

BELLIN *forward*

A newsletter for alumni and friends of Bellin College

Spring/Summer 2019



Unveiling the first graduates

of the diagnostic medical
sonography program

page 4

Contents

BELLIN FORWARD / SPRING 2019

A Message from the President
Page 3

A Message from the Alumni
Council Chair Michelle Sheahan
Page 6

Recent and Upcoming Events
Page 7

Student Spotlight
Page 11

Commencement
Page 12-13

MSN students present
scholarly projects
Page 14

Student Success Center
enjoys success in its first year
Page 15

Faculty, student accomplishments
Page 16-17

New Hires and Accomplishments
Page 16

Retirements
Page 18

Alumni Spotlight
Page 19

Features

4 Program update

Unveiling the first graduates from
our sonography program

8 Continuing a legacy:

Siblings carry on a
Bellin College tradition

19 Alumni Spotlight

Casey Fazer



From the President



Dear Friends of
Bellin College,

It was a busy spring semester at Bellin College. The college is strategically working to reach new heights with our programs and services to students. Graduation was May 18, 2019, at the Weidner Center on the UW-Green Bay campus,

and 107 students achieved their degrees. It was a special ceremony as we had our first class of Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography graduates. There were seven in this first class and all are exceptional. We are proud of their achievements as well as with all of our graduates. They have worked hard and accomplished their dream!

I am very excited to share with you some new and exciting news about the college. This spring we began the Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (OMPT) Fellowship program. This unique opportunity provides therapists the highest level of skill in the integration of advanced manual physical therapy techniques as well as clinical research and becoming leaders in the field. We also launched our first terminal degree, Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy (DScPT). This program will enable physical therapists to become leaders in the area of teaching as well as participants and contributors to clinical research. We are excited about these two new opportunities.

In the fall, we will be offering a Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography (DCS) Certificate program that is designed for the working sonographer to gain certification in adult echocardiography. The courses are offered online with an onsite weekend intensive at the college. This is an excellent opportunity for sonographers to gain knowledge that is in high demand.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) visited the college to review our nursing programs for accreditation. This past fall, we were notified

that we received a 10-year accreditation for our nursing programs. This is great accomplishment and I am very proud of the work the nursing team continues to do for our program.

Bellin College is now offering all of the general education courses our students need to complete their degree. This is exciting as we can focus courses to areas of interest in the health sciences. Our science lab supports their biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology courses. The Student Success Center has had an outstanding first year. We had over 1,000 visits in the fall and the same in the spring. Students received help with tutoring, writing and course-specific support. Seminars were offered on resume writing, note-taking and test-taking strategies. Proceeds from our golf outing on June 17, 2019, will help us continue to create an even more student-centered space.

As you review this issue of Bellin Forward, I believe that we are blessed with a sense of commitment from our faculty, staff, students and donors. The dedication of each of these groups has helped make these accomplishments a reality. We are committed to creating the very best teaching and learning environments for our students as they are the future. They will be the ones at the bedside, in the clinics, in the exams and testing suites, providing us with the outstanding care we expect and you can proudly say you supported a Bellin College graduate.

On behalf of the students, faculty, alumni and staff who encompass the Bellin College community, I want to offer you my deepest thanks. Because of your dedication to our institution and support of our students, you help to create a one-of-a-kind learning environment that facilitates life-changing moments.

Positively,

Connie J. Boerst

Dr. Connie J. Boerst, EdD, RN
President/CEO

'I know they're goin

First graduates in Diagnostic Medical Sonog

The first Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography students walked through the Bellin College doors in 2016. On May 18, 2019, they crossed the Weidner Center stage as the first seven graduates of the program led by Amanda Hogan, diagnostic medical sonography program director and instructor.

Hogan wasn't prepared for how she'd feel about teaching students, having been a working sonographer before coming into her role at Bellin College. Hogan and colleague Stacey May have taught these students since they were freshman and have grown to look at them almost as their own children, Hogan said.

