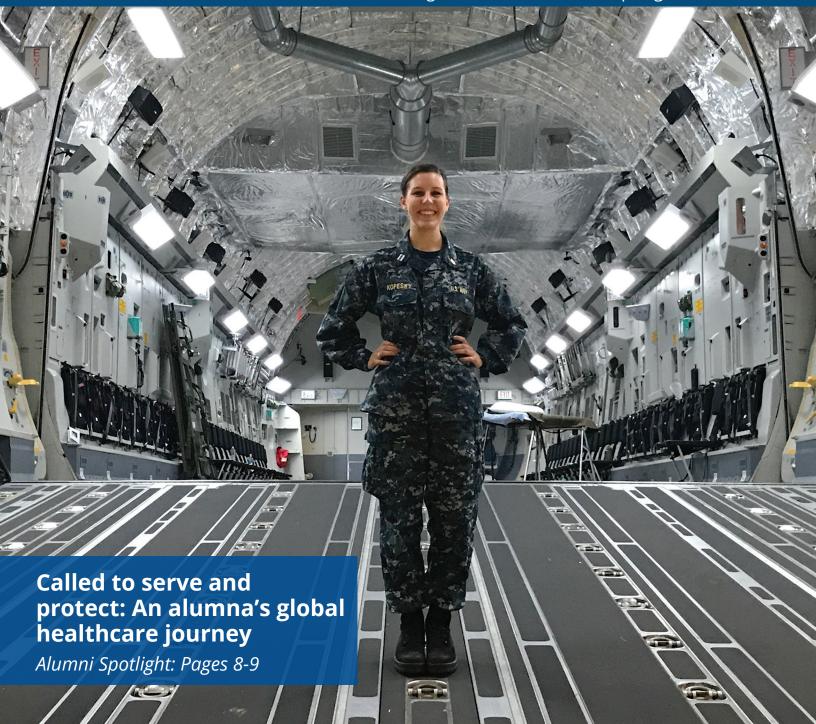
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A newsletter for alumni and friends of Bellin College

Spring/Summer 2021





Welcome

Page 3: A Message from the President

New Program Offerings

Page 4-5: Introduction to Three New Programs

Fellowship Recap

Page 6: Weekend Intensive Highlights

Our Programs

Page 7: Full List of Programming

Alumni Spotlight

Pages 8-9: Rebekah Kopesky

Bellin College Near and Far

Pages 10-11: Gabe Buhk

Alumni Map & Appreciation Recap

Pages 12-13

New Technology

Page 14: VERT Simulator

Committee Highlight

Page 15: DEI Committee

2021 Spring Commencement

Pages 16-17

Accomplishments, New Hires & Promotions

Pages 18-19



>> Nursing students volunteering at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Appleton, WI

From the President

Greetings!

What a year we have had at Bellin College! We experienced growth in programming, new initiatives, and continue to navigate safely through the pandemic. I am extremely proud of how our students and employees have responded to COVID-19 with an "all hands-on deck" approach to support our communities. We were fortunate to provide COVID-19 relief assistance in Brown and Outagamie Counties through vaccine administration, door monitors and screeners at clinical sites, and working within the COVID units. Community and caring are two important values at Bellin College, and I cannot think of a better way for us to embody theses values than by assisting our community during this difficult year.

As we focus on the future, the college will have 100% inperson classes beginning this summer. Our students were able to maintain their clinical components and stay on track for graduation. They have done well with the blended opportunity of online and in-person learning, but they shared how much they want to be back in the classroom. We are prepared and ready to accomplish this.

For the May commencement ceremony, we had 153 graduates attending from nursing, radiologic sciences, and diagnostic medical sonography. We had a great turnout and perfect weather. I could not have asked for a better day to celebrate everything our graduates have accomplished!

At graduation we also presented the Lucyanna Hitch Award for Excellence, which went to Shannon Allen, BSN Class of 2020. This award is given to a graduate that exemplifies the college values of excellence, integrity, community and caring. You can read more about her accomplishments on page 17. We are excited to welcome Shannon back to Bellin College, as she will be entering our Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN) program starting fall 2021.

