

# The Flame

Mennonite College of Nursing

ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2011-2012 ISSUE



The MCN Nursing Simulation Lab opened in August 2011.

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## Message from the dean

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University had an incredible year, and I am excited to share with you some of the wonderful news about our alumni and students in this publication. Our mission includes commitment to being purposeful, open, just, caring, disciplined, and celebrative. This past year MCN had much to celebrate.

Last fall, we officially opened the Nursing Simulation Laboratory (NSL), and our students, faculty, and staff experienced an incredibly smooth and successful transition from our previous lab of converted classrooms. When President Bowman introduced the resolution and the Illinois State University Board of Trustees approved this endeavor in May 2010, the newly created task force went to work to design, refine, and implement the plan for the lab in collaboration with the Illinois State University departments of facilities, telecom, and outside architects. In less than 15 months, students walked into one of the

best labs in the state, if not the nation. Faculty, staff, and students went from labs that were 3,400 square feet with just one high fidelity patient simulator, to a 10,000-square-foot lab with five high fidelity patient simulators. The assessment and skills lab, along with the virtual hospital unit, allows the college to ensure competencies for our nursing students. The lab has video capture capabilities so students can study their own practice, not only related to assessment and technical procedures but also the holistic care we expect from all our graduates.

A grand opening ceremony was held in September at the NSL, and Kat (Earnest) Lance, M.S.N. '11, B.S.N. '09, came back to speak about what this new lab meant for current students as well as the community. The college is deeply grateful to the Board of Trustees, President Al Bowman, and University administration for their support in ensuring that we can provide world-class education. If you have not seen this incredible facility, I would like to invite you back during the Homecoming activities—we will have an open house during the morning of October 6.

The NSL puts the college on the right track for the future of nursing. You will also read about the Institutes of Medicine's report about the future of nursing, and MCN was honored to host Michael Bleich, vice president for Barnes Jewish College Healthcare and the Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Dean and Professor for the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College, and one of the authors of this hallmark report, who consulted with students, faculty, and statewide nursing leaders through MCN this past April. Our students are incredible, and I have had the opportunity to host both the undergraduate and graduate students at various lunches and dinners throughout the year. It inspires me to hear about why they want to be a nurse, and it also gives me a chance to talk with them about their ideas and concerns about nursing. I can assure the community that MCN continues to educate the best and brightest nurses of the future, who are not only clinical experts and exquisite technicians, but those who truly understand the importance of advocating for vulnerable humans so they can receive the best care possible!

This would not be possible without the incredible support we receive throughout the year, and I want to thank everyone who contributes to Mennonite College of Nursing. We know our future will thrive, and your generous gifts will continue to lead us to this goal. As we watch many new colleges of nursing spring up across the country, it is reassuring to know that the deep tradition of excellence here at Mennonite College of Nursing continues to educate the best of all worlds—stunning clinical experts, exquisite technicians, but most of all holistic nurses who always advocate for the vulnerable humans seeking health care. If you have any questions about giving to MCN, or would like to know more about how to support the Nursing Simulation Laboratory, I encourage you to contact Jenny Ward, director of development at (309) 438-7178 or [jsward@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jsward@IllinoisState.edu).

Our flame at MCN continues to burn ever so brightly, and although we continue to grow and move to a brighter future, we could not have excelled without our awesome traditions steeped in service and excellence; that is what has made us who we are today and the leaders we will continue to be in the future!

*Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC  
Dean and Professor  
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow (2008–2011)*



Kat (Earnest) Lance at NSL Grand Opening



Dean Krejci met with Family Nurse Practitioner students over lunch at the Nursing Simulation Lab.

# Welcome to the MCN Nursing Simulation Lab

Illinois State University celebrated the next step in preparing outstanding future nurses with the grand opening of the MCN Nursing Simulation Laboratory in September. The new laboratory, located on the corner of Normal Avenue and Locust Street, provides students with technologically advanced assessment labs, classrooms, and patient simulation areas that mimic real-world nursing situations.



MCN Nursing Simulation Lab



Graduate program classroom and lab



Health Assessment lab



Debriefing room with two-way mirror



Simulation lab



Commons area

## How you can help

Providing training for faculty in the best educational practices for simulation education and keeping the lab state-of-the-art requires continual investment. Did you know MCN has a fund for supporters to direct their gifts toward this endeavor? Would you like to be a part of keeping our exceptional nursing programs on the cutting edge?

If you would like more information about investing in our Clinical Simulation and Education Excellence Initiative, and learn about special recognition opportunities within the Nursing Simulation Laboratory, contact Jenny Ward (309) 438-7178 or [jsward@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jsward@IllinoisState.edu).

