

2018-2019

THE FLOME

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

EXPLORING

IMPACT: THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A LOOK BACK ON 100 YEARS | THE STORY OF ELEANOR EFT | PHOTOVOICE: THERE IS MAGIC HERE

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THE FLAME

The magazine of Mennonite College of Nursing
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CELEBRATING A 100-YEAR LEGACY OF IMPACT

Every year, I sit down to think about what I want to say before writing this note. This year was harder than most. As I think about this, our 100th year, I ask myself—what can you say in 300 words that sums up 100 years of history?

You can't, so I won't try.

Instead, I will say that it has been my pleasure to be able to serve alongside the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of this incredible college. The stories and history of this college are humbling, and I am awed by the quiet dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the Mennonite College of Nursing community.



Again and again over our 100-year history, this college has adapted to the needs of our community, and most importantly, the needs of our students. Mennonite College of Nursing survived not only the trials and tribulations that come with the founding of any institution but also the Great Depression and the Great Recession. We celebrated the first day that some women were allowed to vote, and we celebrated the last day of WWII. We sent nurses to serve in Korea and Vietnam. We have seen countless changes in the way health care is administered and have watched as technology reshapes modern medicine. Our research is revolutionizing the way that students learn, re-imagining the student clinical experience, and paving the way for a new model of health care that focuses on keeping patients healthy.

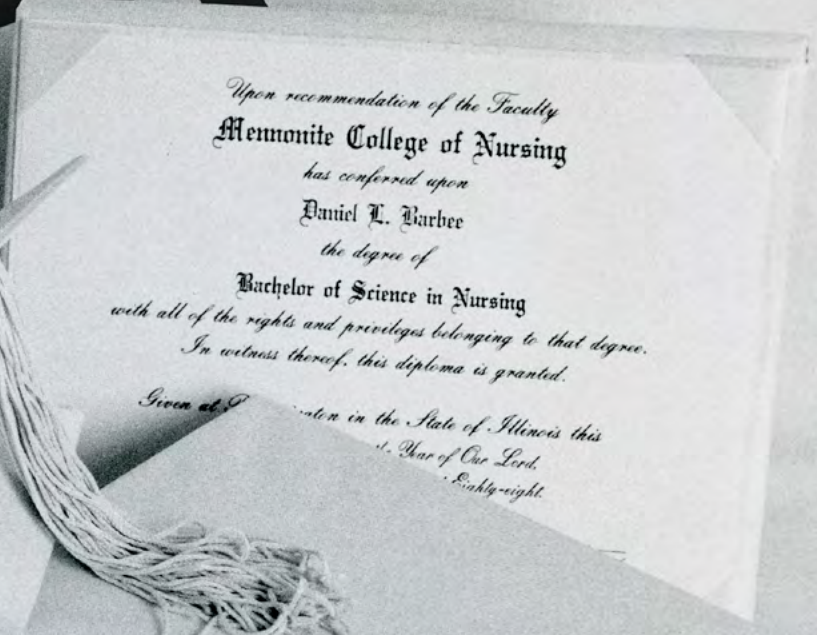
These last three years have been the honor of my lifetime. Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you for the privilege. I look forward to working alongside you this next year, and because of you, I know in my heart that the next 100 years for this college will be bright.

Sincerely,

Judy Neubrandner
Dean



A LOOK BACK at 100 YEARS

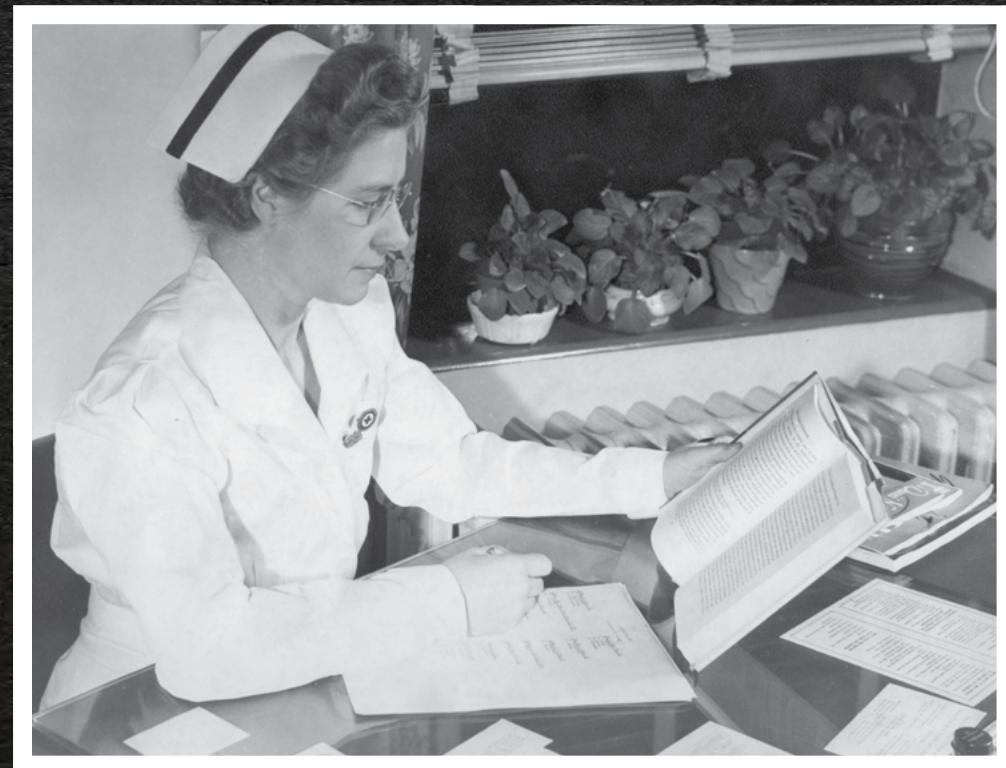


Upon recommendation of the Faculty
Mennonite College of Nursing
has conferred upon
Daniel L. Barbee
the degree of
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
with all of the rights and privileges belonging to that degree.
In witness thereof, this diploma is granted.
Given at _____ in the State of Illinois this _____
_____ Year of Our Lord, _____ Eighty-eight



To address the need for better health care in their community, local farmers mortgaged their farms to found Mennonite Sanitarium, formerly Kelso Sanitarium.

*Founded
in 1919*



Lena Maxwell '28 served as director of nursing from 1943 to 1966.



Clothield Williams '78 holds pediatric patient.



Director of Nursing Lena Maxwell (left) and Housemother Ma Turner (right) welcoming students.

In the late '30s and '40s, several of the school's head nurses and supervisors oversaw the students' activities.



*Dorm Life
in the '40s*

Now you can complete your training with Pay . . .

U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps

Here's your chance to — Identify yourself nationally with the war — wear attractive outdoor uniform — have training expenses paid — receive pay while you train — get a paid nursing assignment earlier.

Help for you . . . to help U. S. Your country needs your help so urgently that the government has made *immediate* financial aid available to student nurses for the war's duration.

You have a head start! Your present training continues *without* interruption . . . but *with* your expenses paid, your uniforms supplied, your opportunities improved, and a monthly check in the bargain!

