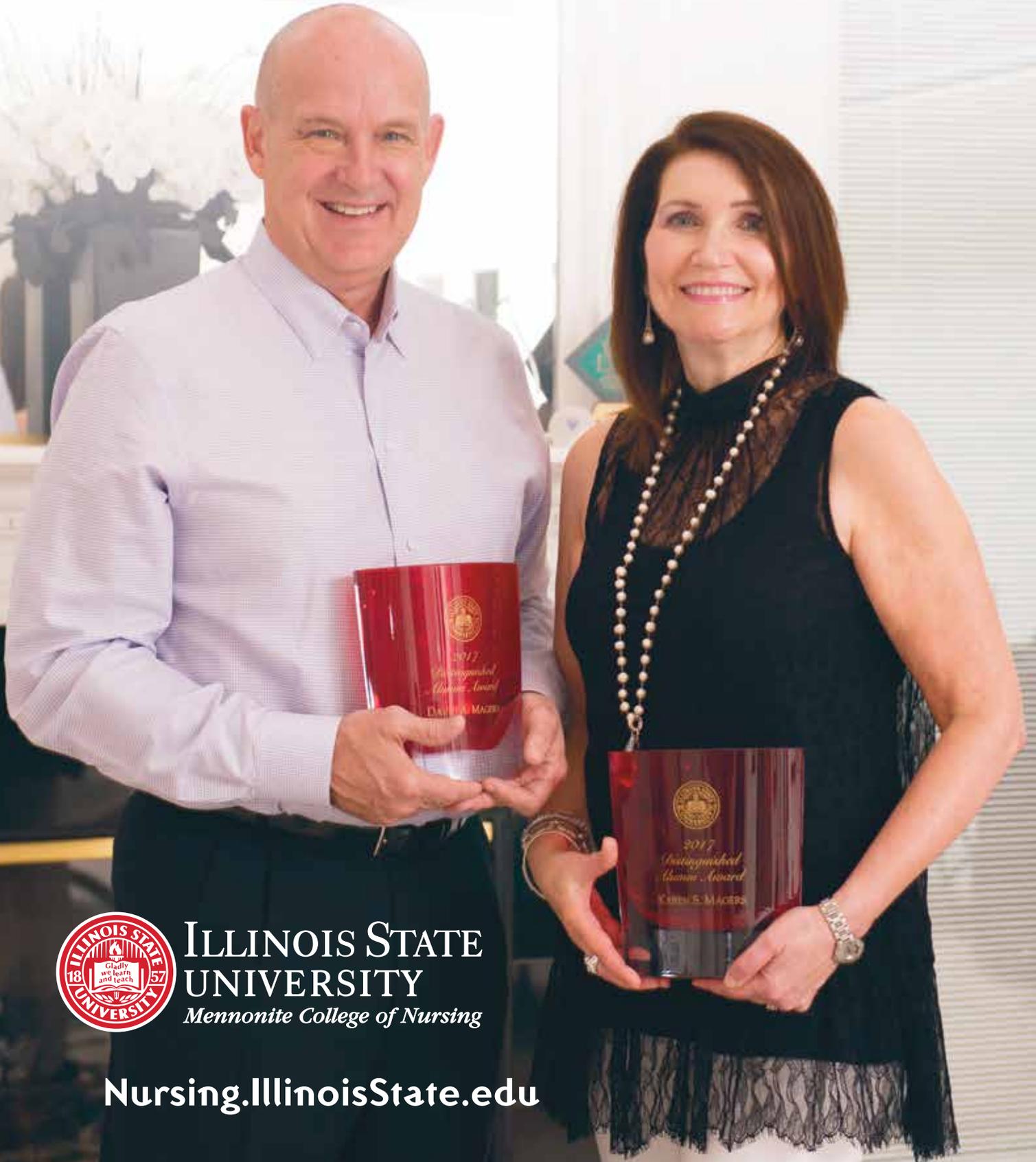


THE FLAME



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Mennonite College of Nursing

Nursing.IllinoisState.edu



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THE FLAME

The magazine of Mennonite
College of Nursing

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Dean · Judy Neubrandner
Newsletter coordinator · Amy Irving
Copy editor · John Moody
Photographer · Lyndsie Schlink
Designer · Jeff Higgerson

Illinois State University
Mennonite College of Nursing
Campus Box 5810
Normal, IL 61790-5810
Nursing.IllinoisState.edu

Cover photo: Dave and Karen Magers
received the ISU Distinguished
Alumni Award.

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STATE
YOUR COMPASSION.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on my first year as dean, there are many highlights.



- **The faculty and staff** of Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) are of the highest quality, with many years of experience and expertise.
- **The alumni and friends** of MCN have demonstrated their love and loyalty to MCN by welcoming me and continuing their support of the college through service and funding.
- Our MCN **students** demonstrate leadership through the Student Nurses Association, PROUD, and MEN organizations.

One of the charges I was given upon my arrival was succession planning for the college. As leaders retire or move to higher levels of leadership external to the college, there are new opportunities within MCN. We began a restructuring process that incorporates leadership training and a focus on succession planning. Our new leadership team includes faculty leaders with many years of experience and a long history with MCN.

Denise Wilson will serve as the associate dean for academics. Denise has been with MCN since 1980 and most recently has directed the FNP and D.N.P. programs.