# Robert Wood Johnson Fellow challenges MCN nurses to be leaders in healthcare reform

When nurses do not practice at the full extent of their education and training, vulnerable humans suffer, and access to quality care is limited. In 2008, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) launched a two-year initiative to respond to the need to assess and transform the nursing profession, and in 2010, the IOM released *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*.

Nursing students, community nurses, nurse leaders, faculty, and friends attended a presentation sponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing in April by Michael Bleich, RWJF fellow and vice president for BJC Healthcare and the Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Dean and Professor for the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College, and one of the coauthors of the IOM report; and Jay Noren, Robert Wood Johnson Health Care Policy Fellow, provost of Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi; about the 2010 Affordable Care Act. Attendees were educated, sometimes shocked, and inspired to understand and fully participate in the changes that are before us today. Bleich had a wealth of evidence-based opinions to share. He reminded us that with three million members, the nursing profession is the largest segment of the nation's health care system, and that the future of healthcare is ours to seize. It is up to us to advocate for positive change in the profession.

Bleich spent several days at MCN. In addition to the Healthcare presentation, he participated in the following:

- Helped MCN align goals with IOM recommendations
- Met with campus and community groups and discussed future needs of nursing
- Gave an inspiring message to future nurses as the keynote speaker for MCN's Candlelighting Ceremony

In summary, the IOM report states the future of healthcare is dependent on the future of nursing. The report contains four key messages and eight specific recommendations. The following recommendations directly impact nursing education at Illinois State University:



Bleich met with the D.N.P. committee at MCN.

- **IOM recommends that by 2020, at least 80 percent of RNs should have a B.S.N.** MCN's online RN/B.S.N. program is one of the highest quality programs which facilitate associate and diploma prepared RNs to complete their bachelor's degrees and become B.S.N.s.
- **By 2020, double the number of nurses with doctorate degrees.** MCN established a Ph.D. in nursing program, the only such program south of Chicago and is preparing for a doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) program to begin admitting students once approval has been granted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

For more information about the Future of Nursing report, visit [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu). For healthcare reform to be effective, Bleich challenges us to be the change we wish to see. And it starts with how we approach each and every patient we serve, in how we introduce ourselves and our role in our patients' care.



Jay Noren and Michael Bleich

## How you can help

Though times are still tough for so many, there is a way you can ensure the future of Mennonite College of Nursing by including the college as a part of your estate plan. This is crucial! Nursing colleges that excel do so because supporters and alumni make a commitment to remember their colleges of nursing in their estate plans; this is more important than you will ever know! If you would like more information about estate planning, contact Jenny Ward, director of development at (309) 438-7178 or [jsward@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jsward@IllinoisState.edu)

# MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet

The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization at Illinois State University presented several awards at the annual Awards and Reunion Banquet in May. We hope you will join us for next year's banquet on April 27, 2013!

## Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest award Mennonite College of Nursing bestows upon its graduates. Sue (Stark) Albee, B.S.N. '95, was selected as the 2012 recipient of this prestigious award. Albee was a nontraditional student when she attended Mennonite College of Nursing. She was a leader from the start, serving as a peer support person, and president of the student nursing organization her senior year. She graduated from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1995, and is the supervisor of Community Health Services at the McLean County Public Health Department.



She is also chair of the John M. Scott Health Care Commission, a member of the Advocate BroMenn Community Health Council, and a member of the America's Promise Project at Mennonite College of Nursing. In 2009 she was named Employee of the Year at the McLean County Health Department for her work related to the H1N1 pandemic event efforts.

Albee lives out the MCN's mission to serve the underserved and advocates for vulnerable populations. She generously supports Mennonite College of Nursing through her service on the Alumni Board. The MNAO board and college are grateful for her dedication and leadership.

"I am totally honored and excited, though not sure it's deserved," said Albee. "I supervise a dental clinic in my job at the Health Department; this has led to an avid interest in the promotion of improved oral health for members of the community. I am totally passionate about nursing and public health, and extremely proud to say I am a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing. I continually strive to use the education and values I learned at Mennonite College of Nursing in my career and life."

## Early Career Achievement Alumni Award

The recipient of the 2012 Early Career Achievement Alumni Award is Karen D'Souza, B.S.N. '06. D'Souza was raised in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She received her bachelor's in nursing from Mennonite College at Illinois State University. An active member of the Student Nurses Association at ISU, she was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honors Society. During her clinical rotations she was always conscious of looking for systematic ways to decrease nursing and medication errors.



Upon graduation, D'Souza relocated to Phoenix, where she worked on the adult oncology and medical/surgical unit at St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center. She was a leader in the Nursing Council and was instrumental in the formation of the Shared Governance Panel for St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center's application toward Magnet status. Committed to her profession, D'Souza worked as a mentor and preceptor to nursing students from the University of Phoenix and Grand Canyon University.

