



Mark your calendars for Homecoming: October 17-18, 2003!

Plan to join us for the following events:

Saturday, October 18:
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Tours and Social in Edwards Hall

10:30-11:30 a.m.
Homecoming Parade
Illinois State Campus

12:30-2:30 p.m.
Homecoming Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
Holiday Inn, 8 Traders Circle, Normal (NEW LOCATION!)

If you need hotel accommodations for Friday and/or Saturday, we have reserved a block of rooms at Holiday Inn at a special rate of \$82 per night. Please call (309) 452-8300 and ask for the "Mennonite College of Nursing Rate." This special rate will expire on Friday, September 26, 2003. More information to follow...watch for future mailings!



Left, Mennonite College of Nursing students at La Casa, San Antonio, Texas. Above, the health care clinic on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lame Deer, Montana where students provide outpatient and emergency room nursing care.

Transcultural nursing a tradition at Mennonite College of Nursing

Since 1972, Mennonite College of Nursing has provided transcultural nursing experiences for nursing students. According to historical information, Gail Lamb, a former administrator of the Mennonite College of Nursing, was a strong advocate for providing unique cultural nursing experiences for students. Karrie Ingalsbe, a Mennonite College of Nursing faculty member who specializes in transcultural nursing, said, "Fifteen to 20 percent of our nursing students have elected to take at least one transcultural nursing elective during the summer" as part of their nursing education. Mennonite records reflect that in 1972, transcultural nursing experiences were available to such places as a Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lame Deer, Montana, the Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti, and a hospital in Johannestiff, Germany.

One of the first transcultural experiences offered—the summer externship program for nursing students to work at the health care clinic on the Northern Cheyenne reservation—continues as an available option of the transcultural nursing elective: "Domestic Studies in Transcultural Nursing." That course offers a two-week experience providing nurs-

ing care in either Lame Deer, or Austin, Texas. In Lame Deer, nursing students work at the health care clinic on the reservation providing outpatient and emergency room nursing care. While there, students have the opportunity to take part in Native American pow-wows and a sweat lodge experience. Students placed at Lame Deer also have the opportunity to participate in peyote meetings, which last for up to 10 hours, and to examine other aspects of the Native American culture.

The other option for the domestic studies course is to provide nursing care to underprivileged Hispanic youth through the Children's Wellness Clinic operated by the University of Texas in Austin. Nursing students are immersed in the Hispanic culture and provided with opportunities to participate in a variety of health care experiences.

Today, Mennonite students may also elect to take the "International Studies" course in transcultural nursing, which includes three weeks of shadowing nursing students and professionals in Eastbourne, England. The program is coordinated with the University of Brighton in Eastbourne and includes some attendance of nursing classes in Eng-

Calendar of events

- May 3, 2003**
Last Day of Classes
- May 9, 2003**
Spring semester ends
- May 9 and 10, 2003**
Commencement
- May 19, 2003**
Summer semester begins
- May 26, 2003**
Memorial Day*
No classes
- July 4, 2003**
Independence Day*
No classes
- August 8, 2003**
Summer semester ends
- August 18, 2003**
Classes begin
- September 1, 2003**
Labor Day holiday
No classes
- October 17-18, 2003**
Homecoming
- November 22, 2003**
Thanksgiving vacation begins at 5:30 p.m.
- December 6, 2003**
Last day of classes
- December 12, 2003**
Fall semester ends
- December 13, 2003**
Commencement

* University offices closed

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Dean's message

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

The famous phrase of Charles Dickens has been on my mind. In the midst of serious budget issues for the university, changing university leadership, and in the context of world unrest, the College of Nursing continues to thrive. The uncertainty of state budgets and world conflicts can be distracting to the overarching goal to continue to prepare compassionate and expert nurses. I am proud to report that the faculty, students, alumni, and supporters of the college are steadfast in their dedication.

The fall 2003 class represents the best and brightest of college students. The good news is we are accepting 100 outstanding new pre-licensure students this fall; however, the bad news is we have in excess of 50 highly qualified applicants who we cannot admit, due to a shortage of nursing faculty in our college. Several factors have converged to place the college in this enviable/unenviable situation. The national shortage of faculty is being felt in Central Illinois. The



dramatic increase in nursing has led to very competitive admissions. Significant budget cuts require us to balance the competing needs to increase the numbers of nurses to meet the needs of the community with the dedication to producing outstanding graduates. We will continue to have strong academic programs for our undergraduate RN/B.S.N. and graduate students. The on-line RN/B.S.N. program continues to grow, as students prefer to take on-line classes due to their work schedules.

Even though tough times may be ahead of us both at the college and national levels, we must continue to move ahead. We encourage our students to participate in the SNA, externships, and transcultural programs. In this issue, you will read about the wonderful opportunities for nursing students who enroll in the transcultural program. We also appreciate the scholarship opportunities we are able to provide to nursing students. Without the support of alums and friends of the college, this would not be possible. The college also has scheduled a variety of events for students, alums and the community to attend throughout the year.

We are seeking creative ways to meet the budget and to continue to increase enrollment. Your input is greatly appreciated!

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

Transcultural nursing continued from previous page

land as well as observing nursing care in the local Eastbourne hospital. Externship experiences in England were first provided at Mennonite in 1979, thanks to Louise Bellas, a former faculty member at Mennonite.

Assistant Professor Ingalsbe completes all arrangements and coordination of the transcultural experiences in advance for students. However, the

students pay their own transportation, housing, and food costs as well as an administrative fee for these very unique learning externships. Ideally, more of our students will take part in transcultural nursing experiences to gain meaningful, unforgettable exposure to salient issues in nursing care.

