College vision
The vision of Mennonite College of Nursing is to be a premier college of nursing dedicated to improving local and global health outcomes.

College mission
The 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 (MCN) became Illinois State University’s sixth academic college on July 1, 1999. The rich heritage of MCN 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. MCN has offices in Edwards Hall, Uptown Crossing, and the Nursing Simulation Laboratory. Student classrooms are located across campus.

Accreditation
Accredited degree programs: baccalaureate and master’s
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, D.C. 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
Illinois State University
Mennonite College of Nursing
Campus Box 5810
Normal, IL 61790-5810
Phone: (309) 438-7400
Email: mcninfo-l@IllinoisState.edu

Visit us at
Nursing.IllinoisState.edu
A message from the dean

The 2012–2013 year was another year full of celebrations. Many of our faculty received university-level awards. Professor Denise Wilson and Instructional Assistant Professor Lynn Kennell received Outstanding University Teaching Awards, and Assistant Professor Sheryl Jenkins received the Research Initiative Award.

Faculty recognized at the national level included Assistant Professor Steve Stapleton, who received the Illinois Board of Education Nurse Education Fellowship; and Assistant Professor Teresa Valerio, who received the 2013 Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence from the American Association for Nurse Practitioner. These are phenomenal achievements, and they exemplify our values of excellence. Please see page 26 for all of the awards and honors our faculty and staff received last school year.

I am thrilled to announce that the Doctor of Nursing Practice program was approved in April! We enrolled 12 students who began the program over the summer. We also graduated our first Ph.D. in nursing student—the new “Dr.” Kari Hickey. She successfully passed her dissertation in April, and joined the graduates in the May ceremony.

Part of our strategic plan is to strengthen our national profile. Our faculty continues to present at conferences nationally, as well as worldwide. Within the U.S. this past year, MCN faculty presented their papers at 47 conferences nation-wide. Internationally, faculty presented in Hungary, Malaysia, Brazil, and Russia.

In 2013 the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) was held in Chicago, and we had many faculty, undergraduate and graduate students present.

This past year, we held a “World Café” with many of our clinical partners. They shared their wisdom and identified strategic direction for preparing the nursing workforce of tomorrow.

I can’t believe that I am starting my fifth year—we have had so much success because of incredible faculty, staff, students, and supporters. MCN is truly a special place, and we would not be able to continue to grow without the generous support of our alumni, community partners, and friends. You have heard it before, but every gift DOES count and makes a difference! Thank you to all of our supporters—we would not be able to be where we are without you. Stay tuned. There is SO much more to come!

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC
Dean and Professor
MCN participates in exchange program with Brazil

In August 2012 Illinois State University was invited to visit three universities in Brazil to explore options for exchange programs. Representatives from the Provost’s Office, College of Business, College of Applied Science and Technology, and Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) attended several meetings with the Universidade Estadual de Londrina (UEL), Universidade Estadual de Campinas UNICAMP, and Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sur (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre.

During their initial trip to Brazil, MCN Dean Janet Krejci and Transcultural Faculty Director Lynn Kennell met with administrators and faculty from the nursing departments at each of the universities. In March, faculty members Edinês de Brito Guiradello and Maria Isabel Pedreira de Freitas from the UNICAMP Nursing School visited MCN to engage in possible research collaborations with MCN faculty.

MCN partnered with UEL and offered a Transcultural Experience in May where Kennell and six students spent two weeks learning about the health care delivery system in Brazil, the nursing curriculum at UEL, and the people and culture of this Latin American country.

“This was an amazing experience for our students,” said Kennell. “Our hosts and the faculty in Brazil went above and beyond welcoming us, and we learned so much about their culture, educational and health care systems. We look forward to future opportunities with UEL and the other universities in Brazil.”

During the spring 2014 semester, a doctoral student from Unicamp is planning on conducting her research with MCN faculty.

“This new relationship with Brazil will strengthen our Transcultural Program,” said Krejci. “It will develop the competencies our students need to become global citizens.”
Undergraduate program highlights

MCN’s undergraduate program thrived in the 2012–2013 year. The focus of the Nursing Simulation Lab (NSL) was on further enhancing simulation competencies for faculty. Associate Professor Susan Kossman is leading a team to elevate and to evaluate simulation pedagogy in the lab.

The new B.S.N. plan of study was implemented in fall 2012, with 114 freshman nursing students and 38 transfer students entering the program directly from high school. Students and parents are thrilled that students are admitted directly into MCN’s program.

The Prelicensure Curriculum Committee and the RN-B.S.N. Curriculum Committee spearheaded an analysis review of MCN’s program outcomes. The outcomes were refined based on input from clinical partners to facilitate more clarity in implementation and evaluation, and also to align more closely with health care trends and accrediting body guidelines. MCN’s values remain constant.

