

SUMMER 2008

The Flame

Mennonite College of Nursing

Illinois State University

Mennonite College of Nursing graduate program expands

When MCN joined Illinois State in 1999, the graduate program offered two sequences (FNP and NSA), and a Post-Master's FNP Certificate. Within nine years, two additional sequences (CNL and GNP), an Online Nurse Educator Certificate, and a Ph.D. program have been developed.

"Mennonite College of Nursing is meeting the changing needs of the healthcare field by providing new specialty sequences," said Brenda Recchia Jeffers, professor and director of the graduate programs. "The CNL, an advanced generalist nursing role, provides educational preparation that focuses on quality, safety, and leadership at the unit level. We are delighted to be working with our partner institutions, BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, to offer the clinical nurse leader sequence."

The development of the GNP sequence and curriculum was made possible through grant funding from the Illinois Department of Public Health, and will further enhance MCN's commitment to the care of older adults. Nurses who receive certification as a GNP will have a variety of roles, including managing complex care of older adults. It is anticipated that GNP's will be the wave of the future in care of older adults. Additional funding from Illinois State University Extended University is assisting to place all courses online.

This past spring, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the Ph.D. in Nursing program, and students have been accepted for summer 2008. "The Ph.D. Program in Nursing meets a great need in our state for increased numbers of nurses prepared as faculty and researchers," said Jeffers. "The number of potential students expressing interest in the program has been gratifying and further demonstrates the need for doctoral nursing education in our area."

For more information about the graduate program, call (309) 438-2463, or visit IllinoisState.edu/nursing.

1999 Graduate Program

Master's Sequences

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nursing Systems Administration (NSA)
- Post Master's FNP Certificate

2008 Graduate Program

Master's Sequences

- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Nursing Systems Administration (NSA)
- Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)
- Online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP)
- Online Nurse Educator Certificate
- Post-Master's FNP Certificate

Ph.D. Program

- Focal Area in Aging

Clinical Nurse Leader

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) graduates are prepared to function as leaders within complex health care environments. The practice of the CNL emphasizes nursing leadership, client outcome management, and care environment management. The CNL is prepared as a generalist and functions at the microsystem level as provider and manager of care at the point of care delivery. Design, implementation, and evaluation of research based care; coordination, delegation, and supervision of care provided by the health care team are essential functions of the role.

Online Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate

The Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate option is available for individuals who are either currently enrolled in an accredited master's degree nursing program or who already hold a master's degree in nursing. This 15 credit hour certificate option focuses on incorporating principles of nursing education and instructional technology into the development, imple-

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Message from the dean

Greetings to alumni and friends,

It is my pleasure to announce that the Mennonite College of Nursing has a new Ph.D. in Nursing Program! Students have been accepted and began courses this summer. This new Ph.D. program reflects MCN's dedication to education, and addressing not only the nationwide nursing shortage, but the nursing faculty shortage as well.

Our College continues to grow. It is amazing to compare our program, graduates, and funding from 1999 when MCN joined Illinois State University, to where we are today. You will be able to read in this issue how the graduate program has doubled in size, and how we continue to receive many more applications from qualified students than we have seats to fill in the undergraduate program. We are encouraging our B.S.N. graduates to pursue advanced nursing degrees and consider becoming a nursing faculty member, so that they can assist with addressing the nursing shortage.

The nursing students continue to exhibit outstanding community service. You will have the opportunity to read about the Student Nurses' Association activities. In honor of Nurses' Week, which falls during Illinois State finals week, the college held its first ever student, faculty, and staff luncheon. The turnout was fantastic with over 80 students in attendance!

I invite all of you to stay connected with the college, and attend activities throughout the year. This year, for the first time, local area alumni and friends were invited to MCN's traditional Candlelighting Ceremony. This ceremony is always inspirational and affirming as our graduates reflect on how meaningful their educational journey has been for them. Please see the calendar of events section in this issue, or visit our Web site at IllinoisState.edu/nursing for all of the latest events and details.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Homecoming 2008! We are planning an alumni breakfast, award presentations, and an open house in Edwards Hall. Everyone will be able to gather together for the parade and cheer for the SNA students.