Janeen Mollenhauer is assuming a newly created position as associate dean for academic support. She has been with MCN since 1997 and most recently served as assistant dean of student and faculty services. In her new role, she will have oversight of all non-academic operations of the college and those that support the academics of the college.

Mary Dyck will serve as the associate dean for research. She has been with MCN since 2010 (she also was an instructor from 1985-1989 at MCN before joining ISU) and most recently served in a faculty role. She will lead the newly formed Office of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and Innovation. This new office will serve as a resource and catalyst for furthering MCN's research pursuits of the future. We have structured the college to position nursing faculty leaders at all levels, providing opportunities for faculty to implement leadership strategies. Cultivation of our leadership skills will prepare the college for the future.

The college is in the last year of a very invigorating strategic plan. This fall, we will create a new innovative strategic plan that will take us to 2021 and beyond. Incorporated in that plan will be our centennial celebration, as well as strategies for preparing our faculty, staff, and students for the future of health care. Particular focus will be given to propelling the college to be THE leader of nursing education and innovation in Illinois while maintaining our standards of excellence, which are rooted in our values.

As we continue the journey, I hope you will come along in helping build MCN's future for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Judy Neubrandner, Ed.D., FNP-BC
 Dean, Mennonite College of Nursing
 Email: jlneubr@IllinoisState.edu
 Phone: (309) 438-2174

MCN FACTS

..... 2016-2017

98 years of rich history

84 scholarships awarded

4 transcultural nursing experiences offered

3 online programs

638 Undergraduate students

581 B.S.N.

33 RN to B.S.N.

24 Accelerated

125 Graduate students

86 M.S.N.

13 D.N.P.

26 Ph.D.

2016

NCLEX	FNP
Pass Rate	Certification Rate
94% MCN	100% MCN
85% State	74% National
85% National	

MCN ALUMNA SHARES EXPERIENCE as nurse practitioner in Middle East

Nikki Miller has a passion for nursing and for helping people in other countries receive needed care. Her varied educational and practice experiences led her to being one of the first nurse practitioners in the Middle East.

In 2003, Miller graduated from Illinois State University's political science program and spent 12 years as an international flight attendant. Through this profession, Miller saw some horrific conditions and knew she wanted to overcome her fears and work with people from areas of the world most have forgotten about. That is when Miller decided to pursue a nursing career. She completed her B.S.N. from Methodist College of Nursing. Miller's career as an RN was spent entirely as a trauma nurse at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. While working at Advocate BroMenn, several of Miller's co-workers had attended the family nurse practitioner program (FNP) at Illinois State University's Mennonite College of Nursing. "They spoke highly of the curriculum and instructors. After looking at several programs, I felt that it fit my lifestyle the best," Miller said.

Miller graduated from the FNP program herself in 2013. Miller's husband is an airline pilot, and in 2014 was relocated to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). At that time, the country did not recognize nurse practitioners. "I had a very hard decision to make: relocate with him or stay behind and gain some experience. At the time I chose to stay behind," Miller said.

In 2015, the UAE health authority, working in conjunction with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi (CCAD), agreed to recognize and allow the use of nurse practitioners only at the CCAD campus. This was Miller's opportunity—and passion—to help a developing country obtain quality health-care as well as learn more about diverse populations and the diseases that affect other parts of the world. "I accepted the position with CCAD and was one of the first nurse practitioners (NP) to practice in the country. When I arrived in the country I was the fourth NP licensed and the first to



practice in the emergency room (ER)." Since that time, the clinic has gained one more NP in cardiology and will have one more NP working in the ER later this year.

In August, Miller returned to the States and contacted Professor Denise Wilson to see if she could visit with some of the FNP classes. She gave presentations to two pathophysiology classes and talked about her journey.

"There are many misconceptions about this part of the world. Don't let the media dictate how you feel about the culture. It is a beautiful place with wonderful people. With my training and license as an NP the options are endless. I would like to continue my work in introducing the NP role into other countries and helping communities around the world that are in need."

ROTC SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

experience in Germany

In the summer of 2016, **ROTC Cadet Meagan Doyle** and **ROTC Cadet Caitlin Pongracz** participated in the Nurse Summer Training Program in Germany at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

“I spent my month-long training there in the labor and delivery unit,” Doyle said. “I was able to get hands-on experience during the birthing process and was able to assist my preceptor with administering medications, hanging fluids, providing non-pharmacological interventions, charting, assessment of newborn, newborn medication administration, patient communication, and much more.”

From this experience, Doyle and Pongracz experienced firsthand the life of an active duty Army nurse—and they loved it. They met other cadets from all over the country who had the same ambition of becoming an active-duty Army nurse. There were opportunities for them to listen to briefs from people who had been serving in the military for many years.

*I was able to improve
as a nurse and as a
future officer throughout
this training...*

“This trip fortified my decisions to compete for active duty and spend my career serving in the military as an active-duty Army nurse. I learned more in depth about the Patient Caring Touch System and how the military hospitals utilize this method of health care in all that they do.”

Their time in Germany was not just spent at the medical center; they were also able to travel around Germany and immersed themselves in the unique culture. They trav-



eled to beautiful castles, took river boat tours, hiked stunning mountains, and ate delicious bratwurst.

“I was able to improve as a nurse and as a future officer throughout this training, and I am so grateful for the opportunity and so excited for the future that the Army has in store for me,” Doyle said.