● Register for the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps at your school office. Wear a distinctive uniform and become officially identified with your country's drive for Victory.

Uniforms you'll love. Designed and chosen by leading fashion experts, the uniforms are eminently attractive. Furnished without charge, they include complete summer and winter outdoor uniforms, topcoat or reversible raincoat, hat, purse, and insignia.

✓ **Train with pay.** Tuition and all fees paid . . . from the date you register for the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps until you graduate. You're credited with previous training, but not reimbursed for back tuition.

✓ **Living expenses paid . . .** including room, board, laundry, etc.

✓ **Plus a monthly check!** You'll be classified and paid according to training already completed:

Pre-Cadet (first 9 months of training) . . . \$15 mo.
 Junior Cadet (next 15 to 21 months) . . . \$20 mo.
 Senior Cadet (until graduation) \$30 mo.

They were living now!

Possibilities during Senior Cadet period

- "Live out."
- Request transfer to Federal hospital, including Army and Navy.
- Transfer to other civilian hospital or agency.

You are eligible if you entered nurse training between January 1, 1941 and January 1, 1942, and your curriculum has been accelerated to 32 months or less. If admitted on or after January 1, 1942, your curriculum must have been accelerated to 24-30 months.

Your pledge . . . In return for these benefits, you agree to make your services available throughout the war in military, other Federal or essential civilian nursing service, health permitting.

At war's end, students in training 90 days prior to end of hostilities may complete their training at government expense.

It is my understanding that Cadet funds are retroactive to July 1, '43, however no specific word has been received from Washington. Therefore if adjustment needs to be made, your checks may be withheld or a refund necessary. You will be advised later.
L. Maxwell



Mennonite College of Nursing was formally announced by Chairman William E. Dunn in 1982. The first class of BSN degree students graduated in 1985.

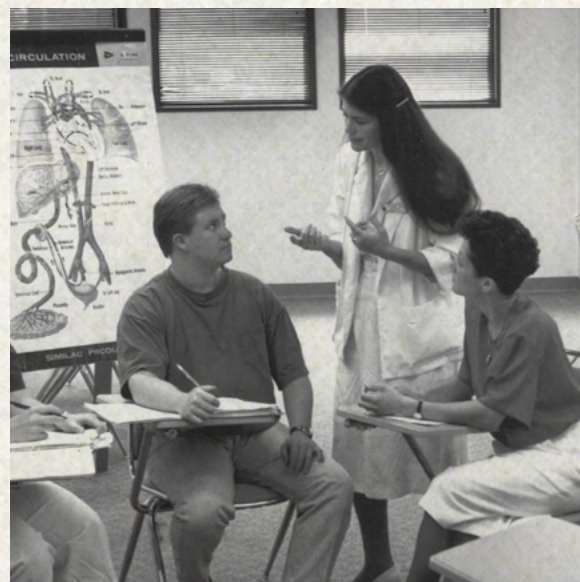


Dr. Denise Wilson started her teaching career at Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1980 and retired as Associate Dean for Academics from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in 2019 after 39 years of dedicated service.

In August 1943, the school's board listened to a presentation regarding the government's plan to pay part of the cost of training nurses in the armed services during World War II. Most of the school's students decided to enter the cadet program after the opportunity became available in October.

In 1972, the Transcultural Nursing Program (originally called the Summer Service Program) began.

The first destination was Harlan, Kentucky. The program later expanded to international destinations, the first of which was Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, England, in 1974.



Lynn Kennell teaches in a classroom setting.

She began her teaching career at Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1979 and retired as Instructional Assistant Professor from Mennonite College of Nursing in 2019 after 40 years of service.



In 1989, the College Library, the Mennonite Hospital Library, and the Bloomington Pastoral Services Library merged to create the A.E. Livingston Health Sciences Library.

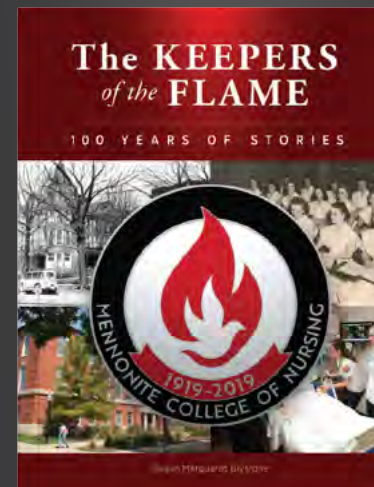
In a 1991 survey of libraries at nursing institutions approved by the National League for Nursing, the Mennonite College of Nursing Library ranked in the top 25 in both overall quality and ratio of students and dollars spent.

Thank you to the alumni, faculty, and staff who have helped shape our first 100 years.



In 1982, a press conference was held announcing the establishment of Mennonite College of Nursing.

From left: Jacquelyn S. Kinder, President of the College; William E. Dunn, Executive Vice President of Mennonite Hospital Association; and Kathleen A. Hogan, Dean of the College.



WANT MORE HISTORY?
ORDER OUR HISTORY BOOK

Experience MCN through 100 years of iconic stories and historic photos with this soft-cover keepsake.

For more information, visit Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/History-Book

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

MCN benefits from a rich history of alumni with inspiring stories.

Have one to share? Send it to TheFlame@IllinoisState.edu or Mennonite College of Nursing, 321 Edwards Hall, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810

JOIN OUR NEW MCN ALUMNI FACEBOOK GROUP

Stay up-to-date on events and connect with fellow MCN alumni.

Sign up today at [Facebook.com/Groups/AlumniMCN](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/AlumniMCN)

JOURNEY TO THE 100TH: MAKING THE CELEBRATION HAPPEN

by Bryanna Tidmarsh

Photo by Joanna Kosinska



Amy Irving, Director of Events

When I sit down to interview Amy Irving, she tells me about MCN's mission and all of the important work her colleagues are doing—but she dodges all talk about her own successes.

She takes me over to see the archived uniforms for the 100th Anniversary fashion show. When I ask her about her work in coordinating this year-long celebration and the culminating gala, she raves about the people who served on committees during the planning. "Celebrating this milestone has been years in the planning," she says. "It has really taken a village."

That "village" included 40-50 volunteers, several committees, numerous local partnerships, and Amy at the helm, paving the path. But Amy doesn't talk about it that way. Amy instead celebrates the work of others.

Instead, she praises the leadership of Dean Judy Neubrandner and former Dean Janet Krejci. She speaks lovingly of the students and faculty who dressed up—not once, but multiple times—as historical nurses for the Gala Fashion Show and events throughout the year. She lights up when she describes the artistry behind the jewelry, glass coins, and vases that were designed to help commemorate the gala.

That's Amy: shining brightly, then using that light to spotlight others.

"Amy is so bright and warm. She listens earnestly when you talk to her, and she always leaves you better than she found you," says Ashley Bollhorst, MCN's Assistant Director of Marketing and Recruitment. "She does a lot of little things, too, like remembering your birthday or giving you an umbrella when it's raining out. I really can't say enough good things about Amy."