Faculty member focuses on transcultural issues

Assistant Professor Karrie Ingalsbe of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University believes the study of transcultural



issues is important to the field of nursing. Ingalsbe's research interests include the cultural aspects of infant feeding and the provision of culturally congruent care. Her dissertation topic was Japanese and Mexican infant-feeding practices

in the United States. Now, she is in the final stages of submitting an article for publication based on her dissertation research.

Last year, she conducted a pilot study of the cultural aspects of breastfeeding in the Mexican-American population. Currently, she has plans to write a grant to obtain more funding, which will allow her to build upon that work. Ingalsbe earned a certificate in transcultural nursing through coursework she completed at the University of Northern Colorado in February 2002.

Along with Lynn Kennell, another faculty member at the Mennonite College of Nursing, Ingalsbe worked with a colleague in Finland using the Internet as a teaching tool to expose nursing students to cultural diversity and related aspects of nursing care. Ingalsbe and Kennell paired Mennonite students with nursing students from Swedish Polytechnic, a Finland university, so the students could practice nursing assessment skills while learning about another culture. The students were exposed to many cultural nuances through Internet interactions. Ultimately, they gained knowledge about how nurses must take cultural differences into account to provide quality care.

Ingalsbe and Kennell teach the "Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions in Health Care" course at Mennonite. Ingalsbe also coordinates the college's two electives on transcultural nursing: "Domestic Studies in Transcultural Nursing" and "International Studies in Transcultural Nursing." She plans to spend a week in Lame Deer, Montana this summer with nursing students, working as a health care provider at the clinic on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. After that, she will travel to Austin, Texas where she plans to supervise Mennonite nursing students at the Children's Wellness Clinic serving underprivileged Hispanic children, operated by the University of Texas at Austin.

Initially earning an associate's degree in nursing from Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ingalsbe took a staff nurse position at the neonatal intensive care unit at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. During that time, she treated patients from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Observing differences in how patient families interacted with their infants, family members, spouses, and the hospital staff, Ingalsbe realized that understanding cultural aspects of nursing care is integral to providing the best possible care. While working at St. John's, she earned her B.S.N. from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. In 1987, Ingalsbe and her family relocated to Texas where she worked as a research assistant in the School of Nursing at the University of Texas in Austin while attending graduate school. She completed data collection from subjects from a variety of cultural backgrounds and also worked with many Hispanics during her clinical experiences for school. In 1989, Ingalsbe earned an M.S.N. from the University of Texas. Her family moved back to Illinois, to El Paso, and she began working as a staff nurse on the pediatric unit at the Children's Hospital of Illinois at St. Francis Medical Center. She began teaching full time at the Mennonite College of Nursing and eventually earned her Ph.D. from St. Louis University. She now holds a tenure-track teaching position at Mennonite and is pursuing her goals to broaden transcultural nursing knowledge.

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Mennonite College of Nursing hosts students from England for a transcultural nursing experience

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This past August, the Mennonite College of Nursing was privileged to host four visiting nursing students from the University of Brighton in Brighton, England. The students—Eileen Buckley, Charlotte Carter, Philippa McCarmick, and Desmond Parkinson—arrived in Bloomington-Normal on August 20, 2002, to study nursing at Mennonite as part of their final semester of nursing studies at the University of Brighton. While at Mennonite, they attended classes in Edwards Hall and took part in clinicals held at various sites, including BroMenn Medical Center, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, and public health department clinics in Pontiac and Decatur. Mennonite students and faculty alike were excited about having the students participate and share their experiences as nurses.

Although they could have picked nursing educational programs in Spain, Romania, Switzerland, Scotland, or France, Buckley, Carter, McCarmick, and Parkinson all chose Mennonite College of Nursing as the site for their final educational placement as nursing students. While eight Brighton students selected Mennonite, only four were picked to come to the United States and experience Mennonite's undergraduate nursing program. Buckley, Carter, McCarmick, and Parkinson came to Mennonite as part of the transcultural nursing experience at Mennonite coordinated by Assistant Professor Karrie Ingalsbe. The visitors from the United Kingdom resided in host homes in Bloomington-Normal during their stay. The host families were arranged through Illinois State University's International Studies department. Buckley stayed with the Larry and Chris Eggan family; McCarmick and Carter stayed with the Don and Marilyn Kammler family; and Desmond stayed with the Jim and Sherrie Bertolet family. They all seemed thrilled to stay with such wonderful families. "People have been really accommodating," McCarmick said. "The host families are fantastic," Parkinson said. While in the United States, the visiting students were able to take in the sights of Chicago and St. Louis during the weekends, thanks to their host families.

In comparing and contrasting nursing education in the United Kingdom and the United States, Carter said, "Your classes [at Mennonite] are a lot more in depth than the classes in the United King-

dom," referring to course content. Parkinson identified that in the United States, the "observational practice is the most difficult part. In the United Kingdom we get more hands-on" opportunities to practice and provide nursing care. Carter agreed and said, "In the United Kingdom two weeks into your first year of courses, you are working out on the floors" alongside staff nurses. Carter viewed United States students and nursing staff at the hos-



From left, visiting nursing students Desmond Parkinson, Philippa McCarmick, Charlotte Carter, and Eileen Buckley traveled from University of Brighton in England to attend their final semester of classes at Mennonite College of Nursing.

pitals as "segregated" from one another. She found that students, nurses, physicians, and nursing aides in England seem to be more of a "team". Parkinson chimed in, "There's more modern technology [used in the classroom] here" than in the United Kingdom.

