Ask health care professionals what they love most about their work and the answer typically alludes to the fact that no two days are alike and no two patients the same. Both realities create excitement and satisfaction on the job, and ultimately make a nurse’s work particularly rewarding.

But the differing backgrounds, religious beliefs, and cultural norms of individuals add more than intrigue to the nursing profession. Each adds challenges and opens the door for misunderstandings, if not missteps, that ultimately hinder the work of a nurse who is not keenly aware of each patient’s unique needs and expectations. Mennonite College of Nursing works to remove such barriers through its Transcultural Nursing Program.

The program provides an avenue for personal and professional growth beyond the traditional classroom and clinical boundaries. “Basically the purpose of this program is to provide a transcultural learning opportunity for students in domestic and international locations,” Assistant Professor Karrie Ingalsbe said.

Ingalsbe oversees the program that has been offered since 1984. Through the years students have traveled to Kentucky, Montana, and New Mexico, as well as to international sites such as England, Japan, and Haiti. Approximately 10 percent of the college’s students participate annually in the program that strives to accomplish seven objectives.

The goals include helping students develop a sensitivity to persons of another culture, identify how health care providers offer culturally sensitive care, examine how cultural belief systems influence health care practices, identify the role of a health care provider in a different culture, and identify health care needs relevant to people of the culture studied. Students are also challenged to identify ways to communicate with patients when language barriers exist and are forced to critically examine their own beliefs regarding health and culture.

Before participating in the program, each student studies theories of cultural care diversity and universality. Upon their return, the students meet with Ingalsbe to reflect on what has been learned, how it fits into the theories studied, and how their new knowledge may alter the nursing care they will provide.

“As a result of these experiences, students come away with a new and growing perspective of nursing and what it means to deliver culturally sensitive nursing care,” Ingalsbe said. Students who

Continued on page 3
Dear Mennonite Alumni,

The second year of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University is well under way. There is tremendous interest in the nursing program, with several Illinois State students indicating an interest in pursuing their major. We have initiated an early-admission program for outstanding freshmen. Students who meet the criteria are admitted to the nursing program as freshmen. We are settled in our lovely surroundings. The class pictures are hung, and the Mennonite historic materials are being displayed on the third floor. I invite all of you to come and see the continuing tradition of excellence in nursing education. I wish to extend a special note of thanks to the friends of Mennonite College of Nursing for furnishing the Founder’s Suite.

Eltern Fojes and I had the opportunity to work in Coimbatore, India, this summer. We are consulting with Anna Bethingham Women’s University to plan a nursing program for southern India. Eltern and I are excited about the opportunities the exchange program will provide our students, faculty, and alumni. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the program with India.

I mentioned in the past issue that faculty and staff are working to put selected courses on the Internet. I am pleased to report that all course syllabuses are now available to students on the Web. Pathophysiology and pharmacology are being offered this semester as Web-based courses. The Distance Learning classroom and computer lab are completed. Take a look at our Web site:

mnc.edu

We are also interested in posting alumni news and photos. Please send us items you would like to see posted on the Web site.

Mennonite College of Nursing is collaborating with Heritage Enterprises to develop a teaching nursing home. This collaboration is designed to provide the nursing students with in-depth education and clinical experience in the care of the elderly. The nursing faculty are working with Heritage staff to develop outcome-based clinical research and staff development to ensure the highest quality of care.

Two nursing students have received honors. Sherry Archer was selected as Illinois State’s Young Alumni Leader and Lyn Marie Overlee was selected as an American Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing-Jamison Scholar. Several faculty have received honors as well. Details regarding accomplishments of these students and faculty can be found elsewhere in this issue.

I am proud to be associated with such outstanding staff, faculty, students, and alumni. I enjoyed talking with those of you who attended Homecoming events. I look forward to future events. Please keep in touch.

