MCN Holiday Open House

December 2003

Tuesday, December 9
3– 6 p.m. Ewing Manor, Bloomington
MCN will host a Holiday Open House for faculty, staff, alumni, and guests.

MCN Open House for students interested in nursing

February 2004
Thursday, February 12
1– 2 p.m. 306 Edwards Hall
For reservations, please call (309) 438-7400

MCN Open House for students interested in Nursing

March 2004
Monday, March 7
1– 2 p.m. 306 Edwards Hall
For reservations, please call (309) 438-7400

MCN commencement

May 2004
May 6-12
National Nurses’ Week!

2003 Homecoming highlights

Thanks to all faculty, staff, students, and especially alumni who helped make Homecoming 2003 a success! Congratulations to the 2003 alumni award recipients: Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton ’70, Distinguished Alum; Jackie (Toohill) Dellenbaugh ’90, Young Alum; and Alice (Kumler) Dravers ’52, MNAO Alumni Service Award. You can read more about these remarkable women in this issue. Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2004, which will be Saturday, October 23, 2004.

Thank you to those who helped make Homecoming 2003 a success! Congratulations to the 2003 alumni award recipients: Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton ’70, Distinguished Alum; Jackie (Toohill) Dellenbaugh ’90, Young Alum; and Alice (Kumler) Dravers ’52, MNAO Alumni Service Award. You can read more about these remarkable women in this issue. Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2004, which will be Saturday, October 23, 2004.
Dean’s message

During this holiday season, we can indeed be thankful for our many blessings. The college continues to attract outstanding students, faculty, and staff. We are making a difference in people’s lives.

In this issue you will learn more about the many projects and accomplishments of the college. Dr. Caroline Mallory has returned NIH funding for her research. Dr. Sara Campbell and Dr. Cindy Kerber received prestigious postdoctoral fellowships to study gerontology at the University of Iowa. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conference on DES was a huge success. The inaugural McDowell Stafford Lecture Series brought several community members interested in creating positive environments for children together on the Illinois State University campus. Projects of this magnitude and scope require the interest and support of many people. I want to extend a special thanks to Dr. Jerry and Carole Ringer and to Dr. Ann Nolte for their generous support of this program through the Community Foundation of McLean County. In addition, the legacy provided by the McDowell Stafford and the Fell trusts will continue to provide the most complete and current information for alumni on the many projects and that nurses are available to serve the many health concerns of our population. I am seeking partners in this wide-reaching project. Ideas that could be part of the project include scholarships for faculty and students, endowed professorships for the college, and endowed nursing practice positions. Another example is raising funds to ensure that underserved schools will have full-time school nurses. There are many very critical health needs that can be met by nurses. It is important for us to ensure that the financial and human resources are available now and in the future to meet the needs of underserved people. I look forward to talking with many of you and hearing your ideas!

Homecoming continues to be a wonderful time for us to reconnect. Thanks to all of you who attended this year. Please plan on coming to see us and join in the festivities next year on Saturday, October 23. Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2004! We are having our Holiday Open House this year on Tuesday, December 9 at Ewing Manor. I look forward to talking with you. Please plan to attend Joyous Holidays!

E-mail address request

Advances in technology have brought changes to the way many organizations do business, including Illinois State University. E-mail is becoming an increasingly popular way for the University to communicate with its 150,000-plus alumni, as it is an efficient way to distribute timely information, is a cost savings when able to replace the expenses of printing and postage, and is a preferred method of communication for many alumni. To be sure the University has your e-mail address, update your information online at http://www.illinois-state.universitycommunity.com/updateuserinfo.htm.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated dedication to the nursing profession, leadership, and outstanding professionalism, who has promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and who has been held in high regard by peers and the community. This year, this honor goes to Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton ’70.

Kirkton received a Diploma in Nursing from Menno- nite College of Nursing in 1970, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Goshen College in 1973, and Master’s in Nursing from Ball State University in 1983. She is an associate professor and director in the Nursing Department at Goshen College.