Nursing education in the United Kingdom has some similarities to nursing education in the United States: the Registered General Nurse Diploma Program is three years in length and a degree program in nursing is four years in length. United Kingdom students earning their diplomas or degrees must then pass the national exam.

A unique difference in United Kingdom and United States nursing programs has to do with the location of the nursing program and coursework: in the United Kingdom, all nursing education takes place in the hospitals. Students are assigned to a hospital for the duration of their program where they will attend all classes and lectures, plus work on the floors after their first two weeks of class. In the wards, they work alongside their preceptors, who sometimes teach some of the nursing

courses at the hospital. Students choose the area of nursing when applying to the nursing program: adult, pediatrics, mental health, or learning disabilities. Then, all students complete 18 months of Common Foundations before beginning study in their desired area. Students may also change their selected area of nursing at that time.

Students in the United Kingdom attend school at the hospital five days a week, totaling 37 hours weekly. The nursing instructors and lecturers travel from hospital to hospital to teach the classes. Depending on their year in school, the five days are split according to time spent working on the floors, time spent attending classes, and one study day. For example, during the first year, students might work on the floors one to two days per week, attend classes three days, and have one study day. In the second year, students may work on the floors for two or three days a week, attend classes one or two days a week, and have one study day. Then in the third year, students work most of the time and attend classes only one or two days a week. Buckley, Carter, McCarmick, and Parkinson believe this is a more efficient way to operate nursing education programs due to exposing students right away to hands-on care. They believe it saves the students from getting overly tired and stressed out from all the travel from the university to various clinical sites.

A nurse's life's work

Although transcultural nursing may not have been a known concept many years ago, one of Mennonite's alumni was already applying the principles during her life's work. Lena Graber, a 1935 Mennonite School of Nursing graduate, died at the age of 92 on January 18, 2003, in Goshen, Indiana. Ms. Graber devoted her life to helping others, particularly people of other cultures, through her missionary nursing work in India and Nepal, which she performed for more than 30 years.

She started her overseas nursing career in 1944 in Dhamtari, India, as a nurse with the

In terms of the nursing profession, Buckley, Carter, McCarmick, and Parkinson verified that England is experiencing a nursing shortage similar to that in the United States. Also, like the United States, Buckley mentioned that nursing professionals in England are "looking at ways to recruit nurses" to the field. Some of them include recruiting back into the field those who already have nursing education but left the field, and targeting nurse's aides to apply for further nursing education and training. Parkinson added that although the United Kingdom's National Health Service pays for nursing education, supplies, books, and uniforms for all nursing students, a nurse's salary is so poor in England that it is difficult to sway young people to pursue nursing careers.

Interestingly, when asked about the most important aspect of their visit to Mennonite, they all agreed that it was "reassuring" and that the visit added to their self-confidence as professional nurses. Through their visit, they each realized that they do have quality training and that they are ready to be nurses. Parkinson said, "I came here expecting to find huge differences, but I would say there's no differences in the quality of nurses in the United Kingdom and the United States." McCarmick summed up her experiences at Mennonite: "You're still learning about the same things: psychology and research. Nursing is still the same wherever you go."

Mennonite Board of Missions. She eventually founded a nursing school that is reported to be one of India's best colleges of nursing. In 1957, she traveled to Nepal to work. While there, she was instrumental in establishing another nursing training school. She continued providing nursing care in Nepal until she returned to India in 1979. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Mennonite Nurses Association. Ms. Graber's devotion to providing nursing care to people of other cultures serves as a wonderful inspiration to all Mennonite College of Nursing faculty and students.

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Mennonite alumni volunteer nursing talents to aid Haitians

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Three Mennonite College of Nursing alumnae recently took part in an incredible adventure in which they were able to travel to Haiti to help the native people there by offering them nearly free health care and medicines. Bev Branning, an MCN 1995 graduate and patient care facilitator at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, Terra Kanne, MCN 1994 graduate and clinical nurse educator at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, and her sister, Sarah Kanne, MCN 1999 graduate, took part in the Haiti trip. Sarah is an RN on a general medical floor at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Bev had initially heard about an organization called the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH) through a co-worker. The information she gathered piqued her interest and she began attending FOTCOH's meetings in Peoria in June 2002 to learn more about their planned Medical Missions to the clinic in Haiti, as did Sarah. Bev also helped with fund-raisers and attended informative educational meetings where she earned continuing education credits.

In November 2002, Bev, Terra, Sarah, and other health care professionals went to Haiti as volunteers for FOTCOH on one of four medical missions the organization does yearly. Bev, Terra, and Sarah traveled with other health care professionals to southern Haiti to the town of Cyvadier to volunteer their time working in the FOTCOH Clinic there.

It was the first trip to Haiti for Bev and Sarah and Terra's second trip to Haiti as a volunteer for FOTCOH. She initially heard about the Haiti trips through co-workers and told them she would like to accompany them on their next trip. In October 1999, she applied for the trip. Soon after, she attended a local meeting to hear about getting ready for the next trip. She completed an "on the spot" interview at that meeting and embarked on her first Haiti experience in February 2000.

Working in eight-to-nine-hour shifts daily at the clinic, with Saturday afternoons and Sundays off, Bev, Terra, Sarah, and the rest of the team worked with local interpreters of Haitian Creole to complete patients' histories and physical assessments, diagnose, identify existing diseases, and prescribe med-



Pictured from left are Terra Kanne, Bev Branning, Sarah Kanne, and their Haitian interpreter, Jean-Eddie.

ications. They triaged patients to provide the most effective care possible. In addition to identifying illnesses, discussing symptoms and treatment, gathering patient histories, examining patients, and writing care plans, FOTCOH volunteers also distributed personal care products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, lotions, and medications to the patients. Patients pay \$1 per clinic visit for the services. During the team's 10-day stay at the Clinic, 1,946 patients received health care services.

