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The Flame

MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2002

Gardener, college win beautification award



Darcy Loy, Illinois State University's very own expert gardener, along with Mennonite College of Nursing were selected by the Town of Normal Community Improvement Committee to receive a Community Beautification Award. This award was presented for the beautiful medicinal herb garden located at the north-west corner of Edwards Hall. Included in the garden are medicinal plants and flowers, benches donated by the Classes of '91 and '97, and a brick pathway.



Mennonite College of Nursing and Alumni Association

Calendar of events

December 13, 2002
Fall semester ends

December 24, 2002-January 1, 2003
University offices closed*

January 13, 2003
Spring semester begins

January 20, 2003
Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

March 8-16, 2003
Spring break*

March 28, 2003
Undergraduate Research Symposium

April 2003
Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University telefund

April 8, 2003
Joseph Bruchac
Native American storyteller

April 25, 2003
Graduate Research Symposium

May 9, 2003
Spring semester ends

May 9 and 10, 2003
Commencement

May 19, 2003
Summer session begins

May 26, 2003
Memorial Day*

July 4, 2003
Independence Day*

August 8, 2003
Summer session ends

August 18, 2003
Fall semester begins

* University offices closed

Advisory council member working to ease nursing shortage

The United States is experiencing a nursing shortage. Illinois is no exception to this growing dilemma, and Springfield Memorial Medical Center is working to do something about it. This medical center has chosen to be proactive, working on retention, recruitment, and the redesign of work processes to improve both working conditions and patient care.

Memorial Medical Center is one of the Mennonite College of Nursing Advisory Council's members. Mennonite College of Nursing works with Memorial on several programs. Mennonite students attend clinical practice at the medical center. Memorial also hosts students through its externship program, allowing students to experience nursing with a mentor. Administration at Memorial has worked

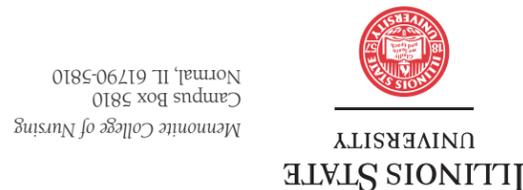
with faculty at Mennonite on empowering nurses through the LINE Fellowship and collecting data for a study on the ideal nursing graduate.

Memorial is working with Mennonite to develop and evaluate student outcomes for present and proposed programs and activities of the college in areas such as administrative education and long-range development. This includes identifying programs for nurse role-development tailored to the educational needs of the local and regional health care community and ongoing assessment of workforce needs.

In mid-July Memorial and Mennonite College of Nursing hosted nearly 20 high school students interested in nursing to a "summer camp" that provided the opportunity to learn what nurses do. Two

continued on page 2

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Dean's message

During this holiday season, we reflect on giving thanks and remembering our friends. Mennonite College of Nursing experienced significant accomplishments this year. We also mourn the loss of several friends.



Beloved faculty member Janie McCray, longtime friend and colleague Joe Warner, and LaRue Sloan '28 passed away this summer. As a tribute to Joe Warner's many accomplishments, we have

renamed the teaching nursing home project the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project. The Janie McCray R.N. to B.S.N. Fund has been established to support the program that Janie spearheaded and so dearly loved. Both Janie and Joe taught us to be optimistic, supportive, and creative. As we mourn their loss, we seek to honor their memory by ensuring that their legacy lives on. I invite others to join us in this endeavor.

We have received official notification of accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Thanks to all faculty, staff, students, and alumni who contribute to our success. The medicinal herb garden is flourishing and promises to be a wonderful site for contemplation and study. I encourage you to visit the garden when on campus. Homecoming was a wonderful event. Thanks to all alumni, faculty, staff, and students

who participated.

State budget constraints continue to be a challenge. Faculty and staff are diligently working to seek external funds and to increase efficiency so that we can continue to increase enrollment. The national nursing shortage is a challenge for all of us. We have increased enrollment in excess of 20 percent. Our plan is to produce 100 new nurses a year. Your assistance in recruiting students is greatly appreciated. The national shortage of nursing faculty is acute. Please help us to recruit nursing faculty for Mennonite College of Nursing. Please call, write, or E-mail me with your suggestions or referrals.

We recently learned that the Marion McDowell Stafford Charitable Trust has endowed a lectureship in child and family health at the college. We will be bringing experts in child and family health to campus to enhance nursing education and enrich the educational environment for the entire community. The Healthy Kids Project at Irving School is flourishing. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois has supported purchasing materials to support the health promotion activities at Irving. Student nurses are providing health fairs, and the graduate nurse practitioner students offer school health physicals.

The regional meetings with alumni are going well. I hope to see you as we travel around Central Illinois. Please keep in touch!

Have a warm and safe holiday season! Wishing all of you the very best!

Nancy Ridenour
nriden@ilstu.edu
(309) 438-2174

Nursing shortage continued from previous page

days were spent at Memorial, where participants saw firsthand how nurses care for patients in various settings. Dean Nancy Ridenour noted, "The nurse camp is an exciting way to introduce high school students to the world of nursing. The collaboration between Mennonite College of Nursing and Memorial Medical Center provides opportunities that neither of us could accomplish without the other."

Memorial is also working with Mennonite College of Nursing to provide a leading-edge electronic

medical records system now being designed that will improve patient safety and quality of care.

It is through the support of staff time and talents, administrative coordination and funding that Memorial has enhanced the education Mennonite College of Nursing students receive. Working with Memorial Medical Center has increased the ability of faculty members to conduct clinical research and improved upon the quality of clinical expertise in the Mennonite College of Nursing preferred graduate.

Homecoming news

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated homecoming October 4 and 5. It was truly a wonderful event. The Classes of 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962, 1977, and 1992 were honored this year. Debra Roach '77 received the Distinguished Alumni Award, and Teri Saxton '84 and '01 received the Young Alumni Award. Tours of Edward Hall and an open house were held for all alumni and family on Saturday, October 5.