Following the parade, the MNAO and SNA groups will be sponsoring a tailgate before the football game. It will be a full, fun packed day! We have tremendous student involvement this year and it is bound to be an exciting event. In view of the expanded support and engagement by alumni and students, and the multiple event opportunities during Homecoming, MNAO and MCN will be moving the reunion/award recognition event to spring, begin-

ning in 2009. It is anticipated that this move will continue to allow more alums and students to participate in multiple events throughout the year. We will have more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

Mennonite College of Nursing continues to meet its mission. The college also continues to grow in numbers, while maintaining high quality educational standards. Congratulations to the 2008 graduates! Please stay in touch and connected with your alma mater. Best wishes.

Sara L. Campbell, DNS, RN, NEA-BC
Interim dean and professor
Telephone: (309) 438-2174
E-mail: slcampb2@ilstu.edu

Save the date— Homecoming 2008

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 18, 2008 for Homecoming! The Homecoming Committee is planning several events for Saturday, including an alumni breakfast buffet, building tours, reunion recognition, and awards presentations in Edwards Hall. Alumni are also encouraged to attend the parade, and a MNAO/SNA tailgate before the football game. Registration brochures will be mailed in September.

If you need to make hotel reservations, MCN has reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western University Inn for Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18 at the rate of \$70 per night. For reservations, please call Best Western at (309) 454-4070 and ask for the "ISU Mennonite Alumni" block. This rate will expire on Friday, September 26, so make your reservations today!

For other hotel listings reserved by Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal during Homecoming weekend, please visit www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/homecoming/hotel_travel

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Student Nurses' Association (SNA)

By Kari Duckett, SNA-VP

The Student Nurses' Association (SNA) of Mennonite College of Nursing provides nursing students with opportunities to get involved in activities held not only at the University, but out in the community as well. This organization promotes integrity, leadership, and good citizenship.

SNA had another exciting and successful year with the direction of its four officers: Ashley Coffin (president), Kari Duckett (vice president), Tara Paull (treasurer), and Loren Nero (secretary). These officers helped guide members of SNA in community service and other health-related activities.

Throughout the 2007-2008 school year, SNA participated in many events, including health related walks, homecoming activities, recreational sports, career and health fairs, fundraising activities, as well as welcoming transcultural guests.

Throughout the months of September and October, SNA participated in two walks; The Heart Walk and



Relay for Life

the Memory Walk. The Heart Walk brought together organizations and families alike to raise money for lifesaving research and programs to fight heart disease and stroke. The

main goal of the Memory Walk was to raise money in hopes of eliminating Alzheimer's Disease through the advancement of research.

SNA also walked in the Homecoming parade to cheer on the Illinois State Redbird football team in their game against Indiana State. This game turned out to be a win for Illinois State! GO YOU REDBIRDS!

In November, the SNA officers traveled to Kansas City, Missouri to attend the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA).



Homecoming

The officers attended many classes to better their knowledge on topics such as pharmacology, NCLEX test taking, leadership skills, and traveling nursing. This was a great opportunity for the SNA officers to really come together as group leaders and represent Mennonite College of Nursing in a positive light among their peers.

April was a busy month for SNA. We hosted a Kidney Fair in the Bone Student Center to help raise kidney health awareness among community members

at no cost. The tests done at this fair were urinalysis, body mass index (bmi), blood glucose, and blood pressure (bp). Blood work was also drawn to test the functional ability of each community member's kidneys.

The organization held its yearly formal at the Chateau in April. Approximately 150 people attended this event, and everyone had a blast! Relay for Life was also held in April. Illinois State student nurses had three teams participating in this walk in the fight against cancer. At this walk, community members have the chance to pay tribute to the lives lost in the fight against cancer, honor cancer survivors, and raise money to help in the fight against this battle.

Another event held in April was the 5th annual Candlelighting Ceremony. This ceremony recognizes student and teacher excellence with service awards, as well as pays tribute to the nursing profession. SNA presented Dr. Campbell with a check in the amount of \$800 on behalf of the senior class.