As I reflect on our programming, the college continues to grow in high-demand areas. This past fall our bachelor's program in radiation therapy began. The students are doing well, and we recently acquired new technology to enhance this program and patient care outcomes, which you can read more about on page 14. In fall of 2021, we will begin a second track in sonography, offering a bachelor's degree in diagnostic cardiac sonography.

In March 2021, we were approved to offer a bachelor's degree in surgical technology/surgical assisting (BSST). This is the first advanced program in Wisconsin and one of the first in the nation to offer both aspects of surgical technology and assisting, qualifying graduates for roles with higher earning potential. We will begin offering the BSST program this fall. In addition, we will also be offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. This is a terminal degree for nursing educating nurses to be system leaders for change and practice.

Lastly, our newest accredited program is a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT). This compliments our existing physical therapy offerings and is the necessary degree to attain to practice in the field. Our goal is to accept students starting fall 2022.

These are significant accomplishment for the college, and I am very proud of our staff



and faculty for their diligence in expanding educational programing for our students and to support the growth of our community. You can read our full list of programs on page 7.

As you read this edition of the Bellin College Forward, you will see that our students, faculty, and staff continue to do incredible things. As we continue to achieve our mission of educating outstanding healthcare professionals who make a positive difference in our community, your ongoing support makes a difference in the lives of our students and their educational future. Thank you!

Positively,

Connie J. Boerst

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

BELLIN COLLEGE FORWARD • SPRING/SUMMER 2021

BELLIN COLLEGE FORWARD • SPRING/SUMMER 2021

BELLIN FORWARD • SPRING 2019

Bellin College Introduces Three New Program Offerings

Surgical Technology/Surgical Assisting (BSST)

Bellin College announces a Surgical Technology/Surgical Assisting undergraduate program starting fall of 2021. This is the first bachelor's program in Wisconsin and one of the first in the nation that offers advanced education in both aspects of surgical technology and surgical assisting.

The decision to launch this program stems from the chronic shortage of local, regional, and national surgical technologists and surgical assistants, essential functions of surgical care. "These shortages have impacted surgical capacity and flow for the past several years and is expected to worsen," Dr. Mark Bake, Dean of Allied Health Sciences said.

"Feedback from our community showed a need for a program with advanced training, and we are excited to be able to meet that need."

This unique program qualifies graduates for first assist roles, increasing the earning potential upon completion of the program.

The curriculum will include courses in surgical quality standards, risk management/ professional responsibilities, and office practice. Students will not only learn how to support in the intraoperative setting but can also perform preoperative and postoperative duties to better facilitate patient care.

Bellin College is excited to introduce Diana Amundson as BSST Program Director. Diana has extensive experience in the surgical setting and previous experience as a surgical technologist educator. Graduates of the program will receive a Bachelor of Science in Surgical Technology/ Surgical Assisting (BSST) degree and are eligible to apply for the national certification examination. This degree provides graduates the opportunity for immediate employment or continuing education in the health sciences field.

"Feedback from our community showed a need for a program with advanced training, and we are excited to be able to meet that need."

- Dr. Mark Bake, Dean of Allied Health Sciences



>>Dr. Angela (Angie) Parmentier (middle) teaching how to read patient charts



>>Dr. Angela (Angie) Parmentier (right) assisting a student with a knee evaluation

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Bellin College announces a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program starting fall of 2021. The DNP degree is designed to expand already advanced nursing education to the highest level of clinical practice.

The decision to launch this program stems from recommendations to move the current level of nursing preparation from the master's degree to the doctorate level. This move is also consistent with other health professions who all require or offer practice doctorates.

"The amount of nurse practitioners coming into practice with DNPs is rapidly increasing. By offering this program at Bellin College, we are helping our graduates remain competitive in the health care field, with the potential for advanced employment opportunities and improved salaries," Dr. Angela M. Parmentier, Associate Professor and DNP Program Coordinator said.

