

# The Flame

Mennonite College of Nursing

ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2009-2010 ISSUE



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The magazine of Mennonite College of Nursing

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## Message from the dean

It has been an amazing year at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University! I am honored to have been named dean of this incredible college in such a historic year. In 2009, MCN celebrated the 90th anniversary of its founding, and the 10th anniversary at Illinois State. We had a wonderful celebration last fall, and I would like to thank everyone for giving me such a warm welcome to the campus and community.

The 2009–2010 year for MCN has been very productive, successful, and fun! This past year has also brought some changes to the college. First, I welcome you to the new format of *The Flame* magazine—this publication will now be published annually and will highlight alumni and student accomplishments. The college plans to have electronic updates throughout the year, and you can read about how to sign up for an electronic newsletter on page 14.

We have also had some strong nursing leaders joining MCN, and this is particularly exciting given the severe nursing faculty shortage! I am pleased to announce H. Catherine Miller accepted the position of associate dean and began her appointment in July. She was the associate dean of health and human services/director of nursing education at Heartland Community College. She has worked in leadership roles for several health care systems and schools of nursing, and is widely known across the state of Illinois as a strong nursing leader.

Shelly Malin was appointed as the Advocate BroMenn Professor. Malin was a faculty member at Marquette University for the last 20 years while also serving as the director of Advanced Practice and associate director of the Children's Research Institute at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin for the last eight years.

Caroline Mallory accepted the position of associate dean for research. She is also the graduate program coordinator and an associate professor. In order to support the expansion of the undergraduate program, MCN is also in the process of hiring six additional faculty members who will be terrific additions to our MCN community.

The college also engaged in a very successful and exciting retreat to create a Strategic Map for the next three–five years, and we are receiving excellent feedback from various groups. One component of our strategic plan is to expand our Community Advisory Council, and our new Strategic Planning Council will be announced in the fall.

Although these are challenging times, college and university leadership are moving forward to ensure that MCN has the resources and faculty support available to increase enrollment in our programs. The incredible generosity of our friends and alumni has allowed us to offer support to students who would not be able to continue their education without the scholarships provided. It also helps to ensure that our faculty can engage in the development needed to maintain the level of excellence Mennonite College of Nursing has always represented.

For any and all of you who have made a commitment to support the ongoing excellence of Mennonite College of Nursing, please accept my deep and heartfelt appreciation. It is essential for us to have MCN not only survive but thrive, and all of you are making that happen!

*Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN  
Dean and Professor  
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow*

## Making a difference

MCN is looking for stories about MCN alumni who are making a difference. Please submit information and photos about yourself or someone you know who has an inspirational story to share. You may e-mail information to Amy Irving at [amirvin@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:amirvin@IllinoisState.edu), or mail information to her attention at MCN at Illinois State, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810.

# MCN achieves 100 percent NCLEX pass rate

By Bree Davis

Graduates of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX-RN) on the first try in 2009, exceeding the national and state averages.

The 101 students surpassed the nationwide NCLEX-RN pass rate of 88 percent and the state of Illinois pass rate of 91 percent. The high percentage of Mennonite graduates who pass the licensure exam the first time is due in a large part to the College's Success Plan. Under the leadership of faculty member Cathi Kaesberg, the Success Plan focuses on critical thinking, integration of theory with clinical practice, and mastery in each course before progressing to the next. Mastery exams cover the specific subject matter included on the NCLEX-RN exam.

"This incredible outcome is attributable to our faculty's commitment, expertise, dedication, and teaching prowess in preparing future nurses," said Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Krejci. "It also speaks to the willingness of staff to consistently strive for excellence in their support of faculty and students, as well as Kaesberg's unrelenting focus on student success in her coordination of the College Success Plan."

The pass rate also exemplifies Illinois State's *Educating Illinois* objective "demonstration of excellence in teaching and learning at the undergraduate level."

"The faculty at MCN are gifted educators and researchers who demonstrate their expertise in clinical, classroom, and research settings," said Kaesberg. "The staff tenaciously supports the college infrastructure, which promotes college efficiency and organization. The students are talented and hard working individuals who have dedicated themselves to lifelong learning."

The difficulty of the NCLEX-RN exam was increased in 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 that it continues to address nursing standards. The passing standard was raised again effective April 1, 2010.