Her career began as a staff nurse at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington in 1970. In 1971, she moved to Indiana and worked at Elkhart General Hospital. In 1973, she was on the faculty at Goshen College. In 1978, she moved to Iowa and worked at Mechanicsville Nursing Home and the University of Iowa Hospital. In 1978, she was employed as an associate professor at the Luther- n College of Health Professions, School of Nursing, in Indiana. Other positions she had at a Lutheran College of Health Professions include student services coordinator, Bachelor of Science curriculum coordinator, and associate dean of the School of Nursing.

Her leadership in nursing education activities includes providing direction for the initial Lutheran College accreditation from the National League for Nursing, and for the initial accreditation of the Goshen College Bachelor of Science in Nursing program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Her professional activities include serving as chairperson for the Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs of Indiana, and membership in Mennonite Nurses’ Association, American Association of Colleges of Nurses, Indiana State Nurses’ Association, American Nurses’ Association, and Nurses’ Strategic Action Team, Sigma Theta Tau – International and National League for Nursing.

Kirkton is a person who likes change and enjoys a challenge. While at Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, she organized a student services department and provided a variety of academic and stress-management services for students. She also has conducted wellness seminars and workshops for both students and faculty. Kirkton said, “My greatest accomplishment has been to juggle my professional role while keeping family and church involvement a priority.”

Young Alumni Award

The Young Alumni Award is presented to someone who has participated in distinguished community service, and who has personified the values of the college. This year the Young Alumni Award was given to Jacqueline (Toohill) Deffenbaugh ’90.

Deffenbaugh is a member of the Illinois Society of Advanced Practice Nursing and of Sigma Theta Tau Honor’s Society at Memonette College of Nursing at Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Deffenbaugh described her most important achievements, saying, “Professionally, I am most proud of the distinction I have achieved while being a nurse practitioner. Their request for my knowledge base motivates me to provide the most complete and current information for them. I am as loyal to them as they are to me. Personally, I consider being the mother of two wonderful healthy boys my most rewarding achievement. Though I am proud to have a career along with my family life, my husband and boys take top priority. I feel truly blessed in my professional and personal life roles.”
St. John’s Hospital joins Advisory Council

St. John’s Hospital in Springfield is the newest member of Mennonite College of Nursing Advisory Council. The Advisory Council serves as an advisory body to the dean of Mennonite College of Nursing on aspects of the college, its mission and programs. MCN Advisory Council members include: BroMenn Health Care in Normal, Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Heritage Manor in Normal, Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, and OSF St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Bloomington.

Michalene Marringer, R.N., M.S, FACHE joined St. John’s in December 2002 as assistant administrator for Nursing Services. “St. John’s goal is to improve the quality of patient care. One of the ways St. John’s wants to achieve this is by collaborating with schools of nursing,” Marringer reported. Marringer met with Dean Nancy Marringer, and together they developed several creative strategies. “There are many opportunities for the nursing profession and patient care,” Marringer said. Through this collaboration, they hope to benefit both St. John’s Hospital and Mennonite College of Nursing.

St. John’s is planning several projects. One future project will renovate several areas throughout the hospital, including the patient tower, ICU, and inpatient operating rooms. They also will replace their information systems in all 13 of their affiliated hospitals. That new system will change nursing documentation and how medication is distributed.

In September, St. John’s nursing management participated in a strategic-planning process for nursing leadership. The outcomes of this process will provide nurses who work at St. John’s ways to move forward with their careers. They are focusing on staff retention and they are proud to report a low vacancy rate.

Students from Mennonite College of Nursing are doing several of their clinicals at St. John’s Hospital this semester. In August, faculty from Mennonite College of Nursing met with faculty from St. John’s in Springfield to discuss and tour the different units in the hospital to which students will be assigned.

Mennonite Nurses’ Alumni Organization Service Award

Alice (Kumler) Deavers ’52 is the first recipient of the Alumni Service Award. The Alumni Service Award recognizes exceptional service to the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, to the Mennonite Nurses’ Alumni Organization, or to humanity, inasmuch as such service reflects the values of the college. The recipient may or not be a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing.

Deavers received her nursing diploma from Mennonite in 1952. She worked at Mennonite Hospital from 1952 to 1987. She started out as an OB manager and instructor, then became an OR staff nurse. Her final position at Mennonite Hospital was OR Coordinator.