This event would not have been possible without the assistance of the Mennonite College of Nursing Alumni Board. Special thanks go to Renee Simons, Homecoming chair-



Left, Class of 1977.
Below, Irving School marches in the Homecoming parade.



person, and Alice Deavers, board president. Amy Irving and Rita Chaney were invaluable with all the preparation and wonderful planning. Faculty members were out to see their former students and give guided tours of Edward Hall. Mennonite College of Nursing is truly a wonderful place to be affiliated with.

Alumni came to this year's event in full force. Fourteen members from the Class of 1977 and eight members from the Class of 1952 came to see old friends and catch up. A luncheon honoring members of the Classes of '32, '42, '52, '62, '77, and '92 was held in the Founders' Suite at Edwards Hall. The Student Nurses Association along with Irving School represented Mennonite College of Nursing in the Homecoming parade.

It is truly wonderful to meet with our friends and colleagues for this event. It is through the support of the alumni that Mennonite College of Nursing's legacy continues from one generation to the next.



Below, Alumni read *The Flame* at Mennonite College of Nursing's Homecoming open house. Bottom, members of the Class of 1952.

Trustee-in-residence

Illinois State University Board of Trustee member and Mennonite College of Nursing supporter Nancy Froelich participated in the Trustee-in-Residence Program at Mennonite College of Nursing. Froelich is a licensed funeral director associated with the Froelich Memorial Home. She is a former trustee and chairperson of the Board of Governors, a trustee of the State Universities Retirement System Board, and a past member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She has served for eight years as chairperson of the McLean County Board. Among other community activities, Froelich has spent time on the Executive Committee of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development and the Mennonite College of Nursing Board. She attended Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University and has a degree from Eastern Illinois University. Her visit to Mennonite College of Nursing was a chance for her to experience a day in the life of a nursing student.

During her visit to Mennonite College of Nursing, Froelich was able to participate in a management and leadership course taught by Camille Little and meet with faculty members to discuss other courses offered in the college. A demonstration of SimMan and the IV simulator followed a



tour of Edwards Hall nursing labs. Eileen Fowles, director of Research met, with Froelich and discussed research projects currently being pursued by our nursing faculty. Froelich's nursing student experience did not end with her visit in October. During the May 12, 2002, commencement ceremonies Dean Nancy Ridenour presented Froelich with an honorary nursing degree. Ridenour noted, "This is the first time that Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University confers the title of honorary nurse. The recipient of this award has been a friend to the University and of nursing. Her outstanding contributions to the community demonstrate her commitment to service. It is an honor for Mennonite College of Nursing to bestow the title of honorary nurse upon Nancy Froelich, as her certificate states, 'For her dedicated interest, support, and understanding of the profession of nursing.'"

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The Flame

FALL 2002

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Janie McCray: A nursing legacy

It is with great sadness that Mennonite faculty and staff members mourn the loss of one of our own. Janie McCray, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing, passed away on July 21, 2002. She is survived by a daughter in Wisconsin and her husband, Larry, of Bloomington. She was a true champion of Mennonite's R.N. to B.S.N. program, which she coordinated. Janie particularly focused on "older" students to assure their very special learning needs were met.

Lynn Kennell says, "Janie was very committed to the adult learner. She believed their needs were very different from the other students. She really stressed that to all of us. She had such a presence in the classroom. Her students loved her." In cleaning out her own desk a few weeks ago, Lynn came across a card Janie had given her.

Lynn commented, "She was just so thoughtful—always sending cards and letters to people."

Eileen Fowles also commented on Janie's dedication to the R.N. to B.S.N. student. Eileen said, "She encouraged students and faculty to be introspective about their experiences, themselves, and their nursing interactions."

Janie was a graduate of Lawrenceville High School, Class of 1958. She received her associate degree in

nursing from Vincennes University and her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Her Master of Science in nursing was obtained at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and her Ph.D. was earned from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her dissertation received an award for learning.

For 25 years she and her family lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she taught at Bellin College of Nursing, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and at Silver Lake College. She was a 25-year member of the First United Presbyterian Church, De Pere, Wisconsin, where she served as an elder. She was also a member of the Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. While in Green Bay she was an active member of the Green Bay District Nurses' Association and of the Kappa Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society. In 1992 she was the recipient of the Living Leader Award from the chapter for her teaching and for her mentoring. Prior to moving to Green Bay, Janie and her husband lived in St. Louis, where she taught at Barnes Hospital School of Nursing. Since 1994 Janie and Larry resided in Bloomington.

To contribute to the Janie McCray R.N. to B.S.N. Endowment Fund, please see the form on page 16 in this newsletter.



Remembering Janie By Camille Little

The first time I met Janie was when she came to interview for a faculty position at Mennonite College of Nursing. Her love and enthusiasm for the returning R.N. student was evident from the beginning. She made no secret about the R.N.s being the students she preferred. After the first year Janie was at Mennonite, I was assigned to work with her in the "Concepts" course. We quickly became good friends, partly due to our shared commitment to the R.N. student.

Janie signed her memos and the faculty meeting sign-in sheets as Janie Travolta-Presley. She was a great fan of Elvis and never missed a John Travolta movie. However, in the last few years, Robson Green, a British actor, took John's place in her make-believe life and she became "Lady Green."

Janie and I shared many stories over the years. We would laugh at each other's real or imagined tales and talk about the mischief we could create if we carried out some of our outrageous "what ifs." She was a Packers and Wisconsin Badger fan. During basketball season, she always addressed me as "Ms. Kentucky."

Janie will be remembered by her former students as an instructor who demanded their best effort but was always there to assist when needed. She was their constant advocate and maintained high standards for the B.S.N. completion program.

We will miss our friend and colleague, Janie McCray.

