In September of 2004, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated its 85/5 Anniversary—85 years of nursing, and five years at Illinois State University. The festivities began with an open house at Edwards Hall. Guests were able to observe current nursing students working in the labs, as well as demonstrations of SimMan, a simulated robot that faculty can program to have various illnesses for the students to diagnose. Guests walked through a historical timeline from 1919, when the Mennonite Sanitarium was established, to 1999, when Mennonite College of Nursing joined Illinois State University. There were also project displays, accomplishments of Mennonite College of Nursing since joining Illinois State University, and goals for future projects.

Guests gathered in Capen Auditorium, and were welcomed by President Al Bowman. A history of the transition from Mennonite College of Nursing to Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University was presented by Mr. David Wiant. Remarks were also made from Donny Bounds, president of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization; Jennifer Mathre, president of the Student Nurses Association; Lynn Kennell, instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing; and John Presley, vice president and provost of Illinois State University. Dean Ridenour recognized distinguished guests and also honored Anna Ropp, from the class of 1931, who celebrated her 100th birthday in July. A cake-and-punch reception immediately followed the presentations.

For more celebration photos turn to page 10.
Dean’s Message

We have so many wonderful things to be thankful for this holiday season. The 85th Anniversary Celebration provided us a very special opportunity to celebrate our rich history and look forward to our bright future. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our development. As part of the celebration, Amy Irving, assistant to the dean, event coordinator and Jeff Grabh, coordinator of Computer Support, developed a historical timeline of accomplishments beginning from when the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School was founded in 1919, through Mennonite College of Nursing’s transition to become the sixth college at Illinois State University in 1999. Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University has reached several new milestones. We have grown 40.5 percent in enrollment since coming to Illinois State University. We continue to have above state and national averages on the NCLEX and the PANCE and PANCE-NP certification exams. We are now listed in the Top 100 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Awards to Health Professional Components. This is a major accomplishment that recognizes the work of Caroline Mallory, assistant professor, and the work of faculty and staff to support our research effort. This growth and development can only happen with your support. Tight budgetary times continue for the University. Without the generous support of friends and alumni we would be forced to decrease enrollment. Your support does make a difference.

The search is on to fill the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing. This collaboration between the college and the hospital is a model for the nation. It ensures the partnership between education and practice and enhances clinically-based, outcomes-oriented research for the community.

Homecoming is a very special time. I especially look forward to being able to talk with alumni and share in our enthusiasm for nursing and for the wonderful things that nurses do. Thank you to all of you who participated. I want to give a very special thanks to our Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing, at Illinois State University Steering Committee who were honored by receiving the Service Award. The Friends Steering Committee is responsible for significant financial and moral support to the college, and we thank them for their continued dedication.

In November, we held the second-annual Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship series. Stephen P. Trainor, pediatrician at Carle Clinic in Normal, Illinois, presented “ADHD—One Size Does Not Fit All.” Laura Furman, Illinois Unit 5 school nurse, and Sue McEwing, instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing and family nurse practitioner, presented “A Snapshot of ADHD/ADHD in School,” which provided RN’s contact hours from the Illinois Nurses Association. You will be able to read more about this event in the next issue of The Flame.

This has been a wonderful year of celebrations for Mennonite College of Nursing! Joyous and Peaceful Holidays!

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

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Mary Cranston, RN, M.S.—instructional assistant professor
Marcena Gabrielson, RN, M.S.N., C—instructional assistant professor
Michelle Hopkins, B.A.—extra help
Jolene Horine—secretary, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home and Research Office
Melissa Nosely, B.A.—research coordinator
Patricia Malik, Ph.D., CTRS—coordinator, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home
Bonnie Schmidt, RN, MN, NPH—advanced practice nurse, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home

Alums: Bremont, ’02, Johnson (Ogden), ’01, and Schaller (Nicht) each ’82

Alums: Bostjancic, ’02, Young Alum; and The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee, recipient of the Service Award. After the luncheon, there was an open house at Edwards Hall. Thanks to everyone who participated and made Homecoming 2004 a success! Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2005, which will be Saturday, October 8, 2005.