Nancy Rider
Dean
Nurse-futurist speaks at conference cosponsored by College

On September 14 Memmott College of Nursing cosponsored a regional conference with Illinois Wesleyan University, Bradley University, Heart of Illinois Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Illinois Nurses Association Districts 6, 7, and 15, and Xi Pi and Theta Pi Chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Featured speaker Daniel Pesut, a nurse-futurist, talked about how to use futuristic thinking to influence preferred futures. He outlined the purpose of futuristic thinking: “The purpose of future studies is not to predict the future, but to envision desirable futures and avoid or prevent catastrophic ones.”

More than 1,000 health care providers participated in the conference.

May 2000 degree candidates

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Rachel Jean Anderson, Morton
Sherry Ann Archer, Eureka, Missouri
Jennifer Lee Barnett, Terre Haute, Indiana
Melissa Jo Boteik, West Chicago
Tiffany Breatrall, Decatur
Wendy M. Carlson, Colfax
Amy Jo Cox, Morton
Alyson Christine Crosby, Bourbonnais
Cara Lynn Curless, Astoria
Mamia Mary Endelyke, Chicago
Tiffany Nicole Engellin, Marshalltown, Kansas
Kaye Marie Gent, Grand Ridge
Amy Elizabeth Hummoller, Libertyville
Dorcas Ignispy, Tremont
Brad R. Kaufmann , Morton
Jaime Kirston Kesler, Seymour
Elisa M. Kiefer, Waukegan
David Louis Kreiser, Bloomington
Danice J. King, Farmer City
Amy Marie Lepper, Streator
Valerie Ann Lenahan, Bradwood
Sarah L. Lindsey, Bloomington
Megan Rose Mariuzza, Lasalle
Devon Suzanne Moore, Bloomington
Mya L. Molson, Urbana
Erica Ann Mollendahl, Carlock
Jenny Elizabeth Rotolo, Rocklin
Melanie Gae Salkobis, Normal
Michelle Lynn Seice, Lincoln
Lynn Ann Stien, Rockton
Heather Ann Taylor, LeRoy
Mareta Or翰 Thornton, Normal
Kimara Jeannette Wilcox, Bloomington
Pamela Ann Zimmerman, Woodridge

Registered nurses receiving Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Jaime Janelle Blinkee, Normal
Emily R. Davison, Bloomington
Rebecca L. Ferguson, Normal
Andrea R. Gay, Normal
Jason Richard Huber, Fairbury
Deb Thompson, Havana
Gerri L. Whitcomb, Bloomington

Master of Science in Nursing
Laura Jeanne Amold, Mount Pulaski
Project: “Perceptions of a Mobile Health Unit in Logan County, Illinois”
Judith Marie Banning, Taylorville
Project: “The Voice of the Underprivileged”
Tina Marie Barber, Bement
Project: “Compiled Comprehensive Examination”
Linda Herriott Irle, Thomasboro
Project: “A Descriptive Correlational Study of Postpartum Depression”
Julie Kyle Malley, Decatur
Project: “Occlusopal Risk Factor Identification in Adolescents”
Susan Elaine Nelson, Springfield
Sheila Rollins Schmitz, Mahomet
Project: “Role of the Nurse Practitioner”
Dr. Karrie and Dr. Steven Ingalsbe
Project: “Osteoporosis Risk Factor Identification in Adolescents”
Susan Elaine Nelson, Springfield
Sheila Rollins Schmitz, Mahomet
Project: “Health Care Consumers’ Perception Level for Role of the Nurse Practitioner”
Crystal Ann Smith, Bloomington
Project: “Postoperative Care Use After Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction: The Effect on Range of Motion Rehabilitation”
Jill Ann Steppos, Springfield
Project: “Smokeless Tobacco Cessation: Clinical Trail”
Gena Sue Turner, Tamworth
Project: “Early Discharge and Learning Needs of Postpartum Women”

Dr. Karrie and Dr. Steve Ingalsbe

[continued on next page]

Nursing student receives scholarship

Lynn Overbeek is one of 15 undergraduate nursing students to receive the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Jansen Student Scholarship.

Eligibility and selection criteria included being a full-time student enrolled in a state-approved nursing program leading to licensure as a registered nurse; completion of at least half of the required hours for graduation; a minimum grade point average of 3.5; and an expressed interest in psychiatric mental health nursing.

