The Jeanette Gorecki Scholarship Fund

Jeanette Gorecki’s family endowed The Jeanette Gorecki Scholarship Fund in 2003 as a living memorial to Jeanette, who died in 2001. Jeanette was a nurse at BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal, who also taught clinical sessions at Mennonite College of Nursing. Jeanette graduated from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1980 with a diploma, and received a B.S.N. degree in 1989. She received a master’s degree in 1993 from the University of Illinois—Chicago as a Woman’s Health Nurse Practitioner. She had many health professional roles, which included labor and delivery nurse, clinical instructor, and nurse practitioner. Jeanette was a gentle and caring spirit, who demonstrated a deep commitment to the total care of the patients she treated. She also was very involved with mentoring students, who were pursuing a nursing career. She was known to encourage students to pursue their dreams about caring for people.

The Gorecki family established this fund to assist future nurses, who demonstrate the same personal and professional qualities that Jeanette possessed and displayed.

Katie Bruch, first student recipient of The Jeanette Gorecki Scholarship Fund

Katie Bruch, a senior from Magnolia, Illinois, is the first student recipient of The Jeanette Gorecki Scholarship.

Bruch had the opportunity to meet Jeanette’s husband, Monte Fisher, at a scholarship luncheon in April. Also attending were Monte’s sister and brother-in-law, Farole and Gary Haluska, who established the scholarship.

“I felt very special that I was chosen for the scholarship, especially since I am the first recipient,” Bruch said. “I felt even more honored that I received the scholarship after I found out more about Jeanette. I was glad I got to meet Mr. Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. Haluska. I had a great time getting to know them and hearing about Jeanette during the scholarship luncheon. What I will remember most is how caring and helpful they all are.”

Bruch was a community health major at the University of Illinois and had an internship her senior year at the Public Health Department. She liked the experience at the Public Health Department so much that she decided to pursue a nursing degree after graduating from the University of Illinois.

Prior to entering nursing school, Bruch had the opportunity to pursue a career in OB. After she took a few courses, she knew she wanted a career in OB. Bruch graduated in May and accepted a position at Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in Peoria in the nursery and postpartum unit.

“I chose Mennonite partly because it was in a convenient location for me to attend, but more importantly, I chose it because of its great reputation,” Bruch said.

Before Katie started taking nursing classes, Bruch was interested in obstetrics (OB). After she took a few courses, she knew she wanted a career in OB. Bruch graduated in May and accepted a position at Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in Peoria in the nursery and postpartum unit.
Several exciting events occurred this year. The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home was dedicated to the memory of a friend and advocate of the college, Joe Warner. Rep. Jerry Weller (R-Ill.) has supported us in securing significant federal funding to sustain this project. The focus this year is on increasing the number of RNs working in long-term care. By providing interesting and rewarding experiences for Mennonite students, the project will increase the number of graduates interested in careers in long-term care. Our multifaceted approach includes: mentorship, specialty coursework in gerontology, best practices in gerontologic nursing, visiting professors with national expertise in gerontology, and annual awards for outstanding gerontologic practice.

Mennonite College of Nursing has reached another important milestone. In July 2004 we will begin our fifth year at Illinois State University. It is also the 85th year since Mennonite School of Nursing was founded. We are planning 85/5 activities to celebrate these important milestones. In addition to special celebrations marking our anniversary, Homecoming 2004 promises to be the best Homecoming ever. Please save these dates on your calendar: October 22-23. We hope to see you at Homecoming!

The coming fiscal year will be tight for the University’s budget. Mennonite College of Nursing will see a decrease in state funding. Because of the generous support of alumni and friends, we have been able to increase the admission of new prelicensure students from 100-110. However, even with this increase we are unable to accept many highly qualified applicants. The incoming junior class exceeds milestones set by the University in terms of grade point average and test scores. We are very pleased with the high caliber of our student body and look forward to their contributions to the health care workforce. We want to thank the many wonderful supporters of the college. Without your generosity, Mennonite College of Nursing would be forced to decrease its enrollment.