Amy planted her roots in ISU while she was a student worker earning her BA. After working at Illinois Wesleyan for five years, she came over to MCN in 2001, serving as Assistant to the Dean before moving into the position of Associate Director for Public Relations and eventually Director of Events. "I'm a people person," she says.

In her time at MCN, Amy has been a quiet trailblazer. She launched MCN's first-ever Google Ad campaigns three years before anyone else at Illinois State University ventured onto the platform. She navigated MCN's website rebuild and forayed into the world of digital analytics. She initiated marketing campaigns, coordinated with university archives, and built relationships with off-campus vendors and organizations. Her impact has stuck with the students, faculty, and staff who've worked with her, too.

Diane Folken, MCN's Director of Business and Finance, praises Amy's work ethic: "Amy's attention to detail, ability to anticipate issues and needs, and dedication to the College are only a few of her

strengths. She manages her projects with expertise and is a huge asset to MCN."

It's unsurprising, then, that Amy was presented with the first-ever Staff Excellence Award at the Candlelighting ceremony last year. Her colleagues wondered: how do you surprise the person organizing the ceremony? "They told me someone else won," Amy says. She was standing off-stage, making sure the event went smoothly, when she heard them call her name instead. "They had to practically pull me on stage!" she laughs, blushing. "I was so honored and surprised."

"Amy Irving is a vital part of the MCN staff team committed to excellence. She works diligently behind the scenes as our master orchestrator extraordinaire to ensure that college events move forward flawlessly and with the polished presentation that we've come to expect," says Janeen Mollenhauer, MCN's Associate Dean for Academic Support. "The greatest asset of any institution is the quality of the people who live the mission."

Innovator. Professional. Caregiver. Friend. Student-advocate. Amy embodies so much of what MCN is about: collaboration, care, and working together to make amazing things happen.

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration—and Mennonite College of Nursing—would not be what it is without her.

Thank you, Amy. ✨

*The greatest asset to
any institution is the
quality of the people
who live the mission.*

A YEAR TO Celebrate



MCN nurses and friends toast to 100 years of excellence at the 100th Anniversary Kickoff event on August 28, 2018.

MCN nurses imagine the future through virtual reality.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 28
100th Anniversary Kickoff Event

Redbird Pride!

Redbird fans Mary Ann Troyer Watkins '62, Gail Lamb, Karen Roop Magers '79, and Alison Line O'Brien '19 celebrate at Homecoming.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
Homecoming 2018

MCN faculty and staff formed the number 100 on the field at Hancock Stadium to commemorate the college's 100 years of history.



JANUARY 15 – APRIL 11
MCN 100th Display at the
McLean County Museum of History

Exhibit attendee
observes a display
case featuring MCN
artifacts, including
nursing caps,
a historic nursing
uniform, and more.

*Honoring
our
history*

FRIDAY, MAY 3 Golden Jubilee



Read
more on
PAGE 32

Mennonite alumni from the class of 1969 pose with a commemorative cake.



THURSDAY, APRIL 11
Lunch and Learn Presentation for
*The Keepers of the Flame: Mennonite College
of Nursing Illinois State University 1919-2019*



FRIDAY, MAY 3
Commemorative
Garden Dedication

Dean Neubrandner speaks at the Commemorative Garden Dedication.



Lena Maxwell (Becky LaMont) confiscates engagement ring from nursing student (Lexie Hardewig) during the Gala's fashion show. Cates Corwin narrates.

Dean Judy Neubrander catches up with Denise Wilson at the Gala.

SATURDAY, MAY 4
Centennial Celebration Gala



The Gala featured an elegant dining experience and took place at the Hilton DoubleTree in Bloomington, Illinois.

Read more on **PAGE 20**



Vickie Gasche Lannie '65 presents at the Gala, sharing stories from years past.

FRIDAY, MAY 10
Retirement Reception for
Lynn Kennell and Denise Wilson



Denise Wilson



Lynn Kennell

FRIDAY, MAY 10
Candlelighting
Ceremony
for Spring
Commencement



Lynn Kennell performs alongside Dave Jansen at her last Candlelighting Ceremony before her retirement.

See more photos online

[NURSING.ILLINOISSTATE.EDU/100-YEARS](https://nursing.illinoisstate.edu/100-years)



Our flame burns bright.

ISU President Larry Dietz gives a speech at the MCN 100th Celebration Gala. Photo by Lyndsie Schlink.

THE CENTENNIAL GALA

A TIME CAPSULE OF MEMORIES

by Bryanna Tidmarsh

Entering MCN’s centennial gala was like stepping into a 1920s dream. From dapper suits to flapper gowns, the MCN community was dressed to the nines. Glasses clinked and laughter filled the room as friends new and old gathered to celebrate the college’s 100th anniversary.

In a red floor-length lace gown, Dean Judy Neubrander took the stage as the night’s emcee. Her smile widened as she looked across the room with pride. “There are so many things that make this college exceptional, but if I had to choose one, it would be the people,” she said, emotion filling her voice. “The faculty, the staff, the students, the alumni, the friends of the college, the university and community members ... all of these people have helped us get to where we are today.”

The dining room, bathed in a soft blue glow, was lined with twinkle lights and real trees. In this space, so many paths came together. The night was filled with stories from across generations: alumni celebrating their golden jubilee, current undergraduate nursing students eager to begin their careers, and everyone in between.

Perhaps the most memorable of these came from Vickie Lannie ’65, who shared her infamous bedpan story. Don’t know it? Well, you’ll have to ask her. After all, the fun is in the telling. Vickie began her career at Mennonite Hospital in 1965. As a student, she took special interest in dying patients, leading her to a career in hospice care.

Reflecting back on her time as a student at MCN, Vickie had this to say:

Many memories flood my mind tonight...

Living for three years in Troyer Memorial Nurses Dormitory

Water fights

Wearing rolled-up jeans under my skirt when leaving the dorm, then hanging my skirt on a bush to be re-worn when reentering the dorm

6:30 a.m. mandatory chapel services

Students smoking on the roof, causing the Fire Department to be summoned, followed by probation for three years— Not that I had any personal knowledge of that event!

Housemothers Elsie Staley and Bertha Lawson

Scrubbing for surgery when the doctors pretended they didn’t know which organ was the gallbladder

Witnessing my first death

Watching my first birth

Kneeling while my cap was placed atop my head

Having the Mennonite School pin placed on my white graduation uniform

Conjuring memories from MCN’s past, the gala fashion show brought a century of nursing education practice back to life. Professor Cates Corwin narrated while students, faculty, and staff modeled nursing uniforms ranging from 1919’s early crisp, white, ankle-length aprons to today’s familiar scrubs. Like a time capsule, the show gave guests a rare glimpse of some artifacts usually kept in the ISU archives. Other uniforms were expertly recreated by Janet Harman, who viewed the original artifacts, read through the MCN history books, and selected fabric that would best capture the right feel for each uniform.

If you were there, you might have spied ISU President Larry Dietz sporting his MCN pride in a black suit and

red tie, former Mennonite director Miss Maxwell (played by Instructor Becky Lamont) confiscating an engagement ring, and Miss Beulah Nice (played by Dr. Teresa Novy) measuring skirt lengths with a yard stick.