"I'm always thinking about them when they're doing their first rotation in a new hospital. I think I'm probably just as nervous when they take their boards as they are," she said. "I'm sad to see them go, but I know they're going to do good things."

Students weren't so sure what to expect from the program either.

"We had no idea what to anticipate for the program, but I believe that all of our expectations were blown out of the water," 2019 graduate Ivy Williams said. "Bellin College welcomed us with open arms and taught us how to be the best



Ellen Noldin helps with Hands on Healthcare on Dec. 3, 2018.

healthcare professionals we can be." "I personally did not think the ultrasound program would be as challenging as it was. That being said, both professors really push you to make you the best sonographer and will take time out of their schedule if you need any help," said graduate Josh Salm.

Making the switch from the hospital to the classroom was a bit of a shift for Hogan.

"I miss my patients, but it's a whole different level of care," she said. "Instead of helping your patients, you really get to see your students grow. The rewards of teaching are just different. I'm not finding patient

pathology anymore, but I get to see my students grow and become better. I always used to tell them that my success for them is that if I walk into an ultrasound room and I see that they're going to scan me, I'll be happy. I can say that to all (the graduates)."

The class of 2019 graduates are CassieMae Anderson, Nicole Erdmann, Ellen Noldin, Natalie Reinhard, Josh Salm, Shannon Thoma and Ivy Williams.

All seven of the graduates passed their physics, abdomen, vascular and OB/GYN exams through the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography on their first

g to do good things'

raphy program graduate from Bellin College



Graduates in the Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography program are, from left, Ellen Noldin, CassieMae Anderson, Shannon Thoma, Josh Salm, Natalie Reinhard, Ivy Williams and Nicole Erdmann.

attempt.

Because Bellin College educates students for a variety of careers, students get to learn to work with other areas, as they would in a real-world setting.

“The importance of teamwork learned through the disaster simulation will help me work with all

fields of healthcare professionals. With healthcare constantly growing and changing I am thankful we have Bellin College’s continuing education events so we can be prepared for whatever comes our way,” Williams said.

There have been many exciting parts about teaching sonography for Hogan, but none is better than watching a

student get that “a-ha moment.”

“Helping those students that can’t see things right away and letting them understand that I’ve been there and I know what it’s like,” she said. “I literally couldn’t see a pancreas for two months. I know what it’s like. It will all click. It just takes time.”

Alumni News / A message from the Alumni Council Chair



Hello to all Alumni and friends of Bellin College!

It has already been an amazing privilege to serve as your Bellin College Alumni Council chair for 2019. I have been on the council since October 2015, shortly after graduating in May from the Radiologic Sciences program the same year. After Bellin College,

my career continued at Bellin Hospital as an overnight CT and X-ray technologist and then to a day CT tech within a year. I enjoyed learning extensive CT techniques, caring for patients in my community, and being part of a department continuously striving toward excellence.

In August of 2018, not only did I marry my husband, Mat, I also accepted a position within Bellin's IT department as an Epic Radiant Analyst. New name, new job! I relish using my radiology background to solve issues, roll out enhancements, and assist our nurses, technologists, patients, and doctors with their Epic experiences. I'm very excited to offer my perspective and time to the Alumni Council's proud tradition.

We wish to continue to bolster our engagement with a variety of events throughout the year. We were delighted with the survey results that came back in April with suggestions of events that would appeal to our alumni. Thank you so much for taking time to give us your thoughts and ideas. We look forward to hosting social events that may include art and creative projects, wine tasting, happy hours, dinners and volunteerism.

In addition to Homecoming at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, Friday, Sept. 12, we are also beginning an alumni mixer the evening after homecoming. We felt offering a weekend event would be a great opportunity for out of town alumni to be able to participate in homecoming easier. I look forward to seeing everyone at these two events!

The council is also looking for nominations for our Distinguished Alumni Award. We're asking for recommendations of college alum who achieve

outstanding accomplishments and personifies the college's mission and values. The deadline for nominations is July 31. You can nominate an alum at the Bellin College website, under the Alumni tab.