In 1987, Deavers worked at BroMenn Medical Center as an OR coordinator. In 1990, she became the business manager in Surgical Services, working with budgets, major purchases, research, and implementing new programs. In 1999 she took an OR staff nurse position, and continues to work in that position today.

Deavers has been involved in the Mennonite Alumni Organization since 1992. She has served as president during the following terms: 1992, 1992-93, and 2000-present. In 1983, she became a charter member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, Chapter 1416. In 1993, she helped coordinate and also taught Bloomington-Normal’s first expectant mother classes at Mennonite. She was an OR consultant for Fairbury Hospitals after BroMenn purchased it, and she also was a consultant for Globe Community Hospital in Globe, Arizona. She has worked on several alumni projects for nursing students, including care bags, ice cream socials, and picnics.

Deavers supported the transition of Mennonite from a diploma school of nursing to a college of nursing, and later to joining Illinois State University as its sixth college. She promoted the advantages of that move with fellow alumni and the community. She continues to promote the importance of active participation in professional organizations and alumni activities, and she is involved with community service and projects.

When asked how she felt about being the first recipient of this award, Deavers said, “I feel very honored at being nominated for this award. I am also very touched. I have really enjoyed my association with the organization, which is only as good as the people involved, who are great.”

Nominations wanted

The Mennonite Nurses’ Alumni Administrative Board is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Young Alumni Award, and MNAO service award.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated a dedication to the nursing profession, demonstrated leadership, shown outstanding professionalism, promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and been held in high regard by peers and the community.

The Young Alumni Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated a dedication to the nursing profession and shown leadership, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the college.

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Nominations for these awards may be made by any one and sent to the Alumni Administrative Board.

For more information, contact the Alumni Administrative Board.

We welcome the return of Candy Tedeschi, Originally from Danville, for her 20th year at Mennonite. Candy has spent much of her nursing career caring for women exposed to DES in utero during pregnancy. She was the coordinator of the DES Screening Center for three Long Island counties for 20 years. She has written many articles as well as a book chapter about DES problems. Tedeschi was involved with the development of CDC’s DES Update as a member of the working group.

“Ongoing DES health risks: The role of R.N.’s in Patient Education” workshop

Candy Tedeschi, R.N.C., O.G.N.P., was the featured speaker for “Ongoing DES Health Risks: The Role of R.N.’s in Patient Education” workshop, which was presented at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University on April 15, 2003. The workshop was jointly sponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, and was facilitated by Illinois State University Conference Services.

The purpose of the workshop was to educate participants about diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic estrogen drug that was given to millions of pregnant women from 1938-1971. Doctors thought DES would prevent miscarriages and prescribed the drug to many pregnant women. However, women who took DES and the children they carried were at risk for certain health problems.

Tedeschi, originally from Danville, has spent most of her nursing career caring for women exposed in utero to DES during pregnancy. She was the coordinator of the DES Screening Center for three Long Island counties for 20 years. She has written many articles as well as a book chapter about DES problems. Tedeschi was involved with the development of CDC’s DES Update as a member of the working group.

During her presentation, Tedeschi talked about the history of DES and the confirmed health risks associated with DES exposure. She discussed how to assess exposure to DES and how to help patients who were exposed to DES make appropriate decisions about their health care. Finally, she talked about the available resources that health-care providers need in order to stay on top of DES research. She said, “It’s a treatment that was invented in 1938; probably wasn’t found until after the late 2000s.”

More than 85 people attended the free workshop, including nursing students, R.N.’s, faculty, doctors, and the general public. This activity was approved for 2.7 contact hours by the Illinois Nurses Association, Continuing Education Approver Unit, which is accredited as an approved provider of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

For more information about CDC’s DES Update, you can go to the CDC’s web site for health-care providers at www.cdc.gov/DES, or call (888) 232-6789.

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MCN’s first NIH grant funded for $420,000

Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Mallory, assistant professor, who will receive $420,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for her project “Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV among Women.”