Faculty have made great improvements in the RN-B.S.N. sequence to align with clinical partner expectations. This past summer three faculty members attended the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology online design course, integrating innovative and creative approaches to enhance student learning in an online environment.

The 15-month accelerated sequence group graduated August 9, 2013, and 18 new students began May 20, 2013. We love the diversity of experiences these second-degree students bring. They are highly motivated and extremely talented.

In fall 2012, we instituted a Peer Tutoring program with senior nursing students tutoring peers in specific content areas. The peer tutors demonstrate a high level of motivation in their course work and are eager to assist other students. This is part of our Success Plan and coordinated by Instructional Assistant Professor Gail Petro.

Dianne Clemens, M.S.N., RN
Assistant dean for undergraduate programs

Program outcomes—as of May 2013

1. A provider of compassionate, patient-centered care who demonstrates a commitment to cultural and spiritual diversity, caring, and advocacy in promoting improved health capacities for individuals, families, and communities across a continuum of care settings

2. A steward of resources who adapts to human, financial, material, and regulatory realities to coordinate innovative, effective, quality care

3. An empathic communicator who effectively manages health information and evolving communication technologies to improve care coordination in meeting care outcomes

4. A collaborator who coordinates care activities among interprofessional members of the health care team to impact health outcomes of individuals, families, and communities

5. An evolving clinical thinker who uses theory, observation, evidence, leadership skills and practice experience to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities

6. An entry-level generalist who integrates knowledge and skills from a liberal education in applying evidence-based solutions to health issues to promote wellness for individuals, families, and communities
Graduate program highlights

We have lift off! The online Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program is a go! We not only received approval in April from the Illinois Board of Higher Education but enrolled our first cohort. That impressive group of students began classes June 17. With talented faculty under the guidance of D.N.P. program leader Teresa Valerio and a highly motivated group of students, we anticipate great success with this first cohort.

The D.N.P. prepares nurses with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic, health care improvement, and leadership skills to serve as clinical and administrative leaders in health care systems. D.N.P.-prepared nurses may also serve as educators in a variety of settings. MCN’s D.N.P. is a post-master’s online program. The program is based on national accreditation guidelines and is focused on nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse administrators; however, we will customize plans of study for any student with a master’s degree in nursing to accomplish the D.N.P.

Our other graduate programs continue to flourish. We admitted our seventh Ph.D. cohort this fall, bringing the number of Ph.D. students to 30! Two Ph.D. students have successfully defended their dissertations, and we expect that number to rise sharply over the next academic year. The M.S.N. program is fully enrolled with more than 80 students spread among the family nurse practitioner and nursing systems administration sequences.

Attracting a diverse and talented student body is essential for strengthening our graduate programs. The Human Resources and Services Administration recently awarded the college a second year of funding for the Advanced Education Nurse Traineeship grant. In spring 2013, under the direction of Denise Wilson, the grant provided scholarships and stipends to 58 family nurse practitioner students.

I continue to be amazed at our graduate student’s accomplishments. They juggle graduate school with work, family, and other obligations. The Mennonite College of Nursing is grateful that these students have chosen to come here, and we take seriously our responsibility to provide a high quality educational experience.

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Graduate Program coordinator
Faculty and staff

Fall 2013

Administration
Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, dean and professor
H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., RN, CNE, associate dean, Academics
Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN, associate dean, Research; coordinator, graduate program; professor
Dianne Clemens, M.S., RN, assistant dean, undergraduate program; instructional assistant professor

Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S. ‘91, LCPC, assistant dean, Office of Student and Faculty Support

Full-time faculty
Charlene Aaron, M.S.N. ’06, RN-BC, assistant professor
Kim Astroth, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor
Kim Buck, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Mary Cranston, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor; public health course leader; America’s Promise Project Schools
Mary Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA, associate professor
Marcena Gabrielson, B.S.N. ’01, M.S.N. ’03, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor
Elaine Hardy, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor
Rachael Hudgins, B.S.N. ’99, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor; course leader, Maternal Infant Nursing
Dave Jansen, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Sheryl Jenkins, ’81, B.S.N. ’93, Ph.D. ’05, APN, ACNP, associate professor
Cathi Kaesten, M.S.N., RN, CNS, instructional assistant professor; coordinator, Success Plan
Sheri Kelly, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Lynn Kennell, M.S., RN, instructional assistant professor; pediatric course leader and transcultural faculty advisor; America’s Promise Schools Project
Cindy Kerber, Ph.D. ’01, APN, CNS, associate professor
MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D., assistant professor; college statistician
Susan Kossman, Ph.D. ’03, RN, associate professor
Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, Advocate Bromenn Endowed Professor; project director, America’s Promise Schools Project
Cindy Malinowski, ’83, B.S.N. ’89, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Nanette Marx, M.S., RN, CNE, instructional assistant professor; coordinator, clinical practice
Blanca Miller, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor; member, PROUD Project Team; academic enhancement
Kathleen Morris, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Nancy Novotny, Ph.D., RN, associate professor
Teresa Novy, B.S.N. ’03, M.S.N. ’09, RN-BC, instructional assistant professor
Jamie Penrod, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Gail Petro, APN, CNP, instructional assistant professor
Carla Pohl, D.N.P., CNM, assistant professor
O. Ed Reitz ’82, B.S.N. ’94, M.S. ’85, M.B.A. ’89, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, assistant professor
Steve Stapleton, Ph.D., RN, CEN, assistant professor
Deb Stenger ’73, B.S.N. ’01, M.S.N. ’06, RN, CNL, instructional assistant professor
Teresa Valerio, M.S.N. ’03, D.N.P., APN, FNP-BC, CBSPM, assistant professor; leader, D.N.P. program; faculty, FNP sequence; FNP, Illinois State University Student Health Services and Community Cancer Care Initiative team
Denise Wilson, Ph.D. ’92, APN, CNP, professor; sequence leader, FNP
Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN, associate professor

