College mission

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University creates a dynamic community of learning to develop exceptionally well prepared nurses who will lead to improve health outcomes locally and globally. We promote excellence in teaching, research, service, and practice with a focus on the vulnerable and underserved. We are committed to being purposeful, open, just, caring, disciplined, and celebrative.
About us

Mennonite College of Nursing became Illinois State University’s sixth academic college on July 1, 1999. The rich heritage of Mennonite College of Nursing began in 1919. For more than 90 years, the primary mission has been to prepare professional nurses by providing excellence in nursing education. This mission continues at Illinois State University. Mennonite College of Nursing is located in Edwards Hall.

Accreditation

Accredited degree programs: baccalaureate and master’s

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 887-6791
Fax: (202) 887-8476

Date of last review for both programs: April 2007
Both programs accredited through: December 31, 2017
Next review for both programs: Spring 2017

Contact us

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Mennonite College of Nursing
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Visit us at
IllinoisState.edu/nursing
Welcome to the 2009–2010 Annual Report! As I begin my second year here at Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) at Illinois State University and reflect on this past year, I feel continually blessed and honored to work with an incredible, mission driven faculty, staff, and community!

Our undergraduate program continues to enjoy state board (NCLEX) pass rates that are the highest in the state, if not the country. In 2009, 101 students took the NCLEX exam upon graduation and 101 students passed for a 100% pass rate! This is an incredible accomplishment and one that few schools ever obtain. The students of the MCN Family Nurse Practitioner program consistently pass the FNP exam at or near 100%. Beyond pass rates, what is even more important is the consistent message I hear from our clinical partners and the community that our students continually give the highest quality care.

This year also saw several wonderful changes and additions to MCN. We are thrilled to announce the appointments of Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, as the Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor in Nursing; H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., RN, CNE, as associate dean; and Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN, as associate dean of research. In addition to these strong nursing leaders, MCN was also successful in hiring six new nursing faculty members to support the expansion of our nursing programs. These new faculty bring impressive credentials, expertise, and research programs to MCN to ensure that we will continue our tradition of excellence as we expand our admissions into our nursing programs.

Not only will additional faculty help us meet the growing numbers at MCN, but in May 2010 President Bowman introduced a resolution that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved, to provide $2.1 million for an expansion of our Clinical Simulation Labs. This state of the art lab will be ready for students in fall 2011, so we hope you will look for our grand opening and visit this incredible new facility.

We are especially grateful for the generosity of those who are able to continue supporting MCN in these difficult economic times. There are many nursing students who would not be able to continue their studies without the scholarships that are provided by our generous donors and friends. I wish you all could hear the joy in the students’ voices when I call to tell them that they have received a scholarship! We are eternally grateful for the many supporters of MCN.

We are proud of our exceptional clinical and corporate partners who not only provided outstanding clinical experiences for our students across the life spectrum, but also support MCN financially, which makes an enormous difference in our ability to attract outstanding faculty and provide the essentials of a strong college of nursing.

I am also very proud of the Class of 2010, who raised more than $3,500 in the Spirit Tassel Challenge and won first prize for having the highest percentage of students donating back to their college. Thank you to everyone who has supported MCN!

Faculty and staff continue to make presentations internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Their research and innovations are published in prestigious national and international journals. Faculty also continue to receive grant funding, and many have received outstanding awards and honors over this last year. If you have not visited our website recently, I encourage you to visit IllinoisState.edu/nursing and track our updates and progress of our faculty, staff, and students.

MCN is an exciting place to be—whether you are a faculty member, staff member, student, alum, supporter, or part of our community, we have a rich history and a very promising future; we will continue to commit ourselves to provide high quality care for those in Illinois and beyond.

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor
Planning a Strategic Map

Mennonite College of Nursing collaborated with our community and college stakeholders to create a strategic plan for the college. Given the complexity of the fiscal and health care environment, the central challenge for the college was “preparing outstanding nurses to lead in an era of growth and change.” In order to meet this challenge, five strategic priorities were established with specific objectives under each priority. “This strategic map serves as a compass as we move through these exciting and challenging times,” said Janet Krejci, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing. “It is a valuable tool that we refer to in all of our planning meetings, and we will continue to review and revise throughout the years.”
Strategy and Planning Council

During the past year Dean Janet Krejci and Director of Development Jenny Ward met with several members of the community in order to identify key leaders to serve on a Strategy and Planning Council (SPC). The purpose of the SPC is to provide input, wisdom, and insight to the dean of Mennonite College of Nursing on a variety of issues, including but not limited to strategic visioning, branding, outreach, development, and communication of needs and strategic priorities to external constituencies. In September the council held its first meeting at the Alumni Center.

“We have assembled an incredible group of community, business, and health care leaders, including some of our MCN alumni and former MCN Board Members,” said Janet Krejci, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing. “This group will provide strategic support and direction to lead MCN to its next chapter of excellence.”

Committee members front row:
Karen Magers, Nancy Froelich (emeritus member), Stevie Joslin (emeritus member), Margaret Randolph, Elizabeth Guth, Rose Stadel, Meredith Lovelass, and Deb Smith

Back row:
Dave Magers, Jean Ann Dargatz, Deanna Frautschi, Cheryl Jackson, Cindy Blackburn, Linda Johnson, Russ Hagen, Dan Deneen, Kelli Hill, John Lawrence, Billy Adlosson, Janet Krejci, and Jenny Ward

Committee members not pictured:
Kellie Clapper and Beth Kinnerling

Designing a Clinical Simulation Lab

Serendipity was in the air last May at Mennonite College of Nursing. Earlier in the year MCN developed a new Strategic Map, and one of the objectives was to integrate state-of-the-art simulation into the curriculum. Pamela Jeffries, DNS, RN, FAAN, ANEF, from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, was invited to campus in May to consult with MCN on simulation.