A strong advocate of holistic patient-centered care, she is excited to be in the fast-track master of health administration graduate program at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She believes every patient should receive exceptional care and aspires to develop solutions to an organization's most critical safety and quality problems. She hopes to be part of an environment that will challenge and inspire her to become an effective healthcare leader. D'Souza will graduate this spring. Though just beginning her career, she has been generous in her annual support to Mennonite College of Nursing through the Annual Fund.

"I am humbled to receive this award," said D'Souza. "I think any of my classmates would have been great candidates as well, because of their work experience and dedication to the nursing profession."

## Service Award

The 2012 Service Award was presented to Rose Stadel. Stadel is vice president of operations for Heritage Enterprises and has worked in long-term care for 35 years. She has been an active partner with Mennonite College of Nursing for many years. Stadel developed a touch therapy project with MCN for the Alzheimer's residents at Heritage Manor in Normal. She played a critical role in the development of the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project, named in honor of her late husband. She traveled to New York City with the project, and brought several lessons they learned back to the college and the community. Perhaps her most passionate presentations were about how art can help Alzheimer's patients reconnect.



Stadel also identified a need for support and resources for those who care for their aging parents in our community. She developed, and for the past five years has facilitated, a monthly support group called Children of Aging Parents.

Though the Teaching Nursing Home Project has ended, she continues to partner with the college. Nursing clinicals continue in many of the Heritage Homes, where students are exposed early in their nursing studies to care of seniors. She serves on the advisory boards of Mennonite College of Nursing, Heartland Community College Nursing Program, and the Maitland-Warner Long Term Care Scholarship Board.

She has been recognized for her commitment to volunteerism. She received the Donald B. Stone Outstanding Service Award from the Illinois Society for Public Health Educators, the 2007 YWCA Women of Distinction Award, and was named Health Educator of the Year by the Cornbelt Health Educators' Association. Illinois State University's Health Sciences Department recognized her with an award for Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship in 1997 and she received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.

"Working with the MCN over the past several years has been such a positive experience," said Stadel. "I tell everyone what a great faculty and staff MCN has. I am very honored and humbled by this award."

## Spirit of Nursing Award

Megan (Zimmer) Rappleyea, B.S.N. '10 was selected for The Spirit of Nursing Award. Rappleyea graduated summa cum laude from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in 2010, and works in the oncology unit at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She was a recipient of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Association Scholarship and a Transcultural Nursing Scholarship in 2009. She worked diligently as a graduate assistant during her first year of grad school, and was a willing tutor and source of encouragement to many beginning nursing students. In the fall of 2010, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, which caused her to take a leave of absence from the master's program for the family nurse practitioner. She also taught the breast cancer lecture for medical surgical nursing students for two years at MCN.



Rappleyea is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, and received the OSF Daisy Award in February. She recently finished her training for a Passages Hospice volunteer. Though she is still a nursing student, she has already made her first gift back to Mennonite College of Nursing through the Senior Spirit Tassel Program. Rappleyea is an empathetic woman of tremendous courage, and embodies the Mennonite College of Nursing Spirit of Nursing Award.

"I am absolutely honored to receive this award," said Rappleyea. "I hope that one day I can deserve such a gift. I will carry this with me as a reminder that nursing represents more than theoretical knowledge and critical thinking skills, but a spirit, a soul that reaches out as God's light in this world to relieve suffering through the service of humanity and the individual."

# MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet



A. 60th Reunion—Alice (Kumler) Deavers, Joyce (Eigsti) Hofer, and Charlotte (Tiffin) Leach

B. 50th Reunion—*Back row, from left:* Sylvia (Horne) Argilla, Elizabeth (Disbrow) Uphoff, Mary Ann (Troyer) Watkins, Edith (Neufeld) Michalovic, Mary (Lay) Gottschalk, Annette (Slupianek) Koltveit, and Gerda (Milkeraitus) Detweiler *Front row, from left:* Celeste (Gentes) Betjemann, Norma (Hooley) Otto, Nancy (Keene) O’Neill, Gayle (Custer) Lanternier, and Jennita (Detweiler) Wright

C. 40th Reunion—*Back row, from left:* Susan (Scholl) Nelson, Sue Ann McGinnes, and Lois (Ackerman) Smith *Front row, from left:* Marty (Morrow) Saupe, Becky (Hawthorne) Moore, and Debbie (Richards) Grady

D. 25th Reunion—Robin (Morrical) Schertz, Laura (Cisco) Baue, and Diane (Harpenau) Stephenson

E. 30th Reunion—Doris Teubel

F. 20th Reunion—Rebecca (Ott) Doran

G. 10th Reunion—Angela (Ruguian) Difanis



## Alumni notes

**Amy Horsch, B.S.N. '98**, received her master's in nursing from the University of Illinois–Chicago in May 2010. She is a family nurse practitioner at Carle Hospital.