Part-time faculty
Sarah Allen, M.S.N., RN
Susana Calderon, M.S.N., RN
Kim Chacon, M.S.N., RN
Renell Composto, M.S.N., RNC
Ardell Deckert, M.S.N., RN
Wanda Ellenburg, M.S.N., RN
Joanne Guymon, M.S.N., RN
Denise Hammer, M.S.N., RNC-NIC
Jennifer Holmes, M.S.N., RN-BC
Peggy Jacobs, D.N.P., APN, RNC, CNW
Jessica Jenkins, M.S.N., APN, NNP-BC
Diane Johner ’74, M.S.N., RN
Susan Kaufman ’81, M.S.N., RN
Kristin Kendricks, M.S.N., FNP-BC
Julie Kennedy, B.S.N. ’07, M.S.N., RN
Shannon Laesch, B.S.N. ’99, M.S.N., APN, ACNS-BC
Trisha Modeen, B.S.N. ’02, M.S.N., RN-BC
Ashley Neal, M.S.N., RN
Anne Neavor, M.S.N., RN
Beth Obiertel, B.S.N. ’92, M.S.N. ’06, APN, GNP-BC
Kelley Obringer, M.S.N., RN
Jessica Oester, M.S.N., RN
Kristine Papic, M.S.N., RN, CPNP
Genny Petersen, B.S.N. ’98, M.S.N. ’03, APN, CNP
Paula Porter, M.S.N., RN
Sandi Scheidenhelm ’80, B.S.N. ’06, RN, NEA-BC
Kelly Schuler, M.S.N., CRNP
Donna Schweitzer, B.S.N. ’90, M.S.N., CCNS, CCRN
Lorna Scoffins, M.S.N., RN, BC
Crystal Smith, M.S.N., APN, CNP
Deb Smith, D.N.P., RN, MBA, NEA-BC, FAEN
Gina Sullivan, M.S.N., RN, CSN
Amie Walker, B.S.N. ’07, M.S.N., RN
M. Cecilia Wendler, Ph.D., RN, CCRN
Amy Yeates, M.S.N., RN

Adjunct faculty
Angela Bentley, M.S., RN
Kathleen Buckwalter, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Sheila Bunting, Ph.D., RN
Trish Cunningham, M.S.N., RN
Uday Deoskar, M.D.
Keela Herr, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, AGSF
Holly Jirka, M.S.N., RN
Pam Lindsay ’82, B.S.N. ’85, DNSc, RN
Sharil Miller, M.S.N., RN
Leslie Montgomery, M.S.N., RN, CCRN
Krisi Olson-Stik, M.S.N.
Marsha Reeves ’80, Ph.D.
Nancy Semenza, Ph.D., RN

Staff
Isaac Akins ’00, M.S. ’10, associate director, Office of Information Technology
Lissa Bevins, administrative aide, Office of Information Technology
Chris Boicken ’09, office manager, Office of the Dean
Jean Ann Dargatz, M.S.E. ’04, assistant to the dean, Office of the Dean; project coordinator PROUD project team
Diane Folkon ’77, associate director of business and finance, Office of the Dean
Keith Golden, technology specialist, Office of Information Technology
Susan Lynch, B.A., office manager, Office of Student and Faculty Services
Kelli McLean, extra help, Office of the Dean
Kathleen Morris, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Nancy Novotny, Ph.D., RN, CNE, assistant professor
Teresa Novy, B.S.N. ’03, M.S.N. ’09, RN-BC, instructional assistant professor
Olanna Pullen, B.A. ’97, M.S.E. ’07, outreach coordinator, PROUD project team
Heather Winfrey-Richman, B.S.E. ’00, assistant to the associate dean/academics special project manager