May 7, 2010, was a busy day on campus. As faculty, staff, and students were preparing for graduation ceremonies, MCN faculty and staff were meeting with Jeffries about why clinical simulation was so crucial for the future of educating students. Another meeting that was being held that morning was the Illinois State University Board of Trustees meeting.

While faculty and staff were in meetings with Jeffries, Dean Janet Krejci attended the Board of Trustees meeting. After the meeting Krejci came back to Edwards Hall and announced the board approved a $2.1 million lab expansion. This decision was made due to the increase in enrollment at MCN, and the shortage of space in Edwards Hall. The expansion will accommodate assessment labs, classrooms, patient simulation areas, and offices, and this modular facility will be at Locust Street and Normal Avenue.

Faculty and staff were thrilled, and could not believe the timing of this announcement, as Jeffries is nationally known for her research and work in developing simulations and online teaching and learning. Soon reality sunk in, as it was also determined the new lab needed to be up and running by fall 2011.

Krejci immediately appointed a Clinical Simulation Committee, who worked over the summer with various offices on campus including Facilities Planning, Classroom Technology Support Services, Telecommunications, and architects from the DLR Group. Members of the committee also visited other universities with recently updated clinical simulation labs, includ-
ing Lewis University, Marquette University, and Barnes-Jewish College. Committee members attended the International Nursing Simulation conference in Las Vegas and the highly regarded Intensive Training Program at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. “In all of these locations, we found wonderful professionals who were eager to share their suggestions and resources,” said Dianne Clemens, cochair of the Clinical Simulation Committee and Undergraduate Program coordinator. “We continue to communicate with them with questions and suggestions we had after our campus meetings, and everyone, including Dr. Jeffries, has been so supportive.”

A 10,000 square foot modular building will be delivered in early 2011, and the construction is expected to be complete by next June. During the summer of 2011, the lab staff at Edwards Hall will move into the new lab, and be ready for students by August 22—the first day of fall classes. This new modular building will more than double the space the labs use in Edwards Hall.

“Several goals were identified for this project,” said Diane Folken, cochair of the Clinical Simulation Committee and associate director of Business and Finance. “These goals included longevity—this building will need to last at least 10 years, the space needs to be flexible, and it needed to have the reality of a clinical setting.”

The committee has kept in constant communication with faculty and staff in the college, and posted floor plans and updates. Committee members also presented their updates to the college at its first meeting in August. Jenn Mool, Clinical Lab coordinator and committee member, described the layout of the floor plans. “The new lab will have a clinical simulation area, skills lab, graduate health assessment lab, undergraduate health assessment lab, storage, and offices,” said Mool. “We worked carefully on the design phase with the architects and tried to utilize every inch of space. We even created student work stations in the halls.”

The clinical simulation area was designed to look like a real clinical site setting and includes four hospital rooms, a nurses station, two debriefing rooms, and a control room. The skills lab will have several tables for practice, and the room is flexible and they can be converted it so faculty will also be able teach.

One of the new features in this lab will be the use of video taping and debriefing. Faculty will be able to conduct various simulation scenarios for the students to experience. Students will be on their own during the scenario, and faculty will be able to watch in another room via computer monitors. After the scenario, the faculty will meet with the students in the debriefing room for in-depth critical review of decision making, interventions, and nurse-patient communication. The impact of students reviewing their own performance is known to provide life-long learning.

“The simulation labs will allow MCN to assure competencies in our students that cannot always be guaranteed in clinical experiences,” said Krejci. “We are extremely appreciative that President Al Bowman introduced this resolution, and the Board of Trustees unanimously supported the Clinical Simulation expansion. We are also grateful for the support from Provost Sheri Everts, Vice President for Finance and Planning Dan Layzell, and all of the staff in their offices who worked tirelessly with MCN to support and plan this wonderful opportunity for our students.”

The Clinical Simulation Committee is devoted to creating the best lab for future nursing students. “Patient safety is our number one priority,” said Mool. “This simulation lab will give our students opportunities to practice and make decisions in a safe environment. It will help ensure that we meet our mission of producing exceptionally well prepared nurses.”
Faculty and staff
Fall 2010

Administration
Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and professor
H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., RN, CNE
Associate dean
Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Associate dean of research, graduate program coordinator, associate professor
Dianne Clemens, M.S., RN
Undergraduate program coordinator, instructional assistant professor
Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC
Assistant dean, Office of Student and Faculty Support

Clinical lab office
Jennifer Mool, B.S.N., RN
Clinical Nursing Lab coordinator
Judy Somers, B.S.N., RN
Assistant lab coordinator

Clinical practice
Cheryl Nafziger, B.S.N., RN
Clinical practice coordinator

Development
Jenny Ward
Director of Development

Expanding teaching nursing home project
Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, NEA-BC
Principal investigator
Charlene Aaron, Ph.D. (c), RN
Project coordinator

Librarian
Diane Mather, MALS
Science reference librarian

Office of the Dean
Janet Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and professor
H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., RN, CNE
Associate dean
Lissa Bevins
Administrative clerk
Jean Ann Dargatz, M.S.E.
Administrative assistant
Diane Folken, B.S.
Associate director, Business and Finance
Amy Irving, B.S.
Associate director, Public Relations
Michelle Kaiden, B.A.
Office support specialist

Office of Information Technology
Isaac Akins, B.S.
Technology specialist
Jeff Grabb, M.S.
Associate director, Technology