SNA has also helped with two career fairs and has hosted three different transcultural lunches, including students from Russia, England, and Australia. As we all know, culturally competent care is a very vital part of healthcare. These luncheons gave the transcultural students and ourselves a one-on-one opportunity to gain more knowledge about one another's cultures.

In an attempt to take a break from all of the studying and homework, members of SNA also had the opportunity to participate in intramural recreational sports and bake for bake sales. The recreational campus activity that SNA members were involved in this past year was volleyball.

The 2007-2008 year for SNA was a great success and we thank everyone who supported our cause. The time has come to formally turn over the SNA Executive office to a new set of student leaders. A big congratulations goes out to Elizabeth Guth (president), Jessica Lasak (vice-president), Amanda Probasco (secretary), and Amanda Whitley (treasurer) for being elected to serve for the 2008-2009 year!

2008-09 SNA officers

Congratulations to the following Student Nurses Association officers for the 2008-09 academic year:

Left to right: Amanda Whitley (treasurer), Jessica Lasak (vice president) Elizabeth Guth (president), Amanda Probasco (secretary).



Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)

By Deb Stenger MSN, RN, XiPi President 2007-2009

XiPi chapter news

Fall 2007 STTI XiPi Induction was held with Dr. Wendy Woith as keynote speaker. Her address was entitled "Landing Among the Stars." Twenty nine new members plus a community member from Vladimir, Russia were inducted.

New member orientation luncheon

- On January 29th a luncheon was hosted for new inductees to XiPi for the 2007-2008 academic year. Twenty new members were in attendance. XiPi president Deb Stenger spoke of the volunteer opportunities thru STTI and XiPi Chapter.



Left to right: Tom Ahrens, Deb Stenger

- Second Annual Evidence Based Practice Conference was hosted March 7th at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University. Dr. Sandi Burke, Governance Committee chair/faculty advisor oversaw the creation of the conference entitled "Keep it Local! Using evidence in daily work." Speakers for the event were Tom Ahrens, DNS, RN, FAAN, clinical nurse specialist,

and research scientist from Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, and Jane Mahoney, Ph.D., APRN, BC, director of nursing practice and research at the Menninger Clinic in Houston.

Other events

- Regional nursing conference: "Interpreting Lab Values" was presented by Barb Bancroft on October 11, 2007. Over 400 students and professional staff attended this conference held at the Interstate Conference Center in Bloomington.
- Xi Pi cosponsored: Expanding Teaching Nursing Home-National Speaker Event. This was hosted on April 10, 2007. Joanne Rader, RN, MN, and author of a 1996 AJN book of the year titled *Individualized Dementia Care: Creative, Compassionate Approaches* was the speaker for the event. The purpose of the program was to engage nursing professionals, faculty, and students in delivering restorative care by using an integrated model of care to reach the best outcome for each resident's well being.

Upcoming events

- Strategic planning meeting—TBA (XiPi Board members)
- STTI Leadership Academy—September 25-26, 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Alzheimer's Memory Walk—September 27, 2008
- Regional Nursing Conference—October 9, 2008, "The Voices of Nursing," Peoria Civic Center



Jenna Grider selected as a Bone Scholar

Jenna Grider has been named a Bone Student Scholar for the 2008-09 academic year. Being designated a Bone Scholar is the highest honor an Illinois State University undergraduate student can receive. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Robert G. Bone, president of Illinois State from 1956-1967. Bone Scholars are selected through a rigorous campus-wide competition on the basis of their scholarly achievements and their engagement and leadership in activities, in the university community and beyond. Invited finalists submit a comprehensive portfolio including several essays and statements, a project, and five letters of recommendation.

"I became interested in nursing because I wanted to make a difference in someone's life each and every day," said Grider. "A profession in nursing became attractive to me because I will have the ability to practice after graduation, and there are many opportunities available to pursue advanced practice degrees."