Gratefully yours,

Nancy Ridenour nriden@ilstu.edu
(309) 438-2174

Hartford grant update
Mennonite College of Nursing continues to work on its grant project “Creating Innovative Strategies in Nursing Education to Improve Care of the Older Adult.” In August of 2003 there was a Hartford Open House, where faculty, students, and guests looked at displays and saw computer modules that have been developed for classes. In April of 2004 Dr. Kitty Buckwalter from the University of Iowa was a Hartford speaker.
Federal Funding Aids Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project

Rep. Jerry Weller (R-Ill.) held a news conference at Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) in December 2003 to announce that the college would receive $298,230 in federal funding for the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project. These funds will be used to educate and prepare nursing students to provide quality care for senior citizens in long-term care facilities.

Joe Warner, the former president and chief executive officer of Heritage Enterprises, shared his vision of a teaching nursing home with Dean Nancy Ridenour. This vision mirrors the teaching hospital concept, but instead of being trained in a hospital setting, nursing students are trained to care for long-term residents in nursing homes. Warner died in 2002, however, his vision of a teaching nursing home is still one of the goals Dean Ridenour wants to achieve on a national level.

“Through the vision of Mr. Warner and our continuing partnership with Heritage Enterprises,” Ridenour said at the December news conference, “the Mennonite College of Nursing will respond to the challenge of developing innovative approaches to help senior citizens live successfully in a nursing home environment.”

At the population of senior citizens grows,” Ridenour added, “there will be added demands for superior care and added demands to provide better nursing education. The Mennonite College of Nursing is committed to meeting these demands.”

Among the goals for the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project are:

- To create the structure needed to enhance collaboration among the institutions and carry out programs that support curriculum development, mentoring, and recruitment to bring registered nurses into long-term care.
- To develop the Teaching Nursing Home “Sisters Model” to enhance collaboration among Heritage Nursing Homes and Mennonite College of Nursing to improve the education, mentoring, and recruitment of registered nurses and registered nurse students in long-term care.
- To design curricular activities, clinical work, and mentoring experiences to recruit registered nurse graduates into long-term care.
- To develop programs to increase the attractiveness of long-term care as a career choice for registered nurse students, registered nurse graduates, and registered nurses residing in the community.

Mennonite College of Nursing anticipates several outcomes from this project:

- An increase in the number of interactions between MCN and Heritage Nursing Homes, illustrating a model of excellence in long-term care for registered nurse students.
- An increase in the number of registered nurse students who participate in long-term care curriculum and mentoring activities.
- An increase in the number of registered nurse graduates seeking employment in long-term care.

There are several activities that MCN wants to accomplish during the project’s first year, including developing a web page to disseminate information about the project’s structure and activities, developing clinical activities to improve nursing care received by residents in the Sister Teaching Nursing Homes (STNH) in collaboration with Advanced Practice Nurse, upgrading STNH technology to allow use of interactive learning with MCN with registered nurse students and nursing home staff, creating course activities to expose students to long-term care career opportunities, creating externships for students at nationally known geriatric centers in the United States, and coordinating a long-term care career fair and seminar for registered nurse students.

Mennonite College of Nursing will have a “kickoff event” this fall to celebrate the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project.

Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series in Child and Family Health

Shannon Perry, R.N., Ph.D, F.A.A.N., was the featured speaker for the first annual Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series in Child and Family Health last fall.

Two presentations were given on October 30, 2003: an educational workshop where participants could receive three contact hours from the Illinois Nurses Association, which is accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation, and another event open to the community.

Perry’s presentation provided information about how to care for infants and toddlers who are at high risk and how to maximize their potential through preventive health care and appropriate support systems. Panelists in a discussion group talked about their experiences working with high-risk infants. Panelists included Rita Pell, B.S.N, M.A., who is an Illinois certified school nurse for District 87 public schools in Bloomington; Erin Rogers, M.Ed., who is the director of programs at Easter Seals, Vicki Smith, R.N, B.S.N., who works at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield as the clinical nurse educator in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Connor Walters, Ph.D., C.F.L.E., chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Illinois State University, a certified family life educator, and a certified early childhood educator.