Office of Student and Faculty Services
Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC
Assistant dean
Ellen Birky, B.S.
Office support specialist
Michelle Hopkins
Office support associate
Nancy Jakubczyk, M.S.W.
Undergraduate academic advisor
Melissa Moody, M.S.
Academic advisor
Tenna Webb
Office support specialist

Transcultural experience
Karrie Ingalsbe, Ph.D., RN
Coordinator

Professors
Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, NEA-BC
Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN

Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor in Nursing
Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC

Associate professors
Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA
Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Denise Wilson, Ph.D., APN, CNP

Assistant professors
Charlene Aaron, Ph.D. (c), RN
Kim Astroth, Ph.D., M.S., RN
Marcena Gabrielison, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN, C
Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN
Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., ACNP
Cindy Kerber, Ph.D., APN, CNS
Myoungjin Kim, Ph.D.
Ed Reitz, Ph.D., M.B.A., RN
Steve Stapleton, Ph.D., RN, CEN
Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN

Full-time instructional assistant professors
Kim Buck, M.S.N., RN
Dianne Clemens, M.S.N., RNC
Mary Cranston, M.S., RN
Jo Anne Guymon, M.S.N., RN
Rachael Hudgins, M.S., RN
Dave Jansen, M.S.N., RN
Mary Johnson, M.S., RN
Cathi Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS
Colleen Kelley, M.S.N., RN
Sheri Kelly, M.S.N., RN
Lynn Kennell, M.S.N., RN
Cindy Malinowski, M.S.N., RN
Blanca Miller, M.S.N., RN
Jamie Penrod, M.S.N., RN
Gail Petro, M.S.N., RN, ANP
H. Catherine Miller appointed associate dean

Catherine Miller joined Mennonite College of Nursing in July as associate dean. Miller received her Ed.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign and M.S.N. from Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville.

Miller previously held the position of associate dean of health and human services at Heartland Community College. She served on the Illinois Board for Nursing for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. She has worked in leadership roles for several health care systems and schools of nursing. Miller has been active in professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels. She has received several professional honors, including District 6 Nurse of the Year in 2000.

“I am thrilled to have Dr. Miller at MCN,” said Janet Krejci, dean of MCN. “She is highly regarded throughout the state of Illinois as a strong nursing education administrator, a woman of integrity, and someone who is passionate about nursing and nursing education. We are a great team to lead MCN in their next chapter of excellence.”
Shelly Malin appointed as the Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor in Nursing

Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, was appointed as the Advocate BroMenn Professor in spring 2010. She received her Ph.D. in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, her M.S.N. from Marquette University, and her B.S.N. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She also received a certificate in Grief Counseling from Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center.

Malin was previously the director of advanced practice nursing and associate director of the Children’s Research Institute of Children’s Hospital and Health System. She was also a professor at Marquette University College of Nursing, teaching in the areas of pediatric nursing, health care ethics, and health care system leadership.

Her areas of specialty include nursing leadership, nursing administration, change in health care systems, pediatrics, and advanced practice nursing. She is a member of the American Organization Nurse Executives, American Nurses’ Association, Wisconsin Nurses’ Association, Milwaukee District Nurses’ Association, and Sigma Theta Tau–Delta Gamma Chapter.

In her role as the Advocate BroMenn Professor she will be working with MCN faculty and Advocate BroMenn nursing leaders and staff to facilitate nursing excellence through research, evidence-based practice, and professional development.

Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing

The Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing enables Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University and Advocate BroMenn Healthcare of Normal, Illinois 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
• Enhance the academic rigor by linking research and teaching
• Foster clinical research and evidence-based practice
• Foster collaboration between Advocate BroMenn and Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University
• Enrich staff nurses’ involvement in research and evidence-based practice.

MCN welcomes six new faculty members

Charlene Aaron, Ph.D. (c), RN

Charlene Aaron accepted a position at Mennonite College of Nursing as an assistant professor. She received her M.S.N. in nursing systems administration from MCN, her B.S.N. from Illinois Wesleyan University, and her diploma in nursing from Methodist Medical Center School of Nursing.

Aaron is a doctoral student at the University of Iowa, with a research focus on the physical and psychological cost of caregiving for African American spouses.
and daughters caring for loved-ones with dementia. She is also the project coordinator for the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home at MCN. Her work history includes directorships of skilled nursing facilities in Illinois. She received awards from both MCN and University of Iowa in recognition of her contributions to gerontology and long-term care. She also received the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Pre-Doctoral Scholarship from the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Kim Buck, M.S.N., RN
Kim Buck joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an instructional assistant professor. Buck received her M.S.N. from University of Illinois–Chicago, her B.S.N. from Graceland College School of Nursing, and her diploma in nursing from Parkland College. She is a certified gerontological nurse practitioner and is Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certified. Buck is pursuing a doctoral degree, and her research interest is decreasing pain in nursing home residents. She taught part-time at Parkland College for the last 13 years and part-time at MCN and Heartland Community College for the last several years. She was the assistant director of nurses and care plan coordinator at LeRoy Manor and was a critical care nurse at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.

Sheri Kelly, M.S.N., RN
Sheri Kelly accepted an instructional assistant professor position at Mennonite College of Nursing this fall. She received both her M.S.N. in Nursing Education and her B.S.N. from St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. She is a doctoral student at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, with a research focus on dementia in acute care. Kelly worked as a nursing supervisor at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and as an RN in the Emergency Department at OSF St. James Medical Center. Her work experience includes providing direct nursing care in critical care, including trauma services and intensive care. She is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau International–Xi Pi chapter.