The scholarship program focuses on understanding the role of the psychiatric mental health nurse; expanding concepts related to the role and function of professional nursing organizations; empowering the student to be involved in patient and nurse advocacy; and participation in mentor- protege developmental relationships.

Overbeek attended the 14th annual American Psychiatric Nurses Association conference titled “The Role of Discovery: Evidence-Based Practice and Advances in Psychiatric Nursing.” The conference was held October 25-28 in Crystal City, Virginia.

[continued on next page]
Facility members awarded fellowships

Three MennoNite College of Nursing facility members have been awarded fellowships. Associate Dean Sara Campbell, Associate Professor Brenda Jeffers, and Associate Professor Barbara Walpole participated in several national programs varying in topics from nurse scientist training to teaching rural health.

Campbell, along with Cathy Schwartz from Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, were selected for the Helen Field Foundation Leadership Initiative in Nursing Education Fellowship. They attended education sessions in San Francisco and are now implementing their proposal “Academic and Service Collaboration: Meeting the Demand for Empowered Professional Nurse Leaders.” Students from MennoNite College of Nursing are working at Memorial Medical Center with nursing leaders serving as preceptors.

Campbell was also selected for the National Institute of Nursing Research training program for nurse scientists on the merits of her proposal "Use of an Empowering Practice Model to Improve Quality of Life for Older Adults in Long-term Care Settings." While studying at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, Campbell gained knowledge related to research funding. She has presented research at the fourth International Academic Congress. She also has received a University Research Grant and plans to apply for increased funding in order to continue work in this area.

Jeffers was one of two nurses selected nationwide to serve as an intern at the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights. During her internship she wrote two articles, “Some Nurses Still Need End-of-Life Education” and “Mapping of the Human Genome Will Bring New Challenges in Ethical Health Care Delivery.” The articles will appear in the center’s upcoming on-line edition of Communiqué. Jeffers also worked on a background paper for the Human Genome Project, "Challenges in Ethical Health Care Delivery." The articles will appear in the center’s upcoming on-line edition of Communiqué.

Virginia M. Frank Lockwood, Bloomington, and her husband Robert E. celebrated their 40 wedding anniversary September 11, 2000. They are the parents of Cynthia A. Cook of Carlock, Robert C. Lockwood of Bloomington, Katherine Lockwood of Madison, Wisconsin, and Rebecca Lynn Lockwood of Memphis, Tennessee. There are four grandchildren. Virginia works part time as charge nurse in the skilled-care wing of Scottwood Health Care Center in Bloomington.

Her husband retired in 1998 from the city of Bloomington. Their youngest child, Rebecca, is working on her Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Daughter Katherine has a master’s degree in biological sciences and works for a Madison, Wisconsin, biotech company in research and development.

1992

Ellen Rayburn Wylie, Bloomington, is a registered nurse in obstetrics at BroMenn Regional Medical Center. She has been a board-certified laceration specialist since the fall of 1999 and is developing teen breast feeding classes through the local health departments. Ellen and her husband, Mark, have four children: Sarah, 11, Andrew, 8, Christopher, 6, and David 3.

1997

Chris Putnam, Springfield, is a maternal-child health nurse–WIC family case management with Sangamon County Department of Public Health. She also works as needed as a staff nurse at Children’s Hospital of Illinois (neonatal intensive care unit transport team).

1998

Amy Sackett Bates, Randolph, New Jersey, is employed in the cardiac progressive unit at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

1999

Katie Naber Bowman, Bloomington, is a registered nurse with pediatricians J. R. Paul and Sanjay Saxena in Bloomington and teaches a CNA course at Bloomington High School Area Vocational Center.

1999

Melanie Sue Mundwiler, Onida, is a full-time family nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood in Peoria. She passed the certification examination the first time she took it! Congratulations!

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.

