Retired nurse, Red Cross volunteer creates scholarship fund

Vivian Stockdale has established a nursing scholarship fund through the Illinois State University Foundation to help pay the educational costs of students who are pursuing a nursing degree from Mennonite College of Nursing.

Stockdale is retired from the military and involved in Red Cross blood drives. She served in the Navy for four years in hospital settings, providing nursing services. She was called up as a reservist for another 18 months during the Korean War. She is a longtime resident of the McLean County area and a dedicated volunteer for the local Red Cross chapter. She is aware of the nursing shortage and hopes that the scholarship will help a Mennonite student who needs financial assistance.

The Vivian Stockdale Nursing Scholarship Fund is an “open fund” that may be increased at any time through additional gifts. If you would like more information on planned giving, please contact Dorothy Witte, director of development, at (309) 438-3134.

Yes! I want to make a gift to the Vivian Stockdale Nursing Scholarship Fund.

☐ $1,000  ☐ $500  ☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ Other $ ______

Please make your check payable to Illinois State University Foundation and write “Vivian Stockdale Nursing Scholarship Fund” on the memo line to ensure its correct deposit. Mail your gift to Illinois State University, Dorothy Witte, Director of Development, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060.

Hartford Institute awards college $90,000

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing in collaboration with The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing awarded the Mennonite College of Nursing a $90,000 grant this spring to assist with incorporating more geriatric best-practice content into all the undergraduate clinical courses. Researchers at the Hartford Institute identified areas of need and have published a curriculum guide, which includes geriatric best-practice topics and information to include in the curriculum.

Four Mennonite College of Nursing faculty—Associate Professor Brenda Jeffers, Associate Dean and Assistant Professor Sara Campbell, Instructional Assistant Professor Diane Clement, and Instructional Assistant Professor Camille Little—will lead the faculty in developing modules for every undergraduate clinical course to assure the inclusion of best practices in geriatric nursing content. Jeffers and Little are working on an ethics module for the “Leadership/Management” class and plan to complete a module by May 2002. This module will serve as the prototype for course module development. As faculty develop course modules, those faculty with experience in the process will assist others as necessary to ensure that all modules are developed and infused into the current coursework. Collaboration among the faculty is a key element of the project.

The title of the project, “Creating Innovative Strategies in Nursing Education to Improve Care of the Older Adult,” reflects the focus: assuring that Mennonite nursing students receive the best education regarding provision of quality nursing care to the elderly. The classroom experience for the students will be enhanced through the addition of new curriculum modules and the use of state-of-the-art technology. As the modules are developed they will be placed on the World Wide Web for use by any interested school of nursing. In addition, students may be more inclined to consider careers in nursing homes, which will make a difference in the current and future staffing projections of nursing shortages in such facilities across the country.

One interesting aspect of the design of the modules is the plan to incorporate the use of Illinois State University theatre students to provide visual medical scenarios for nursing students. Members of the Hartford team are collaborating with the Theatre Department to arrange for theatre students to act out case studies (provided in the Hartford best-practices curriculum) to be filmed on video and used in the modules. The filming of these clinical scenarios will occur in Mennonite’s clinical nursing laboratory at Edwards Hall. The video clips will enhance learning and enrich the classroom experiences of nursing students.

A kickoff event for the Hartford project was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, in the Founders Suite at Edwards Hall. Beth Barba, Ph.D., R.N.C., an associate professor from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, presented “Caring for the Older Adult: Generating Student Enthusiasm in the Classroom.” Barba provided information about collaborative learning strategies, instructor resource manuals, nursing care of the older adult, and clinical strategies. Brenda Jeffers commented on Barba’s...
Many exciting things are happening at Mennonite College of Nursing. In the last issue of The Flame we reported that the Commission on Col- legiate Nursing Education (CCNE) would be conducting the accreditation site visit April 3-5. I am pleased to announce that the CCNE site visitors during their verbal report indicated that they are forward- ing to the accrediting board: “No recommendations; all standards have been met.” This is unprecedented in that very rarely are there no recommendations. There are still a few steps of the process, so we will not have official notification until midway through the fall semester. I wish to extend thanks to everyone who has made this achievement possible. Thank you to all who continue to be ambassadors for the college. Your contributions to nursing have brought the college this success. Thank you to faculty and staff who have worked to continue the tradition of excellence. Thank you to the students who provide constant inspiration. Thank you to the advisory committee and to the employers of our graduates. All of you have contributed to the legacy that is Mennonite College of Nursing.

