

The Flame

Mennonite College of Nursing

ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2015-2016 ISSUE



Sarah Lindsey and Connee Sloman are the first students to graduate from the D.N.P. program.



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Mennonite College of Nursing

Nursing.IllinoisState.edu



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The Flame

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Message from the interim dean

Greetings alumni and friends!

As another academic year winds down, and I look back on all the incredible accomplishments made by faculty, staff, and students this past year, I am so proud to be part of this amazing college!

I am very pleased to announce Judy Neubrandner, Ed.D., FNP-BC will begin July 1 as MCN's next dean. Her vision and experience are a great fit with MCN's mission, and I hope you will be able to meet her at a future meeting or event.

Our enrollment numbers for the 2015-16 year totaled 773! We currently have 631 students in the undergraduate program and 142 students in the graduate program.

For 2015, MCN students had a 96 percent pass rate on the NCLEX exam—the state average is 86 percent, and the national average is 85 percent. This is just incredible and shows the continued hard work of our faculty and students.

Our Student Nurses Association continues to work hard outside of the classroom and clinical to do incredible community service projects. Just one of its many accomplishments includes being the most represented registered student organization at Illinois State University's St. Jude Up 'Til Dawn two years in a row and helping to raise over \$203,000.

MCN Nurses Week was another fantastic week of events with faculty, students, alumni and friends. At the alumni banquet, we celebrated five outstanding award recipients and recognized milestone reunion years. I hope you take some time and read about these inspiring individuals!

I want to thank all of our supporters—it is because of you believing in our mission and values that we can continue to grow, even in these uncertain times. We have a long, rich history of traditions, and we will continue to prepare outstanding nurse leaders and advocates for vulnerable people!

It has been my privilege to serve as the interim dean these past two years, and I look forward to seeing the continued growth of MCN!

H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., RN, CNE

Interim Dean

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Judy Neubrandner named dean of College of Nursing

Illinois State University Provost Janet Krejci has named Judy Neubrandner the new dean of Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN).

"The Mennonite College of Nursing's rich history and strong programs provide a solid foundation for the future," Neubrandner said. "I look forward to collaborating with the college's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and constituents as we work together to continue to move the college forward."

Neubrandner comes to Illinois State from Western Carolina University, where she served as director of the School of Nursing. During her tenure, she led the implementation of a doctorate of nursing practice program, created the School of Nursing Development Council, and has secured more than \$4 million in funding from organizations—including the Health Resources and Services Administration—to enhance access and increase diversity in nursing. She was also instrumental in the planning and development of a new College of Health and Human Sciences building on the campus.

"Dr. Neubrandner's talents and experience are a perfect fit for the Mennonite College of Nursing," Krejci said. "She is clearly a mission-driven visionary leader, with lived values that align with MCN, our Educating Illinois mission, and our outstanding nursing programs, faculty, and staff."

Neubrandner's nursing and administrative research has appeared in such scholarly publications as the American Journal of Nursing, the International Journal of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing, the Journal of Best Practices in Health Professions Diversity: Research, Education and Policy, and the Journal of Professional Nursing. Neubrandner has made presentations across the United States on the importance of diversity in the nursing workforce, as well as improving faculty and student performance.

An active nurse throughout her academic career, Neubrandner is a nurse practitioner volunteer with the Good Samaritan Clinic of Jackson County, North Carolina, and has traveled to provide nursing services to Haiti and Ecuador.

Neubrandner earned a family nurse practitioner post-graduate certificate from the University of Alabama, a bachelor's degree in nursing from William Jewell College, a master's degree in education and adult health from the University of Kansas, and a doctorate from North Carolina State University.



Celebrating first DNP graduates

By John Moody

When you are among the first-ever students to complete a new academic program you have likely been some mix of trail blazer and guinea pig. The key to an emerging and successful program is the spirit of collaboration that lies between those two labels.

Sarah Lindsey '00 and Connee Sloman know this well. They are the first students to graduate with the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) at Illinois State University.

The degree, known as the D.N.P., is a primarily online program led by Teresa Valerio, assistant professor at MCN.

While the online nature of the program didn't put them together in a classroom in the traditional sense, Lindsey and Sloman were a great support to one another during the process.

"We had lots of contact via text," Lindsey said.

And, last December, when it was time for commencement, they sat together.

"It was a big day," Lindsey said. "I was surprised that I got emotional."

Sloman, 57, and Lindsey, 50, described the program as demanding, especially while working full time as they both did.

"Being a brand new program it was extremely rigorous because when you build it on paper you want it to be rigorous," Lindsey said. "There was a lot of,



Interim Dean H. Catherine Miller, Teresa Valerio, Connee Sloman, Kim Schafer Astroth, Sarah Lindsey and Provost Janet Krejci at the Commencement Ceremony.

'Does this work or not work?' The appropriate tweaks were made, and the administration was very responsive."

Sloman agreed that the administration and faculty were very open and receptive to suggestions whenever some portion of the curriculum needed fine tuning.

"They knew we were adults," Sloman said. "We were very vocal. We were really collaborators."

In addition to being open to suggestions, Sloman said faculty also staggered assignment deadlines to accommodate the busy schedules of both she and Lindsey.

Lindsey said it was the whole MCN department "from the top down," not strictly faculty, that was very supportive and responsive.

"I think the world of the staff at MCN," Lindsey said. "We were the first through the program so Melissa Moody (academic advisor for Graduate Programs) made sure we were on track and did all the paperwork that kept us legal."

Lindsey also said that Interim Dean H. Catherine Miller and Provost Janet Krejci, former MCN dean, were both great sources of support.

Lindsey singled out her advisor Kim Astroth for helping her prepare a manuscript for publication.

"I submitted a scholarly project (a manuscript, which was submitted to a peer-reviewed oncology journal)," Lindsey said. "She (Astroth) spent 2 hours on revisions for my manuscript when I was already done with the program and had met the requirements, and she spent all this time helping me make revisions. She had already spent a lot of time with me during the program."

The manuscript, which was eventually accepted for publication, will publish around October of 2016.

Sloman also sang the praises of her advisor Valerio, the program's leader and also a holder of the D.N.P. degree.

"She was phenomenal," Sloman said. "She wants it (the program) to be successful—this is her baby."

And for Valerio, these first two graduates struck the right chord, describing them as "intelligent, very caring people."

"They were really good at giving feedback about where we were going well and where we needed to make improvements," Valerio said. "They had a lot of input, and they've done it beautifully."