Doyle and Pongracz advise others that if they are interested in the ROTC program to give it a try. It is an amazing way to gain leadership experience, travel the world, and develop yourself as not only a nurse but a confident person, all while getting your college paid for.

2017 NURSES WEEK *highlights*



MCN SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM

MCN Nurses Week kicked off with a new event this year—the MCN Scholars Symposium. Participants were able to explore research and evidence-based practice by faculty and students. Two awards were presented—the Scientific Merit Award was given to SeonYoon Chung, Ph.D., RN, and the Most Popular Award was given to Melissa Jarvill, Ph.D., RNC-NIC. This event was sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau Xi Pi Chapter.



ALUMNI/STUDENT CAREER PANEL

MCN welcomed back five alumni who graduated from a variety of programs at MCN to participate in a panel discussion with students about career options. Crystal Bricker, Jennifer Kelsey, Marsha Reeves, Ed Reitz, and Melinda Roth. Students gained valuable advice about interviewing, opportunities, continuing education, and professional development.



SNA CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

Senior nursing students and faculty continue the tradition of celebrating their accomplishments at the Candlelighting Ceremony. Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing alumnae Vickie Gasche Lannie was the keynote speaker and gave an inspirational speech.



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

This event honors nursing alumni who

graduated 50 or more years ago. Marilyn Row Marquis was celebrating her 50th reunion, and the group enjoyed sharing stories about their time in nursing school.



AWARDS AND REUNION BANQUET

There was a span of 64 years at the banquet this year, with alumni from the class of 1948 to the class of 2012! Awards were presented, and reunion classes were recognized. More stories were shared—a favorite at this event!

MILESTONE REUNION

40th Reunion—Class of 1977



BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Mary Baley Butler, Linda Wall, Kayla Breighner Porter, Jane Fitzgerald Price, Teri Finley Lee, Elizabeth Streid Easley, Linda Johnson Haile, Ann Roth Zobrist, Beth Lafenagen Mathews, Teresa Koss Godfrey, Betty Forlines Hamblin

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Gladys Diener King, Martha Cope Watt, Nachele Ehman Richard, Jean Dew, Sonia Kuntz Vercler, Linda Steffen Fehr

30th Reunion—Class of 1987



BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Kim Bean Ruckman, Nancy Mosselman Barrett, Susan Koth Schwingle

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Laura Cisco Baue, Marianne Hetfleisch Laff, Renee Matouski Norberg, Cheryl Boyer Rogers

20th Reunion—Class of 1997



BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Donny Bounds, Krista Koppenhoefer Grethey, Renee Simons Trenor

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Angela Dennis Michael, Susan Catt, Jean Peterson Abbott

5th Reunion—Class of 2012



Erin Beetstra



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

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MNAO AWARDS

In conjunction with the college, the MNAO annually recognizes a number of MCN alumni or friends through its Alumni Awards program. Four awards are presented: the Distinguished Alumni Award, the Early Career Achievement Alumni Award, the Service Award, and the Spirit of Nursing Award. All alumni are encouraged to nominate deserving individuals for these awards.

Online forms are available at Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Awards, or contact Amy Irving at amirvin@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-7418.

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

Jennifer Stouffer Kelsey

Jennifer Stouffer Kelsey graduated with her B.S.N. from Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing in 2006 and earned her M.S.N. from St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in 2013.

She currently works as an advanced practice nurse in Pediatric Neurology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. She is a pediatric clinical nurse specialist and also received her pediatric advanced life support certification.

After graduating from MCN, Kelsey worked as a registered nurse at OSF HealthCare, where she managed pediatric emergency situations, coordinated patient care between admitting and transferring departments, and provided unit leadership and problem solving. She moved on to become an assistant patient care manager in 2011, and then was appointed as the patient care manager in the Pediatric Intermediate Unit in 2013.

Kelsey earned Six Sigma Black Belt from OSF HealthCare in 2012, enabling her to grow as a leader, trainer, and coach in the workplace. She serves as a role model to new nurses in her administrative role and serves her alma mater as a clinical instructor at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Kelsey has participated in several service trips to Haiti with the Friends of the Children of Haiti. She is an outstanding pediatric nurse who has exemplified a commitment to excellent, competent, and compassionate care to vulnerable children and their families.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Marsha Reeves

Marsha Reeves graduated from Mennonite School of Nursing with a Diploma of Nursing in 1980. In 1985 she completed post-graduate work in neurosurgical-techniques at Mayo Clinic of Rochester, Minnesota. She earned her Bachelor of Science in health education in 2003 from Illinois State University, and in 2008 earned her Master of Science in health administration and finance from the University of Saint Francis in Joliet.

Reeves' career began at Mennonite Hospital after graduation as a registered nurse in surgery. Due to a hospital merger with Brokaw Hospital and her background in neurosurgery she transferred to the BroMenn Regional Healthcare Campus. As her career path advanced, she accepted a position as the director of nurses in 1989 at Eastland Medical Plaza, Surgi Center, which was the first of its kind in the twin cities. Later she assumed the role of director of surgical services at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center, where she supervised the construction of a \$10 million surgery wing and GI center. The project included collaboration with physicians to offer both neurosurgery and cardiovascular surgical programs—the first in our community.

In 2000, Reeves became executive director of Novak Women Health and Wellness Center, where she introduced the concept of boutique medicine and wellness.