Some of you may be wondering about the current accreditation by the National League for Nursing, Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The college has decided to seek CCNE accreditation and not to seek reaccreditation by NLNAC. This decision was made after careful deliberation. In response to requests from baccalaureate and higher degree programs for an accrediting process that addressed B.S.N. and graduate program needs, CCNE was formed. Mennonite College of Nursing has chosen to achieve CCNE accreditation because it was deemed to more closely reflect our values. We have not lost NLNAC accreditation; rather, we have chosen not to spend the financial and human resources necessary to maintain two separate accreditations.

Mennonite College of Nursing students continue to excel. Several of our students were elected to state offices in the Illinois Student Nurses Association. Cheryl Coleman, president; Jamie Schwarz, secretary-treasurer; Kate Jajkowski, director of publications; and Nicole Riley, director of marketing. At the recent national convention in Philadelphia, the college’s chapter of the Student Nurses Association received the Membership Retention Award from the national organization.

Faculty achievements continue to bring recognition to the program. Sara Campbell has been selected for leadership fellowships with Sigma Theta Tau International and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Heather Reynolds, a certified nurse-midwife at Yale University, was named one of the 35 most influential nurses and medical professionals in the country by Nursing Times, a national publication and served as a visiting minority scholar at Illinois State University this spring.

As the state budget constrains, Mennonite College of Nursing is seeking funds to support our innovative projects. Brenda Jelfers and Sara Campbell have received a Hartford Institute grant to support geriatric curriculum innovation, and Susan Kossman has received a grant to expand the R.N. to B.S.N. program online. The University has announced a capital campaign to increase its endowment. We appreciate the support we are receiving from the community. For example, the BroMenn Auxiliary has contributed a significant amount toward the purchase of our second simulation robot, and BroMenn Health Care has pledged to establish a BroMenn Professorship in Nursing. Homecoming is October 4-6. Hope to see you then!

Nancy Ridenour
President
(309) 418-7400

Associate dean active in professional circles

The past year was a busy one for Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, including Associate Dean Sara Campbell, who is now a stranger to service and leadership. The College was one of five Chor on Fellows worldwide to participate in Sigma Theta Tau’s International Leadership Institute, which sponsors a fellow-mentor program centered on developing leaders for healthy communities. This is a 12-month program in which she will develop a community project, working under the expertise of her mentor, Angela McBrade, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, distinguished professor and university dean at Indiana School of Nursing. The project focuses on Mennonite College of Nursing’s commitment to addressing the needs of the community in which it is embedded, particularly the community’s nursing workforce needs. The project will culminate with the development of a three- to five-year plan for Mennonite College of Nursing that addresses the role of the college in leadership for a healthier community.

Sara Campbell’s selection for the University of Iowa’s 2002 Summer Scholar was also chosen this past March as an AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Program Fellow. Campbell was one of five Chor on Fellows worldwide to participate in Sigma Theta Tau’s International Leadership Institute, which sponsors a fellow-mentor program centered on developing leaders for healthy communities. This is a 12-month program in which she will develop a community project, working under the expertise of her mentor, Angela McBrade, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, distinguished professor and university dean at Indiana School of Nursing. The project focuses on Mennonite College of Nursing’s commitment to addressing the needs of the community in which it is embedded, particularly the community’s nursing workforce needs. The project will culminate with the development of a three- to five-year plan for Mennonite College of Nursing that addresses the role of the college in leadership for a healthier community.

Spring 2002

The Flame

Mennonite College of Nursing donor roll

October 1, 2007 March 31, 2007

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Continued on next page

posted on current and upcoming activities related to the project. A new volume of the newsletter will be distributed quarterly to keep faculty apprised of and involved in the module development process. "This grant provides an excellent opportunity for cross- discipline collaboration to improve geriatric care. It is exciting to work with the theatre students and to incorporate suggestions from nurses practicing in gerontology. Mennonite College of Nursing is developing learning materials that can be used nationwide," said Dean Nancy Ridenour.

presentation: “Dr. Barba’s work in the development of geriatric curriculum has received recognition by the John A. Hartford Institute, making her an ideal speaker to generate faculty enthusiasm for geriatric curriculum development.”