Grider's career plans include graduating from Mennonite College of Nursing with a B.S.N. and then continuing her education to receive her M.S.N. This summer, she will be in the nursing externship program at the Children's Hospital of Illinois at OSF in Peoria. "I hope to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and in the future be able to teach nursing courses."

Nursing students from England visit MCN

In March, Mennonite College of Nursing welcomed two nursing students from England through the college's Transcultural Nursing Program.

Adelaida Oakdon is a nursing student at Brighton University in Eastborne, and Anne Yates is a nursing student at Brighton University in Hastings. During their visit, they participated in classroom, clinical, and social aspects of Mennonite College of Nursing and the Bloomington-Normal community. Oakdon and Yates graduated in May with their diplomas for adult nursing.

Yates has always wanted to be a nurse. "I started nursing school 32 years ago," Yates said, "but then stopped to raise a family. Now that my children are grown, I went back to nursing school." Oakdon received a degree in chemical engineering, and has worked in several places



Adelaida Oakdon

in the world. Several of her friends were already in nursing careers. After a company she worked for relocated her to England, she decided to enroll in nursing school. "Nursing is a stable career," said Oakdon. "I love everything about nursing, especially the heart."

Clinical Practice Coordinator, Cheryl Nafziger arranged the schedules for Oakdon and Yates. "This is a wonderful opportunity not only for Aida and Anne, but also for our faculty, staff, and students who were able to interact with them," said Nafziger. "It is interesting to learn how they teach nursing in England



Anne Yates

versus the United States. Even though the curriculum and clinical experiences may be different, a career in nursing can be used anywhere in the world."

MCN transcultural experience

In May, several nursing students participated in the Transcultural Experience:

- Three students participated in the Eastborne, England (University of Brighton) exchange.
- Fourteen students traveled to Austin, Texas to work at the "Children's Wellness Clinic". This clinic serves primarily Hispanic families. The clinic is the brainchild of a school health nurse and the University of Texas School of Nursing.
- Seven students traveled to Hayden, Kentucky to work in a community and clinical setting. The establishment of this site was initiated by an MCN graduate, Linda Ahrens, RN, FNP.

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization board of directors

President

Donny Bounds '97

Director & Awards Committee Chair

Karen (Roop) Magers '79

Directors

Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey '00

Larae Wagener '02

Sonia (Hetman) Wernsman '98

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Dr. Sara L. Campbell, Interim Dean, Mennonite College of Nursing

Jamie Sennett, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Jenny Ward, Director of Development

Fulfilling the MCN mission

By Amy Irving

When Mennonite College of Nursing joined Illinois State University in 1999, it brought a strong foundation that can be found embedded in its mission statement. Even though part of the wording in Mennonite's original mission statement had to be changed from being a private, independent college to a public university, the purpose and values remained. Sara Campbell, interim dean, stated, "The mission should be a living document, that reminds us who we are and what we are about. It helps keep us grounded, but it also helps us see what's possible. This past year, we produced wallet size mission cards that faculty, staff, and students can carry with them and give to others who are interested in the work of the college."

Campbell asked faculty, staff, and students how they felt MCN was fulfilling the mission statement on a daily basis. Each area of the mission statement was broken down, and faculty, staff, and students had an opportunity to give their thoughts and examples on how they believe the mission is being lived and met.

The mission of Mennonite College of Nursing is to educate undergraduate and graduate nursing students to serve the citizens of Illinois, the nation, and the global community.

The first sentence of the mission statement is about educating students to serve citizens not only in Illinois, but also throughout the world. This is accomplished by a dedicated team of faculty who teach students about the nursing profession and all of the opportunities they will have worldwide after graduation. Some of these opportunities include externships and transcultural experiences.

Dr. Mary Dyck, assistant professor, feels MCN meets this part of the mission by the number of quality students who graduate from the programs. "This year, there will be 100+ B.S.N. degrees and seven M.S.N. degrees for Family Nurse Practitioners," Dyck said. Thus, MCN continues the strong tradition of educating high quality nurses as evidenced by NCLEX and certification pass rates that exceed state and national norms.