New faculty and staff
Marcena Gabrielson, B.S.N. ‘01, M.S.N. ‘03, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor
Keith Golden, technology specialist, Office of Information Technology
Susan Lynch, B.A., office manager, Office of Student and Faculty Services
Kelli McLean, extra help, Office of the Dean
Kathleen Morris, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor
Nancy Novotny, Ph.D., RN, CNE, assistant professor
Teresa Novy, B.S.N. ’03, M.S.N. ’09, RN-BC, instructional assistant professor
Olanna Pullen, B.A. ’97, M.S.E. ’07, outreach coordinator, PROUD project team
Heather Winfrey-Richman, B.S.E. ’00, assistant to the associate dean/academics special project manager
Development

I’m so pleased to report that this past fiscal year the Mennonite College of Nursing received 980 gifts totaling more than $760,000! These gifts represent support of our three primary fund-raising initiatives: Compassionate Care (scholarship support), Clinical Excellence (support for the Nursing Simulation Lab), and Nursing for Community Impact (projects that support faculty and students working with community organizations on health care issues identified by the community).

In addition, our alumni, friends and corporate partners have established further investment in each of these areas in the form of pledges and planned gifts. We are blessed with the confidence of our community to educate some of the state’s finest nurses, who will not only care for us, but also advocate for our families when we need it most!

Scholarship support is still a critical priority at MCN. In this Annual Report, we highlight the Scholarship and Awards Banquet that was held in September 2012. Our donors include alumni, community members, faculty and staff, and the connection they make with their student recipients is heartwarming. In this issue you will also read about four new scholarships that were established this past year (see Pages 10-11).

We are so grateful for everyone who is able to assist our students with their financial needs, but we have more work to do to support our students. We have estimated that about one-third of the students who apply for a scholarship at MCN receive financial support, and the unmet financial need (the gap between what families can pay and the cost of education) of the applicant pool remains close to $2 million.

Students will fill the gaps with bank loans, costing the student more than $2,100 on average over the term of the loan for each $1,000 of debt incurred. A $2,000 scholarship would save the student $4,200 in potential debt, and a $10,000 scholarship would save them $21,000!

Adding scholarships and growing existing scholarship funds are important ways to help future nursing students. Washington Monthly confirmed the value of this investment in September by ranking Illinois State University among the top 50 universities in its “Best Bang for the Buck” listing based on its high graduation rate, its affordability, and the low loan default rate of its alumni. MCN’s graduation rates are extremely high.

With financial times uncertain, many are looking to the long term to ensure that their scholarships have substantial impact. Through planned giving—insurance policies, estate provisions, charitable gift annuities, etc.—our supporters can safeguard their families and provide for their scholarships when and if the funds remain.

Thank you for your confidence that our faculty and staff will make the very best possible use of your generous investment in MCN.

Jenny Ward
director of Development
(309) 438-7178
jsward@IllinoisState.edu
Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization

Board of Directors
July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

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Jenifer Patton ’04

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Donny Bounds ’97
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Sonia (Hetman) Wernsman ’98

Advisory members
Janet Wessel Krejci • dean, Mennonite College of Nursing
Jamie Sennett ’94 • assistant director, Alumni Relations
Jenny Ward • director, Development

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July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

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Sonia (Hetman) Wernsman ’98

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July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

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Elizabeth Madlem ’09
Dave Magers ’77, M.B.A. ’86
Karen Magers ’79
Margaret Randolph
Laurie Round
Deb Smith
Rose Stadel ’01
New scholarships

Della Mae Burns

The Della Mae Burns Scholarship was established in 2013 by Cheryl Carmack, B.S.N. ’02, M.S.N. ’12, in honor of her mother.

Della Mae Burns always enjoyed learning but never had the opportunity to attend college, or even high school. As the oldest of seven children, she left school after completing third grade to help care for her siblings.

When Burns had a family of her own, she often worked two or three jobs to keep the family afloat. She valued education and hoped someday to earn her GED diploma, but her family and work always came first.

Burns’ daughter, Cheryl, followed her mother’s path. She excelled in school until long work hours conflicted with her studies, and she dropped out of high school. But invoking determination learned from her mother, Carmack juggled family, work, and college for more than seven years in order to complete her bachelor’s degree. During that time, she served as president of Illinois State’s Student Nurses’ Association, as president of the Illinois Student Nurses Association, as a member of Mortar Board, and as a peer support person. She graduated from the Mennonite College of Nursing in 2002 at age 33.

After graduation, she worked as a cardiac intensive care unit nurse and on the open heart surgery team, before accepting a position as nursing lab coordinator with Illinois State. In 2012, Carmack completed her master’s degree in nursing and is a board-certified nurse practitioner.

Carmack was the first person in her family to attend college, to receive a bachelor’s degree, and to receive a master’s degree. She credits her perseverance to her mother who is the role model for strength, dedication, and hard work.

Carmack recognizes the unique challenges of being a first generation college student, and hopes that those receiving a scholarship in her mother’s name also benefit from their combined story of strength, dedication, and hard work.