When the stories ended and the cheesecake plates were left with only crumbs, the dance floor opened up. Dean Neubrander led the charge, taking the hands of guests as she passed by the tables, encouraging them to join her in the first line dance.

We all know the roller coaster of emotions that come with nursing: those highs and lows, the impossible saves and devastating losses. There, on the dance floor, trading twirls with friends, family, classmates, and colleagues, we were reminded how important it is to take these moments to smile and dance. We were reminded of the incredible strength of spirit at the heart of this college. We were reminded that however we find ourselves on MCN’s doorstep, we leave changed.

We leave as part of the MCN family.

As the music slowed and the lights dimmed, guests embraced, making plans to keep in touch. We each took home our commemorative glass coin, an MCN champagne flute, and memories to last a lifetime.

“Never has there been a day that I have not been grateful to have graduated from the greatest nursing education provider,” said Vickie. “Mennonite’s flame keeps burning bigger and brighter.”



PASSING THE TORCH: THE DEANS OF MCN

Dr. Carol Farran Dean Judy Neubrander Dr. Janet Krejci
 Dr. Kathleen Hogan Dr. Nancy Ridenour Dr. Jacquelyn Kinder

EXPLORING IMPACT: THE RIPPLE EFFECT



Photo by Yoann Boyer.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Map of the unique locations MCN nurses live, work, and volunteer throughout the world.

— “ —
**NURSES,
IN A LOT
OF WAYS,
ARE LIKE
SILENT
WATCHMEN**
— ” —

Throughout our lives, many of us search for meaning. Each of us goes about it differently, but that hunt for some greater purpose is something embedded in the fabric of humanity.

In the end, we want our lives to have *meant* something.

Nursing is not a glamorous profession. If you do your job well, you're not going to end up in the newspaper or on TV. Excellent nurses don't often become famous, and they aren't recognized by random strangers while walking down the street.

Nurses, in a lot of ways, are like silent watchmen. They are unsung heroes who are there for our best and worst moments. They cry tears of joy with you when you hold your first child, and they hold your hand on the day your mom dies unexpectedly. And in between, they are there a million different times in different magnitudes of pain and joy.

Your annual physical. The time you couldn't for the life of you get that sliver out. The time you shot a staple gun into your own hand. The time you just had something... weird... going on.

When we ask nurses why — Why give so much of themselves, why the long hours, why the tired feet? The answers are eerily similar.

Being a nurse means you have the power to change the worst day in someone's life for the better. That "good" then goes out into the world and grows. Your actions touch someone else and suddenly, your life is meaningful in a bigger, more impactful way.

MCN nurses are changing the world, one patient at a time. ✨

**How has
nursing
touched
your life?**

Send your story to
TheFlame@IllinoisState.edu.



LIVING ACROSS STATE LINES

as a Family Nurse Practitioner

by Bryanna Tidmarsh

Cody Yochum's seven-on, seven-off begins on Fridays in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at St. John Medical Center, where he works as a hospitalist in the intensive care and critical care units. When it ends, he's off to OSF St. Francis in Peoria, Illinois, for three 12-hour night shifts. Then it's back to Tulsa, where the cycle starts again. Oh, and he's also an Assistant Professor, teaching courses online.

"I love what I do," says Cody. "All of it. I'm so proud to be a nurse practitioner, and it's not tiring for me."

Cody earned his FNP from MCN in 2012, then a Doctorate in Nursing Practice in 2016 from Missouri State University. Passionate about education, research, and patient advocacy, he talks excitedly about what it means to be a critical care nurse practitioner—and the misconceptions that

Cody Yochum on campus at Illinois State University.
Photo by Emily McMahan.

DOORS ARE OPENING FOR YOU.
BE WILLING TO STEP THROUGH THEM.

come with it. "The NP isn't just somebody in the office. We are right there on the front lines," he says. "Even in the ICU, NP care is equal to or better than what is provided by physicians. I do central lines, arterial lines, intubations—even hemodialysis lines. I'm able to do procedures that attending physicians can't."

As with all nurses, NPs have the power to impact so many lives. With a ripple effect that extends beyond an individual patient, a nurse's care touches the family and the community as well. That's one reason Cody loves teaching—whether it's for his own students, his residents at the hospital, or a guest lecture for another institution. For him, working in multiple communities means more opportunities to make a difference.

It's easy to see that every patient has stayed with Cody in one way or another. The parents whose baby he delivered in the back of a pickup truck. The man he resuscitated on his day off while out to lunch with his mother. And the losses—the family whose loved one was in the ICU for eight weeks before passing, and the two children who couldn't be saved—"You don't get over those. I still remember. Those are the nights you just go home and ugly-cry."



Yochum observes a case alongside a nurse.

When asked if it ever gets easier, he says, "The day I stop feeling is the day I need to switch jobs."

But then there are the days when the impossible becomes possible: "The days when I've been able to make that save—to head off something thought to be inevitable—that's what gives me the strength to get up and go." He tells the story of a police officer who collapsed while visiting a friend in the hospital. "We did CPR for an hour," recalls Cody. "As a last-ditch effort, we tried a second defibrillator. And it worked. Today, he's fully recovered." Cody's work with double sequential fibrillation has had a lasting impact on his home hospital; indeed, he wrote the protocol on when to use it, and it's worked 70-80% of the time.

A beat after being near tears, Cody is laughing and sharing stories from his Snapchat. "I consider myself a jokester," laughs Cody. "We're dealing with death and dying every day. We need to have fun."

And he does. Despite his demanding work schedule, Cody makes time for adventure: Las Vegas, Australia, Memphis, Rome, several cruises. And in between, it's his love for his jobs—along with some jazz and exercise—that keeps his spirits high.

His advice to future nursing students? "Doors are opening for you. Be willing to step through them." ✨

On
PASSION
and making an
IMPACT

by Bryanna Tidmarsh

It's hard to write about Omye Desire Akahome without mentioning how fitting her name is. A recent graduate of the Accelerated BSN program and a member of Pre-Entry and Retention Opportunities for Undergraduate Diversity (PROUD), desire is so central to everything she does: her desire to learn, grow, care for others, and give back. "I want to feel elated," she says.

What makes her feel elated? Teaching, caring for her patients, and giving back to her communities. And asking the tough questions.

Moving to the United States from Nigeria in 2013, Desire studied molecular and cellular biology to prepare for becoming a doctor. "But then I realized, I need that one-on-one experience with the patients. I want to be their friend, their advocate—to know every single thing there is to know about their condition, as well as who they are as a person. The holistic experience is important to me."

The switch to nursing lit a fire under her. "I wanted to wake up in the morning excited to go to work every single day. And that's how I feel about nursing," she says, smiling. "The night before I hit clinical, I can't sleep because I'm so excited. Then I'm dancing in my car, or in the elevator with my coffee. There's that thrill in knowing what you want to do with your life, in knowing that you can make such a difference."

Desire's energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and her path reminds us of the many ways nurses care for others. Here are four ways Desire is giving back.