The D.N.P. program, which has been offered since June 2013, "is about taking known ideas or research and using

it at the bedside,” Valerio said. She noted that the practical application is what separates the degree from a Ph.D.

“A Ph.D. program, by contrast, is an original research program where you develop, explore areas that haven’t been explored or explored enough to gain new knowledge,” Valerio said.

Lindsey, who lives in Bloomington, earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing at MCN in 2000. She kept working her job in oncology at Illinois Cancer Care while pursuing her D.N.P. studies.

Sloman, from Springfield, was pursuing her Ph.D. in nursing simultaneously, also at ISU. All this while working full time as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Their paths vary, but their reasons for pursuing the D.N.P. were similar.

“I know I’m a perpetual student, and there’s nothing like oncology to keep you on your toes with all the new stuff happening,” Lindsey said. “I want to be worthy of my patients and the trust they put in me. I keep reaching to be the best I can be.”

When she’s not thinking of her patients, Lindsey is thinking of her profession.

“It’s not just for me,” she said. “I also want to help other nurses be the best they can be. The more mentoring that can be done, the better the outcome of patient care.”

Sloman said the best thing about undertaking such a demanding program was meeting colleagues who had similar goals of bettering themselves for the sake of their patients. She, too, feels an obligation to give back to the profession she’s pursued since she left high school.

“I’m kind of at the point where I want to train new nurses,” Sloman said. “Eventually I’m headed for the classroom, but not full time; I need both classroom and practitioner (environments)—it keeps me sharp.”



Provost Janet Krejci and Sarah Lindsey

“They were very dedicated people who’ve really helped shape the program. They’ve really developed as leaders, and that’s the idea with the D.N.P.—to be in leadership and improve patient outcomes.”



Connee Sloman being hooded by Provost Janet Krejci and Assistant Professor Teresa Valerio.

Sloman’s research interest is in sleep apnea and insomnia. She was co-author, with Valerio, of “Identifying pre-operative patients at risk for obstructive sleep apnea,” which has been submitted to the *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*.

Lindsey’s research focus is on sarcopenic obesity, which is a pattern of weight gain while losing lean muscle. The condition can be a deterrent to recovering from chemotherapy. Her work in oncology has a straightforward goal in mind for her patients: “Once we’re done with chemo, we make sure they are on the wellness path.”

The reason for all the hard work from both was simple, according to Sloman: “We just want to be better for our patients. I’m not really a researcher, but mostly I’m a practitioner, and the hard-research results can be implemented at the bedside.”

Valerio said both women brought a lot of varying experience with them when they came through the door, which only helped the program.

“Connee has lots of experience in advanced practice and is very well known in the CRNA community,” Valerio said. “Sarah is a very excellent, quiet leader and very influential in her practice.”

We are here to help you **advance your career** with a graduate degree in nursing!

I just finished my B.S.N. Should I get a job, or apply to graduate school?

All of these are good options, and we can help you make a decision that is right for you and your career. Contact us to talk about what your goals are and the best way to achieve them.

What options does MCN offer for graduate programs?

Master of Science in Nursing

- Family Nurse Practitioner
 - Full- and part-time options
 - 44 credit hours with 660 clinical hours
 - FNP certification examination through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (AANC) and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner (AANP)
- Online Nursing Systems Administration
 - Part-time
 - 36 credit hours with 480 practicum hours
- Post-master's FNP Certificate
 - Individualized plan of study will be determined
 - Minimum of 26 credit hours

Doctoral Programs

- Ph.D. in Nursing:
 - Prepare to be a nurse-researcher
 - Full- and part-time options
 - 66 credit hours
- Online Post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice
 - Prepare to be a clinical scholar
 - Part-time
 - 34 semester hour program with 340 clinical hours

Is there any financial assistance at Illinois State to help with tuition?

MCN makes a concerted effort to provide financial support for graduate students. Options students may consider include Graduate Assistantships, MCN Scholarships, ISU Scholarships, and tuition waivers. Students are encouraged to contact Graduate Program Coordinator Caroline Mallory to discuss their options.

What type of jobs can I apply for with an advanced degree?

The opportunities you will have with an advanced degree are endless! With a master's degree, graduates have opened their own businesses, advanced their current positions to administration, or become faculty members. Doctoral graduates will become skilled investigators, clinical and/or administrative leaders in health-care systems, or serve as educators.

Why should I consider MCN's graduate program?

- MCN is a college grounded in an incredible history and tradition of excellence. We have compassionate faculty, staff, alumni, and community leaders who will help you achieve your goals.
- The ONLINE Master of Science in Nursing NSA sequence has been ranked again as one of the best online nursing programs in 2016 by U.S. News and World Report.
- U.S. News and World Report has also named MCN as having the Best Graduate Programs in 2016.
- 98 percent of FNP students pass the certification exam
- Our programs vary from classroom to online, but all students receive individualized attention and a quality education.
- Students have the opportunity to work with nationally recognized nurse scientist faculty on their research.

I don't know what to do—can I talk with someone about my options?

YES—we are here to help YOU advance your career! MCN is dedicated to preparing outstanding nurse leaders, and our faculty and staff are prepared to help you succeed. If you are interested in furthering your education, we encourage you to contact Graduate Program Coordinator Caroline Mallory at (309) 438-2659 or cmmallo@IllinoisState.edu.

Menonite Nurses Alumni Organization (MNAO) awards

Distinguished Alumni Award

Susan Schable Prochnow Cribb graduated from Menonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1968 and later completed a B.S.N. and a M.Ed.

As a student, Cribb was respected by her peers. They admired her motivation, integrity, and faith. She was seen as distinguished during her days at nursing school. She has since demonstrated leadership in the field of nursing, specifically in school nursing.

Cribb worked in medical-surgical centers, first at Menonite Hospital then Condell Memorial Hospital in Libertyville and Hillcrest Nursing Home in Round Lake. The next 20-plus years were in school systems. With her school nurse certification, Cribb was able to care for children, educate them and staff, and mentor those interested in the field. Cribb spent more than a decade nurturing students who carry on her legacy of compassionate care.

Cribb gained the confidence to make accurate medical evaluations on the school playground. Beyond emergencies, dealt with medications, maintained and monitored health/ immunization records, and provided care to students with chronic conditions.

She held certificates needed to conduct vision and hearing tests, checked students for scoliosis, and completed CPR training and HIV/AIDs certification. Her job involved sharing with staff medical information and state guidelines on subjects such as blood-borne pathogens.

Teaching about nutrition, dental health, and puberty was also part of her job. She wrote the Healthy Choices Curriculum for kindergarten through third grade and authored an OSHA-Mandated Exposure Control Plan.