Q: Tell us about your project.
A: “This is a pilot project designed to develop and test a theoretically based intervention to help women protect themselves from contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Women will be recruited from substance-abuse treatment centers and county detention facilities in McLean and Champaign counties. The intervention “Women First!” consists of two-hour sessions over the course of six weeks. Women in the intervention group will receive education and skills training within a context that values women to promote the use of protective practices.”

Q: What is the time frame for this project?
A: “The study will be conducted over a three-year period. There is time built in for development of the research protocols, intervention, and a preliminary trial of the intervention.”

Q: Are there any other faculty, staff, and students who will be involved in this grant?
A: “A grant this size requires a team of researchers for successful completion. I expect to be working under the guidance of a team of consultants and experts.”

Q: What are you most excited about accomplishing from this grant?
A: “A: I believe strongly that being on the cutting edge of research and for her strong leadership potential. She is among 12 scholars and fellows attended an intensive weeklong seminar at University of Illinois at July 7-11, 2003, at the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University, The Steinhardt School of Education, Division of Nursing. They met with nationally recognized experts in geriatric nursing, addressed issues and obstacles in undertaking high-quality research, and received individual mentoring and mentoring. Each year, the scholars and fellows are chosen from a different region of the United States. Prior programs have focused on the West, South, and East regions. For more information on this and other programs of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing seeks to shape the quality of health care that older Americans receive by promoting the highest level of competency in the nurses who deliver that care. By raising the standards of nursing care, the Hartford Institute aims to ensure that people age in comfort and dignity.

Hartford Institute selects Brenda Recchia-Jeffers as postdoctoral scholar

The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, part of the New York University Division of Nursing, has named Brenda Recchia-Jeffers, R.N., Ph.D., to be a Scholar in its 2003 Geriatric Nursing Research Scholars and Fellows Program. Recchia-Jeffers, an associate professor of nursing at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana’s College of Nursing, was selected for having conducted significant research in gerontologic nursing, and for her strong leadership potential. She is among 12 candidates who are competing for the third year. “Our program aims to bring together outstanding undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to be involved at every level of the study, including participants and particularly on the factors that influence older adults to participate in research studies. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications including Advances in Nursing Science, MEDSURG Nursing, and The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing. “Our program aims to bring together outstanding new scholars who are conducting significant research in gerontologic nursing and to give them an opportunity to interact with leading experts in the field,” said Nancy Ridenour, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing.

Nancy Ridenour, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, is among 20 nursing leaders from across the nation to be named a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow. The prestigious Executive Nurse Fellow Program provides advanced leadership training for nurses in senior executive roles who are helping to shape the future of the nation’s healthcare system. The fellowship program, now in its sixth year, is supported by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s largest philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to health and health care.

During her three-year fellowship, Ridenour will study to develop fund-raising efforts and endowments for health-care facilities and nursing education and also examine health-care work environment issues such as job satisfaction, workplace safety and alternative ways to provide nursing care to patients.

“Being selected as an Executive Nurse Fellow is a great honor and a valuable learning opportunity,” said Ridenour. “During my fellowship I will get to work with and learn from a team of nationally recognized leaders from the health-care field and other sectors of the economy. The fellowship will give me a nationwide perspective on major issues facing health care and nursing.”

Q: Why is this grant important to you, MCN, and the University?
A: “The general mindset about getting grants is that once you get one it’s easier to get others. Being funded by the NIH provides additional evidence that the college and the University have the resources to support high quality, rigorous research, and that means we are more likely to get more grants. The presence of strong research programs and grant funding improves our ability to attract a high quality student body and faculty. Research and funding also strengthen our graduate programs. Not to be overlooked is the income generated by external funding that is essential for promoting a strong learning environment on this campus. So there are lots of reasons why this grant is important.”

Q: Is there anything else you want to share about this project?
A: “Just that I am thrilled to have this opportunity to conduct such important work and grateful to everyone who made it possible.”

Mennonite College of Nursing dean receives prestigious nursing fellowship

Brenda Recchia-Jeffers
We welcome Denise Wudzinski to Mennonite College. She was appointed to a secretarial position with the college this fall.

Jenny Ward has been appointed to be the director of Development for Mennonite College of Nursing.