Read this and more articles online at NURSING.ILLINOISSTATE.EDU/100-YEARS

1
Volunteering

Even with her busy schedule in the accelerated program, Desire carves out time for giving back to the community. "As a broke college student, I don't have money. I believe the best thing you can give to someone is your time." She volunteers for hospitals, food banks, shelters, children's shows, museums, and schools. "This is especially important when you're going into communities where people aren't expecting to see someone who looks like me. I ask children what their aspirations are and whether they are thinking about college. For some of them, no one has ever asked them that. I like to plant the seed—to say, 'Look at me! I look like you and I'm doing it. You can do it too.'"

2
Educating patients

It was in clinicals that Desire realized her passion for labor and delivery. "One of the best things about labor and delivery—the part that made me fall in love with it—is the educational aspect. You see a 17-year-old mom. It's her first baby, and she's terrified. The doctor delivers the baby. Then, the doctor is gone. Now the mom has the baby and doesn't know about breastfeeding, diaper changes, or how to take care of the umbilical cord. That's where nurses come in. We teach them all of these things: tell them when to come in for immunizations, about their wellness checkup, breastfeeding, pumping, diapers, and clothing. And step by step, you start seeing the relief on their face. Before you know it, you've helped them think: *you know what, maybe I can do this.*"

"I BELIEVE THE BEST THING YOU CAN GIVE TO SOMEONE IS YOUR TIME."

3

Working toward patient comfort

Six months before graduating with her BSN from the accelerated program, Desire was offered a job in the medical surgical unit at Springfield Memorial Hospital starting in the fall. Even before being hired, though, she was already bringing innovation to the table. "I love research, and I'm always thinking about how I can make a particular situation better," Desire says. "I recently had a patient who had an NG tube in. I've always been drawn to NG tubes—they're just so interesting to me. But this patient's voice was hoarse, and she said the tube hurt. I knew there has to be another way. I looked into it, and most hospital policies say to use no anesthesia at all for inserting the tube. I realized we could use lidocaine spray. So, I wrote my evidence-based paper on it, turned it in, then mentioned the research in my interview. I asked, 'What is your current policy on NG tubes? I have a solution that can improve our patients' comfort.' They were excited about the idea."

4

The spark that lights her way

Some people are never quite sure what they want out of their career. For Desire, she will always be thankful for that spark she felt in the delivery room.

"It was the moment that I've been searching for all my life. I used to ask myself: *When am I going to know what I want to do?* There, that day in the delivery room with tears in my eyes, I thought, *This. This is it.* I wanted to be a nurse." She pauses in thought, then smiles. "It takes some people their entire life to find that feeling, you know? I don't think I would have had that experience anywhere else but here at MCN."

Now, whatever the goal is, Desire dreams it, then she makes it happen. And she looks forward to helping others find their spark, too, through practice, service, and teaching.

"I have the spirit. I have the fire. I'm going to see it through." ✦



Read the story of
Eleanor Eft on page 34.

Photo by Emily McMahon.

THERE IS MAGIC HERE.

You feel it all around you and can see it in the photographs that line the walls in Edwards Hall. 100 years of history built on caring and compassion and doing what is necessary. Doing what is right.

You hear it in the stories of this community. Stories like the one of Eleanor Eft, a beautiful soul—an alum, a nurse, a mother—who tore the corner of her apron the night WWII ended. Listening to her speak, it struck me that by being here, I am part of something larger than myself. Something worthwhile. In its soft and ever-steady way, this college is changing the world.

There is magic here.

—Emily McMahon

What is PHOTOVOICE?

Photovoice is a method for understanding perspectives through a photo and an accompanying description. We asked our community to share a photo that captures a meaningful moment related to nursing or MCN and to explain the image in their own words.



MCN has given me these two people. They are a huge part of my everyday life. They are my shoulder to lean on and my biggest supporters. They are there for all of my best, most memorable moments and also for my lowest lows. I can always count on them to be there when life starts feeling overwhelming, which we all know it can as a college student. They are better friends than anyone I could ever ask for. I've always hoped to find people like them to call my best friends. The friendships you see in movies, my sidekicks, my future bridesmaids. MCN means so much to me because it has given me these people.

–Scarlett Holze,
Nursing Student



My “why” is making a difference. I strive to make a difference in the lives of everyone I have the blessing of meeting. Whether I am on a medical mission trip in Costa Rica, or teaching our amazing students about leadership, it is my hope and prayer that I can somehow leave them better than they were before they met me. Sometimes that is helping an individual with a medical-related concern, and sometimes that is coaching a student on their career path as they become a professional Registered Nurse. Being a nurse is truly the best “job” in the whole world, and it’s one I am thankful to God for each and every day.

–Valerie Wright,
Instructional Assistant Professor



Why do I do what I do? I love spending my career helping students get to their career. Being the undergraduate academic advisor at Mennonite College of Nursing, I often fondly call myself a “mom” to 600+ undergraduate students. Whether it is in group advising sessions, or one-on-one appointments, I enjoy getting to know my students and celebrating their accomplishments or supporting them during struggle. Here is a picture of me as a working mom with my daughter (#futureRedbird), who helped me in the Nursing Simulation Lab on a Saturday open house event.

–Kileigh Guido,
Undergraduate Advisor for
Mennonite College of Nursing

My aunt, Cornelia (Ropp) Cramer, was a graduate of the Mennonite School of Nursing Class of 1960.

She greatly influenced my decision to be a nurse from the time I was a little girl. When it came time to pick a nursing school, she made it clear to me that I was to apply to colleges. Unfortunately, at that time her alma mater was still a diploma program. She always spoke highly of her education at Mennonite, and she even was very truthful with me about the fact that I would come out of school better prepared if I went to Mennonite, but she pushed me toward a baccalaureate program nonetheless.



She was there the day I graduated from NIU in 1978, and she was right about two things: I was relatively incompetent that first year of my career, and a BSN set me up for a career that has been exciting, varied, and very fulfilling. When I look back, I am amazed (and grateful) that her loyalty toward my future nursing profession won out over her loyalty to her own school, but she, like the Mennonite diploma program, saw the future of nursing. While many diploma programs closed their doors over the past 40 years, Mennonite has survived and thrived.

Today I am proud to work for the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University helping to prepare BSN students for a future nursing career. I am proud to be a part of a team that works very hard to ensure that our students do not graduate as inept as I was when I took my first position as a new graduate! And I know my aunt was very pleased when I took a position here. Aunt Cornelia passed away in 2017, a proud Mennonite alum to the end.

–Marcia Buchs, BSN, MA, RN,
Coordinator of the Nursing Simulation Laboratory



Thanks to MCN, I have met some of my best friends.

We have so many memories from late night studying in the Sim Lab and early morning for clinical. I am so proud to be a student of Mennonite College of Nursing.

–Elise Austin,
Nursing Student



Share your voice

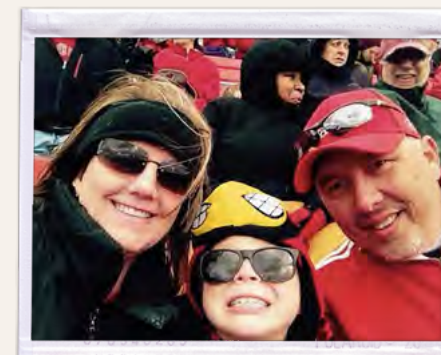
Send your Photovoice stories to
TheFlame@IllinoisState.edu

Photo by Kinga Cichewicz.