In 2002, she assumed a new role as director of surgical services at OSF St. James JWA Medical Center, where she has oversight of construction and program development over Inpatient and Outpatient Surgery, Ambulatory, and GI Services. In 2007 until her retirement in 2014, Reeves served as a hospital administrator and executive director of Peri-Operative Services at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur. Here she re-engineered Peri-Operative Services, established new programs and services in neurosurgery and GI, while also being a project manager of a \$140 million construction to replace outdated operating rooms with state-of-the-art surgical suites.

Reeves is a leader in the community serving as a member of multiple organizations and serves her alma mater as a dedicated volunteer.

SERVICE

Tom Carroll

Tom Carroll earned a B.S. in psychology in 1984, and an M.S. in clinical psychology in 1989 from Illinois State University. He is the executive vice president and chief administrative officer at RR Donnelley, an international Fortune 500 company with 42,000 employees worldwide based in Chicago.



Carroll's professionalism, leadership, and innovative and charismatic spirit have led him to the highest levels of professional achievement, while engaging with his alma mater continuously since his graduation. He values the experiences gained by nursing students

through the transcultural experience program with Vladimir, Russia. When Russian nursing students visit MCN, he hosts and funds a group of faculty, staff, and students for a cultural tour in Chicago.

His insights in human resources, marketing, communications, and the changing world of employment have been invaluable to MCN students. Carroll has served as a guest speaker on self-branding to nursing students, and his presentations are engaging, informative, and quickly gain the interest and respect of students.

He currently serves on the board of North Central College, the Chicago Public Library Foundation, and the Naperville Development Partnership. He has served as board chair for the Naperville YMCA, the Naperville Area Humane Society, and Naperville Community Television. For the ManKind Project USA, he served as the chair of the HR committee and was also a board member of Turning Pointe Autism Foundation and Idealliance.

Carroll epitomizes what it means to be a Redbird by his involvement and generosity in giving back to his alma mater in every possible way.

SPIRIT OF NURSING

Crystal Roseberry Smith

Crystal Roseberry Smith earned her B.S.N. in 1994 from Mennonite College of Nursing, and her M.S.N. in 2000 from Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing.

After graduating with her B.S.N., she worked in the intensive care unit and cardiac step-down unit at what was then BroMenn Hospital. She then went on to work with Dr. Robert Seidl in Sports and Orthopaedic Medicine. Before long, she returned to her alma mater to earn her M.S.N. in the family nurse practitioner program.

She was hired as a nurse practitioner with a local OB-GYN physician, Dr. Harold Nord in Bloomington/Normal, and assisted women in their maternity and gynecological care.

Furthering her education to become a surgical first assistant and being competent in ultrasound allowed her to care for her patients in a more comprehensive way. She joined the Mennonite College of Nursing graduate faculty as a preceptor and lecturer in the family nurse practitioner track.



Smith has been serving and leading in medical mission work to Haiti for the last 23 years and with Haiti Lifeline Ministries to coordinate medical care for an orphanage and the surrounding community. She adopted two children from Haiti and welcomed them into her family. She has a strong faith commitment, which contributes to her desire to give back to those in need. Smith has a dream to one day open a nursing school in Haiti to allow the older children who are becoming young adults in the orphanage to have an education and a career.

She has a genetic disease called Charcot Marie Tooth that she reports has been one of her greatest blessings in caring for others.

Smith has compassionately lived MCN's mission: "to develop exceptionally well-prepared nurses who will lead to improve health outcomes locally and globally," and this award is the perfect recognition of her advocacy for the vulnerable human.





A room full of *angels*

By Kate Arthur

Sitting at the coffee house, Betty Kinser felt something wasn't right. She thought she might have the flu so she drove home, called a friend, and collapsed in her bedroom.

That call saved her life. Her friend took her to the emergency room, where she was rushed into surgery with a severe aortic dissection. It was a double blow for a family still dealing with the news of her husband, Ron, being diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease.

"I don't know what I would have done without Illinois State," Betty said. A steady stream of University faculty, staff, and students visited her in the hospital, including former President Al Bowman, Janet Krejci, former Mennonite College of Nursing dean and provost, Athletics Department staff, student-athletes, and another special group—Menno-

nite students. As they did their clinicals, they stopped in to see her.

"They kept checking on us," she said. "They were so beautiful, so full of life and energy and so sweet. It was like a room full of angels."

Betty's six-month recovery included a nursing home and home health visits. She couldn't stop thinking about the Mennonite students who were going to school full time, working, and doing their clinical rotations.

"I don't know how they do it," she said. "I wanted to do something for them."

Her children, ISU alums Brent Kinser '98, M.S. '00, and Kris Anne Bergmann '86, came up with the idea of a scholarship and the Betty & Ron Kinser Endowed Scholarship for Nursing Students was created.



Emma Schmidgall, Dean Neubrandner, Betty Kinser and Meghan Gingrich

Abigail House '17 was the first recipient, and received the scholarship again her junior year. She recently started her career on a medical intensive care unit. The scholarship allowed her to work fewer hours and borrow less, she said.

“The scholarships allowed me to work only on the weekends. Originally I was going to have to work between classes and after clinicals. I never minded working, but it was hard to balance clinicals and work in the same day.”