The DNP program is dedicated to preparing clinical scholars and emphasizes clinical practice. Graduates of the program will be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to lead health system change and improve patient outcomes. In addition, all courses will be offered online to accommodate working professionals.

"We are helping our graduates remain competitive in the healthcare field, with the potential for advanced employment opportunities and improved salaries."

- Dr. Angela M. Parmentier, Associate Professor/DNP Program Coordinator

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

The Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program will begin at Bellin College starting fall 2022. This post-baccalaureate degree program is two years and eight months (eight semesters) long, allowing students to enter the workforce earlier than traditional three-year DPT programs. It is also the lowest in cost among Wisconsin private schools.

"Bellin College is the perfect fit for a Doctor of Physical Therapy program. We are excited to build on established partnerships with healthcare institutions in the area and have our students gain hands-on experience right away," Dr. Jon Weiss, Bellin College DPT Assistant Director said.

The DPT program at Bellin College will offer contemporary courses to prepare physical therapists for today's healthcare challenges. Students will also gain practical clinical experience within the first month of starting the program, with the potential for more advanced leadership roles within the physical therapy profession upon graduation.

"We are committed to addressing the common shortfalls in todays physical therapy training programs," Dr. Eric Chaconas, Bellin College Physical Therapy Program Director said. "We plan to build upon the success we've seen in both our fellowship and our Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy programs, and will now offer the full continuum of learning in the physical therapy profession."

The Bellin College Doctor of Physical Therapy program is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is seeking accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Graduates will earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree with the opportunity to sit for the state licensure exam.

>> Dr. Eric Erdmann (left) leads a student through biomechanical evaluation using computer-assisted motion analysis equipment.



>> Dr. Jon Weiss, DPT Assistant Director (right) assists a student in a manual technique



Graduation from a physical therapist education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3085; phone; 703-706-3245; accreditation@apta.org is necessary for eligibility to sit for the licensure examination, which is required in all states.

Bellin College is seeking accreditation of a new physical therapist education program from CAPTE. The program is planning to submit an Application for Candidacy, which is the formal application required in the pre-accreditation stage, on March 1, 2022. Submission of this document does not assure that the program will be granted Candidate for Accreditation status. Achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status is required prior to implementation of the [professional/technical] phase of the program; therefore, no students may be enrolled in [professional/technical] courses until Candidate for Accreditation status has been achieved. Further, though achievement of Candidate for Accreditation status signifies satisfactory progress toward accreditation, it does not assure that the program will be granted accreditation.(1)

OMPT Fellowship Hosts Weekend Intensive at Bellin Health Titletown

Over 40 Bellin College fellows from all over the country met at Bellin Health Titletown this past April for a full weekend intensive, refining their skills through hands-on practice and exercise. This was an incredibly meaningful event, as it allowed many fellows who had communicated with each other virtually over the past year to meet in person for the first time. The event was lead by Fellowship graduate Jeff Moore, Fellowship graduate TAs and Bellin College Physical Therapy faculty.



>> Graduate Fellowship TA Josh Holskey (left) assists a current fellow-in-training.



>> OMPT fellow graduate Joe Kucksdorf (left) works with a current Bellin College OMPT fellow-in-training.



Our Programs

Nursing

Nursing Assistant Program Certificate (NA) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nurse Educator

Post-Graduate Certificates

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP PGC)
- Nurse Educator (NE PGC)

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) (New)

- Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRT)
- Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (BSDMS)

General Vascular Concentration

 Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography Minor

Cardiovascular Concentration
Diagnostic Medical Sonography Certificate

- Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy (BSRT)
- Bachelor of Science in Surgical Technology/Surgical Assisting (BSST) (New)

Physical Therapy

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) (New)
Orthopaedic and Manual Physical Therapy
Fellowship (OMPT)
Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy
(DScPT)







ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | Rebekah Kopesky

When Rebekah Kopesky graduated from the Bellin College nursing program in 2011, she knew she wanted to take her love for travel, adventure and helping others overseas. Growing up, Rebekah's dad worked for a humanitarian aid company, which exposed her to many different cultures and experiences.

