difference in patients' lives.

Training for SoDAs begins September 20. There are no special requirements to becoming a SoDA volunteer. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a SoDA Volunteer, please contact Dr. Rus DeBonis at (319) 226-2022 or ruselle.debonis@allencollege.edu.

Allen College Receives Recycling & Reduction Grant



In spring 2019, Allen College received a Pass on Plastics Recycling and Reduction Grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP). The grant funds activities and education that are aimed at reducing the amount of landfilled plastic waste that Allen College produces.

As part of Allen's commitment to provide service hours related to recycling, students, faculty and staff volunteered at Waste Trac's Spring Drop-Off in Waterloo on April 13. During the event, 60 volunteers from throughout the community unloaded chemical and electronic waste from more than 800 vehicles.

Allen College is also set to take part in Waste Trac's Fall Drop-Off on Saturday, September 21 in Cedar Falls. More details on the event and accepted materials can be found here: <https://wastetrac.org/fall-drop-off-event/>.



Service Learning in New Orleans

In May, 14 Allen College BSN students and faculty Dr. Alisha Engel and Dr. Dana Clasen traveled to New Orleans for a service learning opportunity.

The purpose of this trip was to enhance the education of nursing students with experiential learning that results in increased care for underserved, diverse and high-risk populations.

The focus was on support of the homeless population in New Orleans. Students were given the unique opportunity to serve various organizations with the mission of caring for and supporting vulnerable populations.

Students volunteered at four non-profit organizations. Their responsibilities included delivering food to poverty-stricken neighborhoods, cleaning and organizing a second-hand store used by first-time home owners, cleaning and painting at a shelter for young men and women ages 16-22 and filling food orders used by food banks and emergency support across the southern United States. The impact of their work reaches thousands of people seeking food and safe shelter in the New Orleans area.

Students provide service at the Farm Show

Allen College nursing students took approximately 200 blood pressures from attendees at the Farm Show at the UNI-Dome last winter.

Allen College worked collaboratively with the Iowa State Extension for the past few years to provide this free service to the Farm Show population.



Commencement

Spring Commencement

Allen College awarded 128 degrees at its commencement ceremony on May 10 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. The college conferred the following degrees:

School of Health Sciences

- 12 Associate of Science in Radiography degrees
- 21 Bachelor of Health Sciences degrees: 9 in diagnostic medical sonography and 12 in medical laboratory science

School of Nursing

- 42 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees
- 48 Master of Science of Nursing degrees
- 5 Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees

The commencement speaker was Dr. Jane Hasek, Chancellor and Distinguished Professor Emerita of Allen College and the founding chancellor of Allen College.

Dr. Hasek received a diploma in Nursing from Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing in Lincoln, Nebraska; a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree from the University of Oklahoma; a Master of Science degree in higher and adult education from Drake University; a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Drake University; and a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Northern Iowa.

In addition, Dr. Hasek was granted an honorary degree, the Doctor of Humane Letters, from Allen College upon her retirement in 2005 in recognition of her many contributions to the College, to the UnityPoint Health – Waterloo Region (Allen Health System), to the nursing profession and to the greater Cedar Valley.

Dr. Hasek has served as chair of the Iowa Board of Nursing and as chair of the Grundy County Memorial Hospital Board of Commissioners. Since her retirement from Allen College, Dr. Hasek remains active in community service and philanthropy. She was named to the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque board of directors to frame policy for outreach and impact of rural philanthropy in a seven-county region along the Mississippi River. Regional issues including Mental Health, Child Care, Scenic Byway Tourism, Economic Development and Historical Preservation remain high on her to-do list as she continues community leadership through assessment, planning and visionary ideas.



Graduation Awards

The following graduates were recognized during the 2019 spring commencement ceremony in May.

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 College. The recipient was [Megan Scheer](#).

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. The recipient was [Kaitlyn Gebel](#), Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

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. The recipient was [Tara Doughty](#).

Advancing Healthcare Transformation Award

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program faculty selected a graduate from their program who has demonstrated exemplary involvement in a quality improvement initiative to receive the Advancing Healthcare Transformation Award. The Advancing Healthcare Transformation Award is funded through an endowment established by Gail Nielsen to contribute to the education of MSN students. The recipient was [Amy Massey](#).

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.

Mark your calendar... Alumni Events & Activities

Fall Plant and Craft Sale

Tuesday, September 17
UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital
Rooms 1-2-3

Proceeds benefit Allen College students.

Watch for information regarding these exciting alumni activities in 2020.

Donate to Educate

February 2020

Proceeds benefit Allen College students.

Alumni Reunion

April 2020

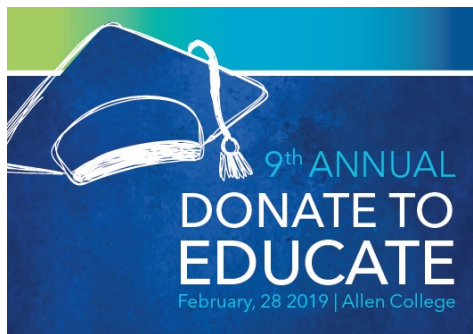
Class of 1970 will be the honor class

Spring Plant

Early May 2020

Proceeds benefit Allen College students.

Results of Fundraisers



Donate to Educate | \$22,000+

The Allen College Alumni Association would like to thank the many generous sponsors, attendees, donors and volunteers who provided their time and talents to help raise funds and support student scholarships. Donate to Educate raised over \$22,000 and each and every dollar is an investment in the students of Allen College.