Our Breakfast Social returned May 17 at the Weidner Center. I highly recommend coming to this event in the future. Not only is it such a great opportunity to meet the students who will shortly become part of our alumni family, but it's also a relaxing morning event to start the day out right.

Our goal on the council is to facilitate and maintain connections between current and future alumni through scholarship and fellowship. Our members provide guidance in event planning and present new ideas in all aspects of alumni relations. The Bellin College Alumni Council meets on the first Wednesday of every other month. I hope you to join the alumni council and help us in advocating for Bellin College and its students. I'm eager to see how another impressive year unfolds for all past and present members of Bellin College.

Sincerely,

Michelle Sheahan

Michelle Sheahan, Class of 2015
Radiologic Sciences Program
Bellin College, Alumni Council Chair, 2019



Brittney Wanless, Class of 2014, left, and Casey Reetz, Class of 2012 and 2016, attend Breakfast Social.

Hearing from a new alumna



“Bellin College quickly became one of the best decisions I have ever made. Of course, there are the basics that Bellin College advertises itself on; small class sizes, 100 percent certification exam pass rate, and the 100 percent job placement rate. What Bellin College cannot necessarily advertise is the character of the faculty or the awesome memories that are to be made. If I would have known about everything that I know now, Bellin College would have never been a question for me. As bittersweet as graduation will be, this amazing journey of mine has led me to a future of incredible professionalism, technology, and patient care. I am thrilled to be starting my career in radiology.”

— Abby Broeniman, BSRS Class of 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Distinguished Alumni Award

Nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award are open and will close July 31. Find the nomination form at www.bellincollege.edu/alumni

Alumni Homecoming

4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 at Green Bay Botanical Garden.

Please come early to enjoy a stroll through the beautiful grounds. To register, go to www.bellincollege.edu/alumni.

Alumni Mixer

4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13 at Badger State Brewing, 990

Tony Canadeo Run in Green Bay. Brewery tours will be available. Entertainment by Feed the Dog begins at 6:30 p.m. To register, go to www.bellincollege.edu/alumni.

Alumni, we're looking for you!

We are working to update our database of Bellin College alumni. If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please let us know via our online form at www.bellincollege.edu/alumni/alumni-address-change or by phone at (920) 433-6654.

Continuing a legacy

Siblings carry on Bellin College tradition

A long-standing tradition at Bellin College has been members from the same family attending the school. Whether it's generational with students attending the same school as a parent or grandparent, or siblings attending together or right after each other, there are many instances of this throughout the years. This spring, Bellin College was home to several sets of siblings. These pairs of siblings have come forward to share their story. They all come from various backgrounds, but all have one thing in common — the desire to help people.

Nellie and Max Soda

Nellie and Max Soda are originally from Princeton, Wisconsin, in Green Lake County. Growing up on a farm with a family of six, their mother's background as a nurse had an influence on her children.

Nellie Soda found the sonography field with a little help from older brother Max. It was a high school sports injury Max received that sparked an interest in that type of healthcare for Nellie.

Max was a sophomore in high school when he needed an ultrasound on his kidney after coming down on another player's knee wrong at football practice. Seeing the technology during the ultrasound was intriguing to Nellie, who was a sixth-grader at the time.

"I always wanted to be in healthcare, but I didn't know which one to do," she said. "So I liked the technology of sonography because I didn't really want to do nursing. I'd heard enough war stories from mom, so I didn't want to



Max Soda, 15-month nursing student, left, and Nellie Soda, sonography student, sit in the sonography labs.

do that part. I wanted to do something a little bit different that would still be useful."

Their mom being an OB nurse at ThedaCare Medical Center-Berlin was a factor in Max's choice to join the 15-month nursing program. He came to the college in January and will be graduating in October 2020. Max began his healthcare pursuits at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a degree in biology before following in his sister's footsteps and coming to Bellin College.

"Based on the prior education that I

had to build off of, the accelerated program seemed like the best route, because you can get in and get out, start making money and get on with life," he said. "But also that it's in-person unlike other accelerated programs. I learn better in person versus an online program."