## Development notes



An education from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University is one of the best investments a person can receive...or give. Nursing students are fortunate to be able to apply for MCN scholarships every year—some of these scholarships are established by MCN alumni and some by special friends of the college who want to make a difference in the future of nursing. Each scholarship is connected to a story of how a nurse has touched a life in the hospital, in the community, in the nursing home, or in the classroom. Each scholarship promises to help students become outstanding nurses like those who came before them.

Students also make an impact on giving. This year's Student Nursing Association officers decided to raise the bar on senior giving during the 2010 Spirit Tassel Challenge. They asked their classmates to raise \$1500, more than any previous senior class. Dean Krejci, acknowledging the lofty goal, pledged to match senior giving if

the \$1500 goal was reached. The class of 2010 exceeded the challenge and raised \$1540.20, and was awarded an additional \$500 by the ISU Student Foundation for leading the campus in individual participation of 46.5 percent! The SNA officers directed the funds to be used for the Dean's Scholarship and a special simulation lab project. Thank you to the entire class of 2010!

As this issue of *The Flame* goes to press, the telefund is beginning MCN's annual calling. Join the class of 2010, and help make a difference to the student nurses through your gift. Thank you to all the alumni, students, friends, faculty, and staff who continue to support MCN!

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## Beyond the classroom experience

Since 1972 students at Mennonite College of Nursing have had opportunities to travel to locations where they would have a learning experience outside of the typical educational setting. MCN collaborated with the staff of the Appalachian Regional Hospital System Home Health Service in Harlan, Kentucky, to have students participate in giving nursing care to individuals and families in their own homes. This first experience was so successful that it was decided to continue to offer these opportunities to students. Thus, the Summer Service Program was established, as students spent time during the summer in transcultural locations. Some of these locations included clinics in Montana, Haiti, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, and Eastborne and Brighton, England.

In 1983, the college renamed the Summer Service Program as the Transcultural Nursing Program. Additional locations students visited included Mexico, Nova Scotia, and Africa, as well as New Mexico and Washington D.C.

Today, the Transcultural Experience is still an option for students to participate in a one-to-two-week trip during the summer to a location that is culturally different from central Illinois.

This past year, students traveled to Austin, Texas; Hyden, Kentucky; Little Village in Chicago; Haywards Health in Sussex, England; and Vladimir, Russia. "This is an incredible experience for our nursing students," said Karrie Ingalsbe, coordinator of Transcultural Initiatives. "The opportunities our students have at these various locations allow them to apply transcultural nursing theory in order to improve patient outcomes both domestically and internationally."

### Attention MCN Alumni

Did you participate in the Summer Service Project, Transcultural Independent Study, or Transcultural Nursing Elective? Contact Karrie Ingalsbe, coordinator of Transcultural Initiative at (309) 438-2684 or [ksingal@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ksingal@IllinoisState.edu) with the following information:

- Your name (please include maiden name)
- Graduation year
- Date and location of your trip
- What do you remember most about your experience?
- Would you be interested in connecting with a nursing student who is preparing to go on a transcultural trip this year?

## In their own words...



### Jessica Clipp, England

"My experience really broadened my view of nursing as a whole. It's easy to become so focused on how we do things in the U.S. that we can forget that nursing is different in every country. I was able to learn about nurses' roles in England and to compare it with our system. I learned that we

both have positives and negatives and can learn from each other to make a better nursing culture as a whole."

### Katie Mehlick, Hyden, Kentucky

"This trip was an amazing experience for me. I learned so much about the culture in Hyden, Kentucky, and even though they do things differently than we do in some ways, their main focus is on the patient and giving them the care they need. I would recommend going on one of the transcultural trips because it helps give you a new perspective of what nurses do and you are able to interact with some very interesting patients. It will be an experience you will carry for the rest of your life!"

### Abby Chovanec, Little Village, Chicago

"The Chicago trip was a great transcultural experience. Who knew that this city could be so much different than

the town of Normal (and be in the same state)! On the trip, we had the opportunity to work with the Latino population. This is vital because Latinos are among the top growing populations in the U.S. However, not only did we get to interact with this culture, we also encountered many people of other backgrounds. It was great to have the opportunity to work with such a variety of clients and, at the same time, enhance our cultural competency in the nursing profession."

### Katie Ritthaler Herman, Little Village, Chicago

"I gained so much experience on the trip! I saw so many new things, including conjoined twins, open heart surgery, and Pfeiffer syndrome. The nurses we worked with at the hospital were great, and they encouraged me to try new things. They taught me about everything that they did. They 'quizzed' me on different techniques and asked why we should do it one way over the other. I had so much fun getting to know a group of my classmates better too. I came home from the trip more excited than ever to become a nurse!"