“Spending my adult life fulfilling my childhood dream of becoming a nurse would be my most important professional achievement,” Cribb said. “In nursing, we touch many lives, and we are always ‘on call.’ Being a nurse is a title that becomes attached and follows us everywhere.

“Once a nurse – always a nurse.”

President of the Student Nursing Association at MHSN, Cribb was also a leader in school nursing. She served on the board as an officer for the regional and statewide Illinois Association of School Nurses and held a membership in the National Association of School Nurses. She joined the Gurnee Council of the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is a lifetime member of Menonite Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. Her civic involvement includes a past position as Township Trustee for Lake Villa. She is now charter member and president of the Lake Villa Historical Society. “Outside of nursing, and as a volunteer, the least expected adventures often await us,” Cribb said.

A member of the Lake Villa United Methodist Church, she was church organist for 16 years and now substitutes. After the untimely death of her son, she became a LOSS (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) facilitator. As a breast cancer survivor, Cribb has volunteered to talk to diagnosed women through the Reach to Recovery program.

She recently connected with Jenny Ward and a group of alumni in Sarasota, Florida, to share nursing experiences. She also was part of a Mix and Mentor event in Chicago where senior nursing students met with alumni to discuss career opportunities. She is very proud of the tremendous growth of her alma mater and supports MCN with annual donations.

Cribb has lived and shown by example the attributes of integrity, a strong work ethic, excellent communication, and compassionate care. In her nursing career, her professional organizations, and her civic endeavors, she uses all of these attributes to make a difference.

“I am humbled and honored to be receiving this award,” Cribb said. “I am grateful the teaching staff in the 1960s had confidence that I would succeed. Thank you to the dedicated staff who have made the Menonite College of Nursing what it is today. I am very proud to be part of the Menonite Alumni Family!”



Early Career Achievement Award

David Kieser '00 B.S.N., '07 M.S.N.

MCN's Early Career Achievement Award is presented to a graduate who has significant accomplishments in the field; shown outstanding professionalism; supported the college; and given back to the community through civic, cultural or charitable activities. **David Kieser** meets these standards personally and professionally.



To all who know him, Kieser is “Tater.” His nursing care focuses on each individual’s needs. Given with such extreme compassion and professionalism, it is known as ‘Tatercare.’ These traits that make Kieser unique were nurtured on his family’s farm. It was then he learned the value of hard work combined with showing compassion and generosity to those less fortunate. These two values underscore his approach to nursing.

After graduating, Kieser worked in the emergency department. His leadership skills and exceptional care of patients were recognized by all healthcare professionals who worked with him. They praised him as an extremely caring and compassionate nurse who modeled the best in the profession. Kieser continued to work full-time in the ER while pursuing his master’s degree.

His level of care never wavered despite the hours spent advancing his knowledge and skill set.

Kieser was recruited in 2010 to work at Orthopedics of Illinois, where he has a tremendous impact

on patients and the practice. Physicians there note that his skill set is among the best seen, while patients appreciate how he goes above and beyond to provide quality care—from listening to a patient’s complaint to filling an ice bag following surgery.

His support of MCN is evident in his role as preceptor and role model for the Family Nurse Practitioner students in his orthopedic practice. Working with him at the center and as he makes hospital rounds, students learn to hone their nursing assessment skills as they observe one of nursing’s best. He is also an adjunct clinical faculty member at the college and has taught in the FNP I, FNP III and FNP IV clinical courses.

Kieser is as dedicated to his family as he is to nursing. He and his wife, Haley, have four children and operate a successful photography business. He is a lifelong and active member of his church. He has been on mission trips including a medical mission trip to Cyvadier, Haiti.

The extended Kieser family is also known for establishing the Midwest Food Bank. It provides free food to more than 900 nonprofit agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Georgia, Florida, and Kenya, East Africa.

“My most important achievement is the fact that I love the Lord and have been richly blessed to have such an amazing family,” Kieser said. “I am honored and thankful to be receiving this award.

“I am here because of the amazing dedication of the faculty of MCN at Illinois State University. My motto has always been to treat others as I would want to be treated or how I would treat those most dear to me.”

Megan Rappleyea, B.S.N. '10

Personal struggles often make a person stronger and more empathetic. **Megan Rappleyea** knows this to be true, as she has faced several personal struggles. Each struggle and setback have further motivated her to use knowledge to help others and focus her area of specialty in her nursing career.

Cancer is a word so feared and with outcomes so uncertain that few nurses choose to specialize in working with patients fighting the disease. Not Rappleyea, who graduated summa cum laude with Departmental Honors from the college in 2010.

Working with cancer patients is her life’s mission, a passion discovered from her own health struggles that began just after she completed her Mennonite College of Nursing degree and before she could pursue her dream of graduate studies. She had just taken and passed the nursing boards when she learned at age 22 that she had stage II breast cancer. She battled a recurrence in 2011. Her cancer journey ended in remission after 16 months of treatment.

The diagnosis didn’t keep Rappleyea from joining the staff at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria in Acute Oncology (2012-2015) or continuing her education by attending cancer seminars and obtaining her Oncology Certification. She is also pursuing her M.S.N. Educator degree and expects to graduate in 2019 with plans to pursue her greatest passion: teaching. Rappleyea currently works as an RN Lung Cancer Navigator, she works with cancer patients daily and has honed her skills in this specialty. Her own treatments empowered her with an ability to be empathetic, caring, knowledgeable, loving, and professional toward each patient. These traits were recognized by health care professionals she partnered with on the job as well as her patients.

From 2012-2015, Rappleyea received over a dozen Daisy Award nominations, which are given by patients in recognition of excellent nursing care. She was also the 2012 Spirit of Nursing Award recipient from the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization. Hospital administration and peers chose her to receive the 2015 Nursing Excellence Innovator in Nursing Award, which recognized her as a powerful leader making a real difference, and the 2015 at Saint Francis Medical Center Magnet Nurse of the Year Award. This honor goes to the professional who leads by example, gives the best care, and is a humble worker.

Since 2010, she has been a guest lecturer for the MCN undergraduate medical surgical class each semester where she presents material of nursing care of the breast cancer patient. She is also a Breast Cancer Peer Support Volunteer at the OSF Breast Resource Center, was the keynote speaker at the Race for the Cure event in 2014 for Illinois Mutual Insurance, and in 2013, was a Pink Promise Volunteer for the Susan G. Komen event in East Peoria. She has also authored a passage in the book “The Pink Survivors”.