Continued on next page
“Nursing was her life. I can remember Lena saying, ‘I’ll die helping somebody.’”—GLENN MAXWELL, brother

Lena Maxwell Endowed Scholarship Fund

The family of Lena Maxwell established an endowed scholarship in 1998 as a living memorial in her honor. Miss Maxwell’s life was guided by the following, which provides insight into her caring and compassion:

My Creed
To make the pathway smooth
Where other feet must tread,
Pluck off the crown of thorns
Lay roses in their stead;
To dry the falling tear,
To sing of love and peace,
To serve my fellowmen with joy—
This is my creed.
To sing of love and peace,
Lift up the ones who fall,
To lead the blind with skill,
And teach them how to walk;
This is my creed.

The purpose of the Lena Maxwell Endowed Scholarship is to promote caring and compassionate nursing care as well as involvement in service and leadership activities in college and/or community organizations.

Yes! I want to make a gift to the Lena Maxwell Endowed Scholarship Fund.
$1,000
$500
$250
$100
Other $ ________________

Please make your check payable to Illinois State University Foundation and write Lena Maxwell Scholarship on the memo line to ensure its correct deposit. Mail your gift to Illinois State University, Carrie Dougherty, Director of Development, Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060.

Lena Maxwell (1904-1998) graduated in 1928 from the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School, which later became Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing and then Mennonite College of Nursing. She served as superintendent of the school and director of nursing for 24 years (1935-1943 and 1946-1966). It was Miss Maxwell’s sense of dedication and service to the needs of others that reinforced and expanded during this period the school’s and the hospital’s reputations for providing exemplary health care.

Miss Maxwell, the woman fondly referred to as “Bloomington-Normal’s Florence Nightingale,” lived a life dedicated to service, “...not for ourselves but for others.” For her, “to be a nurse was to walk with God,” a statement that is reflective of how she lived her life. She is a symbol of what it means to be a Mennonite graduate, a Mennonite nurse. Her life was dedicated to the service of humanity.

Lena Maxwell’s family has graciously allowed Mennonite College of Nursing to share her words with recipients of The Flame. The following prayer, written by Miss Maxwell, seems especially appropriate at this time of year.

Dear Heavenly Father, who sendeth every good and perfect gift—we call to mind Thy loving kindness in Jesus’ name, Amen.

We thank Thee for all these things and many more, and above all we thank Thee for people with all their goodness and understanding, which so far outweigh their vices, their envy, and their deserts.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

“Christ has no hands but ours to do His work; therefore, I believe to be about God’s business it is my duty to daily seek significant Christian service and find joy in service above self.”—LENA MAXWELL

Lena Maxwell

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First Joslin Scholarship awarded to freshman from Lincolnshire

The First Joslin Scholarship was awarded to freshman Andrew Chusid, a graduate of Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. The scholarship is awarded to attract outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to Marian College of Nursing. During high school, Chusid worked at a pharmacy, was active in the Interact Club, served as president of Hebrew Club for two years, and received head life-guard certification through the American Red Cross. He became interested in nursing during summer stays in Los Angeles, California, where he interned at the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum Youth Drama Camp. When children were injured he would take them to the “Camp Mom” and help nurse them back to health. “When their pains were eased and they could reopen the others, the looks on their faces were priceless. I had done something wonderful for someone,” he recalled.

“Nursing is very personal to me. I have always wanted to help others beyond the reach of modern medicine. I feel that as a nurse I could help people physically and emotionally to both cure and heal them.”

Chusid is in the Honors Program and is a member of University Choir, Honors Student Organization, and Rugby Football Club. “I am thankful that the Joslin Scholarship will help me succeed in my education and help me become a part of the family of students, alumni, faculty, and staff at Marian College of Nursing. As a part of this family, I am confident that I can create some of the changes we all need to see in the world,” he said.

New arrivals

LeAnn Thiele Kane ’99 and husband Paul welcomed their second child, Daniel Paul, on March 30, 2000. His big sister is Emily. LeAnn is part-time case manager at St. Mary’s Hospital, Decatur, and an intensive care unit RN at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

Jackie Rosenbury Moraec ’89 and husband David of Kalamazoo, Michigan, welcomed a second daughter, Claire Elise, on April 26, 2000. She is a sister to Lauren, who was born August 28, 1998.