Homecoming Highlights

Alums, faculty, staff, students, and guests from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, October 23, 2004. The Classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1979, and 1994 were honored this year. The Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony were held at the Holiday Inn in Normal. Congratulations to the 2004 alumni awards recipients Judith (Monshau) Smith ’78, Distinguished Alum, Amanda (Sendelmann) Bosjancic ’02, Young Alum, and The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee, recipient of the Service Award. After the luncheon, there was an open house at Edwards Hall. Thanks to everyone who participated and made Homecoming 2004 a success! Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2005, which will be Saturday, October 8, 2005.
The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (or formerly the Mennonite School/College of Nursing) who
1) has demonstrated significant accomplishments and leadership in the field of nursing, as well as other civic, cultural, or charitable activities;
2) has demonstrated a dedication to nursing and shows outstanding professionalism, and by her/his example has promoted and elevated the general image of the profession of nursing;
3) has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the College; and
4) personifies the values of the College in her/his life. This is the highest award the College bestows upon its graduates.

The 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Judith J. (Monshau) Smith, ’78, during the Homecoming Awards Ceremony.

Smith graduated from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1978. In 1987, she received certification as an Oncology Certified Nurse from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1989, she received her B.S.N. from the School of Nursing at Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. Smith received her M.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1999, and also received certification as an Oncology Certified Nurse from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the same year.

After graduation, Smith worked at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, as a staff nurse for the Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Smith had the opportunity to experience a variety of positions in various hospitals throughout the midwest including charge nurse, trauma nurse, patient care coordinator, and oncology staff nurse.

Smith joined the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1990. She currently works as a clinical trials nurse specialist in the Division of Cancer Prevention, Lung and Upper Aerodigestive Cancer Research Group. Prior to this position, she was the clinical research nurse specialist for the Radiation Oncology Branch. Smith also serves on numerous project teams and planning committees, including Web site Development, Emergency Response Planning, and Clinical Trials Recruitment and Retention.

In addition to her position at the National Cancer Institute, Smith is also an active member of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has served on the Technical Education Champions Project Team, as the associate editor for Research of ONS Online, and as a board member of chapters in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

Smith has produced numerous publications and abstracts, and will serve as guest editor for an upcoming issue of Seminars in Oncology Nursing. She is associated with several professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and American Nurses Association, just to name a few.

When asked what her most important achievements were, Smith responded, “The most important life challenge has been managing the fine balance between motherhood and a successful career. Professionally, I have an ever-growing passion for my unit and my work.”

When asked what her most important achievement was, Bostjancic replied, “I consider my most important achievement my continuing personal and professional growth. I have completed many educational courses, some required and some I sought out on my own as a personal challenge. I feel as though I have found my professional calling, and indeed am moving from novice to expert as stated in Patricia Benner’s book, From Novice to Expert: Most important, I have an ever-growing passion for my unit and my career as a nurse.”
The Service Award recognizes exceptional service to the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, to the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization, or to humanity, to such an extent as the service reflects the values of the College. The recipient may or may not be a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing.

This year, the Service Award was presented to The Friends of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee. The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing was established in the fall of 1993. When the College joined Illinois State University in 1999, the organization was revised to be named The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The purpose of this organization is to bring together persons who are interested in the advancement of collegiate nursing education, specifically the programs of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

The following are members of The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee:

- Janella Cooley
- Marilyn Freedlund
- Nancy Freelsch
- Sonya (Stanton) Russo
- Stevie Joslin
- Harriet O’Daffer
- Georgette Shupe
- Barbara Elaw
- Betty Frisch
- Margaret Johnson
- Kay Knuckles
- Carole Ringer

The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing has several objectives. The first objective is to encourage the formation and continuation of a group of well-informed community-minded persons who will offer financial support and encouragement to Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The second objective is to become fully informed about Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University and its programs since understanding and appreciation will be enhanced when an articulate, informed group of persons is present in the community. The final objective is to support the strengths found in existing programs and to encourage the development of new facets of programs and facilities as needed.