While in different programs and different career paths, they still find time to get together as part of a family; church and Sam's Club being favorite outings. Currently, three Soda siblings are in the Green Bay area. Another brother is studying at UW-Green Bay.

Future plans for the pair are still

BELLIN FORWARD • SPRING 2019



Erin McCauley, left, and Shannon McCaulley study in the atrium at Bellin College.

somewhat up in the air. Max thinks he'd enjoy working in an operating room or an emergency room or doing wound care and maybe eventually becoming a traveling nurse. Nellie is still waiting to find out what parts of sonography she enjoys most or even possibly obtaining more education in the future. Depending on the circumstances she'd like to move back home to the Princeton area.

Erin and Shannon McCauley

Sisters Erin and Shannon McCauley both graduated in May 2019, from the nursing program, however they didn't come in on the same path. They both found themselves at UW-La Crosse before coming into Bellin College. Erin came to the college as a junior transfer student and Shannon as a 15-month student.

Being in school together wasn't new for the sisters, since they overlapped about two years while at UWL, however they haven't lived together since they were in high school. While at Bellin College they only had maternity class together.

"It's been really nice because we've had overlap with all of our classes, so studying together and learning from each other," Erin said.

Shannon echoed those thoughts. "Since she's in the JTO option she's taken the classes before me, so if I have questions she's really good at helping me or clarifying certain disease processes," she said. "So she helps me a lot if I'm unsure of information, so that's been nice."

Both sisters knew they wanted to be in healthcare in some capacity, but were unsure in which direction they would go.

"Seeing our family and friends and their interactions with the nurses just cemented the fact that I should be a nurse," Erin said.

Shannon has always been interested in healthcare and nursing. She says the catalyst was watching a friend's family member going through heart failure

and seeing how the nurses handled the family. Observing how nurses explained the information to them in terms they could understand really solidified her decision to go into nursing.

"I knew I wanted to be in healthcare," Shannon said. "I didn't know exactly in what way. I thought maybe radiation therapy originally, and then I shadowed and was like 'nope, I want more hands-on care.' And just from talking to family members and seeing how much of an impact nurses have, I just knew that was probably where I was headed."

As for the future, Erin recently accepted a job on the Neuro Floor at Meriter Hospital in Madison. She eventually would like to continue her education with EMT courses and more.

Shannon recently accepted a job at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee on a Medical Surgical Telemetry Unit, but ultimately her goal is to "be someone that helps

Continued on page 10

people in a time of need and provides that relief and comfort when they're going through a terrible time, and who people respect and can go to if they're having questions or concerns."

Brayden and Brock Maroszek

Brayden and Brock Maroszek of Suamico were both in the BSN traditional program this spring. Being in the same track but on a two-year delay, Brayden graduated in May 2019 while Brock is class of 2021, has helped them continue the bond they forged while growing up.

"I really enjoy seeing him around and it is fun to see him improve. We also are able to help one another like a tutor would," Brayden said.

Brayden always knew he wanted to go into the medical field.

"When I was in eighth grade I was diagnosed with epilepsy and in the following year had to have brain surgery," he said. "As a result I spent a lot of time at Froedtert Hospital and got to see what nurses did. I also wanted to give back after everything other people did for me."

Brock had a little hesitation when he decided to join the nursing field because he is male, but he now says "it's where I should be." One way he looks to make a difference could be by working with male patients. On one of his first clinical experiences he was able to bring an older male patient out of his shell a little bit and was able to connect with him about sports.

"I went in there and started talking to him and you could tell he didn't want to engage with other people," he



Brayden, left, and Brock Maroszek

said. "So basically I went out of my way and I saw on his board he had all football and sports stuff. So I asked him about the Badgers game and he just got a big smile on his face, like nobody had talked to him about that before. That was one of my really good moments in clinical."

Adrenaline and excitement also attracted Brock to healthcare.

"I always wanted to do something kind of exciting and where I wouldn't regret all the work I did," Brock said. "Where I don't sit in an office every day."