Kathie Helms Killay ’91 and husband Drew welcomed a daughter, Hannah Nicole, into their family on March 17, 2000. Her big sister Megan, 7, and big brother Derek, 4-1/2, are delighted. Kathie works part time as a telephone triage nurse.

Stephanie Bolatto Rowe ’91 and husband Scott celebrated the birth of a son, Augustin Reese, on October 17, 1999. His big sister is Madisen Elizabeth, 3+. Stephanie is a staff nurse in the ambulatory surgery/postanesthesia care unit at Prevera Saints Joseph Hospital in Eagan.

Lyn Alweo Kurt ’92, and husband Matthew of New Jersey, welcomed twins, Madelyn and Maxwell, born on February 4, 2000. Their big brother Sam is 3+. Lyn is employed as a maternity RN at Bellin Hospital.

Kimberly Withelt Man ’96 and husband Dan of Herscher welcomed a baby girl, Anna Marie, June 9, 2000. She is the sister of Allison, 20 months. Kim started a new job as a nursing instructor at Kankakee Community College in the fall of 2000.

Jean Peterson Abbott ’97 and husband Russ announce the arrival of their first child, Jordan Matthew, born August 10, 2000.

Ashley Hughes Neil ’97 and husband Jim of Rochester, Minnesota, welcomed their first child, Tever William, on January 29, 2000. Ashley is an orthopedic surgery nurse at Mayo Clinic.

Cindy Hudkins ’98 and husband David of Grand Ledge, Michigan, celebrated the birth of their first child, Evan Michael, on October 8, 1999. Cindy is an RN in the cardiac intensive care unit of Sparrow Health System.

Nominations

You’re invited to nominate graduates of Marian College of Nursing for the Distinguished Alumna Award and/or the Young Alumna Award.

The Distinguished Alumna Award is presented to graduates who have demonstrated dedication to the nursing profession, exhibited leadership ability, shown outstanding professionalism, promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and who are held in high regard by their peers and their community.


The Young Alumna Award is presented to a alumna who has graduated within the past 15 years and who have shown continued interest in and support of Marian College of Nursing, demonstrated professional achievement, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the college in their life.

The award was established in 1996, and Douglas Brown ’81 was the first recipient. Mary Anne Kitzerer ’82, ’87, received the award in 1997; Mary Slutz ’83, in 1998; Diane L. Radimer Whipple ’83, in 1999, and Sara Campbell ’86 in 2000.

Nominations for these awards may be submitted by anyone (nurse or otherwise) no later than June 30. The awards will be presented during Homecoming.

Marriages


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presented a portion of her postdoctoral
made a presentation on skin-care issues to members of Eldercare Group
presented “Critical Thinking Development Among Nursing Staff” at Passavant
made a poster presentation, “Comparison of Pregnant Women’s Nutritional
became secretary of Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau on July 1, 2000.

Celebrate nursing leadership.

The event brought together health care leaders from throughout Illinois to recognize and celebrate nursing leadership.

Homecoming 2000

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Associations hosted Homecoming on October 7, 2000. Honored Reunion Classes included 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1975, and 1990. Many alumni joined in the festivities. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to see the remodeled Edwards Hall, the new home of Mennonite College of Nursing.

During the Homecoming celebration two alumni were honored for their achievements. Beverly Klinkhammer ’81 received the 2000 Distinguished Alumni Award. Beverly is the associate vice president in the patient care division at Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago. She has published several articles and coauthored such books as Quick Reference for Pediatric Emergency Nursing and Quick Reference for Emergency Nursing. When asked what she considered her most important achievements, she responded, “My daughter Emily, my writing, and my career.”