Master's student acknowledges Janie McCray as a mentor

Teresa "Teri" Saxton is the director of clinical compliance at OSF Saint James Medical Center in Pontiac, a position she has held for the past two years. She is also a student in Mennonite College of Nursing's master's in nursing systems administration program and hopes to graduate in May 2003. Teri credits her nursing education at Mennonite for the development of her leadership and research skills, which she utilizes on a daily basis in her role at St. James Medical Center. She manages several small departments and completes research and abstraction of medical diagnoses information through tabulation and chart reviews. Hospice care is one of her special interest areas.

"My mom was a nurse. I started as a Candy Stripper at St. James Hospital when I was 12 years old," Teri explains. Although when first out of high school she pursued an education degree at Illinois Wesleyan University, she only completed one year there before quitting school to get married. "Then I went right back to nursing."

Teri received her nursing diploma from Mennonite School of Nursing in 1984. She returned to Mennonite in 2000 to attend the R.N. to B.S.N. program. Teri credits Janie McCray for her return to Mennonite. It was a couple of years before her return that she attended an information seminar at the then-OSF Saint James Hospital, where she worked as a hospice supervisor and first met



McCray. At that time, McCray talked about the R.N. to B.S.N. program at Mennonite and answered questions the staff nurses had about the program.

After the seminar, McCray contacted Teri monthly "just to say 'hi'" and "I'll be seeing you soon." Teri laughs when she tells the story. "My excuse to her was 'I have five kids and work full time—I don't have time to return to school'; and she was always so quick to reply, 'Yep, we have all been there and some are still doing it.'" She is quick to point out that McCray recruited her to come to Mennonite and was the mentor who prompted her to pursue additional nursing education along with strong encouragement from other faculty. "McCray either mailed me something or called me every month until I came back to Mennonite to school."

When asked about her experiences at Mennonite, Teri comments, "I really like the faculty and the flexibility in scheduling classes." She particularly appreciates Mennonite's position as one of the colleges at Illinois State University. "I like having the opportunity to mix with students from other majors. It's given me a broader exposure; nurses need that." Teri sees the formation of life-long friendships as her best experience at Mennonite. Another memorable time for her was her initiation into Sigma Theta Tau in 2001. Her ultimate career goal is to continue in a nursing administration role and teach in a university setting.

Teri presented an educational program she developed, "Pain Smarts!," at Homecoming. It took place in Edwards Hall Founders' Suite, Room 306, on Saturday, October 5, from noon to 1 p.m. Teri is one of the Mennonite College of Nursing preferred graduates who has been greatly influenced by Janie McCray's dedication to the R.N./B.S.N. student.

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Continued on next page

My teaching philosophy

By Catherine B. Kaesberg, winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award 2002

I have been teaching professional nursing for 21 years. I have taught in diploma nursing programs, baccalaureate nursing programs, master's in nursing programs, and hospital-based nursing education programs. The common thread through all of these educational settings was the opportunity to help students in academia or students of life acquire and apply knowledge. Experiencing failure and success as a teacher in these settings has formed the foundation for my philosophy of teaching.

In the early 1980s I took my first teaching appointment. I thought at the time that I was talented and smart and that these were the qualities of a good teacher. I also enjoyed the idea that I was in a position of power. I taught my theory classes and supervised my students clinically. I was efficient, authoritative, and, unfortunately, quite punitive. I intimidated students and enjoyed it. They were nervous when I was present and often became teary-eyed when I interrogated them. I used the students to feed my ego and at that time didn't recognize that I was a terrible teacher who was insecure and immature.

Two years later I took a position as a nurse educator in a large intensive care unit. The job appealed to me because ICU nurses are usually considered to be very intelligent nursing professionals with great critical-thinking skills. If I was their educator then I must be the most intelligent with the best critical-thinking skills. The nurses in ICU did not agree with my opinion of myself. I had come from an academic setting. What did I know about intensive care nursing? A select group treated me with disrespect. They gossiped about my lack of experience and set me up to be in situations where they knew I would flounder, which I did over and over again. Within three months, I was ready to resign.

Late one morning I was sitting at my desk teary-eyed and disheartened. I was staring at the top of my desk. There were documents lying there, but I could not read them clearly through my tears. I could not comprehend the paragraphs because my



mind was so consumed by stress. I suddenly felt sick and disgusted with myself. The ICU nurses were treating me the way I had treated my students. They were feeding their egos just as I had fed mine. It was at that moment that I began to learn the qualities of a good teacher. I stayed in that position for three years. I changed my attitude and became focused on the needs of others. I went on to become a clinical nurse specialist for all the critical care areas of the hospital and was able to support and teach nurses in many specialty areas.

A good teacher is an individual who is entirely focused on the growth of students. A good teacher is responsible for assessing the student, designing an individualized plan for growth, administering that plan, and evaluating that plan. A teacher must be holistic at all times, taking into consideration the students' emotional maturity and psychological status as the teaching-learning moves towards an outcome. Teachers should minimize stress for their students and provide rational perspectives that give students hope and inspiration for success in the short and long term. The instillation of passion for learning in students is the greatest accomplishment of all. Students can only love learning if the teaching is administered with love. Love doesn't necessarily imply easy, but it does imply use of creativity, kindness, tenacity, intelligence, and patience. Thank you.

Mennonite assistant professor successfully blends professions and interests

Mennonite faculty members have no trouble staying busy. One faculty member, Assistant Professor Emily Schlenker, has been involved in various writing activities. Schlenker recently published a chapter called "Outdoor Healing Spaces" in Sigma



Theta Tau's book *The Heart of Nursing*. The chapter focuses on the effects of outdoor healing spaces on a person who is physically ill or experiencing emotional difficulties. The elements of designing an outdoor healing space, including

sounds, colors, textures, and scents, are covered in the chapter. Outdoor healing spaces often including plantings of flowers, bushes, and trees, with other elements such as wind chimes, statues, or other garden objects. According to Schlenker, in order for an outdoor healing space to have the most effective impact, it must be individualized to the person. The garden needs to bring feelings of security, nurture, and love. Schlenker cites an example of how to select the plantings for an outdoor healing space: If your father always loved carnations, seeing carnations may bring pleasant thoughts of your father. Thus, you may want to include carnations in your healing space. Thoughtful planning ahead contributes to the healing aspects of the spaces for the individual.