“All of these awards and opportunities are wonderful,” Rappleyea said. “However, my most important achievement is that God has and continues to use the gifts that He has given me to relieve suffering, provide competent care, and bring hope and support to my patients and their caregivers.”

A wife and mom, Rappleyea chooses not to focus on her own health issues but rather puts her time, talent, and energy into lifting up others—especially patients facing cancer. Her patient-centered care, along with her ability to understand fully how the patient facing cancer feels, make her a remarkable role model for other nurses working with her. Only five years in the field, and yet she is truly leading the way to improving the care nurses provide cancer patients.

“I am so honored to receive this award and am so proud to call myself a Mennonite College of Nursing graduate. This college has been and continues to be a source of support through my professional development and gave me the foundation I needed in the pursuit of compassionate, competent care. On behalf of myself, every patient, and family member God has touched through your acts of professionalism and service, I thank you for this award.”



Service Award

Meredith (Kendall) '73, and Tom Lovelass

Meredith and Tom Lovelass are community leaders, outstanding citizens, and remarkable Mennonite College of Nursing supporters. Together they have achieved financial success and believe in giving back. The college is just one beneficiary of their generosity, which goes beyond the financial realm to include giving of their time and talents.

Meredith makes a special effort to connect with students in the college. She attended a brown bag lunch to share with nursing students her experiences as the mother of a child with Marfan's Syndrome. The disease is a genetic disorder that affects the body's connective tissue. Students gain enormous insight into this disorder that touches one of every 5,000 people, as Meredith shares not only her knowledge as a nurse but also the viewpoint of a loving parent.

After receiving her nursing degree, Meredith worked in intensive care and surgical units. She was an office nurse, assistant director in a nursing home, and an operating room nurse during her career. She also helped open the first free-standing surgery center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and became a certified case manager for Core Source.

Meredith embarked on a second career when Tom's job as an attorney with State Farm Insurance Company brought the couple back to Bloomington-Normal, their hometown. They started Meredith's Apartment Management, Inc., later became known as Meredith's Properties, as they expanded into developing and managing commercial properties. Because of growing involvement with the college and the community, she was asked to join the college's Strategy and Planning Council. As a member of this council, she provides a nursing perspective, a community perspective, and a businesswoman's sense of clarity.

Meredith remains committed to nursing. She and Tom have established two Meredith Lovelass Scholarships that have already helped nine nursing students. Their support for the college is a group effort, as evidenced when the family came together for a video shown on MCN's website with a reminder for donors to check for matching gift programs available through their employers. You may also see the family featured in MCN's television ad shown during sporting events. Meredith and Tom's grandchildren are featured as actors in an MCN simulation!

Meredith and Tom give to MCN because they want to impact students individually by providing support and opportunities for upcoming generations. Best and foremost, they are two stellar individuals Mennonite College of Nursing can always rely on as good friends.

"When we provide an opportunity to someone it is gratifying to see how the scholarship helps them overcome challenges and achieve their goals."



Spirit of Nursing Award

Lisa Mengarelli, B.S.N. '03

The MCN Nursing Spirit Award recognizes an alum who has demonstrated through his or her work and/or personal life a commitment to the values of the college. These values may be exceptional dedication to patient care and clinical excellence, commitment to compassionate care, community service, or advocacy for the vulnerable human.

Lisa Mengarelli exemplifies all of these revered values in her life and nursing career. Despite her health issues—which have been numerous, endured for years, and occasionally life-threatening—Mengarelli chose to enter the world of nursing.

As a teen, Mengarelli was diagnosed with Raynaud's, a circulatory disorder. At age 18 she survived an extreme case of toxic shock syndrome and was diagnosed with lupus in 2001. She has endured countless surgeries, including the recent amputation of her right leg just below the knee in July 2015. She turned each adversity into an opportunity, as her significant medical challenges motivated her to pursue a nursing career at MCN.

Faculty remember Mengarelli as a mature, compassionate, and goal-oriented student who did well clinically and in the classroom. She was always positive and willing to take on any challenge, becoming a motivation to other students as she kept moving forward.

Her indomitable spirit was key to her success as a student at MCN and in the field of nursing. She is always compassionate, having walked in the patient's shoes and knows firsthand the value of such care.

Realizing she would not be able to work in an acute care setting due to her physical limitations, Mengarelli pursued ambulatory and school nursing. She most recently worked at Prairieland Elementary School here in Normal but is currently taking a break to focus on physical rehab after her amputation. As a nurse, she shows by example how to triumph over her personal challenges and make a difference in the lives of others.

This difference is evident in those she cares for, nursing students who study with her, and her co-workers. Each person she touches learns the values of humility and grace, as Mengarelli shows no hint of bitterness or self-absorption despite ongoing adversities that would cause others to give up. Continual medical challenges since graduating have made her more driven to be an advocate and find opportunities to teach others.

MCN honors Mengarelli as one who best exemplifies all the values the college holds dear—exceptional dedication to patient care and clinical excellence, commitment to compassionate care, and community service or advocacy for the vulnerable human. She indeed lives the true spirit of nursing.

"It is a true honor to be recognized for this award," Mengarelli said. "I will always be grateful to MCN for preparing me for my nursing career. While I have faced many challenges, I take great joy in being able to use my experiences to be the best nurse I can be."



MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet



70th Reunion
Doris Gardner Butler



60th Reunion
(Back Row) Bonnie Carmichael Lee, Mary Springer Scott, Sharon Burrows Wright, Rosina Kauffman Litwiller; (Front Row) Patricia Sypult Lackey, Rachel Punke Moser, Shirley Ackerman Walker



50th Reunion
Linda Wilson Rollings, Tena Kaufman Bliss, Ronda Shank Clemmer, Sharon Baker Kauffman



40th Reunion
Loretta Bidner Strange, Becky Lunde McDevitt



25th Reunion
Crystal Broquard Cargill, Katie Mascall Horton



20th Reunion
Kristy Harner



10th Reunion
Charlene Aaron

MCN Nurses Week



We had a great turnout for the Alumni/Student Networking event, and the alumni panel members included: Crystal Bricker B.S.N. '10; Kathy Davis B.S.N. '96, M.S.N. '05; Rachel Gawthorp-Lanzerotte B.S.N. '92; Sue Grant B.S.N. '95; Ed Reitz B.S. '82, M.S. '85, M.B.A. '89, B.S.N. '94; and Melinda Roth B.S.N. '03, M.S.N. '13.