A newsletter, Hartford Happenings, is produced by the team as an avenue for disseminating information about the project to faculty and to keep them informed of current developments.

Hartford Institute continued from page 1

For information about the Geriatric Care module see page 19.
Nurse selected as resident minority scholar

This past March the Illinois State University Office of Student Affairs sponsored Heath Reynolds as a minority scholar in residence. Menonite College of Nursing was honored that a nurse was selected. Heath Reynolds, M.S.N., C.N.M., P.A.C.N.M., an associate professor at Yale University School of Nursing, is the clinical director of nurse-midwifery and Yale School of Nursing faculty practice. While at Illinois State she was able to study relationships that exist between students and faculty, see the quality of student life, glean some insight into research at an international level, and experience relationships Menonite College of Nursing has with the community.

Reynolds shared her experiences with a diverse group of students, staff, and faculty across the Illinois State University campus. She talked with Menonite College of Nursing students and students who might consider nursing as a profession. She noted that relationships that exist between students and faculty at Menonite College are much like mentorship relationships. She also visited BroMenn Medical Center, one of Menonite’s students clinical sites and attended several nursing classes, including “Parent Child Nursing,” “Community Health Nursing,” and “Family Nurse Practitioner.”

Reynolds also was able to speak with the Irving Elementary School third grade about becoming a nurse. She thinks it’s wonderful that Menonite partners with the community in programs such as the “adoptions” of Irving Elementary School and the nursing home. She would like to see more colleges develop such relationships with their communities, saying, “Those partnerships offer needed assistance to the community while providing nursing students with valuable learning experiences.”

While here, Reynolds met with the internationals nursing students program faculty and staff, and discussed research interests with graduate students. “I got a lot of useful information from the Internationals Studies program faculty and staff regarding how to find resources to increase my cultural competence of the South African culture.” Before leaving, she presented “Centering Pregnancy. A Model of Group Prenatal Care” at Bone Student Center for students, faculty, and staff. The model may offer strategies that can be utilized in South Africa to promote risk reduction behaviors to decrease HIV transmission in that population. It was a valuable experience for both Reynolds and Illinois State University. “Illinois State has an extraordinary campus with incredible support systems available for students,” she said. Menonite College of Nursing hopes that by having the opportunity to share our nursing school with minority scholars we are also able to learn more about others and how we can affect those around us.

Debra Smith, assistant administrator of patient services at St. Joseph’s Medical Center, is the newest member of the Menonite College of Nursing Advisory Council. St. Joseph’s offers six facilities for nursing students’ clinical experiences and provides nursing preceptors for student externships.

The council was established in 1999 to serve as an advisory board to the dean of Menonite College of Nursing. Enhancing nursing education, research, and management opportunities for the benefits of all advisory council members are the main goals of the council. An additional focus for Menonite College of Nursing is to create a center for excellence in nursing education.

Member organizations represent the council provide clinical opportunities and host preceptors for Menonite nursing students. Representatives from six other health care organizations also serve on the council, including Marsha Prater of Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Pat Thorns of BroMenn Health Care, Pam Bigler of Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Rose Stadel of Heritage Manor in Normal, and Joe Warner of Heritage Enterprises in Bloomington.

The purpose and functions of the advisory council was to complete a study titled “What are the Ideal Qualities of a New Nurse Graduate?” This study provided helpful information regarding essential characteristics needed by new nursing graduates. This information is incorporated into Menonite’s coursework to assure that Menonite graduates are the preferred nursing staff of local and area medical organizations. Results of this study indicate that the ideal graduate is capable in every possible way. The ideal graduate is first and foremost an honest, self-aware, and compassionate human being. The ideal graduate is also an adaptable individual, able to prioritize and become a lifelong learner. Furthermore, the ideal graduate is accountable for his/her practice, able to connect with people, and exhibits a positive attitude. The study also identified areas of concern related to new graduates as a whole. These areas of concern will provide a springboard for determining how the college can improve to under- graduate curriculum.

Currently the council is focusing on disseminating the results of the focus-group study to benefit our regional partners and the discipline of nursing as a whole.