Mary Dyck

Kathleen Yong received her B.S.N. in 2006 and her M.S.N. in 2008. In her response to questions about fulfilling the college mission, she specifically noted the inclusion of cultural studies in the MCN curriculum as a strong component of educating students for a diverse workplace.



Kathleen Yong at Candlelighting ceremony



Andrea Norton

Andrea Norton received her B.S.N. degree in May, and accepted a job at the University of California at San Diego. She felt that MCN prepared her to practice in any state and faculty were instrumental in helping her to understand the nursing practice act in California versus the Illinois Nurse Practice Act.

In terms of preparing students to work within community sectors, Colleen Kelley, instructional assistant professor, talked about joining SNA in the spring for the Relay for Life. "This was a very worthy cause that our students supported this year," Kelley said. It is another example of how MCN continues educating students at multiple levels. Programs continue to grow, transcultural experiences are expanding, and faculty research is reaching to global areas such as Russia.



Colleen Kelley

Mennonite College of Nursing acknowledges a particular responsibility to address the nursing and health-care needs of urban and rural populations, including those who are vulnerable and underserved.

How does MCN address nursing and health-care needs of urban and rural populations, including those who are vulnerable and underserved? One example can be found in the work that Dr. Denise Wilson, associate professor, does with school nurses at two local elementary schools. They arrange a time each semester for Wilson's FNP students to visit the schools and give students state required school physicals.

This past spring, they completed 47 school physicals at Irving Elementary and 21 school physicals at Sheridan Elementary. This community service allows local elementary students to continue their education uninterrupted.

Yong also spoke about the transcultural experiences that often focus on underserved populations, whether in the states or another country. These kinds of experiences facilitate an understanding and appreciation of access to health services for all.

Dyck also feels the new Ph.D. in Nursing program, which focuses on aging and the new MCN Gerontological Nurse Practitioner sequence addresses these issues. Older adults in all settings can have multiple health issues and concerns related to the accessibility of quality healthcare. Older adults are a vulnerable population that MCN is committed to serving in a best practices model.

Kelley also cited rural populations that fit within the MCN Mission. She stated, "The Adult Nursing II clinical this past spring was the first time we exposed students to Gibson Area Hospital, which is in a rural setting. This is a 'critical access' hospital that serves the community."

The College of Nursing builds upon the educational foundation previously acquired by students.

"MCN taught me discipline that I never knew I had, as well as the responsibility and accountability of your own action," said student, Norton. "My passion for learning was accelerated by MCN."

Yong who has experience as a student at the undergraduate and graduate levels, explained, "Transitioning from the undergraduate program to the graduate FNP program at MCN was smooth; many things we learned as undergraduates were simply expanded in depth and breadth in graduate school." MCN strives to facilitate student learning that will carry students into the role of valuing lifelong learning.

The college creates a dynamic community of learning in which reflective thinking and ethical decision-making are valued.

MCN stays on top of trends in healthcare and seeks ways to engage students in dialogue and experiences that prepare them for today and tomorrow's practice. Norton notes that MCN has a class that teaches students about different cultures and the value of working in, and with a diverse population.

"Critical thinking is consistently praised and encouraged by MCN faculty," said Yong. Critical thinking is one of the four undergraduate outcomes for MCN and special emphasis can be found in all courses. In addition, ethics modules and an elective in healthcare ethics is now included as part of the undergraduate curriculum.



The college is committed to the promotion of nursing scholarship at the national and international levels through research, service, and practice.

MCN has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 9-10 years in the area of nursing scholarship. The addition of a Ph.D. program reflects the scholarship of current faculty and staff and will also propel the college towards increasingly external funding. "MCN administration provides release time for one to two faculty per semester to work on grants and manuscripts," Dyck said. "MCN also recognizes faculty who are published, receive grants, etc."

The promotion of scholarship does not end with faculty and staff, but is also extended to students. "Students are encouraged to help and to learn from faculty who perform research projects at both the undergraduate and graduate level," said Yong. Projects such as the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project support student attendance and presentation at national conferences, such as the National Gerontological Conference. Norton was a recipient of such funding and said, "It was definitely worth it!"