SNA Candlelighting Ceremony



Golden Jubilee Celebration



MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet



MCN faculty and staff kicked off MCN Nurses Week with a potluck, and Provost Janet Krejci stopped by.



Alumni Notes

The following notes are from May 2015–April 2016

1956

Shirley Walker received one of the Gloria Valenti Awards in October 2015. Healthcare workers in Champaign County who treat patients of any age and consistently demonstrate technical skill and sincere compassion for patients, families, and co-workers are eligible to be nominated for the award, which is given by the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. Walker retired after 28 years of teaching nursing at Parkland College. She helped found First Presbyterian Church's parish nurse program and is still volunteering for that program, as well as at Frances Nelson Health Center.

2013

Andrea Darimont has been accepted into Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's part-time emergency nurse practitioner program.

Sadi Dixon is a transplant coordinator nurse for the stem cell transplant program at the University of Chicago.

Nicole Perreira was accepted into the 2016 Summer MSN Mental Health/Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner cohort at University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Texas.

2014

Claudia Medrano works at Northwestern and is in a new program called FLEX, where she is trained and works on two units. One unit is ICU pulmonary step-down and the other is post-op hematology oncology.

Kaitlin Ross is a clinical nurse at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The floor she works on switched from geriatric med-surg to a trauma step-down floor last year, and the medical center is now designated a Level 1 Trauma Center, making it the second for the city.

2015

Jessica Carroll is working in the Cardiac ICU at OSF St. Francis in Peoria.

In memory

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of the following:

1946 **Verna Roth Gerig** – May 27, 2015
Mary Potter Swigart – August 14, 2015
1948 **Mary Twist Freese** – February 12, 2016
1957 **Janice Pool Laux** – October 18, 2015
1960 **Barbara Manchester Benjamin** – March 21, 2015
Pauline Bixler Binegar – July 22, 2015
Beatrice Shult Marting – September 26, 2015

1979 **Patricia Klopfenstein** – December 4, 2015
1984 **Linda Cole** – November 18, 2015
1996 **Suzanne McQuigg Davidson** – May 29, 2015
2001 **Dawn Thorson** – October 31, 2015
2005 **Laura Fisher** – October 17, 2015
2014 **John Rossi** – January 1, 2016

MCN alumna named 2015 Public Health Worker of the Year

Sue Albee Grant B.S.N. '95 received the 2015 Public Health Worker of the Year award from the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA). She is currently the supervisor of community health services at the McLean County Health Department.



This award is given to one individual who has made an outstanding contribution of major significance to public health in Illinois during the preceding calendar year, is a member of the association, and is actively involved in public health in Illinois. Awards were presented during the IPHA's Friends of Public Health Dinner as part of the 74th annual meeting in June.

Grant's strong grasp of oral health concerns and local statistics, and her command of public health initiatives to improve oral health have been universally recognized within the McLean County community. Just one of her standout achievements is with her work with the America's Promise School Project at Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN). She helped design a plan to place student nurses in K-12 schools as part of their pediatric clinic rotation, which helped the students gain crucial job experience. In addition, the students were also instrumental in promoting oral health programs within local public schools to improve pediatric oral health and cavity reduction among children.

Grant graduated from MCN in 1995 with her bachelor's degree in nursing and is enrolled in the online Nursing Systems Administration program at Illinois State University. She serves on several community boards and work groups, including the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization (MNAO), America's Promise School Project Team, John C. Scott Commission, United Way Health Solutions Team, and I-PLAN Oral Health Task Force. In 2012, she received the MNAO Distinguished Alumni Award, which is the highest honor the college bestows upon its graduates.

"I am thrilled Sue received this award," said H. Catherine Miller, interim dean of MCN. "Her contributions to the Health Department, MCN, and the community are outstanding. She is dedicated to the nursing profession and is a tremendous asset to our students and the community with her commitment in public health."

The IPHA is the oldest and largest public health association in the State of Illinois. As one of the largest affiliates of the American Public Health Association, IPHA is widely recognized as a leader in the field of public health advocacy, health education, and promotion.

Nursing students help run campus flu clinic

Last fall, Mennonite College of Nursing's Simulation Lab was turned into a flu clinic for nursing students to give and receive their flu shots.

"Since all of our students are required to have the flu shot, we were approached by Bobbie Stevens, nursing supervisor of Student Health Services, about collaborating with their office to set up a clinic at the lab," said Mary Cranston, America's Promise School Project clinical course leader. "By having this clinic for our students, we are freeing up other students, faculty, and staff to get their flu shot at the Student Health office."

The flu clinic was held September 22-24, and a total of 173 vaccines were given. There are 12 clinical groups for America's Promise, and they completed mandatory privacy and safety training in accordance with ISU Student Health Services standards. Throughout the night, America's Promise nursing students rotated through various stations. Nursing student participants who were getting their shots were greeted in the front and given paperwork to fill out, and then they were directed to stations where students administered the shots, supervised by America's Promise clinical faculty. After their shots, they were directed to the checkout station, where staff from Student Health Services completed their visit.

"We couldn't have done this without the support of Student Health Services," Cranston said. "For many of our students, this was the first time they administered a shot, and it was a great experience for them. Even greater is having a chance to participate in a mass immunization event, which furthers their understanding of the value of collaboration and teamwork. We are grateful to Student Health Services, Emily Derege, Bobbie Stevens, Becky Ludolph, and Laura Knoblauch for this opportunity."



Student and faculty honors and awards

The following awards were presented at the Commencement Ceremony in May 2016:

Herman Tiedeman Memorial Award
Taylor Orr and Benjamin Stuff

Senior Excellence Award
Robert Thurman and Spencer Simpson

Ruth Ryder Senior Geriatrics Award
Alexa Mundzic

RN/BSN Outstanding Achievement Award
Angela Ross

Outstanding Graduate Student Achievement Award
Shauna Bivens

Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence
Anna Teubel and Bradley Dornig

Kathleen A. Hogan Teaching Excellence Award
Cathi Kaesberg

Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award
Denise Wilson

2015–2016 graduates

December 2015

RN/B.S.N.