Dean Nancy Ridenour commented on the importance of the advisory council to the future development of Menonite College of Nursing. “Our presence provides invaluable support and linkages to the health care community. Welcome to Deb and OSF!”

Students learn about poverty

Thirty-seven Menonite College of Nursing students participated in a role-playing program on September 7, 2001, with the University of Illinois Extension Office. The idea grew out of an experience students had at the Home Sweet Home Mission last year. Most students do not understand poverty, having come from families who have homes, cars, and health insurance. Student nurse Amy Crawford participated in this poverty simulation last year while working with the John M. Scott Health Center through the local University of Illinois Extension. Faculty member Danielle Clements heard about this opportunity and contacted Sandy McCabe with the U. of I. Extensi- on Office to set up a poverty simulation at Menonite College of Nursing for students enrolled in the psychiatric nursing clinical.

With little other information, psychiatric nursing students took on the roles of people living in poverty. (For example, young, unwed mothers and senior citizens on fixed incomes) They were given an income and a list of expenses, including utilities, rent, and food. People in poverty are stigmatized, as are people who are mentally ill. So for those who are mentally ill and poor it is a “double whammy.” Community leaders who had already been through this poverty simulation volunteered to represent welfare agents, police officers, social workers, and teachers.

This exercise gave psychiatric nursing students the opportunity to experience (rather than be lectured about) how much work it takes to get help and how those who give help are not always sympathetic. After this exercise, students will have more understanding of what poor patients face and nurses will learn how they can be supportive when they encounter clients.
Work with Irving School continues

Mennonite College of Nursing students and faculty continue to work with Irving School, a public school in Bloomington District 87, to give the elementary students the opportunity to learn more about wellness and careers in nursing. This spring many events were hosted by Irving School, giving Mennonite students the opportunity to use their nursing skills.

Community health nursing students recently completed their second Health Fair. This is a great time for Irving students to learn about healthy eating, hygiene, and safety. During the last school year, six psychiatric nursing students did teaching projects with Irving students, covering topics such as self-esteem and conflict resolution. Two other psychiatric nursing students planned and facilitated a Health Fair during which they taught Irving students stress-management techniques. Periodically community health nursing and psychiatric health nursing students present lessons in Irving School classrooms.

Mennonite College of Nursing nurse practitioners and professors completed school physicals on 15 Irving students at the school. Mennonite is hoping to make this an annual activity. Denise Wilson is working on plans to return to August to complete more physicals.

On March 20, 2002, Heather Reynolds, our visiting minority scholar from Yale School of Nursing, provided a 45-minute presentation/discussion to about 45 third grade Irving students regarding her educational experiences and work in nursing. She provided gifts of ink pens and a stuffed animal of Yale’s mascot to the students. They enjoyed her visit and asked a lot of questions about nursing and her background. Rita Chaney provided nursing recruitment posters to the principal, Mary Kay Scharf, to post in classrooms to encourage children of both sexes and all races to consider nursing as a career.

Chaney has also submitted a grant for an after-school program to encourage positive hygiene and educate Irving students about nursing careers. She is also in the final stages of completing two other grants to submit. One is for an angler-management program and the other is for a Dental Fair to provide preventive oral education to students. The adoption of Irving School has proven to be a positive experience for both Mennonite College of Nursing and Irving School. The commitment of faculty and students to public service not only enhances the in-class curriculum, but also encourages learning outside of the classroom while providing a needed service to the Bloomington community.

New employees

Marilynn Mehli began work May 13, 2002. She comes to Mennonite College of Nursing from University Housing Services, where she worked for two years. Prior to joining the University staff, she worked at BroMenn for 10 years, most recently in the clinical education department and emergency/trauma services. She is secretary for the associate dean and directors.

Jeff Grabb is the new coordinator of software for Mennonite College of Nursing. He is finishing a thesis—which centers on critical assessment of power structures, the Supreme Court, and digital technology—for his master’s in the Department of Communication. His graduate coursework included research in communication technologies, ethics, and regulation and critical theory. Jeff also has a background in public relations and campaign design, having run a campus media event and special speaking occasion “The DeSmidt Asteroid” in the fall of 1998 as a senior in speech communication. During his graduate career he had an assistantship with the College of Education and was a lab manager, computer technician, and multimedia designer. He served as technical consultant on a number of grant proposals and projects, and developed numerous CD-ROM instructional tools in partnership with Professors Jerry Jinkis and Tony Lorschuch. From this assistantship, Jeff developed a skills in multimedia and digital video, which he has since pursued as his career path.