I am fortunate that I can share my passion for research with colleagues and students so that we can make a difference in our health care, and ultimately, improve health and well-being locally and globally.

–Dr. Seon Yoon Chung,
Associate Dean for Academics



Gratitude changes everything.

I am not only grateful for the personal care received by MCN nurses in our healthcare system, but by the opportunity to shape the nursing student journey in subtle and more profound ways. As the Associate Dean for Academic Support, I am humbled by the student service team that consistently shows up for the challenge. The work we do matters. And that matters to me. I am proud to be starting my 23rd year with the college in the fall. With passion and purpose, we continue our work!

–Janean Mollenhauer,
Associate Dean for Academic Support



Chris Hammond '69 shares a story with fellow alumni.

Photo by Lyndsie Schlink.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE HONORING A LIFETIME OF FRIENDSHIP

by Bryanna Tidmarsh

Let us tell you a story about a group of students sunbathing between work shifts, a secret key used to help students sneak out at night, lipstick on bed pillows, a few friends hitchhiking across state lines. No, it's not a movie; this was real life for MCN alumni who graduated between 1958 and 1969.

"We had a good class," said Jennita Wright '62, smiling. "It was a lot of fun."

This past May, they gathered at the Alumni Center on campus for the Golden Jubilee celebration, an event honoring MCN nursing alumni whose classes graduated 50 or more years ago. This year, the class of 1969 received their commemorative pins, designed by Mary Ann Watkins '62.

Dean Neubrandner welcomed everyone to the Golden Jubilee celebration. "How lovely to have the 100th anniversary occur on your special year," she said. The group was also greeted with a surprise guest: former MCN Dean Janet Krejci—who first established the Golden Jubilee celebration in 2015—stopped in, saying, "I love this community, and I'll always have Mennonite in my heart."

It's clear that the bonds forged at MCN over the years have been strong. When Vada Saffer, Rosie Short, and Charla Roth '69 greeted each other, the room filled with laughter. "Rosie, Charla, and I were the three in our class who lived out of state," said Vada. "We had a lot of quality time on the weekends staying here. And our friendship still continues."

According to another '69 alumna, the best part of reunions is that "it's been so many years, but when we get back together, we can go right on like we haven't been apart."

Imagine life in 1969: Richard Nixon was president. Popular shows such as *The Brady Bunch*, *Sesame Street*, and *Scooby Doo* debuted. The first strain of the AIDS virus was found in the United States. An artificial heart was implanted into a patient for the first time. The starting nursing salary was \$5.00/hour, and the average new house would put you back \$40,000.

During the celebration, alumni took turns sharing memories about their time at MCN. As the microphone went around, the memories flooded back, and their stories quickly turned to sharing secrets.

"When we were seniors, we went up on the roof, I think, and shared stories about our time at Mennonite," said Edith Michalovic '62, smiling shyly. "We whispered about the key we had—a key that would let us into the dorm from the tunnel." She giggled, then added, "The teachers didn't know about that."

Intrigued, Dean Neubrandner asked, "How'd you get that key?"

Edith replied, "It's a secret."

Going the extra mile, Suzie Obert '64 described hitchhiking from Indianapolis to Bloomington to sneak into a boyfriend's dorm. "This is the story I'm notorious for," she said, laughing. "We were in Indianapolis, and I had a boyfriend I wanted to see in Bloomington. The trick was, I didn't have a way to get to Bloomington. This one guy wouldn't let me borrow his car. He said, 'You can always hitchhike.' And I thought, *Yeah! I can.* I asked the other girls, figuring they wouldn't do it. But they said yes!" When they arrived, the door was locked, and they had to climb in through the window.

More stories were shared about the friendships they forged and the instructors whose lessons they've carried with them all of these years.

Sunbathing on the nurse's deck. Singing in the choir. Lunches at Dr. Ball's house. Miss Nice's insistence on strong bed corners. So many stories about Miss Maxwell and Mrs. Gaines.

And there's Edith '62 and Steve Michalovic '64, who found love at Mennonite. "Steve was the second male nursing student, but the first single one," Mary Ann Watkins said with a wink. "Ken beat him here, but Ken was married."

Steve recalls how Edith brought him to Mennonite. "We met in high school and went to the same youth group," he said. Edith added, "We casually dated. But he went off to voluntary service in seminary school. Then, he came along when my dad brought me for my first day at Mennonite. Two years later, he felt called to nursing." She turned and smiles at him. "In my senior year, he was a freshman student! We dated on and off until he graduated, then we got engaged."

You get the feeling that everyone in the room knows how lucky they are to have each other. "Last year was my 60th reunion, and most of my classmates were there," said Paula Boland '58. "This year, some were unable to come for health and family reasons. I'm so grateful we got together last year."

Others in the room nodded their heads. In just an afternoon, the room had filled with memories, laughter, love, tears, compassion, and gratitude. Wrapping up the event, another alumna from the class of '69 said, "These were three of the most memorable years of my life. I couldn't have asked to go to a better school. We have made wonderful friendships that have lasted our entire lives."

"Thank you for this," says Vada Saffer '69. "We appreciate today." ♦

*I'll always have
Mennonite in
my heart.*



Vada Saffer '69 shares a laugh with fellow MCN alumni.
Photo by Lyndsie Schlink.