Bev was profoundly affected by the experience. She saw medical situations that she thought she would never see and practiced nursing in a way that she had never dreamed she would be able to do. Bev sums up her trip to Haiti as a "wonderful learning experience" and said, "I went out of my comfort level and did things I thought I never could do." About her first trip, Terra said, "It tugged at my heartstrings and I was hooked. The people are so loving." She knew she had to return. She emphasized the importance of her nursing critical thinking skills during the Haiti missions. As you might have guessed before getting to the end of this story, yes, Bev, Terra, and Sarah do plan to return to the clinic in Haiti.

The history of the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund

Thanks to the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund, completing educational requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing was a little easier for 16 Mennonite College of Nursing students over the past 15 years. The fund, established in 1989 by Eugene Mosbacher, is meant to serve as a living memorial to his wife, Virginia. Mosbacher's hope was to assist junior and senior level nursing students with financial support. In particular, he focused on aiding students who showed potential to contribute to the nursing profession to encourage academic and professional achievement. Mosbacher contributed steadily to the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund over the years until his death on March 2, 2002.

The dean of the Mennonite College of Nursing performs administrative duties related to the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund and assures that the funds are awarded to nursing students who demonstrate the qualifications established by Mosbacher in 1989. Candidates for the scholarship must show "competent...professional attitudes, knowledge and skills" and be "committed to the improvement of health care and the advancement of professional nursing." It is important that candidates take part in various professional and scholarly endeavors and be involved in community service efforts. Ultimately, the recipients must be full-time students in one of Mennonite's nursing programs and achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0. Students interested in applying for the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund must submit a clearly written three-page

paper "discussing their potential for contributions to the profession of nursing" according to the application requirements (after reviewing their questions about the scholarship fund with Mennonite faculty and staff).

Virginia Mosbacher was an active, contributing member of the Bloomington-Normal community for many years. She was employed at First Federal Savings and Loan for 36 years, and was the fourth employee of First Federal when she was first hired. She worked in many positions there, receiving numerous promotions along the way. Although she began her tenure there as a teller, she ultimately became a first vice president and assistant secretary of the savings and loan institution. Mrs. Mosbacher was also involved in many community activities: she was a member of the BroMenn Advisory Board, a member of the Twin City Homemaker's Extension Association, a charter member of the Women's Division of McLean County Chamber of Commerce and Industry, eventually serving as its second president, and was named one of 10 Outstanding Women Working by *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington-Normal's newspaper, in 1974. She died on October 9, 1987. Mrs. Mosbacher's life provides a powerful incentive for all students at Mennonite College of Nursing to work toward achieving professional excellence. With the help that the Virginia Mosbacher Endowed Scholarship Fund provides to many students, more students will surpass their goals.

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Virginia Mosbacher Scholarship Recipients

1989-1990	Lois Hamblin	1994-1995	Diane Flaherty	1999-2000	Megan Martuzzo
1990-1991	Mark Krause	1995-1996	Kimberly Mau (Witheft)	2000-2001	Patricia Todd Ashlee Schertz Marcena Gabrielson
1991-1992	Laura Williams	1996-1997	Ellen Pfeifer	2001-2002	Karin Stahl
1992-1993	Laura Grussing	1997-1998	Amber Dobson	2002-2003	Kimberly Anderson
1993-1994	Jill Stoops	1998-1999	Valerie Emberson		

Continued on next page

Kim Anderson, 2002-2003 recipient of the Mosbacher Scholarship, is motivated by Virginia Mosbacher's legacy

Kim Anderson, 23, from Naperville, Illinois, is a senior at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. She always knew she would



work "somehow in the medical field." Initially in college, her degree was biology pre-med as she thought she would study to be a doctor. As she talked with others, several people suggested she go into the nursing profession instead. She said, "I could help people. Plus, once I get done with nursing, if I want to go back to school, there would be so

many options for me." Kim is the first person in her family to go into nursing.

She applied for the Mosbacher Scholarship during her junior year. After learning about Virginia Mosbacher, Kim said she was excited to receive the scholarship during her first semester of her senior year. "After finding out who Virginia Mosbacher was in the community, it was an honor to be selected," she said. "It motivated me to work hard in school and succeed in nursing.

Mennonite graduate student a former Mosbacher Scholarship recipient

One of Mennonite College of Nursing's grad students exemplifies the spirit and dedication of Virginia Mosbacher. Marcena Gabrielson, who received



her master's degree in Nursing Services Administration from Mennonite in May 2003, received the Virginia Mosbacher Scholarship during the 2000-2001 academic year when she was in her senior year. "The Mosbacher money helped me get the things I needed for school—my books and supplies—like computer ink cartridges, paper, folders, and copies for school," Gabrielson said. She had returned to school full time in

Mennonite's RN to B.S.N. program. With student loans, Gabrielson supported herself and her daughter while attending school. She expressed a true appreciation for the Mosbacher funds.

Gabrielson graduated with a diploma from Graham Hospital School of Nursing in Canton. She worked as a staff nurse in an outpatient setting for

Virginia Mosbacher's husband wanted to name the scholarship after her because he wanted to make an impact on nursing."

Regarding her nursing studies, Kim is very interested in how diseases actually affect the body. She said, "Once you know that, nursing treatment is more obvious. You need to understand the pathophysiology behind it. Mennonite does a really good job teaching students about that." She went on to say, "Mennonite has a well-rounded program with classes and clinicals. Mennonite has prepared us as much as possible."