Dr. Brett Cassens Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Brett J. Cassens ’72 was born in Sterling and graduated with a B.A. in German from Illinois State. He graduated from the University of Illinois-Rockford School of Medicine in 1976, and also received a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1981. He was president and medical director from 1982 to 1985 of Jefferson Health Care in Philadelphia. He also served as an instructor at the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine and as clinical professor of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

Cassens moved to San Diego where he became one of the first physicians in the area to treat AIDS. “Brett was one of the leaders in HIV care in the early days,” said Dr. Keith Vrhel, of the Park Center for Health in San Diego. “He cared for a large number of patients with HIV and he was an extremely compassionate, understanding physician.”

Cassens continued his work in the AIDS field as a research associate in the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center and at the AIDS Treatment Evaluation Unit, both at the University of California-San Diego. An AIDS activist, he was co-chair
from 1988–1989 of the AIDS Task Force in San Diego. He also had been both national president and president of the San Diego chapter of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, a group of gay and lesbian physicians and medical students.

He died November 7, 1996, at his home in Hillcrest, California. This scholarship, in his memory, was established through memorial gifts made by family, friends, and colleagues, and through a testamentary gift from the Cassens/Stille Trust.

Dr. Maureen Block, Illinois Heart and Lung Foundation, Spirit of Success Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Maureen Block graduated from Indiana University, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and from the University of Illinois Medical School. She completed her residency and fellowship at Rush Medical Center.

Block was a longtime partner and managing partner at the Illinois Heart & Lung Associates. She was an active member of the American Thoracic Society and was a member of the American College of Chest Physicians, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, and Illinois Heart & Lung Foundation board of directors, and was one of the founding physicians of Women’s Health Night. Block’s life as a wife, mother, daughter, physician, colleague, and friend was all too short. She died at age 41.

The Laurie T. Wessel and Lynn Marie Wessel Vickers Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Laurie Therese Wessel and Lynn Wessel Vickers scholarship fund was established in 2013 by Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Janet Krejci to honor her sisters who both died from complications of lupus.

Wessel was diagnosed at age 12 and succumbed at age 26 after many years of hospitalizations, and dialysis, and finally a kidney transplant, which unfortunately resulted in sepsis and ended her life. Vickers was diagnosed in her 20s and also experienced challenges, hospitalizations, and dialysis, before finally succumbing at age 37 after developing sepsis post-surgery.

They were both amazing and fearless fighters, champions, role models, loving sisters, and friends. They are missed daily, but what they taught Krejci, as well as others, was the enormous and powerful difference nurses and other health care professionals can make when they truly listen and see the complex needs of the vulnerable human before them.

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist students with financial support so they can focus on becoming the best possible nurse they can be and learn the power of making a difference when focused on advocating for patients and their families in their most vulnerable moments.
2012 Scholarship Banquet

Mennonite College of Nursing appreciates all of the financial assistance provided by scholarships to students pursuing a career in nursing. Scholarship donors are invited to a scholarship banquet to meet with the recipients of their gifts. In September 2012, then-President Al Bowman and MCN scholarship donors and scholarship recipients attended the banquet.
Scholarship recipients

July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

Helen A. Bender Endowed Scholarship
Donor: The family of Helen A. Bender
Recipient: Catherine Bachtold and Daniah Robb

Erma Mae Liddle Borchers ’45 Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Donor: Warren Borchers
Recipient: Stephanie Zitella

Esther Lyon Brock Endowed Scholarship
Donors: family of Esther Lyon Brock
Recipient: Nicole Zayner

Linda Meints Cooper Scholarship for Nurse Athletes
Donor: Linda Meints Cooper, M.S.N. ’99
Recipient: Kristin Horney

Dean’s Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Dean Janet Krejci
Recipient: Meghan Donahue

Jana L. Edge Endowed International Transcultural Nursing Scholarship
Donor: Jana Edge ’91
Recipient: Kelsey Miller

Ralph M. and Mary Esch Endowed Scholarship
Recipient: Jeff Parrish

Jenny Lu Etcheson, B.S.N. ’91, Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Jerry Etcheson
Recipient: Alyssa Howver

Helen Tuxhorn Evans ’38 Endowed Scholarship
Donors: Vickie Hefferman, Sue Oetjen, and Janet Worthington
Recipient: Amy Funk

Freshman Scholarship
Recipients: Rachel Fehr and Bridget Good

William E. and Nancy Froelich Endowment for Long Term Care
Donor: Nancy Froelich
Recipient: Susan Zobrist

Clara E. Gerhart Endowed Scholarship
Recipient: Caroline Shaw

M. Rudelle Goodwin Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Mrs. M. Rudelle Goodwin
Recipient: Desireae Hunsley

Jeanette Gorecki ’72, ’80, B.S.N. ’90, Endowed Scholarship
Donors: Monte Fisher ’75, and Gary and Farole Haluska
Recipient: Jennifer Ausmus