*They were so beautiful,
so full of life and energy
and so sweet. It was like
a room full of angels.*

But there was another benefit to being a recipient—the chance to meet Betty, she said. “She is a wonderful person. I was able to meet her whole family. Betty Kinser and ISU did a lot to help make college affordable for me.”

Betty knows firsthand the sacrifices it takes to earn a degree. She went back to school after 14 years of marriage, when her children were in grade school, earning her bachelor’s in art education in 1973 and her master’s in art education in 1975.

After teaching public school, she returned to the College of Fine Arts as a lecturer. She served many roles in the Art Department, teaching in nearly every medium and serving as advisor for more than 500 art, music, and theater majors. She also served on numerous University committees, including *Educating Illinois*. In 1999, she received the Herb Sanders Award for Outstanding Advising. After retiring in 2005 as assistant to the director of the School of Art, she took on another big role—as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees for a decade, retiring in January. She also served in leadership roles in the League of Women Voters, Easter Seals, Midwest Food Bank, and numerous other causes.

Ron was an ISU alum as well, earning his master’s in 1967. He was an instructor in the Department of English until 1973, when he left to become a teacher and later an administrator for the Illinois Department of Corrections. He died July 24, 2013.

Mennonite nurses were a constant presence through the family’s health care crises, and Betty has stayed closely connected to the college, supporting students financially and in other ways. She’s a frequent visitor to Edwards Hall and attends the annual Candlelighting Ceremony honoring seniors each spring.

“There’s nothing more spiritual,” she said. “Those students are so committed. I guess you’d call them angels. To me, they are.”



DAVID AND KAREN MAGERS LAUDED

David and Karen Magers received the Illinois State University Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes the exceptional achievements of Illinois State University alumni and is the highest honor presented by the Alumni Association. Recipients have demonstrated outstanding performance in their professions and have made outstanding contributions to the community, state, or nation. Additionally, the recipient must be a previous winner of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award, or Alumni Achievement Award. They are the first couple to receive this award, and this is also the first time an alum of Mennonite College of Nursing has received this honor.

Both David and Karen have been extremely involved in professional organizations and the community. The couple have received numerous awards and honors in recognition of their vast engagement in public service, including their support and volunteerism with the Heartland Chapter of American Red Cross, the Children's Hospital of Illinois, the MCN Advisory Board, and Eversight Illinois.

They created two scholarships to support students in the College of Business and MCN. The MCN scholarship was established in 2009, and they have attended several of the scholarship and awards banquets to meet recipients. Both are current members on MCN's Strategy and Planning Council, which provides input, wisdom, and insight to the dean of MCN on a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, strategic visioning, branding, outreach, development, and communication of needs and strategic priorities to external constituencies.

The couple have shown passion and generosity for Illinois State University in their endeavors to support the colleges. They also find time to follow Illinois State Athletics and serve on many advisory boards and planning committees. Their true Redbird spirit shines in all they do for the University.



ABOUT

David Magers

- David Magers received his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1977 and an MBA in 1986.
- He is a certified public accountant. He spent the early years of his career at GROWMARK and the Illinois Farm Bureau and the later years at COUNTRY Financial, enjoying positions of increasing responsibility over 35 years.
- He served as chief financial officer of COUNTRY Financial for nearly a decade. Magers served as an instrumental member of the company's leadership team, assessing financial risks and directing all aspects of financial planning.
- Following his retirement from COUNTRY Financial, he joined Mecum Collector Car Auctions as CEO. He has been inducted into the College of Business Alumni Hall of Fame and proudly chaired the Katie School of Insurance and Financial Services Advisory Board.

Karen Magers

- Karen Roop Magers began her nursing career in 1979 as an eye surgery staff nurse after receiving her diploma from Mennonite School of Nursing.
- Her dedication and commitment resulted in positions of increasing responsibility at Gailey Eye Clinic and the Bloomington Eye Institute, where she has been director since 1998. She has played a large role in the development of the Watson Gailey Eye Bank, which provides corneal tissue for transplants and has written manuals for eye banks that are used across the country.
- She has served as a role model for nursing students and has reinforced the traditions of the Mennonite College of Nursing and the importance of the Illinois State University affiliation.
- She is currently a director of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization and also serves on the steering committee for MCN's 100th anniversary.

MCN ALUMNA RECEIVES EMERGING NURSE LEADER AWARD

Elizabeth Myers was one of the recipients of the 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award from the Illinois Nurses Foundation (INF). This is the second year INF has presented these awards. The winners were chosen by a panel of their peers based on their achievement in the areas of leadership and community and association involvement.

Myers graduated with her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1999. She is the founder of 2x2 Health: Private Health Concierge, which helps patients with their health care. Throughout the Chicagoland area, 2x2 Health guides individuals with complex health care issues to compassionate experts who possess invaluable knowledge, experience, and expertise.

“I founded 2x2 Health because I would see patients and their families get so frustrated with the complicated medical maze,” Myers said. “I decided to do something to help patients, and now patients have a health care advocate to help them with their physicians to navigate the system as quickly and efficiently as possible. We help them with setting up appointments, understanding a diagnosis or treatment plan, and we’re by their side each step of the way.”

Myers is co-founder and secretary of Abby’s Army Foundation, which is a not-for-profit organization that supports pediatric patients and their families battling life-threatening illnesses. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Rush Woman’s Board, The Alliance of Professional Health Advocates, and National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants.