O. Ed Reitz, Ph.D., M.B.A., RN
Ed Reitz is an assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing. Reitz earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice science and an M.B.A. from Illinois State University. He went on to earn his B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1994, and a Ph.D. in Administrative Nursing from University of Illinois–Chicago. Reitz is the owner of Advanced MidWest Nursing Placement, a staff relief company serving hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient clinics. His work experience includes bedside nursing care, home care, and long-term care administration at a variety of institutions in Illinois. His research interest involved the nursing shortage, specifically the use of job embeddedness as a conceptual framework for understanding nurse retention. Reitz has presented research at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Sciences, the Midwest Nursing Research Society, and the Joanna Briggs Colloquium. In addition he has his research published in the October/December 2010 issue of Nursing Administration Quarterly and has a paper coming out in Journal of Professional Nursing. He has also received awards related to his research as a doctoral student at UIC. He is a member of the Midwest Nursing Research Society and Sigma Iota Epsilon–National Honorary and Professional Management Fraternity.

Steve Stapleton, Ph.D., RN, CEN
Steve Stapleton joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an assistant professor. Stapleton earned a B.S. in public health administration and a M.S. in community health education from Western Illinois University. He then went on to earn his B.S.N. from the accelerated program at St. Louis University and M.S.N. in nursing education from Aurora University. Stapleton graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing with his Ph.D. in nursing science.
During his tenure at UIC he was a research assistant and visiting research specialist. Stapleton also was an assistant professor at West Suburban College of Nursing in Oak Park. His clinical background includes staff nursing in critical care, the operating room, and the emergency department. His nursing management experience includes managing an intensive care unit and EMS System Coordinator. Stapleton has presented his research at the Midwest Nursing Research Society and also has coauthored publications in the Journal of Emergency Nursing, the Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing, and the Journal of Palliative Medicine. He is the recipient of a prestigious Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F31 Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the National Institute of Health. Stapleton is an active member of the Emergency Nurses Association, and president elect of the ENA Illinois State Council. He is also active in the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing, serving on the Exam Construction and Review Committee. He is a peer reviewer for the Journal of Emergency Nursing, the Oncology Nursing Forum, and the Advanced Emergency Nursing journal. His professional memberships include the Emergency Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, Oncology Nursing Society, Midwest Nursing Research Society, American Association for Men in Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Society of Nursing-Alpha Lambda Chapter, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

B. Jan Weber, M.S.N., RN, NEA-BC

B. Jan Weber joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an instructional assistant professor. She received her M.S.N. in Nursing Administration and her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing. She is a certified nurse executive, advanced (NEA-BC), and is board certified. She previously worked as an instructor at Millikin University and also taught part time at MCN. Weber also held positions at the McLean County Health Department, Heritage Manor, and Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center. In 1994 she received the Nurse of the Year Award from the Illinois Nurses Association, 6th District. She is a member of the Stigma Theta Tau International–Xi Pi Chapter.

Graduate Program highlights

With health care reform comes increasing demand for primary care providers, and we expect demand for the Family Nurse Practitioner program to rise, as well as increased interest in the Nursing Systems Administration and Clinical Nurse Leader programs. In a time of nurse faculty shortages and competition for clinical education sites our college will be challenged to meet this demand. However, we are committed to continuing to assess the needs of the community in light of resources available.

Complicating the picture of advanced nurse practice are the expectations that colleges of nursing will move over the next few years to implement the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as a requirement for certification as an advance practice nurse. Mennonite College of Nursing already has a plan in place for the development of the DNP curriculum and phasing that program in beginning as a post-master’s program. Denise Wilson, Mary Dyck, and Shelly Malin are leading the DNP program design. We are committed to maintaining a high level of quality in the M.S. and DNP programs as evidenced by continuing 100 percent pass rates on the FNP certification exam.

In August 2010 we enrolled our third cohort of doctor of philosophy students, bringing our enrollment to 15 students. The first cohort is about to finish course work and begin preparation for the Comprehensive Examination that is required for admission to candidacy and permission to begin their dissertations. The comprehensive examination is a test of the student’s ability to synthesize the doctoral curriculum and apply those principles to a test of scholarship capacity. It is also a test of how well the faculty have prepared the students and will assist us to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

Our graduate programs have grown, and we are pleased to have sustained success in educating exceptional clinicians, leaders, and researchers in nursing.
Undergraduate Program highlights

The Office of Student and Faculty Services (OSFS) is dedicated to providing the best service for students and faculty. Last fall Janeen Mollenhauer was appointed assistant dean, and in this new role she oversees the admissions process, advising, recruitment, and registration procedures for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. She collaborates with the associate deans and program coordinators to set and implement goals and priorities consistent with the mission of the college, specifically related to faculty and student support. She also coordinates student orientation activities, provides analysis of college data and enrollment trends, and supervises the OSFS support staff.

Due to the increase in faculty this fall and lack of office space at Edwards Hall, the OSFS moved out of Edwards Hall in October and relocated their offices to the Uptown Crossing Building. This move is temporary, and after the labs move out of Edwards Hall to the new Clinical Simulation Lab next summer, the first floor of Edwards Hall will be renovated to office space. It is anticipated the OSFS will move back to Edwards Hall in fall 2012.

Since merging with Illinois State University in 1999, Mennonite College of Nursing has had a significant increase in enrollment in the Undergraduate Program. One of the new highlights of the Undergraduate Program this year is going from a fall-only entry point to a fall and spring entry point for students. This will allow MCN to accept more students, and will double the enrollment for the undergraduate program.

The online RN-BSN sequence is experiencing an increase in enrollment; RNs with an associate degree or diploma in nursing are able to continue their education while continuing to work. Depending on their work schedule, they are can participate in classes full or part time to get their degree.