**Kelley (Novak) Wieland, B.S.N. '06**, is working at Obstetrics and Gynecology II, Ltd. in Normal. She has specialized in ob/gyn nursing since graduation, working in both hospital and office settings. She went to Massage Therapy School at Lincoln College to learn about incorporating pregnancy massage into her nursing practice.

**Kemi Abogunrin, B.S.N. '10**, works full-time as a nurse on a rehab unit at Clare Oaks and part-time for Northwest Home Care.

**Michelle Pavlik, B.S.N. '10**, recently accepted a position in the coronary care intensive care unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

**Kim Scheuber, B.S.N. '10**, works on the ortho/trauma unit at Advocate Good Samaritan in Downers Grove. She recently completed a presentation for her hospital's "Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking" series with fellow MCN graduate, **Megan Frantik, B.S.N. '11**.

**Angela Fiorelli, B.S.N. '11**, accepted a position on the neurology unit at Loyola. She has also been accepted into Rush University's CNL program for fall 2012.

**Hayley Madigan, B.S.N. '11**, lives in Peoria and works on the acute rehab floor at Methodist Medical Center.

**Lina Marcheschi, B.S.N. '11**, resides in Chicago, and works on the medical oncology floor at Northwestern Memorial.

**Kirsti Mitchell, B.S.N. '11**, began working at Community Hospital in Indiana. She is grateful for the education and preparation that she has received from Mennonite College of Nursing.

**Sandy Reichert, B.S.N. '11**, started working as a cardiothoracic nurse at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Emily Ruedi, B.S.N. '11**, received the Daisy Award at OSF St. Joseph Hospital.

**Chrissy Thompson, B.S.N. '11**, is working on the pediatric intermediate unit in the new Children's Hospital of Illinois. She cares for children who are a part of St. Jude. She recently received PALS certification and is pursuing chemotherapy certification.

### In memory...

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

'40 **Lois (Hoobler) Philpott** passed away October 28, 2011.

'48 **Erma (Liddle) Borchers** passed away May 31, 2011.

'45 **Rose (Vuylsteke) Girdler** passed away September 23, 2011.

'50 **Ruth (Yordy) Keller** passed away March 21, 2012.

'51 **Jacquelin (Rudat) Fader** passed away May 16, 2011.

'54 **Tina (Rosenfeld) Brink** passed away September 28, 2011.

'56 **Eileen (May) Wilmoth** passed away December 22, 2011.

'85 **Tracy (Love) Lowther** passed away January 10, 2012.

'85 **Dlorah (Ward) Zehr** passed away December 22, 2011.

'95 **Debra (Mills) Ackerman** passed away May 15, 2012.

# 40th Transcultural Experience Anniversary

In 1972, nursing students at Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing participated in the first Summer Service Program (now called the Transcultural Experience). At the Awards and Reunion Banquet, there was a special presentation honoring the 40th anniversary of the Transcultural Program. Karrie Ingalsbe, transcultural experience coordinator, talked about the impact these experiences have on nursing students, which provide an avenue for personal and professional growth beyond the traditional boundaries of classroom and clinical practicums. Students are given the opportunity to examine nursing care in a location that is culturally different from central Illinois. The experience offers eligible nursing students the opportunity to participate in a one- to two-week transcultural experience.



Former faculty member Louise Bellas was recognized for her dedication to the transcultural experience program. She worked to establish placements for students in Eastborne and Brighton, England. She also spent the summer of 1980 in Nagoya, Japan. She was then able to assist the summer

1981 students with learning about the Japanese culture prior to their trip.

There were also several members from the class of 1972 who were part of the first trip in January 1972 to Harlan, Kentucky. They recall going on this six-week trip with their instructor, Beulah Nice, and giving nursing care to people in their homes. Danielle Piagentini, B.S.N. '11 and Katie Varney, B.S.N. '11 gave presentations about their recent trips to Kenya and Russia.

Several scholarships have been established for students who want to participate in a trip. The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Scholarship continues to provide scholarships for students. In 2002, as a part of the college's first campaign as a part of Illinois State University, Professors Karrie Ingalsbe and Lynn Kennell envisioned a fund that would provide ongoing support for the transcultural nursing program. Through their dedication and financial support, as well as the support of many others, The Transcultural Nursing Fund was established and became endowed in the Mennonite College of Nursing in 2005.

In 2010, Jana Edge established the Jana L. Edge Endowed International Transcultural Nursing Scholarship to assist nursing students with the opportunity to travel internationally, see nursing from an outside perspective, and learn to thrive outside their comfort zone.

Wendy Woith, assistant professor, is also passionate about international experiences. She established the Russian Exchange Travel Fund in 2007 to remove some financial barriers that may prevent Russian nursing students from traveling to Illinois State University to participate in exchange programs.