Through the support and annual fundraising efforts of these dedicated members, the group has provided the College with a grand piano, the Health Assessment Lab for graduate students, nursing scholarships, and state-of-the-art technology. The Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students appreciate The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee and all of its support and dedication.

Alumni Notes

Births and New Additions:
- Christine (Putnam) Emmons, B.S.N. ’97 and husband Dave welcomed their first child, Connor David, on April 16, 2004.
- Lisa (Carlson) Harris, B.S.N. ’94 and husband Dun welcomed Jessica Rose on February 14, 2004. She was welcomed home by her 2 ½-year-old triplet brothers, Brett, Bradley, and Lauren. Lisa is a staff RN on ICU/Telemetry unit at Midniouse Community Hospital.
- Mindy (Klennemeyer) Hazard, B.S.N. ’97 and husband Kevin, B.S.N. ’95 welcomed Nicholas Dale on April 6, 2004. Kevin is an internal medicine resident at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. Mindy is a PACU RN at UW Hospital and is also an online M.S.N.-FNP student at St. Louis University.
- Kate (Cowan) Newman, B.S.N. ’01 and husband Ryan welcomed son Joshua Ryan on June 24, 2004. He was welcomed home by older brother Allan (19 months). Kate is currently working at the University of Illinois in May 2004 with an M.S.N. degree and is a registered nurse in the Emergency Services at the Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign, Illinois.
- Sonya (Stanton) Russo, B.S.N. ’98 and husband Doug welcomed son Mason Dooglas on February 23, 2004. He joins older brother Payton (10). Sonya currently works in Labor and Delivery at a staff RN at BethMenn in Normal, Illinois. She is also in her third year of the master’s program at the University of Illinois-Chicago-Peoria campus to become a certified nurse midwife.

Upgrades/Progress:
- Linda Meints Cooper, M.S.N. ’99 was elected treasurer of the Illinois State University Alumni Association. She is currently a nurse practitioner at Illinois State University.
- April (Milashoski) Hammer, B.S.N. ’88 received the 2004 Oncology Nursing Society Excellence in Nursing Informatics Award. She serves as the chief clinical officer at Oncology-Hematology Associates of Central Illinois, PC, in Peoria.
- Jennifer Jacobs, B.S.N. ’99 graduated with her M.S.N. degree from the University of Phoenix and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society in July 2004.
- Laurel Neuling, B.S.N. ’78 graduated on July 31, 2004, from the University of Phoenix with an M.S.N. She was accompanied by her daughter Rachel and son, Tom Bruecker, to the graduation ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona. She is currently seeking application to the doctoral program in education and informatics. Laurel is currently working as a human resource development specialist at Eshel Hospital in Eshel, Ohio, and resides in Mentor, Ohio.
- Amber (Dobson) Oberheimer, B.S.N. ’98 graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2004 with an M.S.N. degree. She is currently a nurse practitioner with Prante Cardiovascular Consultants, Ltd. and is practicing in Decatur, Illinois. Amber and her husband Chris have two daughters, Hannah (4) and Avery (3).
- Weddings:
  - Mariah (Wolf) Bigelow, B.S.N. ’78 recently married Bruce Bigelow. She is currently working at the Carle SurgCenter in Champaign, Illinois.
  - Elizabeth (Skarbek) Myers, B.S.N. ’99 recently married Jonathan Myers, MD. Elizabeth is currently president of the nursing staff and kidney transplant coordinator at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.
  - Kristi (Nepity) Smith, B.S.N. ’95 was married on June 5, 2004, and resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