“I feel so honored to be selected to receive the prestigious 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award and to be in the elite company of immensely talented and compassionate nurses. I feel strongly that 2x2 Health embodies the truest form of nursing and am thrilled to be building a culture where individuals and families actively seek our support and that the highest quality nurses and other health care professionals strive to partner and collaborate with us.”

The second annual 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Awards ceremony was held in September at Rush University Medical Center’s Searle Center in Chicago.



100th Anniversary Celebration Update

MCN has developed a steering committee and several subcommittees for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. We will kick off MCN’s 100th anniversary beginning in August 2018, and end the celebration in May 2019. Save the date now to join us at the gala on **Saturday, May 4, 2019**, at the Double Tree Hilton in Bloomington!



Connect with us!

 @NursingISU

 @NursingISU

RETIREMENTS

Dave Jansen, Instructional Assistant Professor



Dave Jansen, M.S.N., RN has served as a nurse for over 40 years, with much of his career centering around mental health nursing. He came to MCN in 2006 as an instructional assistant professor and has taught health assessment, psychiatric-mental health, public health, and leadership courses.

In 2014, he established a male student nurse focus group, called "Men are Excellent Nurses," or MEN. The group meets monthly and discusses clinical and social issues men encounter as a minority in the nursing profession. Jansen enjoys playing the acoustic guitar and has provided his musical talent to MCN on several occasions, including the annual candlelighting ceremony.

Jansen will remain a faculty member here at MCN; however, he is shifting from full-time to part-time status.

Shelly Malin, Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor, Director for America's Promise

Shelly Malin, Ph.D., RN has been a nurse for 44 years. She has worked in a variety of positions and settings. Her clinical focus is pediatrics, and she spent over 10 years working as director of advanced practice nursing



and research at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Malin has over 30 years of experience in teaching undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral-level courses in pediatrics, health systems leadership, organizational behavior, health policy, and ethics.

She joined MCN in 2010 as the Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor, and in this role, she has worked with MCN faculty and Advocate BroMenn nursing leaders and staff to facilitate nursing excellence through research, evidence-based practice, and professional development.

Malin served as director of the America's Promise School Project until 2016, MCN's innovative partnership with State Farm implemented to place nursing students in pediatric clinicals in area school systems. The work invested by Malin's team, now headed by Carla Pohl, has brought national recognition to this teaching model. This

year, Malin and Dean Neubrander have worked together to offer leadership development courses to faculty and staff, entitled, "Leadership from the Inside Out."

Malin is retiring, effective July 1, 2017.

H. Catherine Miller, Associate Dean for Academics

H. Catherine Miller, Ed.D., M.S., RN, CNE has served as a nurse for 47 years and has spent most of those years working as a nurse-educator. Her career has spanned four states and eight different nursing programs.



She joined MCN in 2010 as associate dean for academics and participated in the ISU Leadership Initiative Cohort in 2012. When Janet Krejci transitioned from MCN dean to the university provost position, Miller ably served at the helm of MCN as acting dean from 2014-2015 and interim dean from 2015-2016.

She was awarded District 6 Nurse of the Year in 2000, has served on the Illinois Board of Nursing since 2009, and was selected as vice-chair in 2016.

Miller retired July 1, 2017.

Gail Petro, Instructional Assistant Professor

Gail Petro, M.S., APN has served as a nurse for more than 40 years and has taught nursing for over 30 years. She joined MCN as an instructional assistant professor in 2002 and has worked alongside Cathi Kaesberg on the Success Plan, continuously aiding our students to achieve high NCLEX pass rates. She is the lead faculty for the tutoring program at MCN and teaches Adult Health Assessment.



Petro is a licensed advanced practice nurse and certified adult nurse practitioner. She supported the mission of MCN in her nurse practitioner role by caring for the underserved at the Community Health Care Clinic for several years. She encouraged her sister, Melissa, to become a registered nurse and nurse practitioner and was honored to present her with her diploma cover when Melissa graduated from MCN's MSN program in 2016.

Petro retired June 1, 2017.

2016-17 GRADUATES

ALUMNI

All graduates and former students of the former Mennonite School of Nursing, the former Mennonite College of Nursing, and the current Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University are considered alumni of the college. While your association with classes and textbooks and clinical studies was for a few years, your association with Mennonite College of Nursing lasts your lifetime.

Alumni are very much needed to keep the Mennonite College experience strong. Alumni may serve as clinical preceptors in some cases or as informal mentors to current students. Alumni provide financial support, which offers student scholarships, faculty support, technology enhancements, and more. Most importantly, alumni provide current students with examples of Mennonite's long-standing tradition of excellence and of its deeply held values.



AUGUST 2016

Baccalaureate Degrees

Aichholzer, Stephanie
 Alexander, Andrew
 Arevalo, Megan
 Christopoulos, Chasity
 Clay, Emily
 Dietrich, Jay
 Dumlao, Kristy
 Elliott, Logan
 Franco, Lorna
 Furler, Brittany
 Gehrig, Megan
 Gierwiatoski, Megan
 Granados, Elena
 Johnson, Justin
 Joseph, Adam
 Kuszynski, Richard
 Leonard, Claire
 Newsom, Allie
 Newsom, Aryn
 Peterson, Kristen
 Roach, Bethany
 Rodriguez, Victoria

Shaver, Kaylyn
 Shoushtari, Shirin
 Teka, Filmon
 Wholf, Allison

RN to B.S.N.