Schlenker, described as "a person who likes to write" by her colleagues, published a book review in the Family and Community Health nursing journal

in July 2002. Her review was of a book called *The Mayo Clinic on Depression* by Keith Kramlinger, M.D.

Schlenker's educational career has been extraordinary. She first earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, then obtained an R.N. diploma before pursuing her B.S.N. Later she returned to college and obtained a masters' in nursing before earning a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Southern California University for Professional Studies. She recently completed certification and earned an additional credential as a certified holistic nurse (C.H.N.). Her special interests in the areas of holistic nursing, healing touch, and therapeutic outdoor spaces demonstrate her unique ability to successfully blend her dual educational backgrounds to concentrate on healing the whole person. Schlenker believes in and practices the concept of holistic nursing, which encourages viewing the human as a whole person, not just the sum of his/her parts. She commented, "You have to see patients' illnesses and injuries as part of the bigger picture."

Schlenker presented a paper on "Outdoor Healing Spaces" at the American Institute of Medical Education Creativity and Madness Conference in Maui, Hawaii, this December. She has already completed a staff in-service at Heritage Manor in Normal on the "Effects of Healing Touch on Alzheimer's Patients' Behavior" and plans to train nursing care staff to use the technique in the future to calm Alzheimer's patients. Recently she wrote a collection of poetry for a book she is doing with a colleague, Mary Hagedorn, Ph.D., R.N., from Colorado, who will provide photography for the book. The book's title will be *Activities of Daily Living*. The book will intertwine poetry and photography, addressing a variety of topics related to our emotions and life events.

Schlenker's focus on healing the whole person provides a wonderful example for her students at Mennonite College of Nursing, creating a well-rounded medical professional.

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R.N./B.S.N program reaches out to nontraditional student

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Continued on next page

Teresa Novy has worked in the medical community for 13 years. When Teresa worked at Heritage Manor she met Camille Little. “I told Camille I would be coming to school soon.” Sure enough, Teresa started at Mennonite College of Nursing this past fall to work toward her B.S.N. and is now taking courses on-line with Camille as one of her instructors. She is working at BroMenn as an R.N. on the medical floor through the Baylor program, which allows her to work weekends only and enables her to take 14 credit hours at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Teresa worked for seven years as a CNA at BroMenn in the long-term-care unit. She received her L.P.N. from Heartland Community College in 1995. She left BroMenn and moved to Heritage Manor along with her patients in 1997 when BroMenn’s long-term care closed. She continued her education at Heartland, receiving her R.N. degree in 2001. After a visit from faculty members at Mennonite College of Nursing at Heartland Community College talking about the benefits of a bachelor’s degree, she decided that she would continue her education at Illinois State University. Between working 24 hours a week and raising her three-year-old son, she needed her classes to be flexible.

Teresa immediately saw the benefits of on-line courses. Although she was not confident about her computer skills after taking an on-line course at Heartland, she realized she was ready. She has found that instructors at Mennonite are available to answer questions and help if problems arise. One of the benefits of receiving her B.S.N. is the humanities courses she gets to take. The first nine weeks at Mennonite Teresa took the transcultural course taught by Lynn Kennell and was excited to

be involved in a pilot program in which a chat room was set up for students to communicate with other nursing students across the globe. Teresa had taken a humanities course in which she wrote a paper on the Kikuyu tribe during the previous year. Her student nurse cohort was a member of the Kikuyu tribe from Nigeria. This allowed her to do a cultural assessment working with a cultural group she already had some knowledge about.

She is also involved in a program called Project Rise in which she is mentored and will mentor other Heartland Community College transfer students. This program allows students the opportunity to talk about help they need with grades, test taking, stress, and ways to deal with other issues related to transferring from a community college to a larger university.

Teresa is also intrigued by the research she is doing for her baccalaureate degree. She is taking a nursing research course taught by Eileen Fowles and working on a proposal to see how effective parents feel a peak flow meter is in helping with asthma treatment. Her research in Emily Schlienker’s applied research class will help decrease the time a patient waits upon admission to the floor to be seen or greeted by the nurse. “These areas interest me and will help me in the future.”

Mennonite College of Nursing’s R.N. to B.S.N. program is helping Teresa realize how influential nurses are and the difference a nurse makes in the lives of patients as well as the medical community. It is exciting for our college to have students who not only accept responsibility but work to meet the challenges faced by up-and-coming nursing students, professional nurses, and the medical community.

New employees

Kim Astroth, R.N., M.S., is an instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing. She formerly worked as a part-time instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing, teaching adult I, II, and III medical-surgical clinicals. She also taught emergency nursing lab and community health and management nursing

clinicals. In the past, she taught at Rend Lake College and at St. John’s Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield. She has worked as a staff nurse in cardiac rehabilitation, emergency room, intensive care, coronary care, and staff development. Her current projects include measuring exercise stage of change with three instruments and an interview in the work site.

Mary J. Dyck, M.S.N., R.N., C., L.N.H.A., was hired as an assistant professor this spring. She is on a sabbatical leave working on her dissertation, “Resident Outcomes and Nursing Staffing in Nursing Homes,” at the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Her expertise is in gerontological nursing with a focus on frail elders in nursing homes. She is a certified gerontological nurse by the American

Nurses Credentialing Center. She has taught nursing over the past 20 years in various programs, including Mennonite College of Nursing, Bradley University, University of Illinois-Chicago, and Michigan State University. In the past, she has also served as a nursing home administrator at Maple Lawn Health Center in Eureka.

continued on page 10

Progress Notes

Births

’90 **Suzie Omstead** and her husband, Kyle, welcomed their first child, Kate Elizabeth. She was born on May 1, 2002, weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Suzie works as an R.N./consultant at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma.