The accelerated B.S.N. option continues to be a popular alternative for students who already have a degree in another field. In 2011 this option will transition to a summer to summer format, which will help align classes, clinicals, and graduation with the traditional B.S.N. prelicensure sequence.

As the demand for B.S.N. nurses continues, MCN will continue to provide quality education, experiences and service to undergraduate students.

Outreach projects

July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Cultivating learning and service experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting is an everyday occurrence at Illinois State University through Public Service and Outreach programs and events. Public Service and Outreach involve one or more university departments or units partnering with community businesses, social agencies, government representatives, or individuals to address unique external community needs.

September 8, 2009
School physicals
Denise Wilson and the Family Nurse Practitioner III students performed 16 free school physicals at Irving Elementary and Sheridan Elementary Schools. This service is set up by the school nurse and Mennonite College of Nursing, and allows elementary students to stay in school.

September 26, 2009
American Heart Association, Heart Walk
Kim Astroth created a team at Mennonite College of Nursing to participate in the American Heart Association’s Bloomington Heart Walk at The Shoppes at College Hills. The Student Nurses Association also participated in warm up exercises for the participants and led the walk.

October 3, 2009
Alzheimer’s Association, Memory Walk and first aid stations
Mary Cranston organized members from Mennonite College of Nursing and the Xi Pi Chapter to participate in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk. Faculty members volunteered to help at first aid stations, and others participated in the walk.
October 8, 2009
11th Annual Regional Nursing Conference
Holiday Inn City Centre Hotel, Peoria
Cindy Kerber helped organized the 11th Annual Regional Nursing Conference. The keynote speakers were Diane Skiba, Ph.D., FAAN, FACMI, professor of informatics at the University of Colorado, Denver; and Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN, associate professor and associate director of the Graduate Program at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. This event was cosponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University; Department of Nursing at Heartland Community College; Department of Nursing at Bradley University; Illinois Central College; Methodist College of Nursing; OFS St. Francis Medical Center; and Sigma Theta Tau International Chapters: Theta Pi (Illinois Wesleyan University), Xi Pi (Illinois State University), Tau Omicron (St. Francis Medical Center) and the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter.

November 30 and December 2, 2010
Senior Health Fair Days
Colleen Kelley and the Adult II senior students held Senior Health Fair Days at the Gibson Area Hospital in Gibson City. The students provided information about aging and exercise, preventing falls, sleep help, benefits of massage, hand washing tips, review of the DASH diet, water and why hydration is so important, and living with arthritis.

April 7, 2010
Fourth Annual Evidence-based Practice Conference: Taking Evidence to the Bedside, Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center
Deb Stenger, Xi Pi Chapter President, helped organize the fourth annual keynote speaker: Thomas S. Ahrens, RN, DNS, CCNS, FAAN, research scientist at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. This event was coprovided by Sigma Theta Tau International Xi Pi–Epsilon Epsilon, Theta Pi Chapters, and Advocate Health Care.

April 19 and 21, 2010
Senior Health Fair Days
Colleen Kelley and the Adult II senior students held Senior Health Fair Days at the Gibson Area Hospital in Gibson City. The students provided information about vaccinations, dental health, sexually transmitted diseases, DASH diet: healthy eating, skin care and repair, preventing falls, reading food labels, and aging and exercise.

April 22, 2010
Expanding Teaching Nursing Home National Speaker Event
Old Main Room, Bone Student Center
Charlene Aaron organized the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home National Speaker Event. The keynote speaker was Jerry Friedman, photographer, author, and expert on supercentenarians.

April 27, 2010
School physicals
Denise Wilson and the Family Nurse Practitioner IV students performed 24 free school physicals at Irving Elementary and 20 free school physicals at Sheridan Elementary Schools. This service allowed elementary students to stay in school.
Development

As another school year begins we reflect on the past year and the cumulative difference our friends, alums, corporate supporters, and foundation supporters have made in the education of future nurses. We are pleased to report that the earnings of the Foundation enabled us to award more than 50 scholarships for hardworking dedicated nursing students who meet the requirements of each scholarship. It is hard to measure impact of financial support, so I will share a story of just one student as an illustration:

Prior to nursing school “MM” was an assistant in marketing. “Attending Mennonite College of Nursing was one of the best decisions I have made in my life,” MM said. “It was a leap of faith! I feel at home in the ICU and have come into my own.” When asked about her scholarship she said, “It was amazing and helped me so much. I had real life expenses, so everything beyond my scholarship went on a credit card.”

I don’t know about you, but I had chills when this alum mentioned how she financed her education! After two inaugural years nursing in the ICU, this MCN graduate has paid off her credit card debt and is planning to attend graduate school in nursing! Her success story is just one of many students who were able to be successful due to the generosity of our MCN supporters.

Not every student finances their education through credit cards, but I have found each student has a compelling story of what attracted them to nursing and how financial support has made a difference. In addition to scholarship support these students have benefited from support of companies like State Farm, COUNTRY Financial, Heritage Enterprises, OSF, Advocate BroMenn, Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, and many others who help keep our educational and simulation labs up to date, offer invaluable advice to our leadership, and help us attract outstanding faculty to our community.

We have many challenges ahead. Our leadership continues to advise us that healthcare reform will change the need and demand for clinically proficient, problem solving, patient-centered nurses, and Illinois State’s expansion of MCN’s programs and support of our growing numbers of students will need your continued financial support. If you have yet to make a gift to MCN, please consider it today. If you already support MCN, please accept my gratitude on behalf of our entire faculty, staff, and most importantly the future nurses—our students.