These transcultural experiences remain with the participants throughout their lives—it is an experience of a lifetime.

## Transcultural Experience through the years

Karrie Ingalsbe has been doing extensive research on the history of the Transcultural Experience, and the following are her findings. If you have stories, photos or more information about a transcultural experience you had, please contact her at (309) 438-2684 or [ksingal@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:ksingal@IllinoisState.edu). We would love to hear your stories.

### 1972–1982

#### National:

**Kentucky**—Appalachian Regional Hospital System Home Health Service in Harlan

**Montana**—Lame Deer Clinic, Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Crow Agency Hospital

#### International:

**England**—Royal Sussex County Hospital & Brighton Eye Hospital in Brighton; Eastbourne Health District, District General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Eastborne Health Authority and School of Nursing, and Princess Alice Hospital in Eastbourne

**Haiti**—Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Port-Au-Prince

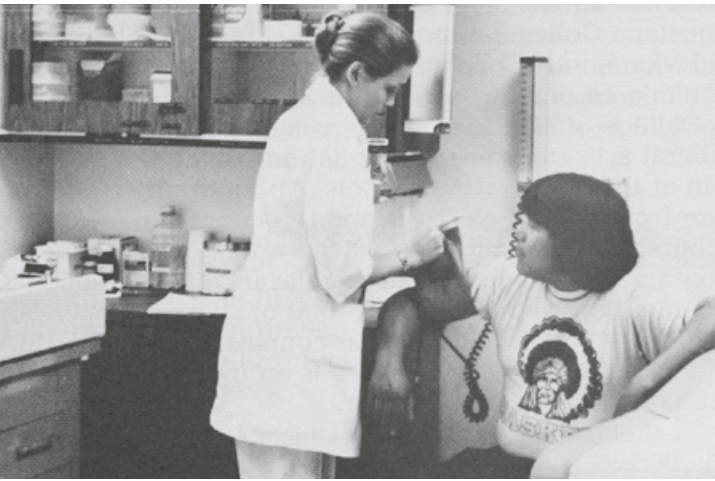
**Japan**—Asahigawa

**Netherlands**—Oz 100—Inner City Ecumenical Ministry in Amsterdam

**West Berlin**—Johannesstift Hospital and Evangelische Johannesstift Hospital



Students on the first Transcultural trip to Harlan County, Kentucky—students had the opportunity to go hiking in the area.



Lame Deer, Montana

## 1983–1992

### National:

**Montana**—Lame Deer

**Appalachia**

**New Mexico**—Shiprock P.H.S. Indian Hospital, Navajo Indian Reservation

### International:

**Africa**

**England**—District General Hospital, Sussex Downs School of Nursing and Kent Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Health in Eastborne

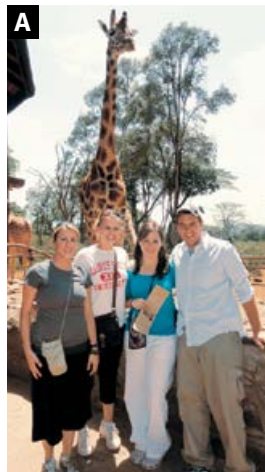
**European Studies Tour**—Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, England

**European Studies Tour 1987**—Denmark, Norway, Sweden

**European Studies Tour 1989**—Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany

**Haiti**—Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Port-Au-Prince

**Japan**—Asahikawa Red Cross Hospital



A. Kenya

B. England

C. Russia

D. University of Texas School of Nursing

## 1993–2002

Transcultural Experience continues at Illinois State University after 1999

### National:

**Montana**—Lame Deer

**Texas**—La Casa de Maria y Marta in San Antonio

### International:

**England**—Sussex, Kent Institute of Nursing, District General Hospital, St. Wilfrids Hospice and University of Brighton in Eastbourne; School of Nursing and Midwifery at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry

**Mexico**—Juarez (Mobile Medical Health Care Team)

## 2003–2012

### National:

**Illinois**—Little Village in Chicago

**Kentucky**—Hyden and Manchester

**Montana**—Lame Deer

**Texas**—The Children’s Wellness Center in Austin

### International:

**Africa**—Nairobi, Kenya

**England**—University of Brighton in Eastborne, Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath

**Russia**

## How you can help

Some nursing students are unable to participate in the Transcultural Experience due to cost. Unfortunately, these students won’t be able to experience nursing care in other cultures. If you would like to help future nursing students participate in the experience of a lifetime, contact Jenny Ward, director of development, at (309) 438-7178 or [jsward@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jsward@IllinoisState.edu).

# Event highlights

Faculty, staff, and students participated in a variety of events throughout the year.