’94 **Liza Harris** and her husband, Dan, welcomed the arrival of their triplets on November 7, 2001: two sons, Brett Daniel and Bradley Michael, and a daughter, Lauren Kay. Liza is a registered nurse at Kishwaukee Community Hospital in Dekalb.

’95 **Elizabeth Klopfenstein** and her husband, Bruce, welcomed their third child, Laura Beth, on August 14, 2002. Their other children are Matthew, age 4, and Sarah, age 2-1/2. Elizabeth is a full-time mom.

’97 **Jean Abbott** and her husband, Russ, welcomed home their first daughter, Sophia Rose, on June 16, 2002. At home is their son, Jordan Matthew, 22 months. They live in Streator, where Jean is a full-time mom.

’97 **Jennifer Casson** and her husband, Dan, and their daughters, Mary, 4, and Emily, 2, welcomed home baby Shannon Marie, who was born on August 2, 2002. Jennifer works as a labor and delivery R.N. at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

’99 **Christie Rocke** and her husband, Shannon, welcomed the birth of their first child, a son. Austin Cade Rocke was born on January 25, 2002.

Marriages

’94 **Krista Prescher** married Scott Haynes on June 29, 2002. She is employed as a registered nurse by Urological Surgery Associates.

’97 **Bethany Livengood** exchanged vows with Charles Lazzara on December 1, 2001, in Dundee. She works at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in neonatal intensive care, and her husband works for Prudential Securities.

’99 **Laura Moroney** married Mathew Ey on June 1, 2002. She is a registered nurse at Springfield Clinic, and he is an orthopedic sales representative for Depuy.

’99 **Darice Darden** married Jeffrey Klein on August 22, 2002, on the beach in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Darice works as an emergency room R.N., and her husband is employed as an emergency room physician in Charlotte, NC.

’99 **Jason Graf** married Courtney Jones on June 15, 2002, at St. Patrick’s Church in Bloomington. He is a registered nurse and is employed as a claims rep by COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services.

Anniversaries

’31 **Anna Ropp** and her husband, Peter, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on August 6, 2002, with family and friends. They have three children, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Anna was employed as a nurse by Mennonite Hospital.

’77 **Laura Tolan** and her husband, Daryl, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2002. The couple was married at Paxton Church of Christ. Laura is a registered nurse employed by Bloomington-Normal Ear, Nose, and Throat, Ltd.

’81, ’93 **Sheryl Jenkins** and her husband, Tom, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Canada. The couple was married on August 5, 1977. Sheryl is a nurse practitioner at Town and Country, Eureka, and her husband is a child therapist at The Baby Fold of Normal.

Progress

’90 **Erin J. Harrell** married Andrew D. Ross in Chicago on March 27, 1999. She earned her master’s degree from DePaul University in Chicago in 1999 and is employed by Cleveland Clinic Foundation as a nurse practitioner and is certified in otorhinolaryngology and as an adult nurse practitioner.

’95, ’99 **Mary Hall** was the recipient of the 2001 Great 100 Nursing Excellence Award and a \$5,000 NC Center for Nursing Retention Grant. She is directing internships for new graduate nurses and coordinating the leadership course at UNC-SON.

Deaths

Junior, Teresa Smith’s 18-month-old grandson, passed away this past September.

LaRue Sloan, Class of 1928, passed away on October 14, 2002. She was a longtime supporter of Mennonite College of Nursing and will be greatly missed.

Donors continued from previous page

T. Ann and Richard Miller

Carol and Jerry Millican

Connie and David Mohr

Janeen and Matthew Mollenhauer

Debra and Richard Moran

Rachel and Charles Moser

Melisa and Russell Mundwiler

Jean and Ralph Munn

Virginia and Melvin Murphy

Phyllis and Jerry Myers

Mary and Harold Necessary

Laurel Neiting

Albert Nelson

Lisa and Scott Nesler

Joyce and Frank Nestor

Paula and Richard Nolte

Nancy and David O’Neill

Romeyn Oyer

Myrna Park

Janice Parker

Rita Pell

Carol Ploff

Lois Philpott

Judith Pike

Marsha and Jerry Polacek

Susan Prochnow-Cribb

Elfrieda and Richard Ramseyer

Continued on next page

Progress notes

We welcome updates from alumni for *The Flame* publication. We want to know about your activities, career news, family news, and other significant activities (weddings, births, honors and awards, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments). Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni. Please fill out this form and return it so your news will be published in the next issue. Mail to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810.

NAME	MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE)	DATE	CLASS YEAR
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE			
PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER			
NEWS/COMMENTS			

Distinguished Alumni Award

Donors continued from previous page

Joyce Raycraft
 Susan and Robert Read
 Connie and Jay Reimer
 Cheryl Rempel
 Dixie and Steve Reynolds
 Michelle and Scott Rickel
 Nancy Ridenour and Ed Mason
 Jane Rieger
 Marisa and Brian Rieke
 J. Robin and William Riley
 Victoria Risley
 Lois and Robert Ritchey
 Barbara and Everett Ritchie
 Bernice and Michael Robinson
 Linda and Larry Rollings
 Ronald McDonald House Charities
 Pauline and Keith Roth
 Carolyn Ruth
 Ruth Tiedeman SIB Trust
 Benjamin Ryburn
 Bonnie and Thomas Ryszka
 Evelyn and John Saal
 Vada and Keith Saffer
 Edith and Paul Sancken
 Larry and Becky Sank
 Marjorie and Donald Sapp
 Mary and Bruce Schenkel
 Schertz Countryside Sales
 Alice and John Schieber
 Phyllis Schieber
 Roy Schilling

Continued on next page

Debra Roach '77 was chosen this year to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award. She received her Diploma of Nursing from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1977 and a business administration degree from Webster University in May of 1987. She is a member of the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives and has built upon nursing skills taught at Mennonite to construct a career as the regional director of Bridge Medical, Inc.