Sara Campbell ’86 received the 2000 Young Alumni Award. She has served in many capacities at Mennonite College of Nursing since 1981, starting as a lab assistant. She has worked as coordinator for student development, assistant professor nursing administration, interim undergraduate director, and is currently the associate dean. Sara was selected as a Leadership Initiative for Nursing Education (LINE) Fellow, funded by the Helen Fuld Trust for her work to enhance the leadership skill of both nurse educators and nursing students at the baccalaureate level.

The members of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Association Administrative Board have established the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. The bylaws of the organization were restructured under the leadership of alumna Alice Deavers with input from Barbara Todd, Illinois State University Alumni Services director, Dorothy Devore, and other administrative board members. Copies of the bylaws were available at the Homecoming and can also be obtained upon request. This endowed scholarship fund provides scholarship support for Mennonite College of Nursing students.

Homecoming 2001 is scheduled for October 26-28. Mark you calendars now. We would love to see you in October 2001!

Faculty scholarly activity

In July 2000 Assistant Professor Caroline Mallory presented a portion of her postdoctoral research at the Annual Conference on the Roles of Families in Preventing and Adapting to HIV/AIDS, which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Mental Health in Chicago. Mallory’s presentation was titled “The Role of Romantic Relationships Between Men and Women and Southern African-American Women’s Experience of Infection with HIV.” Her research focuses on the prevention of HIV among women at high risk, and she is developing ways to help women protect themselves against the virus that causes AIDS.

Donna Redding presented “Critical Thinking Development Among Nursing Staff” at Passavant Hospital in Jacksonville on July 19 and at BroMenn on August 10. She also presented “The Relationship Between Critical Thinking Disposition and Academic Achievement in Baccalaureate Nursing Education” at the University of Indiana’s fifth annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference on September 20.

Cindy Sullivan presented “Nursing Student Perspectives about Nursing History” at Past Matters: Rethinking the History of Science and Technology and Health in March at Illinois State University.

Barbara Walpole made a presentation on skin-care issues to members of Eldercare Group sponsored by the Illinois State University Wellness Program.

Eileen Fowles made a poster presentation, “Comparison of Pregnant Women’s Nutritional Knowledge and Dietary Intake,” at MNRS in April 2000. She also presented a poster, “Validation of the Prenatal Maternal Attachment Scale,” at the ANA convention in June 2000. She traveled to India in July.

Kim Astrøl became secretary of Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau on July 1, 2000.
Science and Higher Education for Women in India.

Annalakshmi Ramakrishnan, India's first women's medical college in Coimbatore, founded a way to move forward on both objectives by addressing the needs of those who are vulnerable and underserved. The college's desire to pursue a nursing program, Canabal said, because of the relationship Illinois State had already established. Professors Pat Ridenour and Eileen Fowles, who teaches graduate student nurses, serves as the college's research coordinator. In addition to supporting the institute's efforts to begin a nursing program, Fowles traveled to India to pursue her own research in nutrition in pregnancy. "I had gone over hoping to get into the villages to see what the women eat," Fowles said. She soon realized that others at the institute had already completed such work and were eager to share their findings. "I was able to help them analyze their data," Fowles said, admitting she would not have been able to collect such valuable information on her during her shorter stay. "It was really eye-opening," Fowles said of the research. She went through a real challenge because of a cultural difference, a transcultural experience," Fowles said. "We will go there and see patients from different cultures. We’ll understand where they are coming from with their health care needs and be able to provide better care as a result." Most important, the relationship will allow the college to move forward, noting there will be multiple benefits: "There are real health needs in India tied to an aging population and related to sanitation," Ridenour said. The country needs more trained professionals to deal with increasingly complex health care issues, such as infectious disease control and birth traumas.

The implementation of an externship program for juniors in nursing marks a new phase in the ongoing collaboration between Mennonite College of Nursing and Carle Foundation Hospital. The program gives students an opportunity to be mentored by an experienced nurse in a variety of acute-care settings, including the emergency department, medical/surgical, maternal health, and intermediate-care units. Students are paired with a single mentor and during an eight-week period are able to apply nursing skills in a learning environment. Nancy Ridenour, Mennonite dean, and Pam Bigler, nursing services director at Carle Foundation, proposed the externship as part of a comprehensive collaboration between Mennonite and Carle.