## 2009–2010 event highlights

### 90/10 Anniversary celebration

Mennonite College of Nursing held an event to welcome Dean Krejci and also to celebrate the 90/10 Anniversary—90 years of nursing education and 10 years at Illinois State University this past September.

Speakers at this event included Illinois State University Trustee Betty Kinser, MCN President Emeritus Kathleen Hogan, alum and current Ph.D. student Geri Kirkbride, and Krejci. Mary Dyck, MCN College Council chair was the emcee.

Hogan spoke about the rich history of MCN. “Of all of my fond memories of MCN, the one that stands apart from all the rest is the spirit that is Mennonite. That spirit is embodied in our academic community—faculty, students, and staff. Each brought their own unique qualities, but the whole was greater than the sum of its parts.”



A. Speakers (left) Geri Kirkbride, Kathleen Hogan, Janet Krejci, Betty Kinser  
B. Dean Krejci (right) talks with alumni and guests  
C. MCN students at the celebration



### MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet

In May, the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization held the Awards and Reunion Banquet at the Alumni Center at Illinois State University. There were more than 90 people in attendance, including alumni

from the Class of 1940, (celebrating their 70th reunion) to the Class of 2010!

The following awards were presented: MNAO Distinguished Alumni, Patty (Franey) Haberkorn; MNAO Young Alumni, Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins; MNAO Service Award, Nancy Froelich; and a one-time special award, The Spirit of Nursing, was presented to Mary Punke and June Forbes.

Milestone reunion classes were recognized, and alums had a great time sharing stories about when they were in nursing school. After the luncheon, alumni and guests toured Edwards Hall and saw demonstrations in the nursing labs. They also toured the third floor “Hall of History” where class composite photos, scrapbooks, and uniforms are on display.

Save the date for next year—Saturday, May 14, 2011!

## Sigma Theta Tau International, Xi Pi Chapter

### History

In spring 1987, Kathleen A. Hogan, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing, approached administration and faculty regarding her desire to begin a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International at Mennonite College. The faculty quickly acknowledged the potential benefit of a Nursing Honor Society as a channel for recognizing the scholastic achievement of nursing students and graduates.

On April 14, 1987, a steering committee was formed to establish an honor society with an intent of developing a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. The first induction of the Mennonite College of Nursing Honor Society was held May 15, 1988. Anne Zimmerman, distinguished professor from Loyola University, spoke on “Excellence in Nursing.” A total of 98 members, including 18 students, 40 alumni, 21 Sigma Theta Tau members, and 19 community leaders, were inducted.

Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society, was chartered in spring 1992 and continues to this day. The mission is global and involves the following dimensions: knowledge utilization, knowledge dissemination, and resource development.

## Homecoming highlights

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students collaborated again this year to decorate Edwards Hall and the Professional Development Building with the Homecoming theme of “Rock the Red.” For the second year in a row MCN won first place! Each floor of Edwards Hall was decorated in a rock era—the 3rd floor had a 50s and 60s theme with a jukebox and “Al Bowman’s Diner;” the 2nd floor had a 70s and 80s theme with disco balls hanging from the ceiling; and the 1st floor was the 90s–present and had the mannequins set up as a rock band called the Band-Aids. The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization, Mennonite College of Nursing, and the Student Nurses Association planned several events on Saturday, October 17. There was a Donuts with the Dean open house at Edwards Hall before the parade. Several alums and guests stopped by to meet Dean Krejci and to see the building all decorated in the “Rock the Red” theme. SNA participated in the Illinois State University parade and were joined by Krejci and Alumni Day guest Theresa Adelman. After the parade MNAO/MCN/SNA hosted a tailgate in the Redbird Tent Zone.

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2010—Saturday, October 16!



A. Dean Krejci (right) and alumni enjoy the tailgate  
B. MNAO board members Linda Meints Cooper and Sara Lindsey

## Xi Pi induction ceremony

In November 2009, the Xi Pi Chapter held its annual induction ceremony at Edwards Hall. New inductees included: 15 Prelicensure B.S.N. students, three RN/B.S.N. students, eight Accelerated B.S.N. students, nine graduate students, three community members, and two dual or transfer members. Dean Krejci gave the keynote address: “Perceptions on the Future of Nursing Scholarship.” Guest speakers included Jessica Sullivan, master’s student, and Mary Dyck, associate professor. A reception to honor the new members followed the ceremony.