The other presentation provided information about the Reggio Emilia approach to preschool education in Italy. Perry traveled to Italy in 2003, where she supervised a student in an international field study comparing the education systems in Italy and the United States. The Italian approach to education focuses on empowering students to more actively participate in the learning process on their time instead of through a rigid lesson plan.

Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series in Child and Family Health

Perry is a graduate of St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Bloomington. She earned a B.S.N. from Marquette University; a M.S.N at the Denver campus of the University of Colorado; and a Ph.D in educational psychology with a specialization in child development from Arizona State University. She has more than 25 years of teaching experience in maternal-child nursing and child development.

The event was partially funded by grants from the Alice and Fannie Fell Trust, Community Foundation of McLean County–Ringer Donor Advised Fund and Ann E. Nolte Donor Advised Fund, and the Marion McDowell Stafford Charitable Trust Grant Program.

Mennonite College of Nursing annually will offer this lectureship series about child and family health. Plans already have been made for a November 30, 2004, lectureship series on Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). There will be an educational workshop in the morning, where RNs can receive contact hours, and an evening presentation, which will be open to the community. Registration materials will be available in October. For more information, or to be put on the mailing list for the Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series in Child and Family Health, please contact Amy Irving at (309) 438-7948, or armvans@ilstu.edu.
Save the Date! Homecoming: October 22-23, 2004

Plan to join us for these events:

**Saturday, October 23**
10:30-11:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade Illinois State University Campus
11-12 noon Alumni Social Hour Holiday Inn 8 Traders Circle, Normal
12-2:30 p.m. Homecoming Luncheon and Awards Ceremony Holiday Inn 8 Traders Circle, Normal

3 p.m. Dean’s Presentation Reunion Photos and Tours Edwards Hall

If you need hotel accommodations for Friday and/or Saturday, a block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of $77.50 per night. Please call (309) 452-8300 and ask for the “Mennonite College of Nursing Rate”.

This special rate will expire on October 5, 2004.

The Homecoming registration brochure will be mailed in September.

**Holiday Inn**
12-2:30 p.m.
Alumni Social Hour
Holiday Inn
8 Traders Circle, Normal

**Homecoming Parade**
Illinois State University Campus

**Homecoming Luncheon and Awards Ceremony**
Holiday Inn
8 Traders Circle, Normal

**Nominations invited**

The Mennonite College of Nursing’s Alumni Administrative Board is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Young Alumni Award, and MNAO service award. Nominations for these awards may be made by anyone and sent to the Alumni Administrative Board. The board will review the resumes of nominees and select no more than one recipient for each award each year. The awards will be presented during Homecoming in October.

**Nominator’s Name**

**Nominator’s Address**

**Nominee’s Name**

**Nominee’s Address**

**Year of Graduation**

**Reasons you support this nominee**

Attach an additional sheet of paper if necessary. Return nominations to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810.

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, "Made in the USA" by Riddle Manufacturing, Inc.

Afghans can be personalized with up to two lines of embroidery.

**May 5, 2004**

Jane Doe
2 Yount Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704

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Where are they now? Marilyn Lowder Maffett, class of 1986

After graduating from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1986, Marilyn Lowder Maffett worked as a staff nurse on a medical floor at BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Bloomington. Two years later, when her husband’s career took them to Maryland, she worked on a hospice/ oncology unit for three years. When they moved to Georgia, Maffett worked for a home health agency in the vicinity of Atlanta. Eventually, they moved back to Bloomington and Maffett returned to work at BroMenn on the Medical/Oncology unit. She obtained her Oncology Nurse Certification while working at BroMenn and was transferred to BroMenn’s Home Health Care Agency in 1993, where she worked for 10 years. Marilyn and her husband, Kevin, have three children: Andrew, age 14, Keelsey, age 11, and Paige, age four.