Since coming to Mennonite, Jeff has been involved with the Hartford grant as a multimedia designer and technical assistant, and serves as a general resource for multimedia and software support.

Nurses’ Week

Due to finals week Mennonite College of Nursing celebrated National Nurses’ Week April 29-May 3, 2002. Mennonite alumni provided care packs and food for students and faculty.

Rita Chaney is a coordinator for Mennonite College of Nursing. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Irving School. In addition, she assists Amy Irving with events planning and handles other clerical duties.

Chaney has a master’s degree in clinical psychology and formerly was the director of foster care at The Children’s Foundation. She has several years of experience working in community and child welfare settings, providing supervision, case management, mental health assessment, counseling, and therapy.
Students serve in several state association posts

Memorite College of Nursing is home to several members of the Student Nurses’ Association of Illinois (SNAI) Board. Cheryl Coleman, past Student Nursing Association (SNA) president at Mennonite, is SNAI president; Jamie Schwartz is secretary-treasurer; Kate Jakowska is director of publications; and Nicole Riley is director of marketing. For several months they have been busy recruiting, planning for the annual SNAI convention, and traveling to the national convention.

As president of the Student Nurses’ Association of Illinois, Coleman has worked toward recruiting new members. “I want each and every nursing student in Illinois to benefit from membership in NSNA and SNAI.” She has been busy planning SNAI’s 53rd annual convention to be held October 4-6, 2002, in Peoria at the Holiday Inn City Center. “This is one of the best ways I know to revitalize and renew your commitment to nursing,” she said.

SNAI and SNAI are a beneficial way for students to become involved and begin to make a difference in the nursing profession. For several months they have been busy recruiting, planning for the annual SNAI convention, and traveling to the national convention.

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Faculty News

Accomplishments
Sara Campbell passed the ANCC certification exam for advanced nursing administration.

Grant funding
Eileen Fowles received a $3,500 award from the American Nurses Foundation for her study titled “Nutritional Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women.”

Brenda Jeffers and Sara Campbell received an AAN(John A. Hartford Institute grant of $90,000 for “Creating Innovative Strategies in Nursing Education to Improve Care of the Older Adult.”

Sussan Kosssman has been approved for a $50,000 grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education for work with the on-line baccalaureate completion program.

Caroline Mallory’s “Feasibility of Conduction an Intervention to Protect Women from HIV: Part One, A Record Search and Part Two, Participation Survey” were approved March 19, 2002. She also received a $2,500 grant from the Illinois State University Center for Advancement of Teaching for a grant titled “Describing the Relationship between Professional Work Experience, Academic Performance, and Postgraduate Performance Among Mennonite College at Illinois State University Students.”

Cindy Sullivan received a $1,000 Mennonite Col- of Nursing New Investigator Award for her project titled “A Descriptive Study of Altitude Toward and Incidence of Gambling Among Col- lege Athletes.”

The following faculty members received Illinois State University research grants:

Mary Bailey received $2,721 for her proposal titled “Gender Differences in Patterns of Depres- sive Symptoms of School-Age Children.”

Sara Campbell received $4,378 for her proposal titled “Best Practices in Nursing Care of Elderly in Long-Term Care Setting: A Needs Assessment.”

Eileen Fowles received $4,177 for her proposal titled “Development of the Perceived Barriers to Health Eating Scale: A Methodological Study.”

Brenda Jeffers received $4,178 for a proposal titled “Best Practices in Nursing Care of Elderly in Long-Term Care Settings: A Needs Assessment.”

Emily Schlenker received $2,721 for her research proposal “Use of Touch Therapy in the Care of Dementia Clients: A Pilot Study.”

Barbara Walpole and Denise Wilson received $4,177 for their project titled “The Effect of Health Policy on Decision-Making Among Rural Advanced Practice Nurses.”

Presentations


Podiums


Campbell, Sara. “Academic and Service Collabo- ration: Meeting the Demand for Empowered Professional Nurse Leaders.” Leadership Initiative for Nursing Education. UCF3’s Center for the Health Professions. Monograph (37-41).