Curtis and Mary Ellen Wilfley Griggs and William J. Morlan Scholarship
Donors: Larry and Joyce Morlan
Recipient: Kelly Greene

Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Endowed Faculty Development Award
Donor: President Emerita Kathleen Hogan ’70, M.S. ’72, Ed.D. ’85

Elizabeth Davis Holder Endowed Scholarship
Donor: Susan Sears
Recipient: Elizabeth Gemberling

Richard and Julia Johnson Endowed Scholarship
Donors: Richard Johnson ’57 and Julia Johnson
Recipient: Desha Cobb-Shields

Joslin Endowed Scholarship
Donors: Roger and Stevie Joslin
Recipient: Casey Patton

Lois C. Kaufmann ’39 Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
Donor: estate of Lois Kaufmann
Recipients: Nicole D’Acquisto and Melissa Mardanoan

Winifred G. Lawrence Memorial Scholarship
Donors: John Lawrence family
Recipient: Molly Henkel

Meredith Lovelass Scholarship
Donors: Tom Lovelass and Meredith Lovelass ’73
Recipient: Paris Whitehead

Karen and David Magers Scholarship
Donors: David Magers ’77, M.B.A. ’86, and Karen Magers ’79
Recipient: Amanda Vercier

Lena Maxwell ’28 Endowed Scholarship
Donor: F. Dick Maxwell ’64
Recipient: Lauren Matthews

Janie McCray RN-B.S.N. Endowed Fund
Donor: Larry McCray
Recipient: Michelle Bates

E. Dale Mellon Scholarship
Donor: E. Dale Mellon
Recipient: Benjamin Stuff

Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Transcultural Fund
Donors: Dr. Karrie Ingalsbe and Lynn Kennell
Recipients: Andrea Darimont, Kathleen Kennedy, and Jessica Muller

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization Endowed Scholarships
Donors: combined gifts of MCN alumni

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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.
Message from the associate dean of Research

Educating Illinois, the strategic plan for Illinois State University, states in Goal 2, “Provide rigorous, innovative, and high-impact undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare students to excel in a globally competitive, culturally diverse, and changing environment.” Among the strategies identified to reach this goal is to “promote sustainable, mission-consistent growth in the research enterprise.” Evidence supports that research and scholarly activities go hand-in-hand with excellence in undergraduate and graduate learning.

The connection between research/scholarship and teaching is clear in our doctoral programs, where D.N.P. and Ph.D. students rely on faculty to guide them through scholarly projects and dissertations. The Cancer Care Initiative led by Assistant Professor Kim Astroth in collaboration with Dr. Sherman Woodhouse at the Community Cancer Center in Normal, Assistant Professor Steve Stapleton, and Assistant Professor Teresa Valerio is one such example. This team is conducting scholarship to assist patients to self-manage fatigue, pain, and sleeplessness that is also serving as a learning laboratory for two Ph.D. students this fall: Peter Cenek and Michelle Klodt are responsible for data collection, data entry, analysis and writing for publication and presenting at professional conferences.

For undergraduate students, there is evidence that engaging in research with faculty improves students’ persistence and increases the likelihood they will go to graduate school. Associate Professor Susan Kossman recently mentored two B.S.N. students, Garrett Sawyer and Lynnae Braker, who were awarded funding for undergraduate research from the Honors Program. Braker presented the findings from the study “Utility of EHR Tools to Nurses’ Clinical Judgment and Team Communication” in March 2013 at the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) in Chicago. Sawyer hopes to present findings from his study “Relationship of Cognitive Artifact Use with Nurses’ Clinical Judgment and Communication” at MNRS next spring.

At the Mennonite College of Nursing, we are working every day to ensure that faculty and students have resources to engage in research, scholarly, and creative activities that contribute to the development of outstanding nursing leaders who will positively influence health care in their communities and beyond. We presently offer a range of support:

- Annual grant and publication workshops
- Collegewide institutional review for human subject protections
- Editorial and grant writing
- Electronic grant submission support
- Faculty statistician
- Faculty travel support
- Internal peer review system
- Pre- and post-award budget development and management
- Professional poster development
- University research grants

While infrastructure is important, it cannot replace the hard work, dedication, expertise, and exceptional research training that our faculty have and make available to students and the larger community. I am privileged to work with people who have devoted their careers to improving local and global health outcomes through research and scholarship and the application of knowledge work to nursing education. I am grateful for their continued commitment to research and scholarship as a foundation for excellence in nursing education.

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
associate dean of Research
MCN hosts aspiring nurses at summer camp

High school students who are interested in a nursing career had the opportunity to learn about nursing this summer by participating in the Mennonite College of Nursing’s first PROUD (Pre-entry and Retention Opportunities for Undergraduate Diversity) Summer Nurse Camp at Illinois State University.