She served as charge nurse at Carle Foundation Hospital from 1977 to 1979 and as an R.N. at Jewish Hospital of St. Louis during 1980 and 1981 with a focus on cardiac, pulmonary, and medical critical care nursing. Debra later moved to sales and demonstrations of clinical and administrative computer applications with American Express Health Systems Group. In this position she developed requirements and detail



Lori Kennel '88, Young Alumni Award winner, and Debra Roach '77, Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

specifications for clinical applications using market research, focus groups, and developmental partnerships. Debra was the first professional to sell commercial contracts to a privately held company that focused on an emerging health care patient safety/technology market.

Debra received a Best of Class Award for a presentation to nursing leaders, addressing process improvement for medication safety and the use of technology in June of 2001 through FONE. She serves her colleagues by hosting patient safety seminars with nurse leaders from the Institute for Safe Medication Practice. When asked what she considers her biggest achievement, she responds, "Throughout my nursing informatics career I have worked hard to promote the importance of clinical information systems, specifically systems for nursing. I have done this through hundreds of presentation to clinicians and health care executives."

Debra is truly a distinguished alumna. As she works to make health care safer for the patient, she continues to educate her colleagues on ways to advance the nursing profession to new and exciting levels.

New employees continued

Sue Mendez, M.S.N., F.N.P., was hired as an instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing during the spring of 2002. She was formerly a family nurse practitioner for in-school health at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She has also worked as a clinical instructor at Heartland Community College and in the clinical education

department at BroMenn Regional Medical Center. She was also a staff nurse in the mental health program at BroMenn Regional Medical Center and a charge nurse at Campaign County Nursing Home.

Gail Petro, M.S.N., A.N.P., is a new instructional assistant professor. She was hired this spring and came to Mennonite College of

Nursing from the Prairie Heart Institute, where she worked as an adult nurse practitioner. She also formerly taught medical-surgical nursing at St. John's College, Department of Nursing, and served as a staff nurse at Logan Correctional Center. She was also a staff nurse at the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln and St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Tenna Webb began working on August 5, 2002. She is the new advisement secretary at Mennonite College of Nursing. Tenna previously worked at the Eureka Company for 28 years. She is working toward an associate degree at Heartland.

Young Alumni Award

The Young Alumni Award is presented to someone who has graduated within the past 15 years and who has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the Mennonite College of Nursing, demonstrated professional achievement, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the college. At this year's homecoming event, Lori Kennel '88 was named Mennonite College of Nursing's Young Alumni Award recipient.

Lori is the supervisory nurse at The Baby Fold in Normal. She works in this residential treatment center caring for 25 young residents. She also gives cardiac screenings through St. Joseph Medical Center's Healthy Lifestyles. These screenings are normally held in public facilities and are free of charge to the community.

Lori is involved in several professional and civic groups, including the Residential Nurse Networking Group, a local school nurse group, and Cursillo. She also serves on a prison ministry team that ministers to prisoners at Lincoln Correctional Center, and she can be found some

evenings preparing and serving food at the Jesus Coffee House in Bloomington. Lori also finds time to teach enrichment courses at her children's grade school on issues affecting wellness and health.

This past January Lori received the Employee Recognition Award from The Baby Fold for her dedication and caring for her patients. She also continues to serve Mennonite College of Nursing by serving as a preceptor for students.

Lori continues to demonstrate professional achievement while serving her family and community. She continues to care for the children at The Baby Fold, reminding them they are cared for. Lori exemplifies Mennonite College of Nursing alumni. She has truly held on to the values of the college and continues the legacy of professionalism and service.

Donors continued from previous page

Emily Schlenker
 Judith and Eugene Schlueter
 Linda and James Schmidt
 Charles Schmied
 Donna Schmied
 Laura and Michael Schmied
 Merry Schmied
 Yvonne and Richard Schmudde
 Michael and Celeste Scimo
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 Ruth Shaffer
 Jennifer and Bradley Shaw
 Janice and Don A. Sielaff
 Sigma Theta Tau International
 Renee Simons
 Julie and Kenneth Sinnett
 Bettie and Wendell Skelton
 Julie Smalley

Continued on next page

Nominations wanted

The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Administrative Board is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Young Alumni Award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated a dedication to the nursing profession, demonstrated leadership, shown outstanding professionalism, promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and been held in high regard by peers and the community.

The Young Alumni Award is presented to someone who has graduated within the past 15 years and who has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the college, demonstrated professional achievement, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the college.

Nominations for either or both awards may be made by anyone and sent to the Alumni Administrative Board before July 30, 2003. The board will review the résumés of nominees and select no more than one recipient for each award each year. The awards will be presented during Homecoming in October.

Nomination form

Distinguished Alumni Award Young Alumni Award

NOMINEE'S NAME _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS _____

REASONS YOU SUPPORT THIS NOMINEE _____

YOUR NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

Return Nominations to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810

Faculty/Staff notes

Donors continued from previous page

Charles and Mary Smith

Judith and Charles Smith

Mary and Bernard Smith

Sandra Smith

Sylvia Smith

Linda Smith Pierce

Judith and Todd Somers

Alisa Sorensen

Linda Sorrells

Sally and Rodger Sprague

Judith Springer

Sharon and Norris Stanford

Sandra and John Stanger

Donna and Ivan Stanwood

Glenn and Mary Stech

Deborah and Stephan Stenger

Carolyn Stites

Alma Stoddard

Janice and Harold Stoller

Jill and Daniel Stoops

Patricia and Glade Stutzman

Cynthia Sullivan

Sandra Sullivan

Esther and M. Willis Sutter

Janet and Dennis Sutter

Mary and Charles Sutton

Ella and Harlan W. Thomas

Louise and Steve Todd

Laura and Daryl Tolan

Susan and David Towler

Sally Traylor

Continued on next page

Dianne Clemens and Camille Little received the Innovations in Practice Award from the National Geriatric Association for their work with the Teaching Nursing Home.