Tordoff, Steve

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

Lindsey, Sarah
Sloman, Connee

Ph.D. in Nursing

Funk, Amy
Kelly, Sheryl

Master's Degree Nursing Systems Administration

Bartell, Danielle Ramsey
Boyd, Stacey M.
Conn, Amanda M.
Ganey Maurer, Michelle Ann
Goddard, John William
Rizzo, Teri Lynn
Semelroth, Sharon Angela
Wiesenhofer, Paula Elizabeth

May 2016

Baccalaureate Degrees

Altamirano, Nicole
Anderson, Sarah
Asai, Emily
Atkins, Ashley
Austiff, Rachel
Baker, David
Barbee, Allyson
Behna, Mallory
Benda, Kaylee
Benda, Michelle
Binder, Michael
Blossage, Mikaelyn
Bocka, Brian
Bradley, Megan
Brune, Rachel
Burke, Kaitlyn
Capriotti, Jenna
Carbonel, Michelle
Cargill, John
Catalan, Michael
Childress, Riley
Convey, Micaela
Corrado, Rachel
Crimmins, Erica
Croak, Katie
Cross, Alissa
DiGilio, Brynn
Dineen, Megan
Donar, Lauren
Dorng, Bradley
Dubczuk, Maureen
Dyer, Megan
Earl, Stephanie
Endres, Katelin
Fabiano, Madeline
Fankam, Steve
Farber, Paige
Fay, Kaitlyn
Figge, Hanna
Fiore, Alissa
Fish, Katherine
Fitz, Lindsey
Flavin, Jennifer
Fricke, Brittany
Gill, Haleigh
Gillespie, Hayley
Glorioso, Frances Marie
Gold, Amanda
Gonzalez, Viridiana
Good, Bridget
Goodwin, Gillian
Gulino, Katie
Hansen, Kelsey
Harms, Madison
Harris, Rebecca
Hofmann, Margaret
Jagiello, Hillary
Johnson, Marnie
Johnson, Natalie
Jones, Christine
Keirnan, Samantha
Kennedy, Ashley
Kneer, Justin
Kolthoff, Kelsey
Kratschmer, Kelly
Ledford, Shasta
Liston, Caitlin
Mahalik, Rebecca
Malan, Courtney
Matheny, Miranda
Maxwell, Chelsea
McHugh, Ellen
Mendoza-Cuellar, Brenda
Mertins, Megan
Mezyk, Sarah
Michels, Veronica
Milkovich, Michelle
Miller, Jenna
Missel, Zachary
Mundzic, Alexa
Musielak, Monika
Musso, Lakyn
Neiheisel, Kaitlyn
Nelson, Katherine
Neurauter, Beatrice
Olson, Alexandra
O'Neill, Kristen
Ornelas, Eduardo

Orr, Taylor
Palazzo, Stephanie
Parson, Amanda
Patel, Shreyal
Pavesic, Elizabeth
Pennington, Alexa
Popovich, Lauren
Propp, Tiffany
Pryor, Natalie
Ramey, Katilyn
Rasmussen, Carly
Ribar, Kristen
Robinson, Angela
Romac, Andrea
Romme, Emma
Rude, Morgan
Scholfield, Breanna
Schrock, Ashley
Schwarz, Lindsey
Shafer, Devon
Shatkus, Kristin
Shaw, Caroline
Sholtis, Samantha
Simpson, Spencer
Smith, Abigail
Smith, Alex
Stuff, Benjamin
Svec, Christine
Teubel, Anna
Thurman, Robert
Trinh, Megan
Viktora, Alicija
Vincent, Kayla
Warner, Eden
Waxler, Theresa
Westfall, Cami
Wharram, Alexa
Wolters, Whitney
Woodside, Lauren
Ziller, Brittany
Zordan, Elizabeth
Zuercher, Sarah

RN/B.S.N.

Wisneski, Christine

Master's Degrees Family Nurse Practitioner

Allen, Melissa
Baer Schneider, Tressa
Braker Fiechter, Lynnae
Brennan Nelson, Jennifer
Carter Dyas, Ashley
Connor, Lindsay
Couch, Justin
Duckwitz, Ashlyn
Gschwind, Michelle
Hitz Lisowski, Christina
Irving Stephens, Michelle

Kraft, Brooke
Langley, Ashley
Martin Foreman, Jodi
Pfaffmann, Elise
Shockey, Melissa
Shrode, Kimberly
Underwood, Jane
Varney Merila, Katherine
Verkler, Lori
Vowels, Kayla

Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate

Bivens, Shauna
Fuller Rizzo, Teri
Henderson, Lisa

Nursing Systems Administration

Stiner, Angela



2015-2016 event highlights

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends participated in several events throughout the year. Below are some highlights.



Getting ready to march in the Homecoming parade.



Pam and Dan Kelly with the new BabySim.



Students in the 5K Homecoming Race.



Our Russian visitors participated in Homecoming.



Alumni Connection in Arizona



Xi Pi Induction Ceremony – Fall 2015



Xi Pi Induction Ceremony – Spring 2016



Students met with Alumni at an event sponsored by Advocate in Downers Grove.



Play 4 Kay Reception

Nursing student's involvement leads to job at Mayo Clinic

Spencer Simpson is a senior nursing student from Momence, Illinois. In a few months, she will be graduating with a B.S.N. degree and has already accepted a position as an RN in the Colorectal/General Surgical Unit at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



When Simpson was 12, her brother was in a near fatal car accident.

"I remember vividly how terrifying it was when I first visited him in the Intensive Care Unit," Simpson said. She recalls it was her brother's nurse who helped change her impression of the hospital from a scary, dark place to one of hope. "I thought of how wonderful it would be if I could help people the way my brother's nurse helped our family. I knew that when I was older, I wanted to be someone who can help save lives and bring light into hospitals."

Simpson started looking into nursing schools and came across the high NCLEX-RN pass rates at Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN).

"This was very important to me," Simpson said. "By having high pass rates for B.S.N. graduates, I knew this was a very successful program. Also, the high-tech simulation lab also attracted me to MCN." After applying to Illinois State, she was accepted as an early admit into MCN's program.

During her sophomore year, she wanted to participate more in the Student Nurses Association (SNA).

"I asked the president at that time, Kate Alleavitch, if there was anything that she needed help with so I could become more involved. She took me under her wing and helped me find opportunities for leadership."

Simpson was elected SNA vice president for the 2014-15 year and was elected as SNA president for the 2015-16 year. As president, she works with other officers to plan volunteer events, fundraisers, and learning opportunities for the SNA's 230 members.

"This has been a great experience to develop my leadership skills and get to know faculty and other students in the nursing program," Simpson said.

SNA is known to have a strong emphasis on community service.

"My favorite accomplishment of SNA is that we were the most represented registered student organization at Illinois State University's St. Jude Up 'Til Dawn two years in a row," she said. "This year SNA helped this event raise over \$203,000!"

Mayo Clinic externship

Simpson wanted to find an externship opportunity, and while doing an online search she found one at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. "I really thought it was a longshot, but I thought I might as well put myself out there and at least try." She was offered a 10-week externship to work in the Colorectal/General Surgical Unit last summer.