Mennonite College of Nursing is committed to being purposeful, open, just, caring, disciplined, and celebrative.

Yong states, "MCN celebrates the essence of nursing and those who make it what it is by having their annual Candlelighting Ceremony, during which seniors "pass the torch" onto nursing juniors. The faculty and staff at MCN embody 'caring' by providing special one-on-one attention to students who need extra help. However, everyone knows that there are rules at MCN and that breaking those rules will have consequences. This discipline helps prepare nurses for the 'real world,' and by graduation, most students have an appreciation for how this discipline made them into stronger, more competent nurses and even better people."

"The instructors are like family...enough said," said Norton.

"I am very proud of Mennonite College of Nursing—and all of the faculty, staff, and students who continue to meet the mission each and every day," Campbell said. "As Andrea Norton stated, 'we are a family' and we know our purpose."

2008 degree candidates

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

Kathryn Anderson
 Amanda Andrews
 Erin Astroth
 Elizabeth Bahr
 Angela Baird
 Jamie Bolnius
 Peter Borkowski
 Jenna Bruggenwirt
 Christen Bull
 Melinda Cheek
 Ashley Coffin
 Kathryn Czuprynski
 Danielle Dautel
 Marie L. Deffner
 Kari Duckett
 Kristina Faigao
 Shelli Fisher
 Anne Fjordholm
 Erin Frank
 Maggie Frechette
 Kayla Gaines
 Blessing Gatson
 Carolyn Gembala
 Lisa Gibula
 Roberta Green
 Emily Griswold
 Conni Groves
 Michael Haas
 Brittney Hardin
 Kelly Harkness
 Christi Henning
 Kristina Herriott
 Rebekah Hertz
 Trisha (White) Holmes
 Mark Jiron
 Amanda Johnson
 Jennifer A. Jones
 Jennifer L. Jones
 Jennifer Klicka
 Stephanie Koester
 Crista Koldenhoven
 David Kost
 Jessica Kottman
 Nora Krause
 Amanda Krueger
 Emily Kuhn

Kimberly Langhamer
 Constance Ledvora
 Kathryn Levine
 Hailie Lisching
 Kelsey Long
 Tara (Mayback) Jacoby
 Stephanie McCurdy-Pullen
 Jessica Memmel
 Christopher Mills
 Allison Morrissey
 Kristin Moutray
 Lauren Mueller
 Sarah Nelson
 Loren Nero
 Ngocdiem (Nguyen) Le Diem
 Andrea Norton
 Obiajulu (Pat) Onwuekwe
 Tara Paull
 Holly Plattner
 Megan Reese
 Diane Romito
 Lauren Ryan
 Jessica (Sams) Ryder
 Elise Schroeder
 Jillian Smith
 Margo Smith
 Julie Spielman
 Lisa Stanton
 Kelly Stompor
 Michael Talamonti
 Ashley Thomas
 Angela Turner
 Samantha Vission
 Elizabeth Wegman
 Laura Weinmann
 Amanda Wenthe
 Jennifer Werth
 Erin Whalen
 Alycia White
 Angela Wirth
 Libby Wolf
 Jessica Wollenberg
 Jennifer Zavacki
 Shira Zider
 Tracy Zimmerman
 Stephanie Zmuda

Registered nurses receiving Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

Alyssa Boggio
 Kathleen Crowder
 Tami Domescik
 Lindy Drollinger
 Lisa Gillespie
 Christine Gish
 Jillian Ives
 Jessica Miller
 Valentina Myres
 Victoria O'Hanlon
 Hayley Sax
 Shelly Scaff
 Heidi Sexton
 Robin Shaffer
 Jennie Van Antwerp
 Rachel Wahls
 Penny Zaugg,

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

Kari Bruening
 Leslie Carmack
 Connie Dowining
 Amy Monical
 Erin Redd
 Kathleen Yong
 Melissa Zahnd

Candidate for Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate (Summer 2008)

Leslie Carmack



2008 Commencement Ceremony

Mennonite College of Nursing student awards

The following student awards were announced during the 2008 Commencement ceremony:

Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award Winners

Jessica Memmel and Jessica Kottman

Tiedeman Memorial Award Winner

Rebekah Hertz

Outstanding Graduate Student Award Winner

Erin Redd

Senior Excellence Award Winner

Ashley Coffin

Alumni Clinical Excellence Award Winners

Rebekah Hertz and Amanda Krueger

MCN exceeds national, state pass rates on RN nursing exam

By Eric Jome

Menonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University ranks above the state and nationwide averages for the number of graduates who passed the national nursing licensure examination on the first try in 2007.

Ninety-four percent of Menonite graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN) on the first try last year. The nationwide NCLEX-RN pass rate for nursing program graduates was 85 percent, while the State of Illinois pass rate was 86 percent.

The high percentage of Menonite graduates who pass the licensure exam the first time is due in a large part to the college's Success Plan, a rigorous exam preparation program incorporated into the entire nursing curriculum. The Success Plan, implemented in 2001, includes mastery exams in various clinical nursing specialties that students must pass in addition to their regular class exams. The mastery exams cover the specific subject matter included on the NCLEX-RN exam.

"These outstanding pass rates reflect the strong commitment Menonite faculty have in providing high quality teaching and learning experiences for

students," said Sara Campbell, interim dean of Menonite College of Nursing. "The College Success Plan, which is coordinated by Cathi Kaesberg, instructional assistant professor, continues to work very well for our students."

The difficulty of the NCLEX-RN exam was increased in April of 2007 in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice. The increased standards are part of a three-year evaluation cycle for the NCLEX-RN exam to ensure it addresses current nursing standards.

2007 Family Nurse Practitioner Pass Rate

Menonite College of Nursing is pleased to report a 100% pass rate for graduates from the Family Nurse Practitioner sequence. The American Nurses Credentialing Center Nurse Practitioner Aggregate Data Report's overall pass rate is 93%.

Graduate program.... continued from page 1

mentation and evaluation of educational programs. The application of these concepts occurs through practicum experiences in an academic or clinical environment. Individuals completing this certificate option are prepared to function as nurse educators in the areas of nursing education and nursing service/clinical practice.

Online Gerontological Nurse Practitioner

The Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP) online sequence prepares the student to become an advanced practice nurse with specialized education in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic conditions often found among older adults and generally associated with aging. Many such conditions lead to functional decline, require therapeutic interventions to restore or maintain an optimal level of function, or when appropriate, palliative care at the end of life. Practice sites of GNPs include tradi-

tional ambulatory care clinics, care management organizations, acute and subacute hospitals, private home care, and all levels of long term care. Graduates of the GNP sequence are eligible to take the GNP certification examination and to become licensed as an advanced practice nurse.

Ph.D. in Nursing Program

The Ph.D. in Nursing program will prepare nurses to conduct research in patient care and outcomes, teach in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, demonstrate leadership in health policy development, and develop and evaluate models of care for vulnerable populations. Initially, the program will focus on aging populations, but new focal areas will likely be added as faculty expertise develops and the program grows.

Alumni notes



Jean (Farrar) Munn

1949 & 1982

Jean (Farrar) Munn received her diploma in nursing in 1949 and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1982. Jean is retired from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire where she was a neonatal intensive care nurse for eight years after completing 15 years of nursing at BroMenn Medical Center.

1983

Kim (Peters) Alberts is licensed as an LCPC (Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor) and has her CADC (Certified Alcohol and Other Drugs of Addiction Counselor) and CARN (Certified Addictions Registered Nurse). She has opened a private practice in counseling and is focusing on addiction, trauma, family, and relationship issues. She received her M.H.S. in 1999 and is also an adjunct professor in the addiction studies program at Governors State University.

1994 & 2000

Jill (Ozga) Stoops welcomed daughter, Erin Elizabeth Stoops, in February 2008. Erin joins brother, Theodore (Ted) Steven, age 3 1/2.