Nursing Simulation Laboratory grand opening



SNA members participated in the Heart Walk



SNA members in the Homecoming parade



Class of 1954 luncheon at the Nursing Simulation Lab



MCN students at the 2012 Student Nurse Political Action Day in Springfield



Michael Bleich was the keynote speaker at the spring Candlelighting Ceremony



Fall Candlelighting Ceremony



SNA members at Cub Foods fundraiser



Pink Reception



Homecoming tailgate



Dean Krejci, Robin Weissman (gymnast) and Polly Hirt (swimmer/diver) at Athletics Banquet



Homecoming NSL open house



## Why I “dove” into nursing

By Polly Hirt, B.S.N. '12 Presidential, Bone and Honors Scholar, Linda Cooper Nursing Scholarship for Student Athletes Recipient

I chose nursing for a few reasons. First, I have always loved science, particularly anatomy, so a career in the health care field appealed to me. I also enjoy taking care of people who are vulnerable and in need, whether that be a physical, emotional, or spiritual need. Another reason I chose nursing was because of some unique family experiences.

When I was in junior high my dad was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Our family spent a significant amount of time dealing with health care professionals for his various surgeries and treatment. I saw firsthand that nurses could make a big impact on the patient and family's hospital experience. We deeply appreciated the kind nurse who took time to explore our family's desires and adjust care accordingly. I want to be a nurse so that I can use compassion, patience, and knowledge to ease the stress of anxious individuals.

I have been blessed to be the recipient of the following awards: Presidential Scholarship, Robert G. Bone Scholarship, and Linda B. Herman Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. I have been on the AFNI Honor Roll and Dean's List each semester of college thus far, and I was a member of the MVC Scholar Athlete Team each of my four years. I was also a team captain for ISU swimming and diving during the 2011–2012 season.

I was recruited to join the swimming and diving team during my senior year of high school and dove all four years at ISU. It has been extremely time-consuming but so rewarding and enjoyable. During the season, I practiced five times a week in the pool, three times in the weight room, two times for cardio, and two morning conditioning workouts. My coach, Phil Hoffman, has been nothing but supportive of my desire to pursue nursing and has been patient and flexible with my busy schedule. Steve Paska, the swim coach, has also been a source of encouragement and support along the way.

I have invested a lot of time in Encounter, a Christian campus ministry. I have been attending since my freshman year and I have been leading a small group Bible study each semester since my sophomore year, and it has been a huge source of encouragement and accountability in my personal faith through college.

My plans for after graduation are somewhat unknown. I do not have a job yet but am applying to hospitals in the Chicagoland area. I am planning on moving back home with my mom until I get married in October.

What I will remember most about MCN is the genuine excitement about nursing, which comes from both students and faculty. In the classroom, clinical setting, and simulation lab I felt encouraged and affirmed in my decision as a nurse. MCN recognizes nursing as a noble profession of service, and it makes me so excited to start my career.

## Student awards

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



Herman Tiedeman Memorial Award: **Erin Beetstra**



Senior Excellence Award: **Mary Weber**



Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence: **Emily Larke**



## My experience at Mennonite College of Nursing

By Mary Bahl, 2011–2012 SNA Vice President

I appreciate the opportunity to reflect back a little on what these past two years of nursing school have meant for me, and I consider it an honor to be able to share my story.

The first thing I realized is that I have found the unexpected at MCN. I came to nursing school thinking I would learn a lot and become a great nurse in the process but I wasn't expecting that I would make lifelong friends. I thought at the end of the process, I would find myself changed as a result of amazing clinical experiences and memorable patients. And I have found those. However, now I find myself at the end of a very fast two years and it is these faces I cannot get out of my mind and relationships with my class-

mates and instructors that have most deeply affected me.

One lesson I have learned from being together is we have an incredible power at our disposal—that of offering each other our presence. In dealing with each other, there have been many times that we haven't had the solution or answer for a situation, but we have shown courage to remain with each other and make it through these last two years together. We have comforted each other when our fears and anxieties about successfully making this transition were almost overwhelming.

Let's take the lessons we have learned from each other and transfer them to the care we give to our patients. We will not always have the cure or solution, but we will always have ourselves to offer. And through relationships we have the power to affect and change others' lives.

We found that nursing is so much more than a job; it's more than a career. It's about people, and not just the ones we take care of. Nursing involves family, and not just our patient's family but our own families as well.

I will never forget the laughs, the tears, the tests, the teachers, and the friends I've made during this adventure called nursing school. It has been an honor to have known each and every one of you, and I am proud to have shared this life-changing experience at Mennonite College of Nursing.