Simpson was extremely nervous to be so far from home. It was a six-hour drive from her hometown to Rochester. Despite her fears, once she was there she fell in love with the city and was incredibly happy she stepped out of her comfort zone.

There were 56 interns in the program from all over the country. Everyone became incredibly close, she said, adding that she considers some of them her best friends. She worked from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Each day, she was assigned to a clinical coach and worked alongside them throughout the shift. "In the mornings we would look up our patients, classify their acuity level, and perform our morning assessments." Throughout the day, she participated in direct patient care, inter-professional care-team rounding, discharge planning, and contributed to the patient's plan of care.

"Mayo Clinic provides quality care that always puts the needs of each patient first, and I witnessed that firsthand every single day I was there," Simpson said. "It was such an honor to learn from one of the best hospitals in the country. Every nurse I was with taught me so much, and I cannot wait to go back to my same unit and continue to learn and grow as a nurse."

Simpson said she felt very prepared for this externship because of the skills and values she learned at MCN. She hopes that her experience will help inspire other nursing students who are looking into externships.

"If there's an opportunity you find intriguing, but you don't think you're good enough," Simpson said. "The best thing you can do is try because you might be surprised of the outcome."

Retirements

Assistant Dean for the Undergraduate Program Dianne Clemens retired from Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) in December.

In 1998, Clemens accepted a position with MCN as an instructional assistant professor. She remembers when President Kathleen Hogan hired her to teach part-time in Health Assessment, and Gay Dolan was her mentor.

When MCN moved to Illinois State in 1999, Clemens continued in her faculty role. She taught Leadership clinicals, Professional Roles, Health Assessment theory and clinical, Adult I theory and clinical, and for the last 10 years she solely taught Psychiatric-Mental Health theory and clinical.

From 2007–09, Clemens was the acting undergraduate program coordinator. In 2010 she was appointed as the undergraduate program coordinator, and then in 2013 her title was changed to assistant dean for the undergraduate program.

“It has been a privilege to serve at MCN,” Clemens said. “It’s been a good fit for my interests and skills. I have enjoyed the community of people working together to maintain the great outcomes MCN is known for.”



Deb Stenger '73, B.S.N. '01, M.S.N. '06, retired from Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) in December.

Stenger's career with MCN began in the 1970s, when she enrolled in the Mennonite School of Nursing and received her diploma in 1973. She continued her education and received her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from MCN and also received a Clinical Nurse Leader certificate. Stenger was also part of the first transcultural group to travel to Berlin, Germany.

Stenger accepted a position at MCN as an instructional assistant professor in 2006. She taught in the Health Assessment Lab, Adult Med/Surg II (course and clinical), and was the course leader for Leadership Dimensions in Professional Nursing.

“To be selected to teach at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University was an honor,” Stenger said. “The staff and faculty have provided me with professional growth and opportunity. I am proud to be both an alumni and member of the teaching staff at MCN. Continue to keep the flame burning!”

Back to school: Student goes the distance to earn nursing degrees

By Kate Arthur

Her day starts at 5 a.m. and ends...?

“It depends,” said Brittany Ziller, smiling.

The mother of two commutes 90 miles a day to Illinois State University’s campus. In May she’ll graduate with a bachelor’s in nursing, a dream she’s had since she was a teen and glossed out her family with a dinner table discussion of the digestive system.



Brittany Ziller in the Nursing Simulation Lab.

By 16, she was a certified nursing assistant, and by 18, was married to her high school sweetheart, Scott Ziller. He joined the military and they moved to California and became parents of two by the time they were 22.

When Scott got out of the service, he enrolled at Illinois State as a nontraditional student on the GI Bill, earning his degree in physical education in 2014. Brittany spent those four years working on her associate’s part-time and was ready to start Mennonite College of Nursing. Scott landed a hard-to-get teaching job in Wilmington so they moved closer to his school, pushing her farther from hers.

But that didn’t bother her. What she was more afraid of was starting nursing school at 29. She was careful not to mention her age until one of her peers, hearing her talk about her boys, Ayden, 12, and Ethan, 9, finally asked: How old are you?

That was Brad Dornig, who affectionately calls her “mom.”

“She fit into the group so well. I always call her mom because she’s kind of like the mom of the group. When anyone is stressed, she comforts them,” he said. “I’m more

proud of her than any other student because of all the sacrifices she makes. She always puts others before herself.”

She does, and that creates some stress. When it became too much, she reached out to long-time nursing instructor Lynn Kennell.

“I didn’t feel anything got my full attention—not my family, not my husband, not my friends, not school, not even me,” she said.

Kennell assured her she was doing more than enough.

“Brittany is truly a gift to our college and to nursing. The distance she commutes with a family is beyond my imagination,” she said. “She needed to know she was doing things very, very well. I know she’s going to be an exceptional nurse.”

Ziller needed to hear that.

“It was an emotional check for me, the validation I needed. Not everything had to have all of me all the time.”

Not only has the nursing student handled the intensity of classes and clinicals, she traveled to the University of Brighton in England last May, shadowing midwives as part of the Transcultural Nursing Program. Becoming a midwife has been a goal since she was old enough to ask her mother for a pregnant Barbie.

The first time Ziller visited Mennonite, she saw a presentation on the transcultural program. She was hooked. The minute she got home, she started talking to Scott and he said they’d make it happen. They did, along with the help of the Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Transcultural Nursing Fund, created by professors Karrie Ingalsbe and Kennell as part of the University’s first comprehensive campaign in 2002. The Adkisson-Bourne Endowed Scholarship also eased their tuition worries. Ziller had the opportunity to meet donors Billy Adkisson and his wife, Ellen Bourne.

“That was a thrill,” she said.

Ziller credits her family with helping her push through school. Leaving her boys the past two years was the hardest part.

“I really do have great kids,” she said, tearing up. “I get home and they say, ‘How was your day mom?’”

And that’s when her day really begins.

Calendar of events—save the dates!

Summer 2016

August 7 MCN Summer Graduation Celebration

Fall 2016

September 1 Welcome Reception for Dean Neubrandner

September 17 Family Day

September 22 Scholarship Banquet

October 7 Alumni Day

October 8 Homecoming

December 1 MCN holiday celebration



Visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

Spring 2017

April 19-23 MCN Nurses Week

April 18 Candlelighting Ceremony

April 20 Alumni/Student Networking Social

April 21 Golden Jubilee Celebration

April 22 MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet

May 12 MCN Commencement Ceremony

Connect with us!