Aside from the classroom, Brayden found hands-on training most useful.

"My favorite memories from Bellin College are spending time with my

classmates and the disaster simulations," Brayden said. "I really enjoyed being both the patient and the nurse. I feel those sims were great training for both people involved in the situation such as active shooters and how to operate in a hospital when there are large amounts of patients arriving."

Brayden graduated from Bellin College on May 18, 2019. His future goals include working at Aspirus Wausau Hospital and, down the line, getting his master's degree and becoming a nurse practitioner.

Brock's biggest dream is to be a nurse on a flight team or to one day work in Hawaii. Beyond that, becoming a nurse practitioner, nurse educator or nurse anesthetist are also on his radar.

Student Profile / Kayla Bauer, class of 2020

When BSN 2020 traditional student Kayla Bauer of Arlington, Wisconsin, began classes at Bellin College she described herself as “timid, shy, did not participate much in class, and just wasn’t sure about anything,” but with some clinical practice and guidance from her professors, she has grown into a more confident and self-assured student.

Kayla decided to pursue healthcare after the loss of one of her closest family members. Growing up, her cousin Mark was someone she always looked up to. He was the star athlete and an honors student. Mark had decided to begin his career as a firefighter/EMT.

“He was a very smart kid, never got into trouble, but he made one bad decision and it ended up costing him his future and his life,” she said. “I would have never guessed that my cousin was using one of the most dangerous drugs in our country. He would end up losing his life due to a stupid decision and pressure from his teammates to just try heroin.”

After he graduated, he planned to go to medical school to become an ER doctor, but passed before that dream could become reality, so Kayla took matters into her own hands.

“Mark’s death is what really pushed me to pursue a career in healthcare, so I can help those when they need someone the most,” she said. “After his death, I found myself wanting to pursue a career in the emergency services, and today I can proudly call myself a firefighter/AEMT.”

However, Kayla doesn’t want to stop at being an EMT. When beginning her time in emergency services, she learned she wanted to continue to care for patients and get them back to their lives.

“Being in EMS, we only have our patients for a short time, drop them off at the hospital and then many times we never hear how things ended up,” she said. “Knowing that following my patients’ progress and being more involved with their care was something I wanted, I decided to go down the nursing path, and I am so glad that I did. It has been the best decision I have made, and I cannot wait to finish up with my degree next May.”



As Kayla finishes her third year, Assistant Professor of Nursing Sherri Hanrahan has stood out as a big influence on her education so far.

“This past fall, Sherri was my faculty for my first clinical in the hospital. I again was pretty timid and shy at the beginning of clinical, but as the semester went on, I became very comfortable caring for multiple patients, talking to other healthcare providers, and just applying my knowledge to my patients changing condition. She challenged me a lot during that clinical. I have learned so much about myself both personally and professionally, and without her guidance, I would not be near the person I am today.”

With a year left, she still isn’t sure where she will end up. After being an EMT, she is considering the emergency room and maybe moving into the role of a flight nurse. However, she loved working with children and especially infants, so the NICU might be where she belongs. She plans to apply to the ER and the NICU and see where life takes her!



2019 Spring Commencement



2018 December Commencement

May Commencement - Class of 2019

One-hundred-seven Bellin College students were eligible to walk in spring commencement at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts on the UW-Green Bay campus. Of these students, 73 have earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, 12 achieved their Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRS) degree, seven earned their Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (BSDMS) degree and 15 achieved a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree.

December Commencement - Class of 2018

Fifteen students participated in the December commencement ceremony at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, in the Resch Atrium at Bellin College. Twenty-one students graduated, 15 from the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, and six in the BSN program.

CAPPING OFF COMMENCEMENT



Awards for Excellence

The Lucyanna Hitch Award for Excellence is a tribute that recognizes one student from the graduating class who best exemplifies Bellin College's values of excellence, integrity, community and caring. The Lucyanna Hitch Award was awarded to Christina Gerlach, BSN, Class of 2019 during spring commencement.