Karrie Ingalsbe completed all requirements from the University of Northern Colorado for a Certificate in Transcultural Nursing.

Caroline Mallory's National Institute for Nursing Research proposal was scored. This is a first for Mennonite College of Nursing!

Janeen Mollenhauer was promoted to coordinator of advising at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Nancy Ridenour was appointed for a five-year term to the Illinois Department of Public Health Nurse Scholarship and Baccalaureate Nursing Assistance Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with promoting scholarships as a means of increasing nurses in Illinois.

Emily Schlenker has achieved full graduate faculty status.

Denise Wilson will be serving as a grant reviewer in Washington, D.C., for the Health Resources Service Administration for Health and Human Services. She has also received the Outstanding College Teacher Award from Illinois State University for Mennonite College of Nursing.

Grant funding

Nancy Ridenour, Rita Chaney, and Dorothy Witte received an award of \$50,000 from the Marion McDowell Stafford Trust Grant Program for "The Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series on Child and Family Health."

Nancy Ridenour and Rita Chaney received an award of \$1,000 from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois for the "Irving School Healthy Kids Program."

Dianne Clemens received a \$3,000 State Farm Teaching Technology Fellowship.

Mary Dyck received \$36,000 from the National Institutes of Health/National Institutes of Nursing Research for her project "Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes."

Eileen Fowles received \$3,000 from the American Nurses Foundation for her proposal titled "Nutrition Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women" and a \$3,000 distance education grant from Faculty Technology Support Services at Illinois State University.

Cindy Kerber received a \$3,000 State Farm Teaching Technology Fellowship.

Caroline Mallory received \$3,957 from a University Research Grant at Illinois State University for her research titled "Pilot Study of a Multitheoretical Approach to HIV Among Women at High Risk."

Denise Wilson received \$33,941 from the Department of Health and Human Services for advanced education nursing traineeships.

Presentations

Astroth, Kim. "Determination of Exercise Stage of Change Using Three Instruments and a Structured Interview." Fourth Annual Research Day, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri. April 2002.

Fowles, Eileen. "Development of the Perceived Barriers to Health Eating Scale: A Methodological Study." AWHONN 2002 Convention, Boston, Massachusetts. June 2002.

Ingalsbe, Karrie, and Kennell, Lynn. "An Innovative International Approach to Teaching Transcultural Nursing Theory." Twenty-eighth Annual Conference of the Transcultural Nursing Society. October 2002.

Ingalsbe, Karrie. "Developing an On-line Course on Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions in Health Care." Conference on Teaching with Technology, Illinois State University, Normal. March 2002.

Jeffers, Brenda. "An Internal Control Model to Advance Understanding of Research Integrity." National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research, State of the Science Congress, Washington, D.C. September 2002.

Kaesberg, Catherine. "Critical Thinking: A Key to Lifelong Learning." Illinois State University Teaching Workshop, Normal. August 2002.

Kaesberg, Catherine. "Licensure Exam Failure and the High-Risk Student: Strategies for Identification and Intervention." Mosby's Faculty Development Summer Institute 2002, Toronto, Canada. August 2002.

Kaesberg, Catherine. "The Lost Graduate: Where Are They Now?" Mosby's Faculty Development Summer Institute 2002, Toronto, Canada. August 2002.

Kossman, Susan and Woith, Wendy. "Saving Lives with Technology—Nursing!" 2002 Millennium Girls, Illinois State University. February 2002.

Malinowski, Cindy. "Simulating Reality in the Skills Lab." Ninth Biennial North American Learning Resource Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana. June 2002.

Schlenker, Emily. "Nurse-Client Collaboration in Healing Space Design." American Society of Landscape Architects, Norfolk, Virginia. September 2002.

Walpole, Barbara. "The Effect of Health Care Policy on Decision-Making of Rural Advanced Practice Nurse." Third International Congress of Rural Nurses, Birmingham, New York. October 2002.

Wilson, Denise. "Williams Syndrome: What the Nurse Practitioner Needs to Know." Nurse Practitioner Symposium, Keystone Resort, Canada. July 2002.

Wilson, Denise. "Williams Syndrome: What the Nurse Practitioner Needs to Know." American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Reno Hilton, Reno, Nevada. June 2002.

Woith, Wendy. "Simulating Reality in the Skills Lab." Ninth Biennial North American Learning Resource Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. June 2002.

Publications

Dyck, Mary. Public Policy. A public policy problem: Access to long-term health care. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* 27(7), 13-22.

Jeffers, Brenda. Continuing Education in Research Ethics for the Staff Nurse. *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing.*

Little, Camille. Ethical Dimensions of Patient Care. Book chapter. In Kelly-Heidenthal's *Nursing Leadership & Management.* 464-479.

Schlenker, Emily. Book review. *Mayo Clinic on Depression.* 86-87.