Denise Wilson is a member of Illinois State University’s Presidential Search Committee. She was a grant review panel member to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Grants Program, Career Ladder Program Grants in Washington, D.C. in August 2003. She was also a grant review panel member for the HRSA Basic Nurse Education and Practice Grant Program in Maryland in April 2003.

Grant funding
Dianne Clemens, Gail Petro, and Wendy Woith received a Teaching-Learning Development Grant from Center for the Advancement of Teaching at Illinois State University for their project: “First Semester Curriculum: From Chaos to Cohesion.”

Dianne Clemens, Sue Mendez, Gail Petro, and Emily Schlenker received funding to participate in the State Farm Teaching Technology Fellows program. Mary Dyck received $25,367 from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her project “Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase II.”

Mary Dyck received a University Research Grant at Illinois State University for her project “Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase II.”

Eileen Fowles received a University Research Grant at Illinois State University for her project “Identification of Healthy Eating Strategies in Low-Income Pregnant Women.”

Eileen Fowles and Brenda Jeffers received funding to develop Web-based content modules for nursing ethics at Illinois State University.

Brenda Jeffers received a University Research Grant for her project “Use of Research Integrity Practices in Nursing: An Online Survey.”

Susan Kossman received a University Research Grant for her project “Student and Faculty Perceptions of Nursing Education Culture and its Impact on Minority Students.”

Caroline Mallory received $420,000 from NIH for her project “Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV among Women.”

Nancy Ridenour received $25,000 from HRSA for her project “Enhancement of Nursing Education in Long-Term Care.”

Nancy Ridenour and Mary Dyck received $5,663 from the Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center at the University of Iowa for their project “Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase II.”

Denise Wilson received $1,977 from the McLean County Medical Society. These funds will be used to purchase physical examination equipment for Irving and Sheridan Schools.

Denise Wilson received an Advanced Education Nursing Trainsmanship Grant in the amount of $28,316 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration and Bureau of Health Professions.

Presentations


Mennonite College of Nursing student awards
Spring 2003

Memorial College of Nursing student awards Spring 2003

Three awards were presented at the annual Memorial College of Nursing commencement and pinning event on Friday, May 9:

Kelly Leonard ’03, Senior Excellence Award
Teresa Stovy ’03, R.N. /B.S.N. Geriatric Excellence Award in Clinical Practice
Dawn Mitchell ’03, Dr. Tuideman Memorial Award
Sara Woodard ’03, Alumni Awards for Clinical Excellence and Dr. Tuideman Memorial Award
Marcena Gabrielien M.S.N. ’03, Graduate Student Scholarly Achievement Award and Graduate Student Practicum Leadership Award
Joleen Hudson ’03, Prebaccalaureate Geriatric Excellence Award in Clinical Practice


Schlenker, Emily, presented a paper on outdoor healing spaces for a clinical session at Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial convention in Toronto, Canada November 2003.

Publications


Schlenker, Emily has a chapter in The Heart of Nursing, which was published last year by Sigma Theta Tau. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of this book, please contact Schlenker at eschle@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2404.

Available exclusively at Star Uniforms & Gifts. The Mennonite College of Nursing afghan features landmarks and symbols of the college. This beautiful custom Afghan will make a great keepsake of your alma mater. 100 percent pre-washed cotton, machine washable, "50x65", beautifully custom afghan features landmarks and symbols of the college. This beautiful custom Afghan will make a great keepsake of your alma mater. 100 percent pre-washed cotton, machine washable, "50x65", made in the USA by Riddle Manufacturing, Inc.

Affirmative responses can be personalized with up to 4 lines of embroidery. 50 percent pre-washed cotton, machine washable, "50x65", made in the USA by Riddle Manufacturing, Inc.

Jane Doe
May 3, 2003

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Letter from Alan:

I enjoyed the last issue of The Flame, especially the article about the transcultural program. As it was the first faculty on the Texas LaCasa connection, it brought back memories seeing the picture of the house where we stayed.