"I grew up knowing a nurse my dad worked closely with in Kenya, and because I experienced that at an early age, I knew that's what I wanted to do someday."

Although Rebekah's humanitarian upbringing took her family all over the world, they eventually settled in Appleton, Wisconsin for a brief period, which inspired Rebekah and her sister Rachel to consider Bellin College for their nursing degrees.

"I was attracted to Bellin College because I liked the idea of starting nursing classes as a freshman. I appreciated the small class sizes and loved being able to dive into clinicals right away."

When Rebekah graduated, she knew she didn't want to take a traditional nursing route, so she decided to enlist in the navy, where she became an active duty navy nurse for seven years. During her time on active duty, Rebekah said her education at Bellin College really helped prepare her for any scenario.

"Being able to master my clinical skills as a new graduate at the time from Bellin College really set me up for success," she said. "My instructors always made sure my skillset was ready to go, which really helped prepare me to be confident in any scenario, whether I was on a ship or in an operational setting."



>> Rebekah receving her Flight Nurse wings, 2017

And, Rebekah really has thrived in a variety of scenarios. She started off at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., working with wounded warriors coming back from overseas. She was stationed at a naval hospital in Guam, interned on the USNS Mercy in the South Pacific, and was a flight nurse on a British Island in the Indian Ocean.

Even with her assignments taking her across the globe, Rebekah ran into a fellow Bellin College aluma and naval nurse, Hannah Hargis, during a training in California.

"One of the huge benefits of nursing is that it's so versatile," Rebekah said.

Rebekah has been in the Navy reserves for over two years, but last year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States, she was called back to active duty to work on the frontlines.

She's now working in the emergency department at a hospital in Miami, Florida, and is looking forward to going back to school for anesthesiology.

"Eventually I want to become a doctor in the Navy," she says. "I love moving and traveling around, and love having a non-traditional healthcare career."

The possibilities are truly endless with a degree from Bellin College. Whether graduates want to work local or like Rebekah, take their passion for helping others overseas, the foundation and skills taught at Bellin College prepares graduates for wherever their career takes them.



Rebekah Kopesky with Hannah Hargis

The two met at a training in San Diego, CA February 2021. Hannah is a 2017 Bellin College BSN graduate and also a naval nurse.



> Mentoring Malaysian nursing students, August 2016



>> Rebekah in Legazpi, Philippines in 2016





>> Gabe, her husband and their three dogs in Alaska

>> Gabe with the Anchorage fire department breast cancer fire truck

Bellin College Near and Far: An Alumna's Alaskan Adventure

Originally from the Door County area, Bellin College Aluma Gabe Buhk always wanted to live in Alaska after growing up visiting family friends in Anchorage. She was fortumate to make this goal possible after graduating from the Bellin College 15 month BSN program in 2015.

"Off the bat, I knew Bellin wasn't your typical college," she said. "The expectations were high, and I liked that. I liked being challenged. I had great training and I knew the skills I learned would be with me for the rest of the my career."

After graduating in 2015, Gabe took a job at Aurora St. Luke's Emergency Department in Milwaukee, where she did a nurse residency program.

In 2016 she accepted a position in the emergency department at Providence Alaska Medical Center, the largest hospital in Alaska, where she's been working ever since.

"It was an extremely quick process," she said. "I had about three weeks to move to Alaska and get settled after I had accepted the job."

Gabe has had many professional opportunities and experiences during her time at Providence Alaska Medical Center. "The variety of traumas have been the most interesting part of the job thus far," she says. "We receive anything from gunshot wounds to downtown Anchorage bear attacks."

While Gabe loves life in Alaska, she does envision coming back to Wisconsin one day, and says having a degree from Bellin College makes her feel confident in her ability to establish a career wherever she chooses to go.