Allensworth, Susan
 Armstrong, Danielle
 Bailey, Catherine
 Bierman, Anita
 Christians, Amanda
 Daniel, Kelly
 Dye, Katie
 Flohr, Alicia
 Graber, Emily
 Gutierrez, Janet
 Hardesty, Melissa
 Jaszarowski, Sarah
 Kelly, Tracie
 Kemnetz, Jenna
 Law, Kimberly
 Lee, Jessica
 Liehr, Natalie
 Lungu, Cristina
 Manning, Dusti

Northcutt, Sandy
 Ogborn, Alissa
 Ross, Angela
 Schmuck, Kristina
 Smiley, David
 Sutherland, Angela
 Tetrick, Taylor
 Tordoff, Alicia
 Torres, Tomas
 Ulrich, Megan
 Wisneski, Christine

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

Atkins, Kathleen
 Bankston, Kimberly
 Composto, Renell
 Cooper, Marcia
 DeShon, Dana
 Doerr, Abbigayle
 Hammer, Denise
 Murdoch, Patricia
 Pigman, Yvette
 Russell, John
 Scheidenhelm, Sandra

Ph.D. in Nursing

Hovey, Susan

DECEMBER 2016

RN to B.S.N.

Cox, Jessica
 Minks, Danette
 Muehling, Charles
 Stephens, Joshua

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

Saxton, Teri

Ph.D. in Nursing

Calderon, Susana
 Kelley, Colleen

Master's Degree Nursing Systems Administration

Guffey, Gayle
 Silver, Corey

MAY 2017

Baccalaureate Degrees

Adcock, Mariah
 Ajasa, Oluwabusayo
 Amadio, Emily
 Antonacci, Dominic
 Aquino, Amy
 Aslam, Amber
 Audino, Taylor
 Berndt, Kelly
 Blaha, Claire
 Bollinger, Bailee
 Brown, Cassidy
 Busse, Baylee
 Byron, Catherine
 Carroll, Madeline
 Castaldo, Christina
 Cave, Jessica
 Cella, Luke
 Cesario, Allison
 Chiarugi, Kristin
 Connell, Clarissa
 Cook, Megan
 Cooper, Madison
 Coy, Katherine
 Demick, Gabrielle
 Desparrois, Sharon
 Diaz, Adrian
 Dietrich, Margaret



Dougall, Kristin
 Doyle, Meagan
 Driskell, Kristin
 Duda, Nicholas
 Dwyer, Sarah
 Eastman, Breanna
 Ellis, Taylor
 Endress, Eden
 Ensalaco, Kathleen
 Feeney, Jennifer
 Feldmeier, Brianna
 Feste, Stephanie
 Floyd, Taylor
 Forberg, Hailee

Keating, Leah
 Kelly, Chandler
 Kenik, Ellen
 Kennedy, Sydney
 Key, Amanda
 Klug, Adie
 Kreeb, Anna
 Kurbyun, Samantha
 Lane, Allison
 Leatherman, Shyanne
 Leffel, Alexandra
 Lolis, Maria
 Love, Morgan
 Madding, Kierstyn
 Malone, Megan
 Malone, Shannon
 Markey, William
 Marshall, Jessica
 Matic, Christina
 McLeese, Nathan
 Melby, Megan
 Merz, Danielle
 Millares, Jude
 Montejo, Angela
 Moore, Bailey
 Mrowka, Victoria
 Munoz, Erin
 Murdock, Hannah
 Nicastro, Marissa
 Nicholas, Tianna
 Noeska, Alissa
 Norman, Cassidy
 Norris, Nicole
 Oliver, Jenna
 Olmo, Jennifer
 O'Malley, Megan
 Parker, Kathryn
 Peterson, Katherine
 Pienta, Heather
 Pongracz, Caitlin
 Rangel, Miranda
 Reynolds, Gina
 Roahrig, Caley



Fullerton, Rylee
 Garcia, Alyssa
 Gasienica, Patricia
 Geweniger, Annamarie
 Ginzburg, Samantha
 Gonzalez, Alexandra
 Gruhn, Katherine
 Hafertepe, Ashley
 Hallatt, Caitlin
 Hawari, Rami
 Hirth, Kaitlyn
 House, Abigail
 Huynh, Jenny
 Israel, Alison
 Jacobs, Madison
 Jatis, Jessica
 Jessup, Chelsea
 Kaufman, Kendall

Romolo, Lindsay
 Ross, Savannah
 Russell, Lauren
 Saraceni, Ashley
 Scardino, Rachael
 Schaefer, Scott
 Schatz, Molly
 Schnitzius, Rebecca
 Sintich, Emma
 Skibinski, Melissa
 Small, Katherine
 Small, Shaina
 Springer, Stephanie
 Stewart, Dominga
 Stimler, Baylee
 Stoller, Brandon
 Stout, Elizabeth
 Stump, Regan
 Szczepaniec, Lukasz
 Tomazin, Paige
 Trusiano, Melissa
 Tutko, Mary
 Twohig, Jacqueline
 Walden, Kaitlin
 Wayteck, Elizabeth
 Weidenaar, Nicholas
 Weinert, Haley
 Welch, Allison
 Westrick, Michelle
 White, Christina
 Wilkoz, Katherine
 Williams, Lauren
 Wright, Danielle
 Yunker, Emily
 Yurchak, Kaitlin
 Zanolla, Elizabeth