### Prelicensure B.S.N. students

Ashley Darling  
Colleen Densmore  
Kayla Fletcher  
Rachel Johnson  
Lauren Kopec  
Karmen Kudlicki  
Angela Linklater  
Sarah Long  
Megan Lowry  
Maura McDonald  
Sara Payne  
Carrie Pope  
Megan Rappleyea  
Nicole Rossom  
Amanda Sherman

### RN to B.S.N. students

Sharon Beckman  
Kimberly Cooley  
Susan Roberts

### Accelerated B.S.N. students

Cheryl Beverage  
Lisa Cross  
Tiffany Liewer  
Kathleen Powell  
Kenisha Purifoy-Morton  
Erica Sawdey  
Corinne Smith  
William Thompson

### Graduate students

Debra Herz  
Jose Mantilla-Acevedo  
Ellisa Russell  
Kathleen Self  
Megan Schmidt  
Cynthia Walden  
Becky Wallace  
Jeffery Williams  
Sue Winger

### Community members

Kelly Coddington  
Jan Crawford  
Paula Porter

### Dual or transfer members

Janet Krejci  
Blanca Miller

For more information about the Xi Pi Chapter, please contact:

*Deb Stenger, Xi Pi Chapter President*  
(309) 438-2576  
dasteng@IllinoisState.edu

*Rachael Hudgins, Xi Pi Chapter President-Elect*  
(309) 438-2467  
rhhudgi@IllinoisState.edu

# Student Nurses Association 2009–2010 highlights

By Lauren Towler, SNA president

This year has been one of the biggest years for the Student Nurses Association's history in terms of membership—for the 2009–2010 year there were more than 180 members! The officers and members have been actively promoting health related activities throughout the community and campus.



A. SNA at the Alzheimer's Memory Walk  
B. Dean Krejci (center) with SNA members at the Homecoming Parade

SNA participated in several off-campus activities. The Bloomington Polar Plunge was an event where SNA members raised money and then jumped into a freezing-cold lake for Special Olympics. At the Oakland School Health Fair, members taught elementary students about health related topics. Members participated in a Disaster Drill for OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, where they volunteered to act as victims. SNA sent thank you letters and packages to American soldiers fighting for our country overseas during the holidays. There were also various walks that members participated in, including the Relay for Life, Heart Walk, Alzheimer's Walk, Walk for Life, and MS Walk.

SNA was also involved in several campus events. We cosponsored the Health and Nursing Career Fair at the Bone Student Center, hosted SNA's first ever blood drive, contributed to Illinois State University's Haiti Relief Project to send various nonperishable items to Haiti after the devastating earthquake, and headed the organ donation campaign for Donate Life at Illinois State.

SNA participated in the Homecoming parade and joined faculty, staff, and alumni at the Homecoming tailgate party. SNA members helped faculty and staff decorate Edwards Hall, and we won the Homecoming building decorating con-

test for the second year in a row! (Now let's keep it a tradition!)

SNA sponsored multiple bake sales, Border's holiday gift wrapping, and bagged groceries at Cub Foods, with the proceeds going back into the organization. Some of the funds raised were donated for the exchange student nurses to visit, and our newest donation went to the West Lake Center (a facility used by our nursing students) to send their patients to a Recovery Conference in May.

I am so proud of what SNA accomplished in the 2009–2010 year. At the Candlelighting Ceremony it is a tradition for the current SNA president to pass the gavel to the next SNA president. I wish Katie Varney and all of the new SNA officers the very best and hope SNA continues to do outstanding community and campus activities.

## Student awards

The following awards were presented at the Commencement Ceremony in May:

*Dr. Herman Tiedeman Memorial Award:* Mauria Herman

*Senior Excellence Award:* Lauren Towler

*Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence:* Jessica Bode

*The Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award in Clinical Practice:*

Maura McDonald and Maggie O'Malley

*RN/B.S.N. Outcome Ability Caring Award:* Sandy Burns

*RN/B.S.N. Outcome Ability Professional Practice Award:* Sandy Burns

*Outstanding Graduate Student Achievement Award:* Jose Mantilla-Acevedo

### 2010–2011 SNA officers



(Left to right) President Katie Varney, Vice President Anna Mezyk, Treasurer Eleni Arestis, and Secretary Lauren Rowley