Jenny Ward
Director of Development
(309) 438-7178
Senior Spirit Tassel Challenge 2010

Thank you to the Student Nurses Association officers and the Class of 2010 for their generosity in giving back to Illinois State’s Mennonite College of Nursing. This year Dean Janet Krejci challenged the Class of 2010 by matching their total. The Class of 2010’s final total was $1,540.20! They also had the highest percentage at participation, and won an additional $500 from the University.

For each gift of $20.10 a senior was able to honor an individual or group that they chose to thank for supporting them while they were in nursing school. Of the 90 seniors in the class, 43 participated for a 47 percent participation rate. The money raised will go to support the clinical simulation labs and a scholarship endowment.

Thank you to the following seniors for their support of MCN:

Lexi Behnen
Kendra Bell
Kayla Benckendorf
Kristina Bennett
Crystal Bricker
Tasha Corn
Katherine Czarnota
Ashley Darling
Christine Drabeck
Emily Dubrick
Christine Faulkner

Kayla Fletcher
Melissa Fox
Aubrie Ghrist
Molly Gibbons
Katie Herman
Suzanne Hess
Nicole Jacobs
Rachel Johnson
Catherine Judd
Lauren Kopec
Ashley Koznarski

Sarah Kwasigroch
Chelsea Leesman
Jacqueline Lill
Angela Linklater
Maura McDonald
Katie Mehlick
Marissa Nelson
Katie Norris
Maggie O’Malley
Camille Overcash
Sara Payne

Jennifer Rakosky
Megan Rappleyea
Sarena Richardson
Alexandra Rigor
Nicole Rossom
Natalie Rowe
Erin Schmitt
Amanda Sherman
Kaylynn Stimpert
Lauren Towler

Private scholarship recipients
July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Esther Lyon Brock Scholarship
Marissa Nelson

Class of 2009 Scholarship
Kimmy Birmingham

Ralph M. and Mary Esch Endowed Scholarship
Jason Edelman

The William E. and Nancy Froelich Endowment for Long Term Care
Jenna Iioerger

The Jeannette Gorecki Endowed Scholarship
Susan Roberts

Curtis & Mary Ellen Griggs and William Morlan Annual Scholarship
Allison Kirby

Richard and Julia Johnson Endowed Scholarship
Sheeba Cherian

Roger and Stephany Joslin Endowed Scholarship
Chike Osude

Winifred Lawrence Scholarship
Danielle Piagentini

Meredith Lovelass Annual Scholarship
Maria Steffen

MCN Alumni Endowed Scholarship
Lexi Behnen, Edmund Nettey, Tricia Reichenbach, Paige Winger

MCN Alumni Student Transcultural Scholarship
Kim Birmingham, Maggie Crivea, Mallory Deters, Kallie Doerr, Lisa Glasgow, Jenna Iloerger, Katie O’Gean, Holly Parke, Jennifer Ringsby, Kathy Varney, and Paige Winger

MCN Transcultural Nursing Endowed Fund
Sarah Bethune, Kim Cherry, Lorene Greene, Renee Guziec, and Maria Steffen

E. Dale Mellon Annual Scholarship
Amanda Lentz

Karen Griffith Parker Scholarship
Lindsay Hedge

Rachel Rogers Schilling Scholarship
Kallie Doerr

Russian Exchange Travel Fund
Anna Sovestnova and Olesya Phaleichuk

Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation
Sonya Ash, Valerie Fay, Ashley Gooden, and Heather Phillips

The LaRue Sloan Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Jessica Gilles

The Vivian O. Stockdale Endowed Scholarship
Stephanie Hook

The Paul Stoddard Endowment Scholarship
Ashley Darling

Dave and Jo Wiant Scholarship
Munib Abdulrehman
Leave things better than you found them. That is the personal motto of Dave Magers ’77, ’86 M.B.A., and Karen (Roop) Magers, RN, ’79.

“That’s the way the world improves,” he said. “I’ve seen great improvements at ISU and that’s because people before us have left things better than they found them.”

Born in Paxton and raised in Normal, Dave became close to the University through athletic and campus events, even before his first day of classes. Unsure of what he would study when he first attended Illinois State, Dave found his love for business by working as a night auditor for a local hotel.

“Like every other 14-year-old, I originally thought my career was going to be professional basketball,” he said. “I walked over to the North Gym one day and started playing with a kid named Doug Collins. And I found out very quickly that I was not going to play professional basketball!”

Karen, who grew up in Bellflower, attended Mennonite School of Nursing. But while some nurses can take years to find their niche in the field, Karen found hers right away.

“There are so many subspecialties, and I was lucky to find what I love right out of school—ophthalmology and eye surgery,” she said. “Whenever I have the opportunity to share that with students I do so.”

Dave is now the chief financial officer of COUNTRY Financial, and Karen is the director of the Bloomington Eye Institute. Both continue to share their passions with Illinois State. Dave serves on the College of Business Katie School of Insurance Advisory Board and the Community Partners Committee. Karen serves with the Mennonite College of Nursing Alumni Organization. They are also members of the Strategy and Planning Council at Mennonite College of Nursing. Both return to the University and speak to students about how their passions have affected their lives.

“We have a top-notch college of nursing,” Karen said. “A lot of the community may know of the college but may not realize the level of excellence of the nurses produced. If we can show people that, they might become more involved. That’s why it’s important to get the word out about what we actually have here.”

“Everything continues to improve from when I was here, and it was a great institution then,” Dave added. “As other alums look at the University, what it has provided, it becomes apparent that the only way it continues to improve is if we all give back.”

These sentiments have caused the Magers to create two scholarships: The David and Karen Magers Insurance Scholarship, and The Karen and David Magers Scholarship for Nursing. The scholarships target students who are in the accounting and nursing fields, have records of high academic achievement, and are from small communities. In this way the Magers are able to support ambitious students like themselves.