**Master's Degrees
 Family Nurse
 Practitioner**

Almeida, Nicole
 Carter, Leslie
 Cook, Jamie
 Dodd, Michelle



Embry, Jessica
 Franzen, Kellie
 Gardner, Christine
 Henschler, Deborah
 Hoenes, Casey
 Hunsberger, Sarah
 Ingold, Lyndsie
 Jarvis, Laura
 Klunick, Mary
 Lally, Kathleen
 Matthews, Amanda
 McGee, Shanta
 Miller, Dana
 Rollyson, Catherine
 Schieler, Emily
 Schmitt, Erin
 Raut, Nita
 Toohill, Jennifer
 Workman, Ashley

**Family Nurse
 Practitioner
 Certificate**

Fader, Sandra

**Nursing Systems
 Administration**

Hinegardner, Kristi

Ph.D. in Nursing

Jarvill, Melissa



STATE YOUR CAREER.

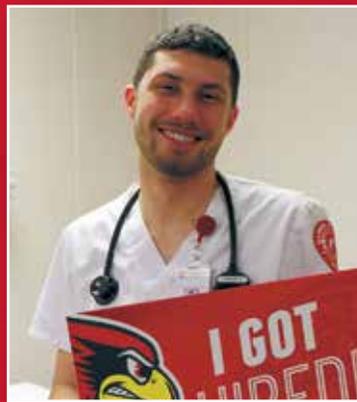
WE ARE SO PROUD of our students, and many of them accepted job offers before they graduated! Illinois State University launched a #STATEYourCareer social media campaign, and several of our students participated.



Lauren Williams has been hired by Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Emily Yunker has been hired by Advocate BroMenn



Scott Schaefer has been hired by Advocate BroMenn



Elizabeth Stout has been hired by Advocate Sherman Hospital



Emily Amadio and Hannah Murdock have been hired by Carle Foundation Hospital



Dannie Merz has been hired by Memorial Medical Center



Amanda Matthews has been hired by Renal Care Associates, Inc. as a Family Nurse Practitioner



Shaina Small has been hired by OSF St. Joseph Medical Center



Carley Roahrig has been hired by Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and Alissa Noeska has been hired by Advocate Sherman Hospital



Dani Wright has been hired by The University of Tennessee Medical Center as an Oncology RN



Erin Munoz has been hired by Carle Foundation Hospital



Morgan Love has been hired by Memorial Medical Center



Kathryn Parker has been hired by Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, and Catherine Bryon has been hired by Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Mary Tutko has been hired by Advocate BroMenn





ALUMNI NOTES

The following notes are from
May 2016-April 2017

1993

Sara Thorp-O'Brien currently works as a nurse practitioner at Springfield Clinic in Decatur. She graduated from Olivet Nazarene University with her M.S.N., FNP in 2014 and received her certification. She is a member of ISAPN, AANP, Sigma Theta Tau and is AANPCP certified.

2011

Mariel Pacete has been working as an RN since 2012 and with traveling nurses since 2013. She created a blog about her experiences as a travel nurse: marielinscrubs.com.

2013

Diana Marie Logisz Cummings is a registered nurse in surgical services at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She married Patrick John Cummings on July 3, 2016. Patrick graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 2012 and was on the football team. He now works at GCM Grosvenor. They enjoy traveling across the United States and have completed mountain hikes in Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks.

Molly King Gleason works at Methodist College as a clinical skills coordinator and is enrolled there in the M.S.N.-Nurse Educator program. She welcomed her son Charlie in March 2016.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

New job? New marriage? New baby?

Share your news with your fellow Redbirds by submitting a class notes update. Information submitted will be considered for publication in the Illinois State News, in university marketing, and in the quarterly alumni magazine, *Illinois State*.

Fill out an online form at Nursing.IllinoisState.edu/Update.

Or contact Amy Irving at amirvin@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-7418.



IN MEMORY

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

- 1940 Margaret Winter Butcher 11/19/2016
- 1944 Winnifred Elvidge Clauson 11/6/2016
- 1946 Marguerite Harris Mies 1/10/2017
- 1948 S. Lauretta Schwandt Coleman 10/25/2016
- 1954 Dorothy Kirchner Yoder 8/30/2016
- 1956 Sally Givens Young 8/6/2016
- 1975 Elaine Tronc Merritt 9/15/2016
- 1985 Tina Williams Bush 4/19/2016
- 1991 Carla Zarow Mazzone 9/22/2016
- 1997 Michael Smith 3/9/2017
- 2008 Tanya Childs 1/8/2016
- 2013 Elstella Ehicheoya 8/14/2016



SAVE THE DATE

for the following events and
celebrations for 2017-18

October

- 20 Alumni Day
- 21 Homecoming

November

- 4 Family Weekend
- 9 McDowell Stafford Lectureships

December

- 5 Holiday Celebration
- 16 Winter Commencement

April

- 5 MCN Research Symposium
- 12 Alumni/Student Networking Event
- 20 Golden Jubilee Celebration
- 21 MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet

May

- 11 MCN Commencement

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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MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING



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ONLY INSTITUTION
IN ILLINOIS TO RECEIVE
BOTH GRANTS



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\$1.4 MILLION
ADVANCED NURSING
EDUCATION WORKFORCE
GRANT