Spring Plant Sale | \$3,700+

The annual plant sale, which took place May 8 and 9, raised over \$3,700 to benefit Allen College student scholarships, campus enhancements and lifelong learning. Thank you to everyone who supported!

The Alumni Association is awarding \$20,000 in scholarships to Allen College students for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Allen College Alumni Association Advisory Board

Peg Broadie '07
Craig Buskohl '01
Dr. Dana Clasen '95
Kara Howard '06
Dr. Jacki Jaspers '94 & '08, Chair
Tyler Jensen '16 & '18
Deb Lodge '04 & '10
Kim Lodge '88 & '04
Dr. Lisa Maher '05, Vice Chair
Brenna Newbold
Dr. Cristina Ortiz '95, '12 & '18
Abbie Schrader '09
Dr. Anna Weepie '97
Crystal Wilken '10, '14

Student Representatives

Amanda Nation
Brenna Newbold

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Allen College
Mike Lind, Executive Director,
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Foundation
Dr. Joanna Ramsden-Meier,
Dean of Enrollment Management,
Allen College
Dr. Jared Seliger, President, Allen
College
Beth Sullivan, Alumni Relations
Coordinator

Alumni News

Alumni Reunion Recap

The Allen College Alumni Association hosted its annual Alumni Reunion celebration on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27.

On Friday, alumni speakers offered CEU opportunities. There were three different sessions and speakers included alumni Dr. Erin Martin '99, Tom Davis '73, Sarah Brown '07, Jeff Guse '12 and '14, Amber Heller '12, Autum Larsen '13 and Kelly Scheffert '18.

Despite a late season snow storm on Saturday, the reunion drew almost 60 attendees. The class of 1969 was honored for their 50 year anniversary of graduating from the Allen School of Nursing diploma program. 1969 graduates Vickie Barth and Karla Lowe-Phelps shared stories and fond memories from their years at Allen.

On April 26, two distinguished graduates were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame: Tom Davis '73 and Verona Zelle '52.

The 2020 Alumni Reunion will be held in spring 2020. Please be on the lookout for the date in future publications and plan on attending.



Classes of 1954 and 1955



Class of 1959



50 Year Anniversary Class | Class of 1959

2019 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

Lt. Col. Thomas S. Davis Class of 1973



Thomas Davis is originally from Des Moines, IA. He graduated from Allen Memorial School of Nursing in 1973 and went on to serve in the United States Air Force and retired with the rank of Lt. Col.

He was trained by the Air Force to be a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and received the Agatha Hodgins Award for Excellence upon his graduation. In addition, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, a

master's degree in nurse anesthesia education from Gonzaga University and is currently in the process of earning a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) from Midwestern University in Arizona.

Following his time in the Air Force, Tom was a faculty member of the University of Kansas for five years, and while there he developed and implemented the nation's first distance education program for nurse anesthesia. Utilizing his experience, both personally and in the military, he served as Chief Nurse Anesthetist at two major organizations, including Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MA.

Tom currently is focused on leadership development for nurses, including nurse anesthetists. He writes a weekly leadership blog and published a book – *Leader Reader 1, Authentic Lessons in Leadership*. He conducts workshops and webinars that teach values-based leadership skills to those interested in creating a preferred workplace. He maintains a busy speaking schedule and frequently gives talks at state nurse anesthesia meetings and works with student groups.

Tom is an active member of his community and believes that true healthcare reform begins with individual fitness. He leads by example and participates in activities such as marathon running, triathlons, hiking and cycling. He plans to one day ride coast to coast.



Tom has brought pride to Allen College and has made outstanding contributions not only to the healthcare profession, but to his community and beyond.

Tyler Jensen, Allen College Alumni Association Advisory Board member, presented Tom with the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame award during the Allen College Alumni reunion. (Picture left)

Verona Zelle Class of 1952



Verona (Orth) Zelle graduated from Allen Memorial School of Nursing in 1952. Her classmates remember her as a brilliant student and noted that she was at the top of the class.

Verona was a registered nurse at Allen Hospital beginning in the late 1960s and worked for 30 years in the recovery room. She eventually became the recovery room supervisor, and per a classmate, Verona was always the "very best nurse she could be." Verona did wonderful work throughout her

career and touched the lives of many during her long-standing calling as a nurse before retiring in 1995.

Verona was an active member of the Allen College Alumni Advisory Board for several years in the early 2000s. She helped plan events and raise funds for the Alumni Association. She is a dedicated alumna of Allen College and has always supported the College's many projects and initiatives.

Her husband of 65 years, Edgar, served as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Waterloo for 30 years. They are still extremely active in their local Waverly church, St. Paul's Lutheran. Their family includes four children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In Verona's acceptance letter in 1949, the director of nurses at Allen Hospital wrote, "I hope that you will realize the serious responsibilities you will have as you enter the nursing profession. We need nurses who not only are good students scholastically, but are also of the right spirit. It will be our aim to give you the education and experience so that you will be prepared to practice as a professional nurse and to be the kind of nurse who will be a credit to her profession and school, and still have the ability and capacity to enjoy a good life."

We believe this sums up Verona perfectly. She has brought pride to Allen College and has made outstanding contributions not only to the healthcare profession, but to her community.



Dr. Jared Seliger, president, presented Verona with the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame award during the Allen College Alumni reunion. (Picture left)



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Dr. Jared Seliger, President

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