1996

Kelli (Stoller) Heille, and her husband, Eric, welcomed their daughter, Claire Grace, in December 2007. Kelli worked in day surgery at Baylor Surgicare in Lewisville, Texas, but will now be staying home full-time in Gridley.

Marla (Martin) Leman married Rob Leman in June of 2006. In February 2008, they welcomed twin boys, Brock Martin and Kyle William.

1997 BSN and 2001 MSN

Susan Catt graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in May 2008. She will be doing her residency in OB/GYN at OSF St. Francis.

1999

In June 2008, **Brenda Boardman** traveled to Nigeria to help with a continuing medical education conference for doctors and nurses in Africa.

1999

Jamie (Anderson) Gibson and her husband welcomed their second child, Jacob Thomas in April 2008.

2001

Jennifer (Langellier) Shaw and her husband, Brad, welcomed their second son, Griffin William, in March 2007. Jennifer works as an RN at the Family Medical Center in Lincoln.

2002

Kimberlee (Drenth) Burke and her husband, Mike, had their second child in June of 2007, Abigail Reese. They also have a 2 1/2 year old son, Cayden. Kim is working part-time in an infertility clinic as the IVF coordinator/clinical director. She hopes to go back to school to get her Master of Science in nursing to be a women's health care nurse practitioner.

2006

Dana Matsko married Gavin Yednock in November 2007. She is an obstetrics nurse at OSF St. James Medical Center in Pontiac, and is also a Certified Childbirth Educator.

In memory

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Tony Gabaldo**, who passed away on June 8, 2008. Tony graduated from the diploma program in 1983, and from the BSN completion program in 1996. He was employed at BroMenn. Tony's wife, Laurie (Devine) Gabaldo graduated from the diploma program in 1982. They have two daughters.

From the director of development

Stay connected

As we celebrate another class graduation, there is a message to share not only with our alumni, but also our former faculty and staff.

First, thank you for choosing Mennonite College of Nursing. Your level of academic and professional achievement, and service will continue to enhance this exceptional college and university. I sincerely hope that you have found your education to be rewarding, and the relationships you have built while here lifelong. I hope that because of the quality of these experiences, you will find many new doors open to you.

Second, please stay actively connected to MCN, your favorite faculty members, your advisors, and your friends. You will reengage in your life and reconnect with your family and friends, people who have missed you while you have been pursuing your degree. You will be focusing on your new career, and your family.

However, there will be a time to remember MCN and its important role in your journey. I hope you find a time to engage as an alumnus, and share with us your knowledge and expertise. You can do this in a number of ways:

- Be a guest speaker in a classroom, for candle-lighting, or commencement
- Teach as an adjunct member of our faculty
- Assist student clinicals when they are in your workplace
- Serve on advisory committees to the college or programs
- Attend conferences and workshops sponsored by the college or Illinois State
- Provide financial assistance for students, research or service programs

Whether you graduated in 1948 or in 2008—whether you last taught a class yesterday, five or 40 years ago—you will always be a part of the MCN family. The message remains the same—stay connected!

Jenny Ward
Director of Development
(309) 438-7178
jsward@ilstu.edu



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		

Welcome new faculty and staff

Spring 2008 staff appointments:

Chris Bray, program associate, Collaborative Doctoral Program Grant

Fall 2008 faculty appointments:

Marcena Gabrielson, assistant professor

Rachel Hudgins, instructional assistant professor

Dave Jansen, instructional assistant professor

Sheryl Jenkins, assistant professor

Cindy Kerber, assistant professor

Jaime Penrod, instructional assistant professor

Ashlee Sloman, instructional assistant professor

Mennonite College of Nursing events

The following are tentative events for fall 2008.

Friday, August 15

MCN Convocation

Friday, September 12

ETNH Community College
Consortium (Willowbrook)

Saturday, September 27

Alzheimer's Walk

Thursday, October 9

Regional Nursing Conference (Peoria)

Saturday, October 18

Homecoming

Friday, December 12

2008 Accelerated BSN Ceremony

**For a complete list of college events, please
visit our Web site at IllinoisState.edu/nursing.**

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