"The great thing about nursing is that there is so much you can do with it. I've thought about going into teaching, possibly management, and with Bellin College having such a high reputation in Wisconsin, I feel confident about finding a job there if that's what I decide to do someday."



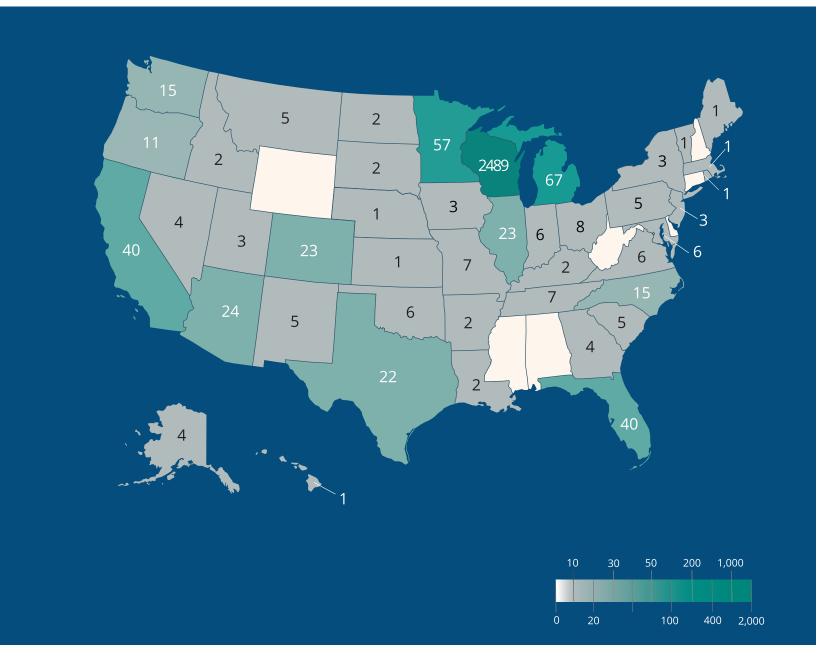
>> Gabe with her two sons in Alaska



>> Gabe in the trauma room at Providence Alaska Medical Ce nter

Bellin College Alumni Map

Look and see where your fellow alum are located!



We'd love to hear from you!

If you have recently moved, received a job promotion, or maybe had a recent wedding or birth of a child, we'd love to know! We'll use this information to keep you updated on all that is happening at Bellin College through our alumni publication Bellin Forward, emails, invitations, and other mailings.

Please let us know via our online form at www.bellincollege.edu/alumni/alumni-address-change or by contacting our Alumni Relations Coordinator Kelly Englebert at (920) 433-6655, or kelly.englebert@bellincollege.edu.



Alumni Appreciation Event

This past April, our Alumni Relations team celebrated the hard work of our healthcare heroes by providing free coffee and donuts to Bellin College alumni and other healthcare workers at various locations throughout the Green Bay area!





>> Above: Bellin College employees at St. Mary's Hospital



>> Bellin College employees at the St. Vincent Hospital



>> Alumni Appreciation set up at the Bellin Health Ashwaubenon Clinic



>>Radiation Therapy Program Director Amy Riemer demonstrating the VERT simulator in a Bellin College radiation therapy class

New technology helps students understand the "why" behind radiation therapy

Bellin College is the first and only college in Wisconsin to offer radiation therapy with an enhanced type of technology: the VERT Simulator.

A mixture between virtual reality and 3D technology, this type of hands-on learning allows students to see how radiation is being distributed to cancer patients through all layers of the body without the exposure to radiation rays, creating a safe environment for students.

"The goal of any program is for students to understand the why behind what they're doing," Amy Riemer, Radiation Therapy Program Director said. "Often times students can be focused on what they're doing, and not why. By using this technology and getting them comfortable in the classroom, students are able to become better caregivers."