# Congratulations graduates!

## Bachelor of Science in Nursing

### Accelerated B.S.N. option—December 2009

Brian Baron  
Cheryl Beverage  
Krishna Bhanabhagwanwala  
Lisa Cross  
Elizabeth Devlin  
Jolene Dodge  
Tate Gaines  
Jamie Graack  
Jennifer Johnson  
Brenton Kneer  
Tiffany Liewer  
Andrea McLean  
Nicholas Meyer  
Angela Mizanin  
Valarie Nettleton  
Kathleen Powell  
Kenisha Purifoy-Morton  
Erica Sawdey  
Jill Scholl  
Corinne Smith  
Elaine Smith  
Sara Stockdale  
Robert Swaner  
William Thompson  
Diana Warnecke  
Aaron Wede  
Rebecca Yoon

### Traditional B.S.N. sequence—May 2010

Racheal Abraham  
Hannah Amling  
Lexi Behnen  
Kendra Bell  
Dawn Belpedio  
Kayla Benckendorf  
Kristina Bennett  
Mary Bennett

Joseph Benvenuti  
Jessica Bode  
Crystal Bricker  
Lindsay Bustle  
Christine Buxton  
Nicole Chaikin  
Abby Chovanec  
Jessica Clipp  
Francesca Contaldo,  
Tasha Corn  
Meghan Crockett  
Katherine Czarnota  
Ashely Darling  
Laura DeBolt  
Colleen Densmore  
Kristen Doe  
Christine Drabeck  
Emily Dubrick  
Michelle Errandi  
Daniel Evans  
Christine Faulkner  
Kayla Fletcher  
Jennifer Forrest  
Jennifer Foy  
Melissa Fox  
Emily Fredbloom  
Amanda French  
Aubrie Ghrist  
Molly Gibbons  
Lauren Graben  
Sarah Gulino  
Jamie Hardesty  
Katie Herman  
Mauria Herman  
Suzanne Hess  
Teresa Hogan  
Sarah Holycross  
Kathleen Hyrc  
Nicole Jacobs  
Rachel Johnson  
Catherine Judd



Krissa Kaisner  
Matthew Koester  
Lauren Kopec  
Ashley Koznarski  
Katelyn Krivanec  
Karmen Kudlicki  
Sarah Kwasigroch  
Chelsea Leesman  
Jaqueline Lill  
Angela Linklater  
Sarah Long  
Megan Lowry  
Amanda Markle  
Ashley Mastandrea  
Maura McDonald  
Laura McNichols  
Katie Mehlick  
Lee Murrin  
Marissa Nelson  
Kathryn Norris  
Stephanie Olson  
Maggie O'Malley  
Camille Overcash  
Michelle Pavlik  
Sara Payne  
Mathew Pickell  
Carrie Pope  
Jennifer Rakosky  
Megan Rappleyea  
Alexandra Rigor  
Sarena Richardson  
Nicole Rossom

Natalie Rowe  
Desiree Sandfrey  
Morgan Schaefer  
Erin Schmitt  
Amanda Sherman  
Kaylynn Stimpert  
Lauren Towler  
Wade Walters  
Melissa Watson  
Rebecca Wolff

### RN/B.S.N. sequence—summer 2010

Sharon Beckman  
Danielle Black  
Janice Braker  
Sandra Burns  
Kimberly Cooley  
Diana Galey  
Ashley Johnson  
Lindsay McCue  
Tammi McCurry  
Marie Ngateba-Messobo  
Janna O'Neil  
Elise Pfaffman  
Brittany Poulos  
Susan Roberts  
Shelby Warner  
Katie Wright  
Kelly Zehr



## Master of Science in Nursing—May 2010

### Family Nurse Practitioner sequence

Sara Drummer	Debra Herz	Darlene Severin	Carrie Tucker
Jennifer Effler	Jose Mantilla-	Carrie Stalter	
Jacqui Foster	Acevedo	Jessica Sullivan	

### Nursing Systems Administration sequence

Kathleen Self	Jeffery Williams
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# Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization 2010 Award Recipients

## Distinguished Alumni Award

Patty (Franey) Haberkorn, '83, M.S.N. '07, received the Distinguished Alumni Award—the highest award the college bestows upon its graduates—at an Awards and Reunion banquet in May. Haberkorn is a two time graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing, receiving her diploma in nursing in 1983 and her master's in nursing systems administration in 2007. She also received the Outstanding Graduate Achievement Award.

Haberkorn started her career at Fairbury Hospital where she worked in virtually every department: medical/surgical, ICU, ER, OB, and was house supervisor until 1989. She was hired at Futures Unlimited, which is a comprehensive center serving adults with disabilities. She has dedicated her career to meeting the health and medical needs of the disabled.