For now, Kim's plans are to graduate from Mennonite College of Nursing and work as a staff nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Methodist Medical Center, a position she has already secured. After she works for a few years, she plans to return to school to complete the requirements to become a nurse anesthetist. Through scholarship recipients like Kim, Virginia Mosbacher's legacy truly lives on.

about 10 years before returning to college to earn her B.S.N. degree. Serving as an agency nurse at Bridgeway in Macomb and the MARC Center in Bloomington, she developed specialties in psychiatric and outpatient nursing.

Her first taste of teaching was providing staff development training as part of her job tasks at Bridgeway and MARC Center. She realized that she loved teaching. She set her sights on a career of teaching nursing, so she returned to college. After that, she continued her nursing education with the master's program.

Now, she is a full-time graduate assistant at Mennonite College of Nursing, assisting faculty with research and teaching "Community Health Nursing" and "Psychiatric Nursing" courses. With her career experience as an RN, it is guaranteed Gabrielson will reach her goal. In fact, she recently accepted a full-time teaching position at Methodist Medical Center's School of Nursing in Peoria. Already a competent nurse and now an experienced teacher, Gabrielson serves as a wonderful role model for future recipients of the Mosbacher Scholarship.

Alumna Mosbacher Scholar uses nursing knowledge and skills in the pharmaceuticals industry

Laura Grussing received her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1993 with the help of a Mosbacher Scholarship. Talking with Laura about the years during which she completed her nursing education, it is clear that she experienced an incredible mix of highs and lows during that time. Her story is one of great inspiration for us all.

In the very early '90s, she was a full-time student at Mennonite College of Nursing, working as a nurse's aide at OSF St. Joseph's Medical Center. She was also raising her two boys, then 4 and 5 years old. She said she had low confidence at the time and was dealing with a rocky marriage while attending Mennonite. During her junior year, she became ill and received a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. While in the hospital recovering from cancer, she realized that her marriage was over. Facing the stress of illness and raising her sons alone, she turned to her nursing books for solace. Although she couldn't afford to purchase her books at the time, she was able to check out the texts she needed from the library. She studied day in and day out and said nursing was one of the few positive things in her life. Pharmacology was her favorite subject. When she received the news that she was selected to receive the Mosbacher scholarship, she was thrilled. After she was released from the hospital and returned to nursing classes, she and her sons moved to public housing. She realizes, both then and now, how important the Mosbacher funding was to her family's well being. Although her employer at the time, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, covered her tuition expenses, she used the Mosbacher funds for food and medications for her children and spent what little spare time she had continuing to work as a nurse's aide. She emphasized that the Mosbacher scholarship "was a step I needed. It was a desperate situation."

In 1993, Laura received her B.S.N. degree from Mennonite and took a position as an RN in the intensive care unit at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center.

She worked nights on the unit for about a year, providing nursing care to open heart patients and others who were intensely ill. She then took a position in the chronic and acute dialysis unit at OSF St. Francis satellite unit in Bloomington for two years. While in that position, she began teaching diabetic education, which led to a full-time chronic disease educator position as coordinator for the Center for Healthy Lifestyles at St. Joseph's. While there, she often had contacts with people from the pharmaceutical industry. She began providing seminars for the Merck company on a part-time basis. Then, Merck needed someone to be a full-time disease management educator/health management consultant in this area. She accepted the position and worked in that role for two years. After that, she took a similar role at Schering Plough in the acute coronary syndrome division. During that job, she traveled the world to places like Germany, England, and France to launch a new class of drugs to prevent myocardial infarctions during unstable angina and interventions.

Although she loved the work, she did not enjoy being away from her sons and her new husband in Bloomington. So, she left that position. By that time, she was a national trainer. While she was between jobs, a recruiter called looking for someone to assist a small biotech company, Scios, on the West Coast in launching a new drug. She accepted that position and continues to work for Scios—now a division of Johnson & Johnson—as a cardiovascular specialist. She travels throughout Illinois and trains hospital staff and physicians regarding Natrecor or "BNP," a new drug for congestive heart failure.

Laura acknowledged she has had an interesting life and is successful both in her personal life and her professional life. "Everyone seemed to care about me at Mennonite. All the faculty were very supportive. It was a nurturing environment," she said. And she credited the Mosbacher scholarship as an important piece to the completion of her education: "It allowed me to complete something I'd begun for my future success," she said.

Donors continued from page 7

Anna and Peter Ropp
Helen and Alan Ross
Donald Royce
Vada and Keith Saffer
Marjorie and Donald Sapp
Jane and Dan Schimmel
Beth and Thomas Schreiner
Renee Simons
Delores and Gerald Simpsen
Ned Sloan
Paul and Phyllis Sloan
Lucille Smith
Donna and Ivan Stanwood
Richard and Janet Stivers
Nathan Strauss
Patricia and Glade Stutzman
Marcia Swanson
Paula Sweeney
Louis and Maryann Ulbrich
Raymond and Marion Vaughan
Paul and Margaret Vertin
Betty and Duane Wagner
Robert and Mary Wahlers
Paul and Mary Watkins
Tenna Webb
Ruth Wettaw
Diane and Thomas Whipple
Peter Whitmer
Denise and Gary Wilson
Wendy and Kenneth Woith
Marian Woodworth
Jeanne and John Wroan
Mary and John ZonFrilli

Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Degree Candidates for 2003

Prelicensure Candidates

- Alissa Alberts
- Kimberly Anderson
- Annette Beksinski
- Christine Billington
- Meredith Borak
- Lily Boxwell
- Rebecca Brady
- Kandice Brzoznowski
- Jennifer Buening
- Jennifer Butler
- Margo Carlier
- Jamie Carpenter
- Jaemin Chon
- Melissa Coe
- Maria Emch
- Jamie Emm
- Erin Eschbaugh
- Keysha Flagg
- Elizabeth Gervase
- Katie Giese
- Stormy Goodrich
- Amy Graves
- Patricia Hadick
- Kelly Hanus
- Cora Hardwick
- Joleen Hudson
- Krista Jenks
- Darla Johnson
- Kaelin Jones
- Alyssa Keeley
- Michelle Kunz
- Nicole Kutzner
- Sara Landgrebe
- Shea Lekies
- Kelly Leonard
- ToAqua Lowe
- Susan Manske
- Lisa Mengarelli
- Erik Mikkelsen
- Elizabeth Miller
- Dawn Mitchell
- Jennifer Noel
- Melanie Olsen

Where are they now? Holly Beoletto, Class of 1987

Holly Beoletto always knew she wanted to be a nurse. While Holly was growing up, her mom was a nurse. Holly initially received her diploma in nursing from St.



Francis Medical Center in 1983, before going on to earn her associate's at Illinois Valley Central College in 1986. In 1987, she earned her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing.

Holly's days as a school nurse are spent at two urban public elementary schools in central Bloomington: Irving and Sheridan schools. In the mornings she goes to Irving and in the afternoons she works at Sheridan. Her days are an interesting array of whatever health issues the children present. She said she never knows what her day is going to be like. For example, one morning she may be doing vision and hearing screenings on first-graders between taking temperatures and calling parents to come and pick up sick children. That afternoon she may be providing health education and life skills development to fourth- and fifth-grade girls. Her job responsibilities are huge: she completes vision and hearing screenings yearly for more than 300 children, while providing school nursing for more than 900 children, and she sometimes has to complete a lot of paperwork in the course of a day. However, the hands-on nursing

care she provides during the day is a reflection of her continued focus to provide quality pediatric nursing care.

The path of her career has led her through many different job experiences. She initially worked the night shift in the neonatal unit at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Then she took a position as a pediatric nurse at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley. Next, she obtained a job as an RN in women's services in the Obstetrics and Pediatrics Programs at BroMenn Medical Center, where she has worked for 15 years. She job-shares a position with another RN and works there one weekend per month. In 2000, she was recruited to be a substitute school nurse in the local schools. She loved it and was able to complete an internship through National Lewis University in Wheeling and become certified as a school nurse. In 2002, she landed the school nurse position through District 87 schools.

Holly said her family members play a major role in her life. Her husband, Bernard Beoletto, is a 1988 Illinois State University graduate. He works in the advertising department at *The Pantagraph*. They have three children: Anthony, 12, Andrew, 11, and Emily, 10, who keep her busy.

"Mennonite motivated me to want to get more education," Holly said. "It helped me see where I wanted to be in nursing. I really enjoyed the classes there, especially the clinicals in the 'Community Health Nursing' class." Holly is not only a wonderful representative of Mennonite alumni but also a fantastic role model for all of Mennonite's students who have contact with her through job shadowing and observing her in her role as a school nurse.

We want to hear from our Mennonite graduates!

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff, and alumni love to hear all those wonderful stories about our graduates. Do you have a story about your nursing career you would like to share? What about an adventure or experience you've had that relates to nursing that may

inspire others? Please call Amy Irving at (309) 438-2174 or email her at amirvin@ilstu.edu to make arrangements to relate your stories. Who knows, your story may be one of the Alumni Chronicles included in the next *Flame*. We hope to hear from you soon!

Mennonite College of Nursing helps school with box tops collection

In December 2002, staff and faculty organized a drive at Mennonite College of Nursing to collect "box tops for education" for Irving Elementary School in Bloomington. As you may remember, Mennonite maintains a partnership with Irving School: Mennonite students use Irving as a site for teaching/learning projects and clinicals, while Irving students benefit from the health-related projects the Mennonite students facilitate at the school. Irving School is collecting as many box tops for education as possible over the next couple of years. Irving's principal, Dr. Mary Kay Scharf, said Irving is hoping



to save up for computers and other much-needed equipment for the school.

Since December, Mennonite faculty and staff have collected more than 200 box tops for Irving. The box tops for education can be found on various General Mills, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Green Giant, Totino's, and Betty Crocker food products. Box top savers need only look for the Box top logo on the food items in their cupboards or during grocery shopping. Once the product has been consumed, simply clip the box top logo from the package. No grocery store receipts or universal product codes are required.

If you would like to contribute to Mennonite and Irving Elementary School by saving your box tops for education, simply mail them to Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810, Attn: Box-tops Drive. If you have questions about participating in this program, please call Amy Irving at (309) 438-2174. Thanks for your support.