Donors continued from previous page

Teresa and Neil Ulrich

Jeanette and Dale Unzicker

Elizabeth and C. John Uphoff

Ruth Ann and Rick Vance

Carol and Richard Vignali

Carolyn and Steve Walker

Linda Wall

Margaret and Harvey Walter

Joseph Warner* and Rose Stadel

Marlene Weichman

Daphne and John Wepprecht

Sheila and Jerry West

Regina and Michael Wey

Myra and Joseph Wiegand

Clara and Owen Williams

Michelle and Leon Wipperfurth

Janet and Herbert Wisner

Dorothy Witte

Wendy and Kenneth L. Woith

Kathryn and Christopher Wood

DeAnn and Richard Worth

Doris and Robert Wortinger

Mary Wulf

Ellen and Mark Wylie

Linda and Mario Yap

Donna and Danny Yoder

Kathleen and David Yoder

Sally and Lynn Young

Mary and William Zeller

Kay and Gary Ziebarth

Lucinda and Keith Zoeller

* Deceased

Student Nurses Association

Once again the Student Nurses Association at Mennonite College of Nursing is busy at work continuing its service efforts as well as raising funds for SNA meetings and literature. Kelly Leonard, president of Mennonite College of Nursing



ing SNA, along with other officers are creating an environment that encourages professionalism and networking among other nursing organizations.

This fall the SNA has participated in the Jingle Bell Run to raise money for arthritis, the

Wellness Fair, and the flu shot clinic for Illinois State University students, staff, and faculty. Members are also designing an afghan that will be sold to raise money for the Mennonite SNA Chapter. The afghan will include a picture of Troyer Hall and Edwards Hall along with other nursing sym-

bols. Several SNA members participated in the Illinois State University Homecoming events by greeting alumni and entering a float in the parade to represent Mennonite College of Nursing.

The student organization needs your help. Members are collecting craft supplies such as glue, pipe cleaners, Popsicle sticks, etc., to send to a children's ward in Haiti. If you have these or other craft items, please send them to: Kelly Leonard, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810.

Mennonite College of Nursing is fortunate to have an active Student Nurses Association involved in its local community and the international community as well. It is through the continued support of dedicated students, alumni, faculty, and staff that we continue to create an atmosphere that allows Mennonite graduates to be the preferred graduates.

SNA officers are: Kelly Leonard, president; Margo Carlier, vice president; Alexis Ortenzo, secretary; and Melissa Pahnke, treasurer. Faculty advisors are Janeen Mollenhauer and Pam Lindsay.

2002-2003 Student Nurses Association meeting schedule

January 21 SNA meeting

Gondolas provided/Door prizes

Semester overview

Blood pressure clinics

Discuss: Spring banquet—Basket donations needed, blood drive, elections for new SNA officers, Health Career Fair

February 4 and 18 SNA meetings

Health Career Fair

Blood drive

Blood pressure clinics

Discuss: Spring banquet—Basket donations needed

March 4 SNA meeting

Blood pressure clinics

March 18 SNA meeting

Elections

Blood pressure clinics

Discuss: Faculty potluck (April 22)

March 28 spring banquet

April 1 SNA meeting

Springfest on the Quad

Blood pressure clinics

April 15 SNA meeting

New officers hold first meeting

April 22 faculty potluck

Redefining "normal"



By Dorothy Witte,
Director of Development,
Mennonite College
of Nursing
dmwitte@ilstu.edu
(309) 438-3134

The "midnight oil" is burning, computer keyboards are clicking, and heads are bent in

research and study. It is the beginning of another academic year...the fourth for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The pace of progress is exhausting and exhilarating. Those who set us on this path and those who move us forward deserve our praise and appreciation. Their legacy is our continued growth and prosperity.

At a time when the demands of the profession require extraordinary educational preparation, we are poised to respond as leaders in the field of nursing education. All the raw ingredients of greatness are coming together in new and exciting ways: the ingenuity and intellectual resources of our faculty, the talent and motivation of our students, and the foresight and generous support of our donors. The time to build on this momentum is now.

That is why the University has embarked on the first-ever comprehensive fund-raising campaign...Redefining "normal." It is a carefully considered philanthropic initiative to put in place resources that will empower our learners and educators for generations to come. To date individuals, organizations, foundations, and corporations have made financial commitments in excess of \$57 million in support of campuswide funding priorities.

Specific funding priorities of Mennonite College of Nursing are based on the goal to produce the preferred graduate. "Preferred" in this context means "number one, favored, ideal, most valued." This high standard requires "the best and the brightest" on both sides of the desk and is at the heart of our financial needs-analysis. To that end, following are the five categories of support most essential to assuring our goal. As you develop your year-end giving plans, please consider supporting an area that captures your interest and enthusiasm. A contribution form is included in this newsletter for your ready reference.

Endowed faculty support

A faculty endowment fund can provide support for existing faculty to stay current in their disciplines, offer opportunity to pursue an advanced degree, and attract outstanding researchers and clinicians in a particular field of expertise.

- BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing
- Mennonite College of Nursing Professor for Chronic Disease Endowed Fund
- Dr. Kathleen Hogan Faculty Development Endowed Fund

Endowed student support

Student scholarship funds are an important tool to recruit and retain outstanding students. Of particular importance to the profession is the R.N. to B.S.N. program available on-line to registered nurses interested in earning a baccalaureate degree.

- Janie McCray R.N. to B.S.N. Endowment

Endowment for transcultural nursing

An endowment for transcultural nursing aims to fund field placements of nursing students in various cultures and societies—placements designed to develop and hone appropriate transcultural nursing skills.

- Mennonite College of Nursing Transcultural Nursing

Endowment for teaching technology

An endowment for teaching technology provides perpetual resources for the purchase and maintenance of state-of-the-art laboratory accoutrements, ranging from simulators and virtual-reality devices to sophisticated computer software and multimedia and distance learning equipment.

Center for Nursing Research

The Center for Nursing Research will undertake projects such as exploring nutrition requirements for low-income women, preventing HIV in high-risk women, understanding hemodialysis, and assessing access to health care for the working poor. The facility will qualify as a funded center under the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health.

For more information about Mennonite College of Nursing's campaign priorities, naming opportunities, including the Center for Nursing Research, the development program, or any question you may have, please feel free to contact me, Dorothy M. Witte, director of Development, via telephone at (309) 438-3134, E-mail at dmwitte@ilstu.edu, or by mail at Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060. I look forward to the possibility of working with you to make a difference in nursing education.