Schlenker, Emily. “Use of Touch Therapy in the Care of Dementia Clients.” Western Social Science Association/Chronic Disease, Albuquerque, New Mexico. April 2002.


The philanthropist in the mirror

The philanthropist in the mirror

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Her weekdays are for study, weekends for music

Marcena Gabrielson always knew she had a therapeutic way with people. She originally thought about going into psychology, but then heard about psychiatric nursing and decided that was the road she would travel. From 1988 to 1991 she attended Graham Hospital School of Nursing in Canton, where she received her Diploma of Nursing. Last May she graduated with her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing and is currently enrolled as a graduate student in the nursing systems administration sequence at Mennonite. She hopes to begin work this fall toward a Nursing Educator Certificate through Mennonite College of Nursing and eventually hopes to teach psychiatric nursing.

Gabrielson said she believes one of her therapeutic tools is her music and songwriting. She is in a woman’s duo called 2 likeninds. This past December she and with her music partner, Tawnya Smith, released their first CD titled Voice, a rock-folk mixture of original songs. The songs talk about losing, finding, reclaiming, and using one’s voice. Others who find they can relate to her music and are working through issues that she writes and sings about have approached her regarding how the music has helped them.

Gabrielson spends weekends traveling with her music. This summer she and Smith will be in St. Louis, Missouri, Madison, Wisconsin, and Indiana, playing in coffeehouses. During the Labor Day weekend, they will perform at the Midwest Womyn’s Autumn Fest in Dekalb. Gabrielson plans to continue her nursing career in the teaching field while spending time during summers touring and promoting her music. She will graduate next May with her masters’ in nursing and hopes to start her teaching career in the fall of 2003. For more information about Gabrielson and upcoming shows, or to listen to samples from the CD, visit her Web site at www.2 likeninds.com.

The college welcomes your support

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University welcomes your financial contribution. Based on your wishes, your donation can be used for general support or applied to specific areas of need such as scholarship, research, equipment and technology, faculty support, etc. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yes! I want to give now or arrange for a future gift:
☐ I want to give now
☐ Please send information on arranging a bequest
☐ Please send information on other planned giving opportunities

I am including a cash gift of $ __________. Please designate my gift to the following:
☐ BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing
☐ 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
☐ General Fund

Please make your check payable to Illinois State University Foundation and write “Mennonite College of Nursing” on the memo line to ensure correct deposit. Complete the form below and enclose with your gift. Mail to Illinois State University, Dorothy Witte, Director of Development, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 3000, Normal, IL 61790-3060.

Philanthropists who’ve made a difference

Many philanthropists have made contributions to Mennonite College of Nursing through a bequest. Listed below is a representative list of funds established in whole or in part by these future-thinkers, each named in their honor. The generosity of these individuals continues to make a difference in the lives of our students, faculty, and the world of health care. These are considered “open funds” and may be increased at any time through additional gifts.

• The Ralph and Mary Esh Endowed Scholarship Fund
• The Clara E. Gerhart Endowed Scholarship Fund
• The Mildred Graft Ingram and Fred Graft Endowment Fund
• The William and Alice McKnight Endowed Scholarship Fund
• The Elaine, Jean, and Ruth Reynolds Endowment Fund
(Ellaine Reynolds was a 1938 graduate of Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing.)
• The Jesse L. Reimersberger Endowment Fund
• The Earl and Clara Stutzman Endowment Fund
(Elaine Stutzman was a 1923 graduate of Mennonite School of Nursing.)
• The Joash and Esther Stutzman Endowment Fund
• The Dr. Herman and Ruth Tiedeman Endowed Memorial Fund

Looking for unrestricted bequest language for your will? Please read this month’s article titled “The philanthropist in the mirror.”
Educating Illinois

Welcome to the 21st century. The times are changing, and Mennonite College of Nursing continues to stand out in the leadership roles that students, faculty, and staff are taking and their creative responses to change. Educating Illinois states that as a university we are constantly “facilitating personal growth of students, faculty, and staff through innovative applications in undergraduate and graduate study, pedagogy, research, creative activities and public service.”