As a result of her professional experience—and her experience as a mother—Maffett sought a tool to pull together a patient’s medical history and other information. Therefore, she designed a booklet to track her four year old’s battle with asthma. The booklets, created for her children, have been invaluable in helping Maffett to record their illnesses. In developing this idea for medical record keeping booklets, Maffett drew on 17 years of experience as an RN and 15 years of experience as a mother. Consequently, she decided to start a home-based business, using her expertise to help others manage their health care more efficiently.

**Cool Breezes** is a new business that provides a solution to organizing health care information. With a Cool Breezes’ booklet, major illnesses and minor health concerns can be recorded easily in one location. Families can quickly access health history information, or retrieve details regarding an illness. Additionally, there is a column in the booklet designed for parents or patients to jot down instructions during visits to the doctor to accurately record new medications, treatments, or future appointments. The Cool Breezes booklet is appropriate for children or adults.

If you are interested in placing an order for this booklet, please contact Marilyn Maffett at (309) 378–2419, e-mail her at coolbreezes997@aol.com, or write to her at 10060 Wolf Hill Road, Bloomington, IL 61704.

**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? Please call Amy Irving at (309) 438–7418 or e-mail 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!
MCN Faculty Inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society

Jenifer Patton, RN
Senior Nursing Student
Honorary Members Director
Golden Key International Honour Society
Illinois State University Chapter

Dianne L. Clemens, an instructional assistant professor in the Mennonite College of Nursing, was one of the five Honorary Members inducted into the Illinois State University chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society on October 26, 2003. She is the first professor from Mennonite College of Nursing to become a part of this prestigious society since MCN became a part of Illinois State University.

The four other Illinois State inductees were: Helen Mamarchev, vice president for student affairs; Ned Skaggs, professor of economics; Jon Friesen, assistant professor of biochemistry; and Larry Alferink, interim director of the Honors Program and professor of psychology.

Golden Key strives to build global communities of academic achievers by providing opportunities for individual growth through leadership, career development, networking, and service.

Clemens’ service to the University and the community qualified her for Golden Key membership: she is a member of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the International Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Clemens has an American Nurses Association Certification in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and she is an instructional assistant professor, who focuses on the geriatric population and psychiatric mental health. Clemens has served on the Regional Nursing Conference Planning Committee. She also has served as vice chair of the College Council and been active in many MCN committees. Clemens also is a pianist at her church.

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2004 Degree Candidates

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

Jenifer Powell
Michelle Przybyla
Laura Rains
Julianne Reimer
Aja Reinstein
Megan Richardson
Larissa Roemersberger
Jaycie Roop
Courtney Rod
Nichole Schulte
Brianne Swett
Sunita Thomas
Lauren Thompson
Bonnee Tyskiak
Kenneth Vandyke
Candace Visher
Elizabeth Vose
Clare Vyburn
Sarah Wiher
Karen Wintersberger
Regina Wegand
Jennifer Welland
Stephanie Wilson
Jill Wozman
Katherine Wright
Hannah Zwanzig

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

Ida Clark
Christine Greene
Jennifer Hoffman
Jennifer Koch

Candidate for Post-Master’s FNP Certificate

Mary Olden

Candidate for Nursing Systems Administration (N.S.A.) Master’s Degree

Theresa Ackland

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

Crystal Alzafari
Stephanie Breedlove
Beverly Bruce
Lakeisha Coleman
Sandra Fisher
David Hammond
Carmelyn Leesemann
Jennifer Panon
Frolan Peraaho
Cheryl Robbins
Sarah Radin
Kimberly Schoedel
Mary Jane Schiessner
Tammy Serafini
Ashlee Slemen
Ann Sparlos
Martha Stevens
Kate Tryton
Pablo Valadez
Jennifer Walker
Janet Wiser

Alumni celebrate Nurses Week with students, April 27 and 29

MCN graduate students went to Irving Elementary School on August 15, 2003 to administer physicals to students.
Student Nurse Association Officers 2004-05

President: Jennifer Lynn Mathre
Hometown: Newark, Illinois

Why did you decide to major in nursing? I have always wanted to be involved in the medical field. I have a brother with disabilities and I saw what a difference the nurses made in our lives and I hope to bring care, comfort, and support to others as they did. I would also like to pursue an advanced degree—wth nursing I know the opportunities and possibilities are endless!