My memories date back about 20 years to spaghetti suppers in the Mennonite cafeteria to raise money for trips. My friend Beth and I spent the summer of 81 in Haiti. I have to think that was an experience that shaped so much of my life today. I still remember the street vendors and folks coming to the house to sell bananas, the kids with burns screaming during baths, the worms in the bedpans, the guy on the Stryker frame, the Ward III kids (with kwashiorkor – a form of malnutrition) who had run the building and came and played with my pen and paper every time I worked, the re-use of just about everything, the mopping pee off the floor because I wasn’t watching the bottle close enough and the catheter collection overflowed, the lut could go on.

Then I have the memories of taking students on trips as a faculty member. I took students to rural Kentucky twice. Once my roommate/student Faye had to rescue a turtle that was crossing the road – he became another roommate thanks to supplies at the nearby Walmart. We got to experieince how folks had the moonshine and the effects of black lung from coal mining. We enjoyed the nursing staff sharing their experiences and the students loved home health and learned more about how patients really lived.

Then there was Texas, where we saw the Hispanic side of town and how a community bands together to provide services. It was neat to not only see the nursing, but also to be able to use our time to serve meals, scrape a little paint, and help a community agency give our emergency funds.

I’m sure my experiences had lots of influence on my values and are part of the reason I have my two kids (Maria from Mexico and Johana from Guatemala) today. I’m so glad these opportunities still exist for students. Thanks for the update on the program.

Mary Anne Kirchner C.N. ‘82, B.S.N. ’87

We want to hear from our Mennonite graduates!

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff and alumni love to hear all those wonderful stories about our graduates. Do you have a story about your nursing career you would like to share? What about an adventure or experience you’ve had that relates to nursing that may inspire others? Have a call Amy living at (309) 438-2174 or email her at amirvin@ilstu.edu to make arrangements to relate your stories. Who knows, your story may be one of the alumni chronicles included in the next Flame. We hope to hear from you soon!

Where are they now? Mary Troglio, class of 1986

Mary Troglio graduated from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1986 with her B.S.N. She was not the typical nursing student at that time. She was married and pregnant with her first child her junior year. Her due date was around the same date final exams were scheduled, so she arranged with her teachers to take her finals early. The same day her other classmates were taking their last final exams, Troglio gave birth to a baby girl, Gwen.

Throughout her senior year, Troglio would bring Gwen to various college functions. After Troglio graduated from Menonnette, she worked as a surgical nurse at Methodist in Perry for two years. She then took a position at Memorial in Princeton for seven years. Troglio is now employed as a surgical nurse at St. Margaret’s Hospital in Springfield. She lives in Princeton with her husband, Donald, and their children, Gwen (age 18) and Daniel (age 16). When Troglio received the last issue of The Flame, she read about calling Mennonite College of Nursing to share stories from alumni. She wanted her classmates who attended school with her to know that Gwen is graduating from high school this year. She has decided to follow her mother’s profession, and will be attending nursing school in the fall. Thank you Mary, for sharing your story!

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Alumni notes

Births and new additions

’82 and ’87 Mary Anne Kirchner adopted Johana Kimberly, age 3, from Guatemala in February. Johana’s big sister, Marta (age 7) welcomed her home on March 1, 2003. Kirchner works as a Clinical Education Specialist at BroMenn in Normal.

’93 Tamarra (Kendall) Ahrens and husband, Brett, welcomed Jackson Lane Ahrens on May 14, 2003. Jackson is brother to Tyler Lee Ahrens, 21 months. Ahrens is a full-time mom raising her two sons.

’94 Andrea (Luebbering) Childers and husband, Jason, welcomed Marni Katherine Childers on November 8, 2002. Before the birth of her daughter, Childers worked in pediatric intensive care at Children’s Memorial in Chicago.


Updates/progress

75 Judy Bourland works at two facilities. She has been a surgical nurse at United Hospital since 1984. She also works for an orthopedic surgeon assisting in total joint surgery. She loves the many hats she wears! She has two children, two grandsons, and a third grandchild on the way. She keeps busy gardening, running, biking, and traveling.

80 Marsha Reeves completed her Bachelor of Science in Health Education degree in 2003 at Illinois State University. She is the director of surgical Services at OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac.