According to her nominator, her most significant accomplishment has been promoting awareness of the support needs of individuals of disabilities who are facing a health crisis or issue, which she does in several ways. She has developed an extensive rapport with the medical community throughout the region, and they all respect her insight when addressing the needs of someone who cannot necessarily communicate what's wrong. Haberkorn was instrumental in coordinating a medical treatment and follow-up plan that meets the needs of the individual with a disability. It could be something as simple as arranging for the person with autism to use the side door of the doctor's office because they may be uncomfortable in a waiting room with many strangers.

At MCN, Haberkorn serves as a preceptor and sees the importance of exposing students to the field of disabilities and the supports needed for providing good healthcare to the disabled. She also provides extensive training and support to the direct care workers at Futures Unlimited as they are often an integral part of the medical treatment plan for the person with a disability.

Haberkorn is an example of giving back to the community. Since 2001, she has been a member of the Prairie Central School Board and has served in several leadership roles on the board, including being elected as the president this past year. She is also a member of the Livingston County Educates for Alcohol Abuse and Prevention (LEAAP), The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Community Coalition, and most recently assisted the local Health Department in developing a Pandemic Flu Crisis Plan.

When asked about her MCN education, Haberkorn states, "I had a great education at the diploma level, and could handle whatever we encountered when we graduated." At the master's level she added, "Faculty supported us to achieve what we needed to, in spite of multiple demands of life. I am still interested in learning more, and would consider the D.N.P."



## Service Award

Nancy Froelich received the Service Award from the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization for her continued support of Mennonite College of Nursing. This award was presented to her at the MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet in May.

Froelich's name is associated with committed and engaged leadership in the local community, in business, higher education, and nursing. Her passion for excellence in health care extended to the Mennonite College of Nursing, where she guided the college through her service on the board, first as vice president from 1983–1990 and then as vice chairperson from 1991–1995. Froelich's confidence in and commitment to the Mennonite College of Nursing continued through its transition to Illinois State University. She served on the Board of Trustees at Illinois State and maintained her ties to MCN through her 10-year service as a member of the Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing.

William Froelich, who was a founder of Heritage Enterprises, has long been concerned with the quality of care and life for older adults. William and Nancy recognized the importance of the nurse in this process and established an endowment at MCN for the support of faculty and/or students whose personal mission is to provide or improve care for the older adult. Charlene Aaron, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa, faculty member at MCN, and former RN for Heritage Enterprises, was the first recipient of the Froelich Award.

Froelich continues to be connected with the college, offers assistance and referrals to other friends, and keeps the dean and staff apprised of issues of concern with the community.

"We are fortunate to have Mennonite College of Nursing in our community," said Froelich. "It has long been recognized throughout the country as a prestigious program. I am honored to receive the MNAO Service Award."



## Young Alumni Award

**Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins**, B.S.N. '06, received the Young Alumni Award at the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization's Awards and Reunion Banquet in May.

Jenkins graduated from the class of 2006. She received an externship at OFS St. Francis Medical Center, and after graduation she was hired directly into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at OSF. She cared for one to three intensive premature or ill newborn babies at a time, and was responsible for the

assessments and technical nursing care for the infants and education for the parents.

Jenkins was selected for a highly competitive Neonatal Intensive Care Program at Vanderbilt University. OSF was so impressed with Jenkins, that they paid for the program, tuition, travel, and books and maintained her position at OSF. In April 2009, she was appointed as a Neonatal

Nurse Practitioner at OSF. She is responsible for a team of 6–12 patients, which allows her to access the medical function, as she is involved in the plan of care. She goes on rounds with doctors, reviews plans of care, attends all high risk deliveries, and handles all resuscitations, tubes, and intubations. "This was my dream," said Jenkins. "To have this education and responsibility at my age is amazing. We touch so many lives, and we have a reunion picnic where the parents bring their babies back, who have become toddlers...after seeing them at this stage in their lives, I realize why I became a nurse—it is so rewarding."

In addition, Jenkins served on three important committees, as the NICU is undergoing a major expansion. These committees included: advising team on the addition of a meditation room on the clinic, transition team to run the Pain Committee in the NICU, and a ventilator committee, as the unit received new ventilators.