“I’m glad to be connected with a college of nursing that has such a reputation of excellence, and glad that I can still contribute to that and help them maintain the legacy,” Karen said.

There is no doubt the couple is making Illinois State an even better place than when they found their passions here. “We’re proud to be a part of ISU and to continue to be a part of ISU,” said Dave. “It’s a great institution; it has world-class academics, athletics is fun and exciting and competitive. Top to bottom it’s a great institution.”
Mennonite College of Nursing appreciates all of the financial assistance provided by various scholarships to students pursuing a career in nursing. Individuals who endow private scholarships to Mennonite College of Nursing are invited to an annual scholarship luncheon to meet with the recipient(s) of their generous gift. Last April President Al Bowman and MCN private scholarship donors and scholarship recipients attended the luncheon.

Scholarships make a difference

We thank everyone who has supported student scholarships at Mennonite College of Nursing. As the demand for professional nurses increases, so do our needs for even more scholarships.

For the 2009–2010 academic year, 90 students applied for MCN scholarships. Of the 90 applications, 70 had noted unmet financial need. The college was able to award more than 50 MCN scholarships during the 2009–2010 academic year.
Honor roll of donors
July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University is grateful to the following alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations for their generous gifts and pledges received by the Illinois State University Foundation.

$50,000+
John R. Lawrence Family
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
State Farm Foundation

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Alma Stoddard

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The honor roll of donors reflects gifts made to the Mennonite College of Nursing between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. Please note the Telefund was conducted between June 1, 2010, and August 12, 2010. Gifts received after July 1, 2010, will be reported in the next annual report.

We have made every attempt to ensure accuracy. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and contact Director of Development Jenny Ward at (309) 438-7178 or jsward@IllinoisState.edu.

Mennonite College of Nursing research mission

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty engages in research and scholarship to address the nursing and health care needs of urban and rural populations and to identify effective strategies to reduce health disparities in vulnerable and underserved populations. Faculty strive to engage the community served through research in a reciprocal relationship to assure research practices are attentive to the special needs of vulnerable populations during all phases of the research process, including study planning, recruitment, obtaining consent for research, data collection, and reporting findings.
Message from the associate dean of Research

Research and Scholarship

Illinois State University’s strategic plan, Educating Illinois, specifically sets forward the importance of research. The core values of the plan include “Pursuit of Learning and Scholarship” in which “The University contributes new knowledge through research, scholarship, and creative activities…” At Mennonite College of Nursing we aspire to contribute to the body of knowledge that informs the discipline and profession of nursing. Faculty research programs, such as those developed by Susan Kossman, focusing on the use of information technology for patients to self-manage chronic illness, incorporate the values of the University with those of nursing to promote health and well being in people.

Scholars at MCN are focused on improving patient outcomes through research and evidence-based practice. For example, Wendy Woith is conducting intervention research to reduce the transmission of tuberculosis in health care workers in Russia. Singularly important in these efforts is the development of community partnerships that connect our college to people and institutions near and far. Dialogue with Chestnut Health Systems, Advocate BroMenn, and the Community Cancer Center provide opportunities for conducting research that has a positive effect in Bloomington-Normal and beyond.

We are fortunate to have such a highly qualified faculty and staff working with bright and talented students. Most of our graduate faculty have advanced research training and have completed competitive post-doctoral fellowships. These faculty are lighting the way for students and clinicians. In the pages ahead you will read of the detailed accomplishments of individual faculty, staff and students, but in reality these are team efforts made possible by all of us working together.

As associate dean for research, I will be responsible for developing, sustaining, and supporting the research and scholarship mission of Mennonite College of Nursing. I am proud of the progress in research and scholarship among our faculty, students, and staff. More importantly, I am excited about what we are capable of accomplishing in the future, and I am committed to promoting the values that make our college a strong environment for research and scholarship.

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Associate Dean for Research

Presentations
July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN
Assistant professor

April 2010 presentations


Elizabeth Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, GNP-BC, PHCNS-BC
Assistant professor


Mary Cranston, M.S., RN
Instructor assistant professor


Mark Dabbs, M.S.N., NEA-BC, RN
Instructor assistant professor


Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA
Associate professor


Marcena Gabrielson, Ph.D., RN
Assistant professor


Karrie Inaglsbe, Ph.D., RN
Instructor Assistant Professor


Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., ACNP
Assistant professor


Cynthia S. Kerber, Ph.D., APN, CNS
Assistant Professor


Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor


Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean, Professor; Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow


Pam Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN  
Assistant professor


Sarah Lindsey, M.S.N., ACNS-BC  
Instructional assistant professor


Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN  
Associate dean of research, graduate program coordinator, associate professor


Jennifer Mool, B.S.N., RN  
Clinical Nursing Lab coordinator


Beth Phelps, M.S., RN, APN, ACNP-C  
Instructional assistant professor


Deb Stenger, M.S.N., RN  
Instructional assistant professor


Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN  
Assistant professor


Publications

July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN  
Assistant professor


Elizabeth Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, GNP-BC, PHCNS-BC  
Assistant professor


Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN
Assistant professor


Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., ACNP
Assistant professor


Cynthia Kerber, Ph.D., APN, CNS
Assistant professor


Myoungjin Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant professor


Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Associate professor


Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean, professor; Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow


Pam Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN
Assistant professor


Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC
Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor in Nursing

Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN
Assistant professor


Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., ACNP
Assistant professor

(2010) Jenkins, S. “Factors impacting nurses’ decisions to call the rapid response team,” Grant Writing Mentorship, Research and Sponsored Programs, $4,500.