By incorporating the VERT simulator into the radiation therapy classes, it not only expands students' knowledge of concepts but Riemer says it's a great way for students to learn. "From my research, students typically prefer this type of hands-on learning," Riemer says. "It's engaging, they're not just reading from a book or learning from a lecture."

One of the core values of Bellin College is excellence, which Riemer also says this type of technology helps to highlight. "When it comes to excellence, we are meeting the students where they're at and giving them the tools they need to be successful," Riemer says. It's clear Bellin College aims to continuously improve so that patients can receive the care they deserve as the healthcare landscape continues to change."

Focusing on the commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Bellin College is committed to living out its values of excellence, integrity, community and caring. As our world continues to adapt and grow in diversity, so too does the need for resources and education for our staff, students, and faculty. Assistant Director of Admissions and Outreach Benny Rieth recognized this need and cofounded the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee last fall

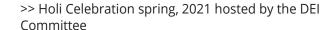
"If we're looking at the history in colleges around the nation, there are many barriers up for students of color," Rieth says. "it's important we are reflecting and showing how to break down those barriers so everyone can be successful."

In addition to making Bellin College a safe and fun place for students to be who they are, the DEI Committee is also focused on helping students provide the best patient care. "We want to educate students about all types of individuals they could potentially be working with. We don't want to miss an opportunity to educate them," Rieth says.

The DEI Committee has also received great feedback from students and staff. "The students are excited. They're started to sign up for events and trying to get the word out," Rieth says. "We're seeing that when colleges offer the opportunity for different perspectives, retention rates are up. When people feel a sense of belonging, it makes them want to stay."

The DEI Committee hopes to partner with other organizations on campus and continue to offer more student events. Rieth says Bellin College is at the forefront of setting the standard for other colleges and universities to continue to be inclusive and welcoming students and faculty of all backgrounds.











Congratulations Bellin College Class of 2021!
May 8, 2021 | Field of Scenes Drive-In







153 students attended from nursing, radiologic sciences and diagnostic medical sonography





(Above) Sherri Hanrahan, BSN Program Director, presenting the 2021 Lucyanna Hitch Award to Shannon Allen (right), BSN Class of 2020.

Shannon graduated summa cum ladue with a 4.0 GPA. She was an active member of several student organizations at Bellin College, a team leader in the Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers Interprofessional Case Competition, and was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society. Shannon was a frontline healthcare worker during COVID-19 and is also the Chair for the Shared Governance Committee for her current unit. We are excited to welcome Shannon back to Bellin College, as she will begin the MSN Nurse Practioner program in fall 2021.

CLASS SPEAKERS

- » Mason Dreger, BSN
- » Kamryn Koss, BSRS
- » Nellie Soda, BSDMS
- » Hillary Breidel, MSN



Accomplishments

Faculty

Connie Buttrick, Assistant Professor, retires at the end of this academic year and will be honored with Assistant Professor Emeritus status. Connie joined the college in 2009 and was last year's recipient of the Nishioka Family Faculty Excellence Award.

Mary Froelich, Nursing Assistant Program Coordinator, retires at the end of the academic year. Mary joined the college in 2017. The NA Program has experienced significant growth under Mary's direction.

Sherri Hanrahan, BSN Program Director, successfully recertified as a Nurse Educator, Medical-Surgical Nursing, and Case Management

Jaclyn Holm, BSN faculty, successfully certified in Ambulatory Care.

Dr. Lori Kulju, Graduate Nursing Program Director, published an article "The development of a two-credit specialty clinical immersion for 15-month senior level BSN students" in the Clinical Simulation in Nursing journal.

Meghan Liebzeit, Assistant Professor of Nursing, received the Nishioka Family Faculty Excellence award. Meghan has been with Bellin College for over 10 years, developing a standard of excellence in her courses within the baccalaureate program, and will further extend her expertise to the graduate programs.

Michelle Pranghofer, Assistant Professor,

is collaborating with Advocate Aurora with the new hire orientation education. Michelle was also elected as President Elect for the Wisconsin Association of Perinatal Care.