The goals of providing this camp were to increase participant’s awareness, interest, and knowledge of nursing career opportunities and educational requirements, as well as increase their confidence by providing a college experience that will prepare them for nursing school.

MCN contacted 28 area high schools, clubs, organizations, and churches to promote the camp. Nineteen Central Illinois high school students, from ages 15–17, enrolled in the program.

During the three-day camp, held June 24–26, students participated in nursing scenarios at the MCN Simulation Lab and other areas across campus, interacted with current nursing students, and shadowed professionals at medical centers. The students also heard about nursing opportunities from a career panel discussion with Sue Albee ’95, supervisor at the McLean County Health Department; Jenna Grider Ford ’09, a pediatric nurse; Mary Weber Kamm ’12, a maternity nurse; Beth Kimmerling, the McLean County coroner; and Blanca Miller, an instructional assistant professor at MCN.

“This was a wonderful experience for these students, and we are grateful for the support from Sue Albee at the McLean County Health Department, McLean County Coroner Beth Kimmerling, and Stephanie Coram at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center for helping us make this a successful experience,” said Catherine Miller, principal investigator for the PROUD grant.

MCN plans to offer nursing summer camps in 2014 and 2015. For more information about the camps or PROUD Project Team, call (309) 438-1820.

The PROUD nurse camp is just one aspect of ongoing diversity initiatives at MCN, funded from a $1.1 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Administered through the department’s Health Resources Services Administration and Nursing Workforce Diversity, the grant is geared toward increasing the number of registered nurses from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds.
Publications/Intellectual contributions

July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

Aaron, Charlene S., assistant professor

Astroth, Kim M., assistant professor


Dyk, Mary J., associate professor


Jenkins, Sheryl D., associate professor


Kerber, Cynthia S., assistant professor


Kim, Myoungjin, assistant professor


Kossman, Susan P., associate professor

**Krejci, Janet W., dean and professor**

**Mallory, Caroline M., associate dean of Research, graduate program coordinator, and professor**

**Reitz, O. Ed, assistant professor**

**Woith, Wendy L., associate professor**


## Presentations

**June 1, 2012–July 30, 2013**

**Aaron, Charlene S., assistant professor**


**Aaron, C. S.,” Geropsychiatric Nursing Competency Enhancements: Navigating the Competency Maze—Geropsychiatric Nursing and Interprofessional Collaborative Practice,” San Diego. (November 2012).**


**Akins III, Isaac T., associate director of technology**

**Astroth, Kim M., assistant professor**


**Buck, Kim A., instructional assistant professor**

Clemens, Dianne L., instructional assistant professor

Dyck, Mary J., associate professor


Hardy, Elaine C., assistant professor

Jenkins, Sheryl D., associate professor


Kelly, Sheri A., instructional assistant professor


Kennell, Lynn Canal S., instructional assistant professor

Kerber, Cynthia S., assistant professor


Kim, MyoungJin, assistant professor


Kossman, Susan P., associate professor


Krejci, Janet W., dean and professor
Krejci, J.W., Illinois State alumni presentation, “Update From Mennonite College of Nursing and Illinois State University,” Minneapolis. (June, 2013)

Malin, Shelly, BroMenn Endowed Professor
Malin, S., Advocate Health Care Nursing Research Symposium at Advocate Christ Medical Center, “Effective Evidence Based Practice and Research: Mentorship, What Does It Take?“ Oak Lawn. (April 2013).

Malinowski, Cynthia J., instructional assistant professor

Mool, Jennifer M., NSL coordinator

Pohl, Carla J., assistant professor

Reitz, O. Ed, assistant professor
Reitz, O.E., Teaching Learning Symposium, “Academic Dishonesty in Distance Education in Nursing Programs,” Illinois State University, Normal. (2013).

Stapleton, Stephen J., assistant professor

Stenger, Deb, instructional assistant professor

Valerio, Teresa D., assistant professor
Valerio, T. D., American Academy of Sleep Medicine, “3 Key Challenges in Managing Chronic Insomnia in Adults,” Darien. (October 2012).
Valerio, T. D., Cornbelt Health Educator’s Association, “‘Needs to Know’ About Sleep,” Bloomington. (October 2012).

Wilson, Denise D., professor
Woith, Wendy L., assistant professor


Kossman, Susan P., associate professor

Kim, MyoungJin, assistant professor


Valerio, Teresa D., assistant professor
to behaviors, Functioning, and Health Information in a National Sample of U.S. College Students From 2008 to 2011,” sponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing, Illinois State University, $4,053.98. (July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013).

**Wilson, Denise D., professor**


Woith, Wendy L., assistant professor
Jenkins, S. D. (Co-PI), Astroth, K. M. (PI), and Woith, W. L. (Co-PI), ”Facilitators and Barriers to Nurses’ Activation of Rapid Response Teams,” sponsored by STTI Xi Pi, $2,000. (July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013).