What things do you hope the Student Nurse Association (SNA) will accomplish next year?

Next year I would like to see a large involvement of Mennonite students in the organization and encourage early admit involvement. I would also like to introduce service projects that benefit the community, introduce a possible semiformal event for the students to enjoy, tutoring or study night gatherings with coffee and munchies, have a benefit volleyball/softball tournament, and many more exciting events!

Vice-President: Leigh Lucas
Hometown: Galesburg, Illinois

Why did you decide to major in nursing? When deciding between business and nursing, I was given the opportunity to observe a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) for two days. After that two-day experience, I decided to go into nursing because I knew nursing would give me many opportunities and experiences.

What things do you hope the Student Nurse Association (SNA) will accomplish next year?

As an SNA vice president, I hope to integrate more community service opportunities into our activities. Furthermore, as the Peer Support Person (PSP) chairperson, I would like to start a tutoring program for the incoming juniors. This tutoring opportunity can start with the Student Nurses Association. Additionally, I would like to increase the attendance of the early admits.

Secretary: Cathleen Ryan
Hometown: Decatur, Illinois

Why did you decide to major in nursing? I decided to major in nursing because of my instinct for caring and the large shortage of nurses in the medical field.

What things do you hope the Student Nurse Association (SNA) will accomplish next year?

Next year I would like to see more involvement within the community and more participation of our nursing students.

Treasurer: Christine Ryan
Hometown: Decatur, Illinois

Why did you decide to major in nursing? I majored in nursing because I personally find it rewarding to see that you have helped someone.

What things do you hope the Student Nurse Association (SNA) will accomplish next year?

I hope to see the students get more involved with the program in meetings, community involvement, and within the student body.

From a Student’s Journal...

As part of becoming a professional nurse, it is important to synthesize scientific and technical expertise with expertise gleaned from the liberal arts. Being with patients, understanding their world, and learning to find meaning in complex, difficult, and often tragic situations are critical components of becoming a successful nurse. In the college, we ask students to keep journals regarding their experiences and what they learn. This exercise provides a way for self-reflection and the gaining of insight. The following is an excerpt from one of the student’s journals:

We are the Hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Learning together
Headpiece filled with straw, Alas,
Our dried voices, when
We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless—
T.S. Eliot

This is a quote from a poem by T.S. Eliot. Read it well and remember it, for it is too often that we act as such. How many times do we click the remote control instead of rising to change the channel or carelessly brush a hair from our face? Yesterday, I did those things and thought nothing of it but today, today was different.

Today I met a young man who was about 15 years old. He was a basketball player, 6 foot 2 and handsome probably could have been a pro, but that was not meant to be. God had other plans for him. Last fall he was accidentally shot by his best friend. The bullet caused a fracture of C2 thru 4. The young man will never walk again. He will never even hug his mother again. Another young man entered the U.S. Army not long ago. He was going through basic training and got a pain in his shoulder, yesterday. I did those things and thought nothing of it but today, today was different.

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Faculty/staff notes

Presentations
Sara Campbell, "Identification and Exploration of Resident Attractiveness/Unattractiveness in the Long-Term Care Setting," 56th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Gerontological Society of America, San Diego, California, November 22, 2003.


Cathi Kaesberg, "Licensure Failure and the High-Risk Student: Strategies for Identification and Intervention" and "NCLEx Success Curricula: Classroom, Clinical (Pre-conference)," Mosby’s Faculty Development Institute, San Diego, California, January 2004.

Fellowships/Accomplishments
Eileen Fowles was selected as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Health Promoting Interventions; Under-served Women at the University of Texas at Austin for the 2004-2005 academic year. She also has been selected to receive the Outstanding College Researcher Award for her work in the area of maternal nutrition.

Brenda Jeffers has been selected for the AACN Leadership Program funded through the Helene Fuld Trust.