Nishioka Family Faculty Award for Excellence Each year a faculty member is recognized for their outstanding service to the college through the generosity of Dr. Hiro Nishioka. This year's recipient was Lynn Murphy, assistant professor of nursing.

MSN students deliver scholarly projects to class

Masters of Science in Nursing students presented their scholarly projects in May.

Those who presented were a mix of graduating seniors and a few from the class of 2020.

Projects ranged from mandatory influenza vaccinations for employment to various projects on diabetes and pain management.

Faculty advisers work with the students over the course of nine months. The faculty members who advised the projects this semester were Dr. Lori Kulju, Dr. Mary Rolloff, Dr. Connie Boerst and Dr. Vera Dauffenbach.

RIGHT: Keisha Vickman presents on chronic low back pain.
BELOW: MSN students





Student Success Center enjoys strong first year

The men behind the Student Success Center shared their expertise this academic year at conferences around the country. Dr. Casey Rentmeester attended Great Lakes Regional Student Success in Detroit, Michigan, in March where he met with other leaders in Student Success. Dr. Rentmeester is on the advisory board for this conference and presented one of 24 posters submitted.

While at the conference, he took away new ideas to implement in his own teaching and approach in the Student Success Center from other presenters and speakers at the conference.

When speaking to others about Bellin College's Student Success Center, he said people were "blown away by our numbers." Larger campuses sometimes didn't have

the attendance numbers that Bellin College does.

Dr. Adam Sprague, Student Success Center coordinator, also in March attended the 2019 Contemplative Practices for Higher Education. While there, he presented a session on mindfulness. The session was titled "Mindfulness Interventions for Medical Students: One Student Success Centers Mission & Results."

During the session he detailed his research on mindfulness interventions and discussed the results of his study of 25 students. He led attendees through the same mindfulness experience used with his students.

The center has shown significant growth in its first year in operation. The difference in attendance between the first and second semesters of the academic year

was about 300 badge-in growth. Throughout the first year the center had more than 2,100 appointments and drop-ins for students during staffed hours. Of these visits, 16 percent of students visited nine or more times. In addition to attendance, the numbers of appointments booked online also grew semester over semester. These are imperfect statistics as drop-ins are only tracked when the center is staffed.

Last fall, the Development Department ran a Giving Week campaign to raise money to add furniture and equipment to the Student Success Center. Throughout Summer 2019, the space will be transformed to add a collaboration station, new furniture, technology, power towers and to provide private study spaces as was noted as a desire on student surveys.

Accomplishments

Faculty

- Dr. Heidi Monroe, Bellin College assistant professor of nursing, recently defended her dissertation titled “Determining Readiness to Take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses” to earn her doctorate in Nursing Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Monroe has been teaching at Bellin College for 3 years. Before beginning her career teaching the future caregivers, Monroe spent 19 years in practice as a nurse. In her 13 years teaching, she has taught a number of classes and subjects. Currently she teaches nursing synthesis and a medical surgical course, as well as being the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) coordinator for senior students.
- Dr. Casey Rentmeester, Dr. Mark Bake, and Christina Smith published an article titled “Informed Consent in Computerized Tomography” in the “American Society of Radiologic Technology” (ASRT).
- Dr. Adam Sprague was interviewed for “The Writing Lab Newsletter”, and it was featured on their blog, “Connecting Writing Centers Across Borders,” as well as their Twitter and Facebook page. The blog featured articles written by coordinators or directors of writing centers and student success centers from all over the world.
- Dr. Sprague also authored two articles titled “The Importance of Mindfulness for College Students” for “The Mindful Magazine” and “Using Kahoot Jumble to Teach Paragraphing in the Writing Classroom” for “Wisconsin English Journal.”
- Dr. Mark Bake authored a publication titled “The Importance of Leadership and Employee Retention” in “American Society of Radiologic Technology” (ASRT).
- Dr. Lori Kulju, MSN Program Director, and Assistant Professor Meghan Liebrecht will be presenting at the Nurse Educator Conference in the Rockies this summer. They will be speaking on the development and evaluation of our innovative simulation course as a means to provide specialty clinical experiences.
- Dr. Mary Rolloff, Dean of Nursing, has been elected as Secretary to the Administrators of Nursing Education of Wisconsin (ANEW) organization.