(2009) Jenkins, S. “Factors impacting nurses’ decisions to call the rapid response team,” Grant Writing Initiative Award, Illinois State University, $1,000.

MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant professor


Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Associate professor


(July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010) “Building social capital to foster development of new nursing professionals,” Sponsored by Illinois State University, Center for Teaching, Learning, & Technology, $10,000.

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow


Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN
Assistant professor

(2010) Sponsored by Illinois Board of Higher Education Nurse Faculty Fellowship, State, $10,000.

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Associate dean of research, graduate program coordinator, associate professor


Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC
Assistant dean


Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN
Assistant professor


Awards and Honors
July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010

Charlene Aaron, Ph.D. (c), RN
Pre-doctoral Scholarship

Charlene Aaron, project coordinator of Expanding Teaching Nursing Home, received the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Pre-Doctoral Scholarship from the John A. Hartford Foundation. The $100,000 scholarship will support the completion of her doctoral training with research interest in African American family dementia caregivers.

Kim Astroth, Ph.D., RN
Nursing Research Council

Kim Astroth, assistant professor, was appointed to serve on the Nursing Research Council at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. She will advise the leadership and staff on research and evidence-based practice, as well as developing partnerships with MCN.
Mary Cranston, M.S., RN
*Educating Illinois in Action Honor*

Mary Cranston, instructional assistant professor, was the recipient of an “*Educating Illinois in Action*” honor. This honor recognizes individuals, offices, or programs that exemplify the goals and strategies of the *Educating Illinois 2008–2014* strategic plan. Cranston worked with the Age to Age project, which coordinated intergenerational activities with elementary students and older adults. She partnered with a fifth grade teacher at Prairieieland Elementary School and residents at Evergreen Village Supportive Living. Students from her undergraduate class also participated in this project, and gained a unique perspective on caring for older adults while helping to coordinate the intergenerational activities with the fifth graders. This project exemplified the *Educating Illinois* core value of civic engagement.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA
2010 Meridean Maas Faculty Research Mentor Award

Mary J. Dyck, associate professor, was the first recipient of the Meridean Maas Faculty Research Mentor Award.

Ezra Holston, Ph.D., RN, and Marcena Gabrielson, Ph.D., RN
Research Development Award

Ezra Holston, Ph.D., RN, and Marcena Gabrielson, Ph.D., RN, received the Research Development Award for their proposal titled “Ethnic & Lifestyle Variation in Alzheimer’s Disease: A Pilot Study.”

Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., RN
Grant Writing Mentorship Program

Sheryl Jenkins, assistant professor, was selected to participate in the Grant Writing Mentorship Program, facilitated by Research and Sponsored Program at Illinois State. She will work with a mentor that will assist her with proposal development.

Cathi Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS
Outstanding University Teacher Award–Category II and Kathleen A. Hogan Teaching Excellence Award

Cathi Kaesberg, instructional assistant professor, received the Outstanding University Teacher Award–Category II. This award is for non-tenure-track faculty and staff whose teaching accomplishments are exceptionally significant and meritorious among their Illinois State University colleagues. She was also the recipient of the Kathleen A. Hogan Teaching Excellence Award for the undergraduate program.

Cindy Kerber, Ph.D., APN, CNS
Research Development Award

Cindy Kerber, assistant professor, received the Research Development Award for her proposal titled “Perceived Health and Gambling Behaviors of Incarcerated Older Adults.”

Myoung Jin Kim, Ph.D.
New Investigator Award

Myoung Jin Kim received the New Investigator Award from Mennonite College of Nursing for his proposal, “Evaluation of Supplementary Multimedia Materials to Decrease Graduate Nursing Students’ Statistical Anxiety.”

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN, and Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN
2009 Research Involving Vulnerable Population Pilot Award

Susan Kossman and Pam Lindsey, assistant professors, received the MCN 2009 Research Involving Vulnerable Population Pilot Award for their proposals titled “Refinement and Validation of Prototype of Online Mood Self-Monitoring Scale and Tailored Messages in College Students with Mood Disorders” and “Factors that Influence Psychiatric Nurses’ Clinical Decision Making When Managing Behavior in Psychiatrically Hospitalized Older Adults,” respectively.

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow

Janet Wessel Krejci, dean and professor, received a Nurse Executive Fellowship from Robert Wood Johnson. This fellowship is from 2008–2011.

Denise Wilson, Ph.D., RN
Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Award & Graduate Teaching Excellence Award

Denise Wilson, associate professor, received the Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Award. The purpose of this award is to provide faculty with opportunities for additional learning, renewal, and research. She plans to pursue the GNP certification. She also was the recipient for the 2010 Graduate Teaching Excellence Award.

Highlights from the 34th Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, April 9–11, 2010

The annual MNRS conference is one of the premier national nursing research events. Drawing from the central United States and beyond, some of the most productive and influential researchers in nursing attend. Illinois State was well represented this year by faculty and students who are making a difference in health care through research. Presenting were Pam Lindsey, Sheryl Jenkins, Kim Astroth, Mary Dyck, Marcena Gabrielson, Cindy Kerber, Caroline Mallory, and Myoung Jin Kim. Students from the undergraduate program, master’s, and Ph.D. programs also presented, including Danielle Piagentini (B.S.N. student), Jessica Sullivan (FNP Student), and Ph.D. students Christina Garcia, Kari Hickey, and Theresa Schwindenhammer. Of note, one of our undergraduate alums, now a master’s student in the Adult Nurse Practitioner program at University of Wisconsin, Madison, Lauren Park, was also presenting a poster.
Yes! I want to support the Mennonite College of Nursing.

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