In the past year we have challenged students to grow by providing the premier nursing education. This requires critical thinking and hard work from students who have been willing and ready to meet the challenge. Students have not only risen to the challenge, but have exceeded it by participating in leadership roles, both within the college and at the state level in the Student Nurses’ Association of Illinois (SNAI). For the past two years the president of SNAI has been a student from Mennonite College of Nursing.

We have implemented ways of helping students learn both in the nursing labs and the computer labs, both essential for the 21st century. Through contributions from generous donors we have been able to purchase the latest in equipment for our nursing labs. Our technology staff have worked to provide our students and faculty with software that enables them to learn by taking a class via the Internet and research at levels not possible just a few short years ago. As we go deeper into the 21st century we will continue to provide the highest quality technology for our students to learn and our faculty to teach.

Working together with the Mennonite Advisory Council, Irving School, and other organizations, Mennonite College of Nursing is providing our students the opportunity to learn outside the classroom. We are building lifelong learners who are concerned about their communities and the impact of nursing globally.

Mennonite College of Nursing provides students with dedicated faculty members who have written grants and worked to excel in their leadership roles. In the past year Mennonite College of Nursing has received nearly $200,000 in grants through the research, scholarship, and service of faculty and staff. Faculty members have participated in nursing leadership conferences locally and nationally. This not only builds on the strengths Mennonite has, but helps faculty to teach the next generation of nursing professionals how to be leaders in their field.

Mennonite College of Nursing challenges students, faculty, and staff to ask not only where can we go, but how far we can go. We will continue to go forward into the 21st century in the traditions of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, willing to find new and creative ways to push ahead to provide the premier nursing education in Illinois.

Progress notes

Births
86 Kjerstin Lifquist Decapua along with Michael, 4, and Micah Jake, 3, have welcomed home a new baby brother, Maxx Jorgeo. Kjerstin is a registered nurse at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York.
93 Tamara Abrons and her husband, Brett, welcomed their first son, August 31, 2003. Tamara has decided to stay home and raise him.
94 Amy Pond Markgraf and her husband, Brian, and son, Jake, have welcomed home, lan, who was born October 8, 2001.
95 Melissa Lerny and her husband, Paul, and their two children, Mariah, 3-1/2, and Joseph, 2-1/2, have welcomed home baby Hannah Elizabeth, who was born October 22, 2001.
95 Sarah Mason and her husband, Jad, welcomed their third girl on August 4, 2001. She was welcomed by sisters, Matison, 4, and Bailey, 3. Sarah and her family live in Decew, where she is a full-time mom.
98 Cindy Huckins along with her husband, David, and their son, Evan, celebrated the birth of Austin Myles Huckins on September 29, 2001. Cindy is a cardiac intensive care unit registered nurse at Sparrow Health System in Lansing, Michigan.
98 Kim Heinisch and her husband, Dan, celebrated the birth of triplets on November 4, 2001. Two boys, Andrew Joseph and Cole Daniel, and one girl, Morgan Elizabeth.

Marriages
92 Laura N. Gesell married Harold J. Kruger on February 14, 2001. She is a certified flight instructor and fulfills commercial pilot, and also works as a part-time emergency room nurse at Fort Walton Beach Medical Center.
93 Michelle House and Greg Smart were married September 29, 2001, at College Park Christian Church. Michelle is pursuing a master’s degree in community health nursing from Lewis University and is employed as a registered nurse by Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery. She also is a substitute teacher at Heartland Community College.
93 Diane Pszonka married Jeff Warzechowski on April 21, 2001, in Chicago. Diane is a registered nurse in the Northeast Community Hospital emergency room, and her husband is an engineer with a Japanese laser company.
93 Elizabeth Johnson married Mark Aschonow November 24, 2001, at Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington. Elizabeth is a cardiac nurse at Methodist Hospital in Peoria.
96 Sarah Drumm married James Falkenton on December 1, 2001. Sarah, who works as a nurse in the intensive care unit at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, is pursuing a master’s in medical surgical nursing at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.
97 Karen Kindred married Greg King of Bloomington on October 6, 2001. Karen is a registered nurse at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center.
97 Jennifer Rednour and Michael Dahon were married October 20, 2001. Jennifer, a registered nurse at St. Francis Medical Center, is pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Illinois.
98 Sonya Stanton who works as a labor and delivery nurse at Bremers Mountain Regional Medical Center, married Doug Russo November 6, 2001.

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.