Drs. Casey Rentmeester, Eric Chaconas, Jon Weiss, and Mark Bake published a peer-reviewed article entitled
"Hermeneutical Healing: Physical Therapy with a Gadamerian Twist" in the *Journal of Applied Hermeneutics*.

Amy Riemer, Radiation Therapy Program Director, earned her Master of Healthcare Administration from Walden University.

Dr. Mary Rollof, Dean of Nursing was re-elected as secretary for the Association of Nurse Educators of Wisconsin group and to the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Center for Nursing.

Deanna Shelby, Instructor of Social Sciences, presented on the topic of juvenile delinquency and behavior to a group of social workers, therapists, educators, and family counselors at the Aurora Department of Family & Child Services in September of 2020.

Students

Shannon Allen, BSN Class of 2020, won the Bellin College LucyAnna Hitch Award for Excellence.

Zoe Cambray, BSN class of 2023, was elected to serve as the Nominations Director for the 2021-2022 WSNA Board of Directors.

Kristin Donnelly, MSN FNP May 2021 graduate, had a virtual poster accepted for the 2021 APRN Pharmacology & Clinical Update conference organized by the Wisconsin Nurses Association.

Valerie Ehr and Lauren Harvey, BSN class of 2021 are completing their terms of service on the Wisconsin Student Nurses Association (WSNA) Board of Directors.

Polly McDonald, BSN Class of 2021, secured donations totaling \$3000 to purchase bus passes for the homeless shelter to pass out following her urban immersion experience.

Brady Tanck, BSN graduate for May 2021 was selected as one of the Future Nursing Leader Awards from the Wisconsin Nurses Association. Each nursing program across the state was asked to nominate one senior. A total of five were selected to receive the award.



>>Valerie Ehr and Lauren Harvey, BSN Class of 2021

New Hires and Promotions

Diana Amundson – Surgical Technology Program Director

Morgan Cowie – BSRT Clinical Coordinator

Dani Dutelle - Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Kelly Englebert – Advancement and Alumni Relations Coordinator (Position Change)

Ashley Hall – Assistant Professor (Promotion)

Debra Hockers – Administration Assistant for Academic Deans

Robert Mandell – Instructional Design Coordinator (Promotion)

Erin Marcott – Administrative Assistant for Admissions and Marketing

John McGreal – Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management

Amethyst Messer – DPT Clinical Education Coordinator

Heidi Monroe – Associate Professor (Promotion)

Beth Piontek – Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs

Ruth Rodda – Assistant Professor (Promotion)

Elizabeth Roller – Instructional Design Specialist

Class Notes

Dillon Grose - Class of 2013

Job promotion: Neurovascular Nurse Practitioner at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND. Married to wife, Aimee, and 2 little girls, Livia (3) and Gracie (1).

Kristina Konen - Class of 2017

Recently engaged to be married in early 2022! Still working at Bellin MRI.

Nicole Kostrewa (Erdmann) – Class of 2019

Married Luke Kostrewa on 1/25/2020

She says, "2020 was an exciting year for my family. I married my husband in January, we had our second daughter Eri in November, and we bought our first house in December!"

Jason Mott - Class of 2009

was recently elected as president elect for National President of the American Association of Men in Nursing.

Kristin Vanderheiden (Hlinak) - Class of 2012

Kristin and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Rayna Rose Vanderheiden, on October 21, 2020. Kristin is an RN with Prevea Pediatrics in Green Bay.

Martha Carpenter – BSN Class of 2020

"My husband and I welcomed our first child, Jocelyn Mia Carpenter, on May 14th 2021!"

19



>>Dillon Grose, Class of 2013



>>Nicole Kostrewa (Erdmann), Class of 2019 and family



Stay Connected

For the latest Bellin College news and information, visit our website at www.bellincollege.edu or follow us on social media @bellincollege (920) 433-6699 • Toll Free: (800) 236-8707