THE STORY OF ELEANOR EFT

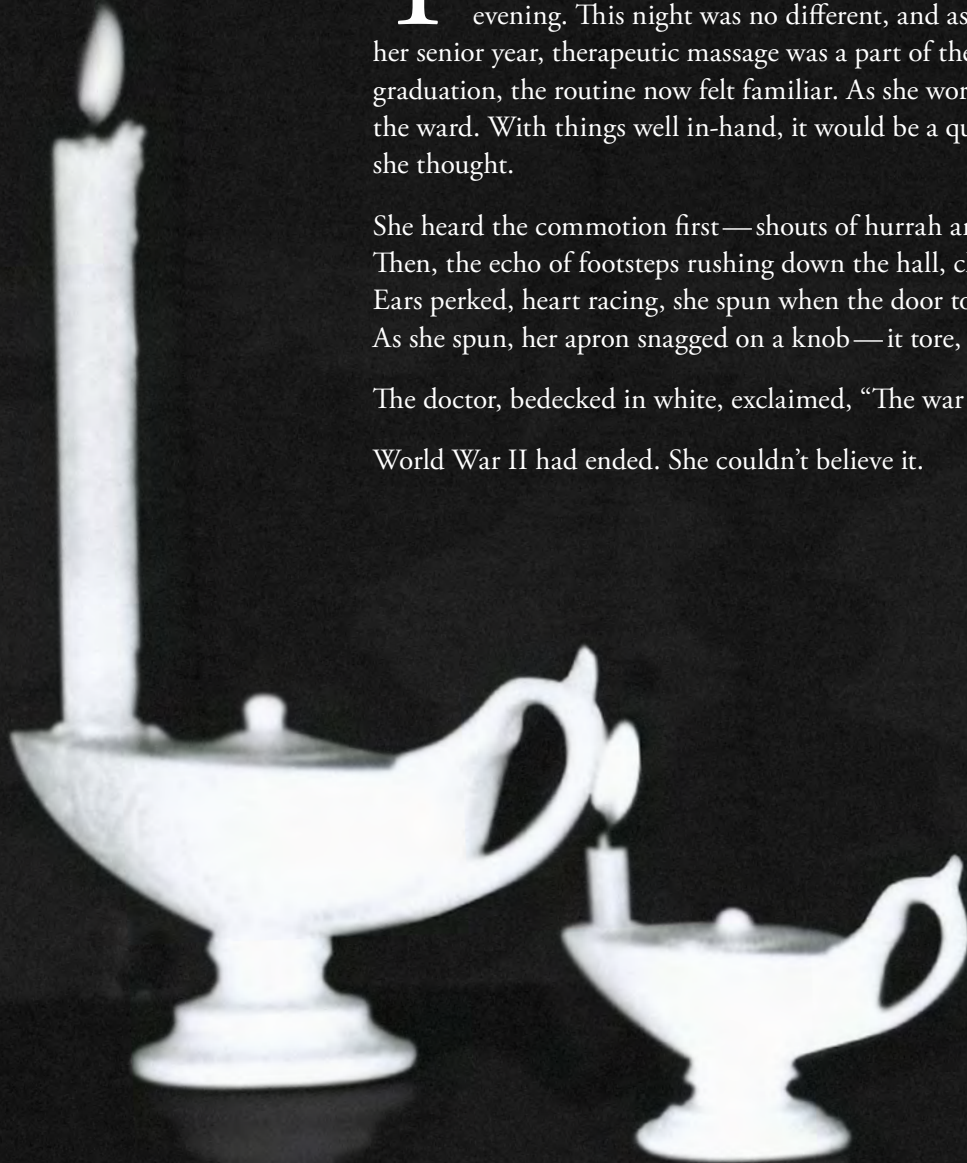


The year was 1945. As a part of many patients' treatment plans, a nurse would give them an alcohol and powder back rub in the evening. This night was no different, and as a nursing student in her senior year, therapeutic massage was a part of the job. Just weeks from graduation, the routine now felt familiar. As she worked, she scanned the ward. With things well in-hand, it would be a quiet evening—or so she thought.

She heard the commotion first—shouts of hurrah and cries of excitement. Then, the echo of footsteps rushing down the hall, closer and closer. Ears perked, heart racing, she spun when the door to room 31 burst open. As she spun, her apron snagged on a knob—it tore, just like that.

The doctor, bedecked in white, exclaimed, "The war has ended!"

World War II had ended. She couldn't believe it.



*Eleanor Eft,
Class of 1945*



A LIFE DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY AND CARE

Eleanor Eft was born on October 7, 1923, in a farmhouse near Gridley, Illinois, but she never milked a cow. She left that to her brother. 95 years later, that very same farm is still in her family.

As a small child, she and her brother attended a one-room schoolhouse. Today, she still recalls the names of the team of black horses her parents would use to pick them up from school early if a blizzard was on the way: Rox and Diamond. She fondly remembers walking to Gridley High. She does not think they had a mascot back then, but concedes that may be one of the things she has now forgotten.

Eleanor chose to attend Mennonite School of Nursing (now ISU's Mennonite College of Nursing) because her hometown doctor told her, "If you get a pin from there, you can get a job anywhere."

Back then, MCN students traveled to Riley Children's Hospital in Indiana for their pediatrics clinical rotation. Eleanor speaks wistfully of her time at Riley and the little blonde boy she cared for there. "We knew he wasn't going to make it. [His care] had to fall to someone, and so it fell to me. I forget what he had—some kind of rare thing. He had lovely parents. I can still see that little blonde face. He was my favorite."

It was before immunizations, before throwaways, back when we sterilized everything. It was back

when tuition was around \$85, when nursing students worked in the hospital from dawn until dusk and wore caps they sewed themselves.

Eleanor remembers seeing penicillin for the first time. "I remember the nurse bringing it to the ward. 'This is penicillin,' she said. Back then, you had to give it to the patient every two hours. I always felt bad having to stick someone that often."

Students attended devotions in the chapel in the morning, then worked alongside physicians and nurses at Mennonite Hospital. Shifts were 12 hours long. Troyer Hall—the college's first-ever student housing—was still being constructed, and so most of Eleanor's tenure was spent living in one of the three college houses. Hers was Chestnut House on Chestnut Street. Curfew was 11 o'clock, and that meant you were in bed and the lights were out.

Eleanor met her husband, Sheldon Eft, while sitting on the porch—he was a Purple Heart Army veteran just home from the war and lived across the street. Born in the El Paso area, he lost his mother



Eleanor Eft at the 2018 Homecoming parade, posing with students wearing historic MCN nursing uniforms.

when he was six and spent much of his childhood at a Christian orphanage in St. Louis.

Eleanor speaks of their romance in a shy and pragmatic way, as if their love story was a cherished secret with an inevitable conclusion. “Well, one day he asked if I wanted to go for a walk, and so we walked down the street, turned around, and came back.”

She tells it as if it were as simple as that—a moment on the porch opening up a lifetime of memories. Eleanor smiles softly as she tells stories of time spent picnicking and swimming with friends at Lake Bloomington. She describes the proposal in the same quiet way.

“He didn’t get on one knee. He grabbed my hand, hugged me, and asked, ‘will you marry me?’ I thought about it a minute and then said yes.”

After Eleanor graduated, she and Sheldon had a big-time wedding—complete with a fancy dress from Peoria—at Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. This was the same church Eleanor

first began attending as a student at Mennonite. Second Presbyterian was central to Eleanor’s story for much of her life: racing to make it to 10:30 service as a student, her wedding, Sunday service with family, and volunteering in the kitchen every Friday. This was just one of many spaces where she cared for others in her community.

Eleanor worked at Mennonite Hospital after graduation on the OB floor—“the happy floor,” she calls it—but stepped away when her first child was born. She remembers Sheldon saying, “Eleanor, let’s do with a little less so you don’t have to work. I never knew what it was to come home for cookies, or anything like that. Let’s give our children that presence and care.”

Her kids did come home for cookies, and they brought their friends.

Even when she was not practicing, Eleanor Eft was a proud nurse through and through. Her daughter laughs thinking back on it: “Every kid in the neighborhood came to her for Band-Aids, but even

if we were hurt, her response was always, ‘It’s a long way from your heart.’”

She took care of her neighbor Linda for weeks when Linda dropped a kettle lifting it off the stove and badly burned herself. She administered Polio vaccinations at the school when they first came out, and she administered TB tests. In the late 1950s, she spent some time working one-on-one with clients as a private duty nurse part-time.

And, perhaps most evidently, Eleanor kept her nursing license active well into her 90s. In her 80s, she would get phone calls from recruiters with job offers and signing bonuses. One call was for a job as a traveling nurse, and she thought, if I was single, that would be fun.