RN/BSN Outstanding Achievement Award: **Sonya Taylor**



Accelerated Outstanding Achievement Award: **Stephanie Reed and Sandra Thompson**



Outstanding Graduate Student Achievement Award: **Maggie O'Malley, Jessica Blanchard, and Ara Peterson**

# 2011–2012 Graduates

## Baccalaureate Degree December 2011

Arnswald, Stephanie  
Bell, Amanda  
Benjey, Jana  
Broom, Alison  
Browning, Tiffany  
Buckingham, Samantha  
Cherian, Sheeba  
Christiansen, Aurora  
Costa, Adekunbi  
Doran, Kristin  
Fiorelli, Angela  
Gassner, Rosemarie  
Gates, Kathleen  
Giertz, Molly  
Giles (Loveday), Cheryl  
Gregorich, Amanda  
Groeper, Laura  
Hitz, Christina  
Issett, Sarah  
Krebs, Harrison  
Krueger, Lindsey  
Kruger, Kiley  
La Porta, Kaley  
Leoni, Jodi  
Lytel, Kathryn  
Madigan, Hayley  
Marcheschi, Lina  
McMakin, Alicia  
McNamara, Ashley  
Mills, Megan  
Mitchell, Kirsti  
Morris, Carolyn  
Mortenson, Allison  
Nettey, Edmund  
Niznik, Kristin  
Oakes, Erin  
Pacete, Mariel  
Park, Hannah  
Patel, Pooja  
Reichert, Sandra  
Renner, Ashley  
Riordan, Tracy  
Schreiber, Briana  
Stevens, Emilie  
Sunderland, Jenna  
Surmaj, Sabrina  
Teter, Stephanie  
Underhill, Brittany  
Wabik, Amanda  
Washburn, Gabrielle  
Weibeler, Diane  
White, Kaitlyn  
Williams, Seth  
Zuba, Stacey

## Baccalaureate Degrees May 2012

Altenbernd, Camele  
Bahl, Mary  
Beetstra, Erin  
Berrafato, Vincent  
Billups, Jamie  
Bratcher, Lyndsey  
Briggs, Emily  
Bull, Caitlin  
Bullard, Brittany  
Cali, Jennifer  
Carlton, Carrie  
Coleman, Claire  
Collins, Kaitlyn  
Daly, Delia  
Davis, Emily  
Dreger, Kayla  
Dupuis, Danielle  
Edwards, Kaitlyn  
Evjen, Nicole  
Facko, Laura  
Ferry, Courtney  
Fierce, Hillary  
Gatto, Jamie  
Giarraputo, Heather  
Gollogly, Nora  
Gollon, Kaitlin  
Good, Nicole  
Gruendler, Courtney  
Gutzmer, Annalise  
Hagedorn, Amy  
Healy, Katie  
Hemphill, Andrea  
Hirt, Polly  
James, Kellie  
Jozefat, Lindsay  
Kwarteng, Valentina  
Lanzrath, Sarah  
Larke, Emily  
Lelutiu, Alexandra  
Mangas, Amanda  
Maurer, Sarah  
McKinley (Clark), Jessie  
Miller, Natalie  
Morosanu-Wardell, Ionela  
Parente, Lisa  
Prehn, Sarah  
Quinn, Ashley  
Rampick, Ashley  
Rieser, Kylie  
Roxas, Natalie  
Sawyer, Catherine  
Seddon, Kelly  
Smith, Cristina  
VanOpdorp, Carlie  
Watson, Lyndsie

Weber, Mary  
Weissman, Robin  
Wermager, Kelsey  
Wick, Michelle  
Wille, Sarah  
Wolf, Melissa

## Master's Degrees May 2012 Family Nurse Practitioner

Barnes, Caroline  
Blanchard, Jessica  
Gibbs, Alyssa  
Helregel, Sacha  
Johnson, Aretha  
Johnson, Samantha  
Kil, Ashley  
Nafziger, Cheryl  
Nenne, Karen  
O'Malley, Maggie  
Rush-Drake, Suzette  
Sheley, Andrea  
Simons, Kayla  
Sparks, Ann  
Vaughn, Kelli  
Yochum, Cody

## Nursing Systems Administration

Ferrie, Abbi  
Mool, Jennifer  
Peterson, Ara

## Baccalaureate Degrees August 2012 Accelerated B.S.N.

Asato, Makiko  
Holland, Khara  
Jones, Mallory  
Koeppen, Oksana  
Lessard, Kevin  
Logan, Danielle  
Mendoza, Marina  
Moloney, Maureen  
Myers, Wendy  
Nazir, Fatima  
Panananon, Paweena  
Reed, Stephanie  
Reilly, Kathleen  
Relph, Tyler  
Smith, Kimberly  
Tharp, Andrew  
Thompson, Sandra  
Veal, Clara

## RN/B.S.N.

Bahler, Melinda  
Ballew, Amanda  
Church, Sarah  
Gonzalez, Miranda  
Greer, Joy  
Martin, Chasity  
Miller, Shelley  
Nagele, Monica  
Noonan, Cassy  
Opoku-Agyemang, Yaw  
Smith, Sasha  
Swinford, Rachel  
Taylor, Sonya  
Trojanek, Corey  
Tuttle, Lauren  
Wells, Cynthia





Cheryl Nafziger and Jennifer Mool

## Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

The education you have just completed here at Illinois State provides the strong roots you will need to truly blossom in your careers. We encourage you to continue your education through graduate programs and other continuing education programs. We are here to help you continue your success in the nursing profession.