For more information about MCN events, visit Nursing.IllinoisState.edu.

McDowell Stafford Lectures September 29

Judith A. Vessey, Ph.D., RN, DPNP, MBA, FAAN, Leila Holden Carroll Professor in Nursing, William F. Connell School of Nursing, Boston College, will be the keynote speaker for the Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship in Child and Family Health on Thursday, September 29.



She will give two presentations, an educational presentation “Youth bullying, public health, and a call to action for nursing,” and contact hours from ONA will be offered. Her community presentation will be “Of sticks, stones, and smartphones: The impact of bullying on today’s youths.” Both lectures are free and open to the public, but due to limited seating advanced registration is required. Registration will be available in August.

Vessey’s current research focuses on teasing and bullying. Her interest in this area of inquiry began when she witnessed the difficulties that children with chronic conditions faced when being included in school. This work has led to a new avenue of study—bullying, harassment, and horizontal violence in the workplace. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, professional organizations, and private foundations. Currently, she and her team are developing a brief screen for detecting bullying to be used in primary care settings. This work is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Vessey has authored over 100 articles, chapters, and books and has presented widely. She is actively involved in the American Academy of Nurses and served as co-chair of the Child and Family Expert Panel. She will be inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International’s Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in Cape-town, South Africa at the end of July.

These events are sponsored by the Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series Fund, and Illinois State University Foundation.

Progress report for 100-year History Book

Submitted by Committee Co-Chairs Gail Lamb and Mary Ann Watkins

First, a thank you!

We are so pleased to thank the alumni, friends, and faculty who are serving with us on the 100-Year History Book Committee: Kate Alleavitch BSN '14; Alice Deavers MHSN '52; Susan Stark Albee Grant BSN '95; Lynn Kennell (faculty); Karen Roop Magers, MHSN '79 (also Strategy and Planning Council); Deborah Stenger MHSN '73, BSN '01, MSN '06 (also retired faculty); Jenny Ward, development director (also Strategy and Planning Council). In addition, Interim Dean H. Catherine Miller and author Susan Blystone are attending all meetings. The committee is made up of persons who are from different eras and who have assumed a variety of different roles during the college's history.



We also want to thank each of you who responded to the questions and requests via last year's *Flame* and/or the electronic survey with your ideas and opinions regarding who and what needs to be represented in this third history book. Your input has been so very helpful. A major committee purpose has been to assist in the review of the summarized survey responses and to help select stories for the book, including identifying those persons who should be interviewed. The committee met several times this past fall and will continue to be involved as our author progresses through the interviewing and writing of the various chapters.

Second, history book update!

The title of this new book is complementary to the titles of the first two books, which are: *Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing, The Passing of the Flame, A Commemorative History 1919–1985* and *Mennonite College of Nursing, 1985–1995, The Flame Burns Brightly, People – Progress – Promise*.

Our third history book will be titled, *Mennonite College of Nursing 1919–2019: The Keepers of the Flame, One Hundred Years of Stories*.

The plan is that this new book will provide the avenue for stories going back to 1919 and up to 2019 and will also document the years following the second book, beginning with 1995. Thus, this new book provides the opportunity to relate the successes and challenges prior to and including the transition into Illinois State University, as well as document the many achievements since becoming Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

Author Susan Blystone has developed a working outline which has been discussed and approved by the committee, and which is providing her a blueprint for progressing through the writing of this monumental history.

Third, a mention of the archives!

Thankfully, when MCN moved to ISU during June of 1999, every faculty, staff, and administrative person involved packed up items, curricular materials, photographs, slides, programs, and everything that had been saved over all the years—in different locations at Troyer Hall. At this transition, all of these items and boxes and memorabilia were moved to and stored in rooms at Edwards Hall. In 2015, under the direction of MCN administrative leadership, the arrangements were made for all of this material to be given to and sorted as a part of the official Illinois State University archives. In the Mennonite College of Nursing section(s) at the ISU archives, there are now 64 boxes of identified and labeled items pertaining to MHSN and MCN prior to the transition and an additional 24 boxes of identified and labeled items pertaining to the transition to ISU and up to the current day. The archivists have done outstanding work in preserving all of the items and are happy to receive more items at any time. Those items that do not fit in boxes, such as uniforms, large plaques, and photographs and the like, are all preserved in the archives in temperature-controlled areas. Part of the work we have done is to further identify the location of each item on the archival finding files, and with this information, for now and for the future, we are able to access any items needed for visuals for the history book and/or for displays. The donations from several alumni—some now deceased—of their letters, scrapbooks, and albums has been remarkable, and all of this information is invaluable for the preservation of the past, current, and future histories.

For the coming year!

We look forward to continuing working with the committee and the author in the coming year. To date, much has been done to finalize or update several items that will appear as appendices in the book. We anticipate working with a to-be-established 100-Year Celebration Committee for coordinating some of the work on the history book with that committee. We each maintain much appreciation for continuing to be a part of this singularly unique Mennonite College of Nursing and its ongoing and everlasting commitment to excellence.

Undergraduate programs

Traditional B.S.N.

Students who want a traditional four-year program are now directly admitted into the major from high school or may transfer into the program from other colleges.

Accelerated B.S.N.

Students who completed a non-nursing bachelor's degree can earn a B.S.N. in 15 months.

Online RN to B.S.N.

Current RNs can select either a full-time or part-time plan of study.

Graduate programs

Family nurse practitioner (FNP)

Prepares graduates to function in an advanced practice role for direct health care services that integrate preventive and self-care measures.

Post-master's FNP certificate

Prepares individuals who already hold a master's degree in nursing to become licensed and to practice as family nurse practitioners.

Online nursing systems administration (NSA)

Prepares students to function at executive levels. Specialty courses are offered online to allow the working nurse the opportunity to complete the degree with a flexible schedule.

Doctoral programs

Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (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.

Ph.D. in nursing

Prepares nurses to serve the public by designing and conducting research on relevant clinical, educational, health systems, and health policy topics.



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Alumni updates

We welcome updates from alumni for *The Flame*. We want to know about your activities, career news, family news, and other significant activities (weddings, births, honors and awards, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments, etc.). We will also submit your information to *Illinois State* magazine. Please return this form to Illinois State University, MCN Public Relations Office, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810, or email amirvin@IllinoisState.edu. Thank you for sharing your news!

 Name Date

 Maiden name (if applicable) Class year

 Mailing address

 City State ZIP

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 Phone Email

 Present occupation/Employer

 News/Comments