A proud Mennonite alum, Eleanor and her classmates would get together every year for the nurses’ banquet. Her daughter laughs when telling the story about how she selected her wedding date.

“I looked at Mom and said, ‘How about this date?’ Mom replied, ‘Let me check and see when my nurses’ banquet is.’”

When asked the secret to long life, Eleanor shrugged. “My grandmother lived to 103. I remember when I was sixteen, I caught her looking at my legs. ‘Nice legs,’ she said. I was just getting ready to say ‘thanks’ when my grandmother continued, ‘They look strong. They can work hard.’”

She laughs, a twinkle in her eye. “So maybe that’s the secret: hard work.”



Eleanor Eft passed away on May 1, 2019.

just three days shy of MCN’s 100th Anniversary Gala. The apron she wore the night WWII ended lives in the Dean’s Suite on the 3rd floor of Edwards Hall—Mennonite College of Nursing’s home at Illinois State University. She was a woman of faith who lived for her family and grandchildren. A proud graduate of Mennonite School of Nursing, Eleanor was a life-long nurse who cared about her community and exemplified the values of MCN.

She is loved. She is missed.



IN MEMORY

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of the following:

BAKER, Beverly (Andes) ’48,
10/9/2018

DIESEL, Mary (Naffziger) ’43,
7/13/2018

EFT, Eleanor (Funk) ’45,
5/1/2019

GROSS, Carol (Altes) ’78,
10/23/2018

JOHNSON, Esther ’98,
10/20/2018

LAMB, Barbara (Hansen) ’60,
12/4/2018

REARDON, Mary (Woolley) ’61,
3/11/2019

REINING, Nadine ’46,
6/14/2019

SHAFFER, Ruth (Kuerth) ’54,
9/16/2018

SUTTER, Rebecca (Shoemaker) ’68,
7/4/2018

TEUBEL, Doris ’82,
3/4/2019

Celebrating Our SPRING 2019 GRADUATES

Spring 2019 commencement ceremony.



Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Olivia Alfaro
Heather Arnold
David Aschenbrenner
Rachel Augius
Elizabeth Balch
Caroline Beckman
Rose Belcastro
Emily Bell
Erin Bergschneider
Rebecca Blidy
Haley Bonnet
Haley Bowlin
Gillian Ciara Buendia
Hannah Burke
Niki Burton

Kailyn Calcari
Lindsay Callisto
Nicole Campanile
Michael Carter
Ashley Chandler
Megan Ciapponi
Abigail Clayton
Haylie Clement
Lyndsey Coddington
Angela D'Agostino
Alyana De Leon
Jordan Deer
Kaylin Doran
Elizabeth Downey
Mason Dransfeldt
Sarah Ebel
Michaela Elliott
Morgan Ellis

Taylor Ellis
Brendan Ferguson
Katie Fiedler
Addison Fitch
Maddy Forberg
Andria Fox
Michelle Frawley
Kayla Fritz
Christian Galvan
Kaelynn Ghinazzi
Anna Gillespie Kasicki
Meghan Gingrich
Jasmine Gluba
Delaney Goldsmith
Meg Gordon
Nicole Gregg
Brooke Gross
Trisha Harmon

Marita Hart
Carter Hayes
Lauren Hindman
Emmaline Hoffman
Amanda Hogan
Leah Huss
Anita Jankowski
Abbie Jessup
Brooke Johnson
Allyson Karas
Katherine Kelly
Maura Kenny
Stella Kiefer
Lindsey Kieser
Jenna Kindred
Megan Klingler
Mary Rose Kloss
Delaney Kokalj
Kapri Krople
Kelsey Kumrow
Lexi Kupferschmid
Abby Langevin
Molly Lawler
Alison Line
Sarah Little
Adam Livezey
Sheridan Lynch
Anna Mahay
Blaire Marker
Nicolette Marrotta
Rod McIntosh
Sarah Mikolajczak
Grace Moore
Lauryn Murray
Abby Mustread
Eric Nelson
Kyle Norman
Kennedee Nott
Courtney O'Connell
Kelly O'Donnell
Rebecca Offenback

Maddie Olson
Betsy Olson
Katrina Paulick
Jacob Petruszak
Tammy Piotrowski
Taylor Pohlman
Isabel Ponce
Keely Przyborski
Allison Rauch
Kaitlyn Richards
Augusta Riggins
Caitlin Rinke
Emily Rogers
Tyler Rogers
Allison Ross
Aaron Ruhlander
Rebecca Sack
Rachael Scherer
Sadie Schneider
Sofia Serna
Lauren Shoaf
Jessica Sholler
Caitlin Sims
Carley Smith
Samantha Solis
Colton Steidinger
Margaret Sullivan
Gabby Suria
Cynthia Tackett
Lauren Termunde
Taylar Testin
Shelby Thornton
Felicia Totten
Sara Tureskis
Christine Voelker
Kelsey Walker
Matthew Walker
Tiffany Wallace
Mary Walsh
Claire Watson
Mackenzie Widule

Aspen Wiegand
Steffani Wiegand
Jill Wignes
Ivy Wiley
Bethany Wilkerson
Sarah Williams
Natalie Wnek

Master of Science in Nursing

Jessica Akers
Laura Alexander
Mary Bahl
Megan Bess
Angela Bickett
Leslie Bowser
Bailey Bucher
Kelsi Earl
Heather Fulhorst
Brittney Gallivan
Jason Grauer
Emily Hamilton
Missy Hardesty
Justi Hudson
Shannon Kunkle
Cheryl Leman
Heidi Mccoy
Haleigh Moss
Lela Nelson-Parola
Yaw Opoku-Agyemang
Deborah Pulliam
Kates Sitton
Tami Subyantoro
Kylee Wassell


Doctor of Philosophy

Amy Grugan
Annette Hubbell
Julie Kennedy

ALUMNI,

All graduates and former students of the former Mennonite School of Nursing, the former Mennonite College of Nursing, and the current Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University are considered alumni of the college. While your association with classrooms, textbooks, and clinical studies may have been only for a few years, your friendship with the Mennonite College of Nursing lasts a lifetime.

Alumni are very much needed to keep the MCN experience strong.

In some cases, alumni may serve as clinical preceptors or as informal mentors to current students. Alumni provide vital financial support, which offers student scholarships, faculty support, technology, enhancements, and more. Most importantly, alumni provide current students with examples of Mennonite's deeply held values and long-standing tradition of excellence. 



Student-decorated graduation caps.



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Normal, IL 61761-5810

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in@NursingISU
p@NursingISU

Events

FALL 2019

DECEMBER

- 5** MCN's Annual Holiday Celebration with History Book Signing and Special Recognition of December Graduates
- 14** Winter Commencement

SPRING 2020

MARCH

- 26** MCN Research Symposium

APRIL

- 24** Golden Jubilee
- 25** MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet

MAY

- 8** Candlelighting Ceremony and Spring Commencement

For updates & details →

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MAKE AN IMPACT

Thanks to our incredible community, we raised \$8 million.

Help us keep going. Donate today, and support the future of nursing.



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