New Hires and Promotions

Mary Safranski, Student Services Center Assistant

Elizabeth Roy, Administrative Assistant for Admissions

Donald Patenaude, Science Laboratory Assistant

Barbara Torzewski, Financial Aid Counselor

Benjamin Behnke, Admissions Recruiter

Colleen Behrens, Admissions Recruiter

Jodi Young, DScPT Assistant Research Director

Daniel Rhon, DScPT Research Director

Lori Kulju, MSN Director

JoAnn Swanson, BSN program director, will be retiring from Bellin College after 38 years of service. JoAnn will remain available to the college for special projects and consultation.

Assistant Professor Sherri Hanrahan has been hired as the BSN program director to replace JoAnn Swanson. Sherri received her BSN from UW-Oshkosh and her MSN from Bellin College. Sherri has been with the college for 11 years and has taught throughout the BSN curriculum.

Students

- Seventeen nursing students from the pre-licensure and RN to BSN option, along with two faculty, will complete a weeklong Urban Immersion course in the south side of Chicago this summer. Activities through the week focus on social justice and the impact social issues have on health and healthcare. This is the first offering for the Urban Immersion course.
- BSN, MSN, BSRS and BSDMS students joined with medical students from MCW-Green Bay, paramedics, RNs, and doctors in an interdisciplinary disaster drill this spring. The chosen scenario for the drill was a tornado hit the atrium of the college. Volunteer “victims” were triaged and transported to medical care rooms where emergency services were provided. The disaster simulation has become a highly anticipated annual event and provides a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration and development, as well as enhancing clinical judgment in an emergency situation.
- IHI Open School Chapter of Bellin College did a poster presentation Dec. 10, 2018, at the IHI National Forum in Orlando, Florida. They also attended the National Conference. The students participating were Jessica Wagner, Sierra Bates and Kylan Myers. Dr. Connie Boerst was the faculty lead accompanying the students. The poster was titled “Opioid Crisis: Creating an Awareness in our Community.”
- In February, many students from Bellin Student Nurses Association attended the 70th annual Wisconsin Student Nurses Association Convention in Wisconsin Dells. Caroline Wagner was elected as president, Valerie Ehr was elected as nominations director and Lauren Harvey was elected as STAT editor.
- In April, Caroline Wagner attended the 67th annual National Student Nurses Association Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. She represented Bellin College and Wisconsin among 3,000 other nursing students from across the country. She met with other state presidents, heard several very inspiring speeches about promoting innovation in nursing, and served as Wisconsin’s state delegate to vote on official business matter regarding NSNA.
- Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography 2019 graduates Ivy Williams and Nicole Erdmann presented a poster at the 39th annual Spring Seminar conference of the Midwest Society of Diagnostic Ultrasound conference in Minnesota and won first place. There were 29 posters total.



Caroline Wagner, 2020 BSN traditional student, is the new WSNA president and also recently attended the NSNA convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Retirements / Dr. Vera Dauffenbach



Dr. Vera Dauffenbach retired from Bellin College in December 2018. After joining the college in August of 1987, she has taught at all levels at the college, including pre-licensure BSN, RN to BSN, MSN and general education courses. In December 2018, she was awarded the associate professor emeritus honor.

of the Family Nurse Practitioner option.

During her 31 years at Bellin College, Dr. Dauffenbach was involved in myriad internal and external service, including volunteering at flu clinics and evaluating applications for the Lucyanna Hitch award. She also has served as a member of almost all college committees — chairing many of them — including Faculty Committee, MSN Committee, RN to BSN Committee and more. Dr. Dauffenbach serves as Ambassador to Bellin College for the National League of Nursing and serves on the Council on Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs. She is also a longtime member of Bellin Health System's Ethics Committee.