The issue is but one way Mennonite College of Nursing can play an active role in increasing the health of women in the country. There will be ample additional opportunities once the institute opens the nursing school, which Ridenour predicts could take many months. In the interim she and Fowles will continue their correspondence with their colleagues in India, offering whatever support and guidance they can.

Both women are eager for the institute’s nursing school to move forward, noting there will be multiple benefits: "There are real health needs in India tied to an aging population and related to sanitation," Ridenour said. The country needs more trained professionals to deal with increasingly complex health care issues, such as infectious disease control and birth traumas.

The purpose of the Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) is “to provide the opportunity for participation in meetings and activities that contribute to his/her personal and professional development and networking” (SNA Bylaws, 2000). SNA also offers nursing students the opportunity to develop a bond with fellow students, faculty, and staff. The students involved in this organization are to promote good citizenship and are encouraged to be involved in the university’s development: "We took syllabi and talked about what the courses will look like and what books will be needed, and looked at proposed facilities and what it might look like, and discussed where to recruit faculty," Ridenour said. “The biggest issue will be finding faculty. That is a real challenge because of a shortage of nurses in general internationally and the fact that faculty will need clinical and expertise, as well as academic credentials.”

Ridenour envisions that Mennonite College of Nursing will not only help design laboratory centers but assist in intensive clinical training for faculty during visits to Illinois State. “It will be their college of nursing now, but it is a collaborative effort with Illinois State to help get them started," she said.

That collaboration has already begun through faculty such as Fowles, who teaches graduate student nurses, serves as the college’s research coordinator. In addition to supporting the institute’s efforts to begin a nursing program, Fowles traveled to India to pursue her own research in nutrition in pregnancy and how issues tied to both vary by culture. “I had gone over hoping to get into the villages to see what the women eat," Fowles said. She soon realized that others at the institute had already completed such work and were eager to share their findings. "I was able to help them analyze their data," Fowles said, admitting she would not have been able to collect such valuable information on her during her shorter stay. “It was really eye-opening," Fowles said of the research. She went through a real challenge because of a cultural difference, a transcultural experience," Fowles said. "We will go there and see patients from different cultures. We’ll understand where they are coming from with their health care needs and be able to provide better care as a result.”

Most important, the relationship will allow Mennonite College of Nursing to not only remain true to its mission statement but, indeed, bring it to life.

**Association promotes involvement, fellowship**

The purpose of the Student Nurses Association (SNA) is “to provide the opportunity for participation in meetings and activities that contribute to his/her personal and professional development and networking” (SNA Bylaws, 2000). SNA also offers nursing students the opportunity to develop a bond with fellow students, faculty, and staff. The students involved in this organization are to promote good citizenship and are encouraged to be involved in the university’s development. Nancy Ridenour, co–vice president; Corrine Fortney, secretary; and Kristin Anderson, treasurer. Advisors are Janeen Moellenhauer and Cindy Sullivan.

**Externship program established**

The implementation of an externship program for juniors in nursing marks a new phase in the ongoing collaboration between Mennonite College of Nursing and Carle Foundation Hospital. The program gives students an opportunity to be mentored by an experienced nurse in a variety of acute-care settings, including the emergency department, medical/surgical, maternal health, and intermediate-care units. Students are paired with a single mentor and during an eight-week period are able to apply nursing skills in a learning environment. Nancy Ridenour, Mennonite dean, and Pam Bigler, nursing services director at Carle Foundation, proposed the externship as part of a comprehensive collaboration between Mennonite and Carle. Jessica Rayburn, who was selected to be the first participant in the program, gained experience working in the emergency department.Caroline Mallory, an assistant professor who helped develop the program in collaboration with Carle managers and specialists, expects the program to be of benefit to the increasing number of applicants expected this coming spring.
Donations to Mennonite College of Nursing are used to increase funding in
☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowment Fund
☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund
☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Professorship Award for Chronic Disease
☐ Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Endowed Fund
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