Caroline Mallory has been selected to receive Illinois State University’s Teaching Immune Award for 2003.

Publications


Alumni Notes

1935
Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Marie (Marquis) Yoder, who died on April 19, 2004.

1941
Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Susan (Suderman) Ackerman, who died on April 4, 2004.

1963
Carol (Martin) DeVault retired after 36 years with Bloom Hospital and BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Bloomington. She worked various areas for six years before becoming a recovery room nurse—a position she had for 30 years.

1981 and 1987
Laura (Cisco) Furman works as a school nurse for the Unit 5 District in Normal, Illinois. In January 2003 she received her M.Ed. from the School of Nursing at Capital Bridge, Cambridge Massachusetts. In June 2003 she attended the 39th Annual NASN Convention and received the National Certification School Nurse (NCSN) in October 2003 she received the NASN/EPA Scholarship to “Managing Asthma Triggers” and “Indoor Air Quality” seminars in Washington, D.C.

1990
Blaker (Blazer) Jones gave birth to Emily Marie Jones on November 21, 2003. Emily has a big sister, Lauren Elisab-eth Jones, who is three and a half years old. Amber works in the Emergency Department at St Joseph’s Medical Center in Bloomington. She has recently completed courses as a PALS instructor, Trauma Nursing Care Course (TNCC), and ECRN.

1991
Our sympathies go to the family and friends of Natalie Fulks-Perez, who died on December 2, 2003.

1992
Laura (Delorenzo) Krueger changed careers. She no longer is working as a nurse and has been slowly transi-tioning toward flying full time. She was a full-time flight instructor for the past one and a half years and recently was hired as an airline pilot for Mesa Airlines.

1993
Paul Jokisch and wife, Eden, welcomed Lauren Elizabeth on November 5, 2003. Paul works at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas.
A Revered Reputation . . .

By Jenny Ward, director of Development

For most of you, I am a new face to Mennonite College of Nursing. I hope that each of you not only has an opportunity to recognize me, but also shares with me your important times at the college, as well as your hopes and dreams for the future of nursing.

I have been blessed to have the opportunity to meet some of our alumni, financial supporters and community partners, faculty, and students in the past few months since I have joined our staff. I am learning that our alumni are very proud of the high quality of nursing and high personal standards of conduct that they associate with Mennonite College of Nursing. Our supporters and partners are concerned that our college needs to continue to address the national nursing shortage by maintaining and expanding our program to educate more young people to become nurses, in spite of shrinking budgets.

As the Mennonite College of Nursing approaches its 85th anniversary this summer, and its fifth at Illinois State University, we will celebrate our history, our strong foundation, the leaders and nursing professionals who are our alumni and who made our reputation so revered. We also will look forward to the challenges ahead, to how we can best address the changes in health care and changes in nursing education. I welcome your ideas and concerns. I hope you have a wonderful time at the college, as well as your hopes and dreams for the future of nursing. Thank you for your support, your ideas, your advocacy, and your pride in nursing alumni and friends. jsward@ilstu.edu.

The 85th Anniversary Year

The Mennonite College of Nursing is celebrating its 85th anniversary this summer, and its fifth at Illinois State University. This anniversary provides an opportunity to recognize me, but also shares our college needs to continue to address the national nursing shortage by maintaining and expanding our program to educate more young people to become nurses, in spite of shrinking budgets.

As the Mennonite College of Nursing approaches its 85th anniversary this summer, and its fifth at Illinois State University, we will celebrate our history, our strong foundation, the leaders and nursing professionals who are our alumni and who made our reputation so revered. We also will look forward to the challenges ahead, to how we can best address the changes in health care and changes in nursing education, which naturally will follow.

I will continue to travel to meet as many people as possible. I welcome your ideas and concerns. I have found that often the best ideas for events, financial support, and communication come from our alumni and friends. Thank you for your support, your ideas, your advocacy, and your pride in nursing and Mennonite College of Nursing.

Jenny Ward, director of development, can be reached at (309) 438-7178 or by e-mail at jsward@ilstu.edu.