We would like to especially congratulate Cheryl Nafziger and Jennifer Mool (pictured to the left). Nafziger is the clinical practice coordinator at MCN and completed the Family Nurse Practitioner program. She has accepted an FNP position with OSF Medical Group Family Practice in Clinton this fall. Mool is the clinical nursing lab coordinator at MCN and completed the Nursing Systems Administration program. She is a graduate student in the FNP program at MCN, and will continue her full-time role as the clinical nursing lab coordinator.



B.S.N. graduates



M.S.N. graduates



Accelerated B.S.N. graduates



**2012–2013 SNA Officers**

From left: Katie Watt, president; Mary Malinowski, vice president; Kelli McCormick, treasurer; and Lauren Matthews, secretary



**2011–2012 SNA Officers**

From left: Dean Krejci, Cristina Smith, Mary Bahl, Andrea Hemphill and Mary Weber

## Student Nurses Association

The Student Nurses Association (SNA) works tirelessly throughout the year with extracurricular activities and a focus on community service. They are involved in several fundraising events, including the Heart Walk, MS Walk, and Relay for Life. At the Pink Game, they helped raise funds for the Kay Yow Cancer Foundation. They showed their Illinois State spirit by decorating the NSL lab for Homecoming, and participated in the parade. These are just a few examples of the many services they provided throughout the year. We thank them for their dedication, service and time, and look forward to working with the new SNA officers and member during the 2012–2013 year.

## Calendar of events—save the date!

**Fall 2012**

- August 20 Classes begin
- September 13 MCN Scholarship Dinner
- September 15 Family Weekend Open House
- October 5 Alumni Day
- October 6 Homecoming activities
- November 27 Fall Candlelighting
- December 6 MCN Holiday Celebration
- December 15 Winter Commencement

**Spring 2013**

- January 14 Classes begin
- TBD PINK pre-game reception
- February 21 Illinois State University Founder’s Day
- April 22–26 MCN Nurse’s Week – several events being planned; details to be announced soon
- April 27 MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet
- May 6-12 National Nurses Week
- May 10 Spring Commencement



Visit [IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://IllinoisStateHomecoming.com)

For more information about MCN events, please visit [Nursing.IllinoisState.edu](http://Nursing.IllinoisState.edu)

## Undergraduate programs

The Undergraduate Program offers a prelicensure B.S.N., accelerated B.S.N. and online RN to B.S.N. For more information on a sequence below visit [Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Undergraduate](https://Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Undergraduate).

- **Prelicensure B.S.N.**—traditional four-year program
- **Accelerated B.S.N.**—for students who completed a non-nursing bachelor's degree, and want to earn a B.S.N. in 15 months
- **Online RN to B.S.N.**—for current registered nurses; and students may select either a full-time or part-time plan of study

## Graduate programs

The Graduate Program offers three sequences: clinical nurse leader, family nurse practitioner, and nursing systems administration. For more information on a sequence below visit [Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Graduate](https://Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Graduate).

- **Clinical nurse leader (CNL)**—prepares graduates to function as leaders within complex health care environments, and emphasizes nursing leadership
- **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
- **Nursing systems administration (NSA)**—prepares students to function at executive levels, and specialty courses are offered online to allow the working nurse the opportunity to complete the degree with a flexible schedule

The Graduate Program also offers a **Post-master's FNP certificate** for individuals who already hold a master's degree in nursing and wish to become licensed and practice as family nurse practitioners. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit [Provost.IllinoisState.edu/GainfulEmployment](https://Provost.IllinoisState.edu/GainfulEmployment).

## Doctoral program

Mennonite College of Nursing offers a Ph.D. in nursing program. The Ph.D. prepared nurse serves the public by designing and conducting research on relevant clinical, educational, health systems, and/or health policy topics. For more information visit [Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Graduate](https://Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Graduate).



**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Mennonite College of Nursing*

**[Nursing.IllinoisState.edu](https://Nursing.IllinoisState.edu)**



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*Illinois' first public university*

**Mennonite College of Nursing**  
 Campus Box 5810  
 Normal, IL 61790-5810

## Alumni updates

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

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 Name Date

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 Maiden name (if applicable) Class year

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 Mailing address

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 City State Zip

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 Phone Email

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 Present occupation/Employer

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 News/Comments

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