Jenkins serves as a valued preceptor for MCN students. Of her MCN education, Jenkins says, "The biggest thing I got out of my MCN education was the critical thinking skills, to step back, and look at the pieces of the picture. What is important is what you do with your brain, and not your hands. You can tell an MCN grad by the way they can see the big picture!"



## Spirit of Nursing Award

At the 2010 MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet, **Mary Punke '54** and **June Forbes '54** received the Spirit of Nursing Award for their dedication to the profession of nursing, their college, and classmates. They are a living testimony to the values of Mennonite College of Nursing, and concern themselves with the physical, emotional, and spiritual care of others, whether or not they are donning a nursing uniform. Initially nominated for the Distinguished Alumni Award, the committee thought it would be more appropriate to create a one-time award for this special situation and these exceptional individuals.

Last year they came to the aid of former alumni director of many years and classmate, Dorothy DeVore. DeVore suffered a horrible accident while accompanying her husband to a Chicago Hospital via an ambulance in April 2009. After many surgeries, DeVore returned home, unable to care for herself. The cost for home health care was beyond her reach, so Punke and Forbes provided continual care at DeVore's home. They were her eyes and ears and joined her on medical appointments. At these appointments, they took notes so they could follow specific medical advice for DeVore's recovery. The classmates continued to provide help to DeVore through February 2010.

Forbes spent much of her career as a long term care nurse in Colfax. Punke was a surgical nurse in Colorado and Hawaii, and then came back to Illinois and worked in long term care at Mennonite Hospital. Punke has been the "glue" of her class and continues to inspire them to attend various MCN events. They both have supported future nurses.

Even though they graduated from MCN more than 55 years ago, their dedication to their classmate, week in and week out, in her time of need, is a living testimony of what it means to be a Mennonite College of Nursing graduate.

## Alumni notes

**Kim (Drenth) Burke '02** works at Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center in the Children's Emergency Department. She is also enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program at University of Saint Francis in Joliet. She is married and has two children, Abbey (age 2) and Cayden (age 4). Burke and her family reside in Channahon.

**Diane Stephenson '87** is the director of Health Services at Lincoln College. She began her career at Lincoln College in 2008 and enjoys working with MCN students.

**Laurel Neitling '78** was appointed as the nurse manager of the Intensive Care Unit at Euclid Hospital last fall. She started her nursing career at Euclid Hospital in 1985 as the assistant head nurse in the Coronary Care Unit. Prior to being appointed as the nurse manager, she was a clinical nurse education specialist. She serves as the training center coordinator for the American Heart Association, Cleveland Clinic East. She is also a regional faculty and a voting member of the state of Ohio Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee.

### In memory...

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

'42 **Evelyn (Martin) Fanlund** passed away on January 8, 2010

'59 **Phyllis (Oldham) Martin** passed away on October 9, 2009

'63 **Sandra (Roth) Koerner** passed away on November 19, 2009

'85 **Shirley Swafford, B.S.N.**, passed away on January 7, 2010

**Frances "Gerrie" Godwin**, former MCN employee, passed away on February 16, 2010

'96 **Eric Tapley, B.S.N.**, passed away on May 22, 2010.

### Tribute to Eric Tapley (1959–2010)

Eric was a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing in 1996. I remember him with much fondness and joy. He was an adult learner who came to MCN with an amazing inner desire to help people on the road to health. He would engage his patients and families in dialogue that would soon have them smiling, and he would advocate on their behalf with the healthcare team. Eric didn't only care about his patients, however. He strongly believed in the importance of a positive work environment, and did everything he could to foster camaraderie among his peers as nursing students, and later, his fellow nurses. His advocacy for those in need was evident in his commitment to projects like the Family and Community Resource Center in Bloomington. Words like 'extraordinary, amazing, and fun-loving' have been used

to describe Eric. These attributes referred to both his character, but also his approach to nursing. His death has been a blow to all who knew him and loved him. He will be missed, but the enthusiasm he instilled in others to be the best nurses ever will live on through all who worked with him and continue to practice the art of nursing.