Degree candidates continued from previous page

- Alexis Ortenzo
- Melissa Pahnke
- Miranda Persson
- Justyna Pomiotlo
- Jessica Rasset
- Carrie Rieck
- Lyndi Rieger
- DeAnna Sack
- Stephanie Scott
- Lisa Sikora
- Laura Simek
- Amanda Simmert
- Shirley Smith
- Renata Stachowicz
- Lori Strine
- Erica Tice
- Travis Tirpak
- Tyresa Tomlin
- Emily Uhe
- Melinda Vander Veen
- Marla Waibel

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. 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

Attach an additional sheet of paper if necessary. Return nominations to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810

Continued on next page

Faculty/Staff notes

Degree candidates continued from previous page

Kashica Webber
Anne Wolfe
Sarah Woodard
Diane Zec
Kristina Zouras
Sara Zucco

RN Candidates

Stacy Adkisson
Christine Atchison
Jesse Brinkman
Melanie Brinkman
Kimberly Cathelyn
Carol Eatock
Renee McKinley
Megan Moffitt
Teresa Novy
Katherine Riva
David Thorpe

Candidates for Family Nurse Practitioner (F.N.P.) Master's Degree

Carla Bolek
Aimee Renee Brown
Rebecca L. Ferguson
Debra Sue Garner
Holly Heffren
Geneva Ann Johnson
Nancy M. Keith
Stephanie Carol Meuser
Teresa Valerio
Anne Louise Wagenbach

Candidates for Nursing Systems Administration (N.S.A.) Master's Degree

Marcena Lynn Gabrielson
Teresa Arlene Saxton

Grant funding

Mary Bailey received an Illinois State University Research Grant in the amount of \$2,721 to study "Gender Differences in Patterns of Depressive Symptoms of School Age Children."

Sara Campbell received a \$500 grant from Illinois State University's CAT to supplemental travel for teaching "Creating Excitement for Geriatric Nursing Careers: Changing Culture, Curriculum, and Clinical Practice."

Sara Campbell has been awarded a postdoctoral award, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and awarded as an Institutional Grant (T-32) by the University of Iowa College of Nursing. The award is in nursing effectiveness research that prepares nurses to conduct efficacy and effectiveness research on clinical and managerial interventions.

Sara Campbell received a \$500 grant for the Chiron Community Partnership Initiative.

Sara Campbell received a \$4,178 Illinois State University Research Grant for "Best Practices in Nursing Care of Elderly in Long Term Care Setting: A Needs Assessment."

Sara Campbell received a \$1,500 University of Iowa College of Nursing Mentoring Grant.

Eileen Fowles and **Brenda Jeffers** each received a \$500 Illinois State University Faculty Technology Support Services for "Development of Content Modules for Nursing Ethics: An Application of Lectora and Webboard"

Brenda Jeffers has been named a Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Research Scholar by the John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University. She will work with nationally prominent geriatric nursing researchers to further her research agenda in ethics and care of the older adult.

Denise Wilson received a \$1,977 grant from the McLean County Medical Society to purchase nursing equipment for Irving and Sheridan elementary schools in Bloomington.

Presentations

Sara Campbell. "Creating Excitement for Geriatric Nursing Careers: Changing Culture, Curriculum, and Clinical Practice." Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), University of Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida. March 2003.

Dianne Clemens. "Developing a Teaching Nursing Home." National Geriatric Nurses Association, Arlington Heights. October 2002.

Eileen Fowles. "Factors Influencing Nutritional Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women. Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan." April 2003.

Eileen Fowles. "Development and Psychometric Evaluation of Barriers to Healthy Eating Scale." Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 2003.

Karrie Ingalsbe and Lynn Kennell. "An Innovative International Approach to Teaching Transcultural Nursing Theory." 28th Annual Transcultural Nursing Society Conference, Toronto. October 2002.

Brenda Jeffers. "Creating Excitement for Geriatric Nursing Careers: Changing Culture, Curriculum, and Clinical Practice." 2003 AGHE Conference, University of Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida. March 2003.

Catherine Kaesberg. "Licensure Exam Failure and the High-Risk Student: Strategies for Identification and Intervention." Mosby's Faculty Development Institute 2003, Miami Beach, Florida. January 2003.

Cynthia Kerber. "Attitudes Toward and Incidence of Gambling Among College Athletes." Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 2003.

Camille Little. "Developing a Teaching Nursing Home." National Geriatric Nurses Association, Arlington Heights. October 2002.

Caroline Mallory. "Ideal Qualities of the New Graduate." Illinois State University CAT Teaching Symposium, Normal. October 2002.

Emily Schlenker. "Use of Touch Therapy in the Care of Dementia Clients: Phase Two." Western Social Science Association/Chronic Disease, Las Vegas, Nevada. April 2003.

Emily Schlenker. "Healing in the Garden of Eden: Rethinking the Therapeutic Milieu." American Institute of Medical Education, Maui, Hawaii. December 2002.

Rita Schlomer. "Administrative Practice and Educational Needs of ED Nurses." 2003 Emergency Nursing Association Leadership Challenge, Albuquerque, New Mexico. February 2003.

Publications

Mary Bailey. "Community Health." Book Chapter in *Internet Resources for Nurses* 2nd Edition. 238-243.

Sara Campbell. "Psychological Adaptation to Medical Illness." Book Chapter in Hogan and Smith (Eds.) *Mental Health Nursing*, 281-295.

Mary Dyck. "Nursing Informatics: Applications for Long-term Care." *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* 28(10), 30-39.

Eileen Fowles. "Comparing Pregnant Women's Nutritional Knowledge to their Actual Dietary Intake." *MCN: American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing* 27(3), 171-177.

Brenda Jeffers. "Continuing Education in Research Ethics for the Clinical Nurse." *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, November/December issue.

Nancy Ridenour, Susan Kossman, and Doug Mock. "Challenge and Rewards for Educators, Students and Staff." Book Chapter in Armstrong and Frueh (Eds.). *Telecommunications for Nurses: Providing Successful Distance Education and Telehealth*, 2nd Ed. New York: Springer Publishing, 2003.

Mennonite College of Nursing events:

April 29 and May 1, 2003

Alumni Board Celebrates Nurses Week with MCN Students

Noon - 1 p.m., Edwards Hall, Room 306

April 30, 2003

Pioneer Convention

Illinois State University

This event is co-sponsored by MCN and the East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

May 6 - 12, 2003

National Nurses Week

May 9, 2003

MCN Commencement

4 p.m., Braden Auditorium,
Bone Student Center

September 11, 2003

Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series on Child and Family Health

Illinois State University
More info to follow

October 17 - 18, 2003

Homecoming

See special section on back page for details.