### Awards and Honors

**July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013**

**Akins III, Isaac T., associate director of technology**

Education Management Solutions (EMS) Simulation Champion, Education Management Solutions (2013)

**Dargatz, Jean Ann, assistant to the dean, PROUD project coordinator**

Leadership Initiative Cohort, Illinois State University (2012)

**Jenkins, Sheryl D., assistant professor**

Research Initiative Award, Illinois State University (2013)

Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award, Mennonite College of Nursing (2012)


**Kerber, Cynthia S., assistant professor**

Book of the Year Award—two categories, *American Journal of Nursing* (2012)

**Kim, MyoungJin, assistant professor**

Nominated for Research Initiative Award, Illinois State University (2012)

Nominated for Teaching Initiative Award, Illinois State University (2012)

**Kossman, Susan P., associate professor**

Meridean Maas Faculty Research Mentor Award (2012)

Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Award (2012)

**Krejci, Janet W., dean and professor**

Leadership America Fellow (2012)

**Miller, H. Catherine, associate dean for academics**

Leadership Initiative Cohort, Illinois State University (2012)

**Mollenhauer, Janeen, assistant dean for the office of student and faculty services**

Nominated for Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year—Heartland Community College (2000–2001)

**Stapleton, Stephen J., assistant professor**


**Valerio, Teresa D., assistant professor**

State Award for Excellence, American Association of Nurse Practitioners (2013)

Research and Sponsored Programs Travel Award, Illinois State University (2012)

**Wilson, Denise D., professor**

Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (2013)

Outstanding University Teacher Award (Category 1), Illinois State University (2013)

**Winfrey-Richman, Heather, assistant to the associate dean and academics special project manager**

Outstanding Alumni Advisor, Illinois State University Fraternity and Sorority Life (2012)
Renewed Funding Received for America’s Promise School Project from State Farm companies foundation

A unique partnership developed between MCN and Bloomington-Normal school district administrators, school nurses, parents, and children as we designed, piloted, and implemented a new approach to educating undergraduate nursing students using a school as the primary learning site for both pediatric and public health courses. With funding from State Farm Companies Foundation to support development of a mutually beneficial partnership the America’s Promise School Project was born!

Beginning in fall 2011 faculty at the college reached out to partner with public schools to design new learning experiences in a nontraditional health setting. Our goal was and is to do this in a manner that meets identified health needs of children and teens, especially those from low-income households. We are pleased to report success and have expanded the model to three high schools and eight elementary schools.

The learning experiences for nursing students are designed to assist schools in meeting the health needs of children in the community. One example includes a strong focus on oral health, as this is one of the top three health needs for children in McLean County. Oral health was, and will continue to be, a focus in all schools with nursing students working closely with faculty and school nurses to provide developmentally appropriate oral health education to students in the classroom at the elementary schools and high schools. Screening was conducted for the first time in 10 years at Bloomington High School with 70 teens participating and receiving critically important dental health services. This support has helped students in need stay in school and stay focused on their studies. The long-term goal is to ensure our services fill a critical community need and ultimately result in a well-educated workforce.

A feasibility study was designed and conducted in spring 2013 to examine the impact of adding a toothbrushing activity in school to standardize oral health education for first grade students. The first graders loved brushing their teeth in school, and we learned from the teachers involved in the study how to “set” this activity for success in the midst of a busy school day. We are conducting a study of this intervention in multiple schools in 2013–2014.

Professional development for school nurses became a focus as we entered in the partnership. We conducted two successful School Nurse Summer Institute Conferences, one each year of the project. The conferences were well attended, and we are in the midst of planning the third Annual School Nurse Summer Institute.

Three faculty members and a graduate student had abstracts accepted and presented four papers at the 141st Annual American Public Health Association Meeting and Expo held in Boston in November 2013.

The work would not be possible without the generous support of State Farm Companies Foundation, which renewed its support for 2013-2015.

This project, led by Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN, includes faculty and staff from the college as well as school nurses from both school districts and a nurse leader from the McLean County Health Department. Assistant Dean of the Undergraduate Program Dianne Clemens has been instrumental in integrating the logistics of this innovative project into our B.S.N. program.

Project Team

Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN—project director
Susan Albee, B.S.N. ’95, RN—McLean County Health Department
Mary Cranston, M.S.N., RN—clinical course leader
Lynn Kennell, M.S., RN—pediatric course leader
Susann Marcum, B.S.N., RN—school nurse, McLean County Unit District 5
Michelle Mauer, B.S.N., RN—school nurse, Bloomington School District 87
Lindsay Otero, B.S.N. ’10, RN—graduate assistant
Yvette Pigman, B.S.N., RN—graduate assistant
Carla Pohl, D.N.P, CNM—assistant professor
Heather Winfrey-Richman ’00, academic special projects manager
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