Dr. Dauffenbach was part of the group that led the development of the MSN program at Bellin College. She also served as the MSN program director for nearly 10 years. During that time, many Bellin College nursing faculty graduated from the MSN Nurse Educator option. Because of the changing healthcare landscape, Dr. Dauffenbach led the planning and implementation

Dr. Dauffenbach has presented locally and nationally and has served as a reviewer for abstracts and publications. She has been published in peer reviewed journals and co-authored the textbook "Nutrition and Diet Therapy for Nurses," which is now in its second edition.

The legacy you leave behind can be found in the lives you've touched...

What will your legacy be?

**Are you ready to plan for your future, but you're not sure where to start?
It's never too late or too early to create an estate plan.**

What is planned giving?

Planned giving consists of designating a gift during your lifetime or at passing that is part of your overall estate plan. A planned gift gives you the opportunity to make a lasting contribution in the lives of others. Examples of planned gifts include bequests, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, memorials, property and endowments.

To create your own planned giving legacy, Bellin College recommends consulting your financial advisor.

Bellin College Legacy Society

The Bellin College Legacy Society is a group of individuals who have decided to remember us in their wills. This special group of people are essential to the advancement of the college and to ensuring that our students have the opportunities to receive a high-level education at an affordable rate.

*Have you remembered us in your will?
Please let us know.*

Would you like more information?

Please contact Bellin College Development at (920) 433-6654.

Alumni Spotlight

Casey Fazer

Radiology alumni finds calling as physician assistant at Mayo Clinic

Casey Fazer was part of the first class to graduate from Bellin College with a bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences in 2013. After her time at Bellin College, she went on to receive her master's in Physician's Assistant Studies degree in 2015 from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She now works at the Mayo Clinic in Medical Oncology where she treats patients with head and neck cancers.

Casey knew she wanted to help others and, growing up, she wanted to be a teacher, but that plan shifted when her grandmother passed away from breast cancer.

"Being a physician assistant, I get the best of both worlds where I get to play a vital role in healthcare and be involved in teaching," she said. "I educate my patients and their families every day. I feel that it's important to take the time with each and every patient to make sure they fully understand what is happening with them and what we can do next."

Casey credits being in the hospital and clinical settings all four years at Bellin College as being paramount to her education. The technologists, instructors, physicians and radiologists at her clinical sites went the extra step to prepare her for the future, especially after learning of her acceptance at UW-Madison.

"One of the best things about Bellin College was the clinical experience. Right from the beginning we were exposed to patients and learned to communicate. We had experienced technologist helping us every day. They were there to guide us, but also push us."

As a physician assistant in oncology, she gets to experience the best and, unfortunately, the worst of times with her patients.



"Working in oncology can be very difficult as you become very close with your patients during the most difficult time in their life," she said. "It's easy to become attached. I have cried with patients when I have had to give them difficult news, but I also get to celebrate with patients when we have successfully treated their cancer."

While Casey is not a practicing radiologist, she used the opportunities she had at Bellin College to find her true passion in her career.

"I pride myself in my work and see myself as a leader," she said. "I am involved in many committees throughout the division of Medical Oncology at Mayo Clinic. I learn from my patients and colleagues how to be a better provider every day. While I do not practice as a radiologic technologist, I was able to use my degree from Bellin College to advance my career and be in a position I absolutely love."



3201 Eaton Road
Green Bay WI 54311

Stay Connected

For the latest Bellin College news and information, visit our website at www.bellincollege.edu or follow us on social media!

(920) 433-6699 • Toll Free: (800) 236-8707



Save the date!

Bellin College Alumni Mixer at Badger State Brewing



Join us for an evening of camaraderie and fun at the first-ever Bellin College Alumni Mixer! The mixer will take place at Badger State Brewing at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13.

The event will include a brewery tour, one free beer ticket per attendee, free pizza and live entertainment by Feed the Dog.

Feeling generous? We will be accepting donations to the Bellin College Alumni Scholarship as well. Watch your email for additional details!