December 9, 2003

Mennonite College of Nursing Holiday Open House

3- 6 p.m., Ewing Cultural Center

Please contact Amy Irving at (309) 438-2174 or amirvin@ilstu.edu for more information on MCN events.



Progress Notes

Births

- '89 **Sheila (Robinson) Mahon** and her husband Philip, along with their first son, Colin, 4, welcomed home baby Connor Donald who was born on August 26, 2002. Sheila is an RNC at Renaissance Women's group (OB-GYN).
- '94 **Jenny (Lake) Strange** give birth to her first child, Lauren Rae, on September 6, 2002. Jenny is an RN in the surgery dept. of St. Joseph Medical Center.
- '98 **Holly Petika** married Joe Steiskal on October 21, 2000. They have a 17-month-old son, Joey, and are expecting their second baby in April 2003. Holly works at the Pediatric Home Health/Melmedica Children's Healthcare.
- '98 **Becky (Biroschik) Leibach** and her husband, Gary, had their second baby, Callahan Joseph, on April 16, 2002. His big sister, Abigayle, 2, welcomed him home. Becky works at the Circle of Friends Adult Day Center in Champaign.

Marriages

- '84 **Suellen Ott** married Virgil Kaeb on June 9, 2002 in Sarasota. She works at Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Maternal Transport Team and he works for Sysco Foods Inc.
- '96 **Kelli Stoller** married Eric Heille on July 13, 2002. She is employed as an RN at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Anniversaries

- '51 **Betty Swigart** and her husband, J.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 8, 2003. J.C. farms in the Farmer City-Arrowsmith area and Betty is a registered nurse at the Jackson Heights Nursing Home in Farmer City.
- '75 **Sue Read** and her husband, Rob, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on January 14, 2003. They have four children and 14 grandchildren. Sue is employed as an RN for Fairbury Specialty Clinics and OSF Inc.
- '85 **Dlorah Zehr** and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on January 27, 2003. They have three children and six grandchildren. Dlorah is an RN with the Livingston County Health Department and Richard is a farmer.

Deaths

- '96 **Kjerstin (Liljequist) DeCapua's** husband, Michael, died from colon cancer on October 6, 2002. He was 35 years old. He leaves behind three sons.

Keeping the Flame Burning



By Dorothy Witte

The flame is the logo of Mennonite College of Nursing. It is a simple artistic image with a significant message. The flame is alive... vibrant, glowing, illuminating. It symbolizes our spirit and

commemorates the lamp of Florence Nightingale who founded modern nursing and formalized nursing education. The nursing pin awarded to our graduates incorporates the design of the flame.* It represents their personal achievement and marks their rite of passage into the nursing profession. Our alumni keep the flame burning...

Producing the "preferred graduate" is the number one goal of Mennonite College of Nursing. Preparing students to meet this goal requires outstanding faculty, demanding curriculum, state-of-the-art teaching tools, and unique learning opportunities. Through their efforts and commitment to this goal, our faculty, staff, and administrators keep the flame burning...

Quality nursing education is not a campus-only endeavor. Excellent classroom instruction, quality clinical experiences, and exceptional training opportunities require cooperation and collaboration with hospital and health care providers, public health administrators, and community clinic administrators. Through their hours of investment in the education of our students, they keep the flame burning...

Instruction that demonstrates the need for connection between humanistic and scientific nursing practices is essential to preparing the "preferred graduate." Mennonite has a 30-year history of offering a transcultural nursing experience that provides students opportunity to learn and practice among dissimilar societies, with diverse populations, in different settings. As our world becomes intensely multicultural, nurses must become transculturally knowledgeable, sensitive, and competent. The transcultural nursing experience is another example of keeping the flame burning...

The "glue" to keeping the flame burning is people and their support...emotionally, physically, and financially. In this issue, we make special mention of

the career devotion of Lena Graber, the philanthropy of Eugene Mosbacher, and the teaching focus of faculty member Karrie Ingalsbe. They help to keep the flame burning...and so can you.

This year, Karrie Ingalsbe established the Transcultural Nursing Fund through a multi-year pledge of support. Her commitment professionally and financially has inspired other faculty to contribute. Their dream is to create an endowment to assure perpetuity of the program...keeping the flame burning. You can help by contributing to this fund

If you are a previous participant in the transcultural nursing experience, please drop us a note or an E-mail and let us know about your experience. Did it change your life? Perhaps this is the time for you to "give back." As a student, did you receive a scholarship? Did someone else's generosity allow you to pursue your education? All of us have been the recipients of anonymous kindness and generosity at some time in our lives. Their legacy is honored when you do the same.

I look forward to the possibility of working with you to fulfill your desire to support the financial needs of Mennonite College of Nursing. Please let me know how I can be of service.

Dorothy Witte, Director of Development
Mennonite College of Nursing
c/o Illinois State University
Campus Box 3060
Normal, IL 61790-3060
Phone: (309) 438-3134
E-mail: dmwitte@ilstu.edu



*The first pin had a dove in the center symbolizing peace. The first design was used from 1920-1976. Design of the pin changed in 1977 to reflect the new logo of the flame.

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, or E-mail to amirvin@ilstu.edu.

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

An example of bequest language:

"I give, devise and bequeath (_____ percentage, or the residue of my estate, or \$_____) to Illinois State University Foundation, its successors or assigns, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, to further the objectives and purposes of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University."