In October 2003, the Class of 1958 celebrated its 45th reunion. In attendance were JoAnn (Stoller) Gaston, Cheryl (Dunbar) Harvey, Ruth (Bee) Jakub, Sandra (Johnson) Lehman, Joan (Martin) Plenert, Elfrida (Landes) Ramseier, Evelyn (Traub) Saul, Gayl (Smith) Simpson, and Marlene (Abels) Weichman. Members all stayed the night at the Holiday Inn in Normal and had brunch together on Sunday morning. They had a wonderful time sharing and getting caught up on what everyone was doing at this time in their lives. They continue to recognize what excellent education they were given at the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing, and are grateful for the dedication of their instructors. They look forward with great anticipation to celebrating their 50th in 2008.
Continued from page 8

Family Campaign

On January 1, 2000, Illinois State launched the five-year Redefining "normal": The Campaign for Illinois State University. The five-year goal of this campaign is to raise $88 million. Within this campaign, there is also the University Family Campaign, in which Illinois State University faculty and staff are asked to participate. Mennonite College of Nursing is leading in employee participation for the University Family Campaign with 96 percent of current full-time faculty and staff participation.

When asked why she thought most full-time faculty and staff of Mennonite College of Nursing made contributions to the Family Campaign, Dean Nancy Ridenour replied, "The dedication of faculty and staff to the mission of the college and its financial viability make that we will continue to produce outstanding nurses."

Continued on page 9

Announcing the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing

At the 85/5 Anniversary celebration, Dean Ridenour announced the establishment of the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing. "The first endowed professorship at Illinois State University is dedicated to increasing collaboration between academics and service," Ridenour said. "This professorship will further the research agenda of the College and BroMenn Healthcare." The BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing is established in honor of the founding institution of Mennonite College of Nursing. An endowed professorship enables Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University to:

- Provide financial support for an academic position for the general benefit and study of nursing
- Enrich the learning environment for both undergraduate and graduate nursing students

That she juggled her job with raising three sons: Allen, Ron, and Paul.

Things were not like today when she began nursing in the 1930s. "We had to take more responsibility for ourselves because we didn’t have a supervisor on every floor," the way today’s nurses do. Also, she said, "The equipment they have today is far beyond what we had." She referred to modern times as "this age of throwing away." In her career before disposables items became commonplace nurses made dressings for surgery, sterilized needles, checked to

be sure needles were sharp enough to be reused, sterilized rubber tubing, and did many other such tasks.

She and her husband were married for 71 years, until his death at age 98. In retirement, he also was a volunteer at BroMenn Hospital.

Mrs. Ropp is in the spotlight now because of her long and distinguished history of excellence, but she never expected any glory. She considered herself just one of many people who were doing their jobs, and she doesn’t want her peers who have passed on to be forgotten.
President, Al Bowman

Donny Beaudot, President of Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization

David Wiant

John Presley, Vice President and Provost

Lynn Kennell, Instructional Assistant Professor

Jennifer Martin, President of Student Nurses Association

Celebration Speakers

Mark Langenfeld,kt of State Farm, and Dianne Clemens, faculty, talk with nursing students at the open house.

Sonja Reece, Lois Philpott, and Betty Knuckles at the reception.

Lois Philpott looks at a historical display at the open house.

Anna Ropp and her son Ron Ropp at the open house.

Roger Hunt, CEO of BroMenn Healthcare.
Faculty and Staff Notes

Accomplishments

Mary Dyck successfully defended her dissertation and received her Ph.D. in Gerontological Nursing Research from the University of Iowa in May of 2004. Congratulations!

Brenda Jef fers, Ph.D. was appointed as the director of Graduate Program and Research in May of 2004.

Denise Wilson, Ph.D., and the nurse practitioner students completed 56 school physicals at Irving and Tashon Elementary Schools in Bloomington in April of 2004.

In September of 2004, she was notified that Mennonite College of Nursing had a 100 percent pass rate for the FNP certification exams.

Funding


Presentations


Diane Mather, Presented at the Vladimir Medical College in Vladimir, Russia, listing the accomplishments and goals related to the Vladimir Library. Presented experiences as a consultant to the Vladimir Medical Library in Russia to the Bloomington/Northern Illinois University Program, March 2004.