’89 Lisa Kay Nesler is one of two registered nurses selected for the John Dystel Nursing Fellowship in MS Program. This six-month education program is designed to give nurses an opportunity to learn more about the unpredictable effects of MS and how to improve the quality of care for the more than 400,000 Americans living with the disease.

93 Kevin Hazard received his medical degree from Southern Illinois School of Medicine in Springfield on May 17, 2003. He entered an internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison in July.

93 Nathan Sluder is a lieutenant in the Navy Reserves. He received orders for support of operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom to care for the sick and wounded from Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned to the United States in June 2003.

Deaths

30 Beslah (Schertz) Roth passed away on March 30, 2003.


38 Lila (Birky) Zumwalt passed away on February 12, 2003.

41 Helen (Oak) Nixon passed away on February 28, 2002.


93 Mary Kirincich passed away on February 12, 2003.

Student Nurses’ Association

The fall 2003 semester is under way and the Menomonie College of Nursing Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) is busy planning for a year full of exciting community service activities and fund-raising events. The SNA officers, under the leadership of President Sarah Weber, welcomed new pre-requsites and R.N. / B.S.N. students into the organization.

Through internal and external networking, students are getting a chance to develop their leadership skills and become active members in the community.

This fall the students planned to get involved in the Alzheimer’s Memory Walk, the Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis, blood pressure clinics, and spring banquet planning. They also made a float for the 2003 Homecoming parade. Recently, the officers finished designing a Menomonie College of Nursing afghan that incorporates pictures of Troyer Hall and Edwards Hall. Through the generosity of the vendor, Star Uniforms, the SNA will make a profit from every afghan sold. You can find an order form for this afghan in this issue of The Flame.

The SNA Officers for the year include Weber, Vice President Matt Carr, Treasurer Jenna Burchett, and Secretary Neesha Nicklaus. If you have any community service activities in which you would like the SNA to participate, please contact faculty advisors Pam Lindsey or Janeen Mollenhauer at (309) 438-2175.

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, deaths, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments). Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni. Please fill out this form and return it so your news will be published in the next issue. Mail to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810, or E-mail to amirvin@ilstu.edu.

Student Nurses’ Association

2003-2004 agenda

(Summer to change)

November 11 meeting
Jingle Bell Run
B/P clinics

November 25 meeting
Faculty potluck

December 2 meeting
Point winners
Guest speakers – summer externship information

January 20 meeting
Gondolies provided
Semester overview
B/P clinics

February 3 and 17 meetings
Health Career Fair
B/P Clinics

Discons:
Elections (March 16)
Spring Banquet (March 26 or 27)

March 2, 16, and 30 meetings
B/P clinics
Elections
Spring banquet
Faculty potluck (April 20)

April 13 meeting
New officers
Faculty potluck (April 20)
B/P clinic
Springfest
The gift of a lifetime…

By Dorothy M. Witte, director of Development

What is your fondest memory related to a gift? Is it one that you received, or one that you gave? That is a question that many of our donors and potential donors ponder. The “timing” is perfect. The holiday season provides much opportunity for gift giving, and you can use these experiences to gauge your feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. If your greatest joy comes from pleasing others, then you owe yourself the “gift of a lifetime.”

The “gift of a lifetime” is a means of continuing to do “good work” for future generations. Whether your estate is massive or modest, your “gift of a lifetime” is a means to an end. It is a final expression of caring…

An alternative means of creating the “gift of a lifetime” is through a memorial contribution. You honor a loved one by giving them in their name while perpetuating the “good work” of the recipient organization.

We ask you to consider designating Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in your “gift of a lifetime.” Please feel free to contact me, Dorothy M. Witte, director of Development, via telephone at (309) 438-3134, e-mail at dwitte@ilstu.edu, or by mail at Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060. I look forward to the possibility of assisting you with this important process.

*Estate assets may include cash, marketable securities, real estate, retirement accounts, life insurance, and stock. An example of bequest language: I give, devise and bequeath _______ percentage, or the residue of my estate, or _______ to Illinois State University Foundation, its successors or assigns, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, to further the objectives and purposes of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.*

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