Lynn Kennell, M.S., RN  
Instructional Assistant Professor

*A scholarship in memory of Eric Tapley is being established by Heartland Emergency Specialists LLC. For more information or to make a gift in Eric's memory, contact Jenny Ward [jsward@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jsward@IllinoisState.edu), (309) 438-7178.*

# Class reunion photos



- A. 10th reunion, Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey B.S.N.
- B. 10th reunion, Susan Nelson M.S.N.
- C. 20th reunion, Cynthia (Steward) Stephenson
- D. 25th reunion, Dlorah (Ward) Zehr, Virginia (Huff) Gleason
- E. 40th reunion, Lana (Newton) Burson, Linda (Roe) Karle, Linda (Still) Edwards
- F. 50th reunion, (back row) Pauline (Bixler) Binegar, Beverly (Burns) Grimes, Delores (Miller) Carter, Barbara (Manchester) Benjamin, LuAnn (Boshart) Ladwig; (front row) Beatrice (Shult) Marting, Barbara (Hansen) Lamb, Juanita (Wilson) Hulvey, Virginia (Frank) Lockwood
- G. 60th reunion, (back row) Emily (Stanwood) Nafziger, Mary Alice (Stoll) Smith; (front row) Nelda (Litwiller) Buller, Wilma (Nussbaum) Zehr
- H. 70th reunion, Lois (Hoobler) Philpott



## Nursing simulation lab expansion

Illinois State University's Board of Trustees approved a \$2.1 million lab expansion at their meeting in May. The expansion will accommodate assessment labs, classrooms, patient simulation areas, and offices. This modular facility will be at Locust Street and Normal Avenue where the Modular Faculty Office Building is currently located.

Since merging with Illinois State in 1999, Mennonite College of Nursing has seen enrollment increase. MCN is on its way to doubling undergraduate enrollment, and the graduate program has almost doubled already. Simulation is becoming a larger, necessary component of clinical nursing education, and there is no additional space in Edwards Hall to meet the college's needs.

"Illinois State University has been admitting more students in the nursing program to meet the state's growing need for nurses," said Dean Krejci. "In order to accommodate the increase in enrollment, it requires more space and equipment. We received much support from Provost Everts and the vice presidents of Academic Affairs and Finance/Planning, and we were extremely pleased when President Bowman introduced this resolution and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved."



## Become a fan on Facebook

Mennonite College of Nursing has a fan page on Facebook. To join, visit our website at [IllinoisState.edu/nursing](http://IllinoisState.edu/nursing) and on the left side of the screen click on the "Join us on Facebook" icon. We will post news, events, and photos to keep you connected with MCN.

## The Flame magazine/ Electronic News

Mennonite College of Nursing is pleased to launch *The Flame* in an annual magazine format. This publication will take the place of the biannual newsletter, and will focus on student and alumni accomplishments and awards.

In order to keep people up-to-date on MCN news and events throughout the year, the college will be launching an e-newsletter beginning in fall 2010. This will NOT replace the printed issues of *The Flame*! This will be an electronic newsletter that will be sent approximately two to three times during the year with college news, events, and updates—most of which may appear in the printed magazine. To sign up for the e-newsletter, visit [IllinoisState.edu/nursing](http://IllinoisState.edu/nursing), click on the News & Events tab and submit your name and e-mail address.



# Alumni updates

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, and personal accomplishments, etc.). We will also submit your information to the *Illinois State* magazine. Please return this form to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810, or e-mail [amirvin@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:amirvin@IllinoisState.edu). Thank you for sharing your news!

Name		Date
Maiden name (if applicable)		Class year
Mailing address		
City	State	Zip
( )		
Phone	E-mail	
Present occupation/Employer		
News/Comments		



## Save the date—Homecoming 2010

Plans are being made for Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff, students, and alumni to celebrate. More information is available at [IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://IllinoisStateHomecoming.com).

## 2011 MNAO Awards Call for nominations

In conjunction with the college, the MNAO annually recognizes a number of MCN alumni or friends through its Alumni Awards program. Nomination forms are online at [mcn.IllinoisState.edu/alumni](http://mcn.IllinoisState.edu/alumni), then click the MNAO Awards tab on the left side for award information. If you would like a form mailed to you, contact the Dean's Office at (309) 438-2174. Awards will be presented at the MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet on May 14, 2011.



## Schedule of events

### October

#### **Saturday, October 16**

Join us for Donuts with the Dean at Edwards Hall before the Illinois State Parade, and after the parade join us for the MCN/MNAO/SNA Tailgate at Redbird Tentzone!

### November

#### **Saturday, November 6**

Family Weekend Open House

#### **Sunday, November 7**

STTI, Xi Pi Induction Ceremony

### December

#### **Wednesday, December 1**

Holiday Celebration at Ewing Cultural Center

#### **Friday, December 17**

Accelerated B.S.N. Graduation Ceremony

For more information about Mennonite College of Nursing events, visit [IllinoisState.edu/nursing](http://IllinoisState.edu/nursing).

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