Publications


Grant Updates

African American Women Choosing Wisely

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., will lead a team of researchers including Gardena Harris, Ph.D., in the School of Social Work at Illinois State and Cheryl Stamper, Ph.D., at Virginia State University in conducting a study to explore risk-taking and prevention practices of midlife African American women regarding HIV/AIDS. The study is being funded by the National Institute on Aging for $140,000 over a two-year period. The research team will conduct interviews and focus groups among African American women ages 40-65 to determine the social, cultural, and individual factors that lead women to engage in risky and harmful prevention behaviors related to HIV infection. This research will provide a foundation for the development of culturally appropriate data collection instruments and the design of relevant interventions to help women protect themselves against HIV infection.

Hartford Geriatric Nursing Excellence Grant

Katie Langten Completes Summer Externship at Mayo Hospital, Rochester, Minn.

Katie Langten is currently in her third semester as a prelicensure student. She is one of the recipients of 2004 Hartford Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award, and has completed a summer externship at Mayo Hospital in the geriatric medical unit. The Mayo geriatric medical unit has been ranked as the Fourth Best Practice Unit in care of the older adult. The experience at Mayo allowed Langten to expand her knowledge and skills in care of the older adult. As the Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award recipient, Langten was asked to read her winning essay on care of the older adults at Fall Convocation.

Langten, along with prelicensure student Amy Green, and first semester RN to B.S.N. students Katie Tipson and Shirley Lohman traveled in October with Hartford Grant Intern faculty Camille Little and Duane Clemens to attend the National Gerontological Nursing Association nursing conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Expenses for conference and travel were funded in part by the following grants: The Hartford Geriatric Curriculum Grant, The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project, and the HSRA Grant Enhancement of Nursing Education in Long-term Care.

The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project

The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project is off to a great start! The goals of the project are to (1) increase the number of long-term care clinical work and education experiences for registered nurse students, (2) increase the number of memorizing experiences in long-term care for students, and (3) increase the number of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State graduates who are employed in long-term care. The four sister nursing homes participating in the grant are Heritage Normal, Bloomington, El Paso, and Collay. Newly hired personnel for the grant project include Patricia Mallik, coordinator, and Bonnie Schmid, advanced practice nurse. Some of the grant activities that are being planned are a press conference, clinical learning activities, virtual case studies, speaking events, a long-term care career event, field trips to specialized nursing homes, and a unique student externship option. Two students and two faculty members attended the National Gerontological Nursing Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Gerontological Society of America Interdisciplinary Conference in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for more information as the grant unfolds?

*Women First!*

Professor Mallory and members of the research team are into the second year of a study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to test an intervention to prevent HIV infection among women exiting county jails and drug treatment facilities. Statistical consultant Matthew Hess-McInnis, Ph.D. Department of Psychology, research coordinator Melissa Neely, and research assistant LaToya Taylor have contributed to the development of the infrastructure for the study and the team is now ready to begin participant recruitment and the first training sessions for women at risk.
Jenny Ward, director of Development

Thank you to all of the people whose names are listed on the following pages. It is because of your commitment to nursing and your willingness to give back some of your personal treasure to the greater good of nursing that we have been able to keep our nursing programs strong.

The need for nurses is not going away any time soon, in fact, the nursing shortage is predicted to continue beyond the next decade. The Mennonite College of Nursing is continually called on to step up and to do more, educate more, and with less base funding. That is why the support of our corporate partners, friends, alumni, and our own staff are so important. Your help allows us to retain and recruit our very important nursing faculty. Without them, we cannot change enrollment, in spite of the overwhelming need.

Thank you for stepping up and helping out!

This fall we were especially concerned about scholarships. Our corporate partners, friends, alumni, and our own staff contributed to Ann’s scholarship fund. Your generosity has enabled us to award the first Anna Ropp Scholarship donors—chose to honor the careers of loved ones by providing special annual scholarships. It is because of your commitment to nursing and your willingness to give back some of your personal treasure to the greater good of nursing that we have been able to keep our nursing programs strong.