

# THE FLAME

2023-2024

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University



## Reflecting excellence

Introducing the new Mennonite College of Nursing Simulation Center

# THE FLAME

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College of Nursing

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE



## JUDY NEUBRANDER

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**It is an exciting time to be on campus at Illinois State University,** as we put the finishing touches on our new Nursing Simulation Center. Our state-of-the-art facility reflects the excellence of the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) throughout its 105-year history and the beacon of excellence it will continue to be moving forward.

The College of Nursing is devoted to meeting the growing and evolving demands of the health care industry by expanding its programs and resources to better serve the region's nursing workforce needs.

As health care progresses and diversifies, the college is committed to preparing the next generation of nurses who are not only skilled in clinical practice but also equipped to navigate the complexities of a dynamic and rapidly changing health care environment. In addition to our undergraduate programs, the college offers robust graduate programs that further educate and prepare nurses for leadership roles.

As illustrated in this issue, we are proud of our various successful graduates and how they positively impact patients and shape the nursing landscape. We also want to take a moment to remember our beloved colleague, Dr. Kim Astroth, who made significant contributions to MCN, its students, and the nursing profession. Her legacy continues to inspire us.

Through innovative curriculum design, state-of-the-art facilities, and a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, the Mennonite College of Nursing ensures that its graduates are ready to excel in a variety of settings, from hospitals to community care, and to lead the future of health care with compassion, competence, and a commitment to excellence.

We dedicated our new building on October 17, 2024, and our students and faculty are taking our use of technology to new levels. In addition, we are expanding our research endeavors and seeking more opportunities for funded research. Everything we have accomplished and aspire to achieve is a testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and the generous support of our community. The future is bright, and we are excited to keep the MCN flame burning with your continued involvement and support.

Sincerely,

Judy Neubrandner, Ed.D., FNP-BC  
Dean, Mennonite College of Nursing



*New*

MENNONITE COLLEGE  
OF NURSING

**SIMULATION CENTER OPENS**

By University Staff

*“The Simulation Center will promote and enhance the Mennonite College of Nursing’s stellar reputation of excellence in nursing education.”*

— Illinois State University President Aondover Tarhule

**F**rom concept to reality, the new Mennonite College of Nursing Simulation Center now helps cast a bigger reflection on the future of health care at the corner of Locust Street and Normal Avenue.

Three years after the Illinois State Board of Trustees approved an expansion project to more than double the training facility’s size, the new Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) Simulation Center is now officially open.

With the new space, the college will be able to reach its full growth potential, to educate and graduate approximately 20% of Central Illinois’ licensed nurses. The Simulation Center offers a total of 26,000 square feet for instruction and office spaces and is located at 402 W. Locust in Normal. The additional 16,000 square feet will also offer future nurses an enhanced clinical education setting with virtual reality technology.

“The expansion of programs and facilities into this new Simulation Center attests to the active and leading role the University is playing in nursing education throughout the state of Illinois,” said Illinois State University President Aondover Tarhule. “The Simulation Center will promote and enhance the Mennonite College of Nursing’s stellar reputation of excellence in nursing education.”

## **Simulation Center offerings**

Building on themes of collaboration, innovation, and belonging, the expansion features:

- multipurpose area with a 60-seat classroom
- state-of-the-art technology room for virtual reality programming
- three fully immersive technology rooms
- fully functioning four-bed hospital unit
- hospital simulation space
- undergraduate skills and health assessment labs
- nursing advisors and faculty offices
- conference rooms and study areas

The facility allows modern space for faculty to provide nursing didactic courses, high fidelity simulation, nursing skills training, and health assessment courses. Additionally, new office spaces and a student success suite will provide increased opportunity for student interaction with faculty and support staff.

“The high-quality, high-tech learning that our students are receiving in this building will impact the care they give to their patients,” said Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Judy Neubrandner. “Our students will not only learn how to be excellent nurses, but also leaders and researchers. We are making an impact in our region to support the health and well-being of our community. Our students will take this knowledge to reflect excellence within the communities they serve.”

Students temporarily moved to Williams Hall beginning in summer of 2022, for simulation experience. They returned to the relocated and updated simulation lab in fall 2023, while the addition was completed. The completed and expanded center now allows the Mennonite College of Nursing to enroll more students at a time when demand for nurses is high.



From left, Dean Judy Neubrandner, President Aondover Tarhule, Rep. Darin LaHood, and Provost Ani Yazedjian cut the ceremonial ribbon.

“The simulation rooms are spacious allowing for better student involvement, and they feel more realistic to a hospital experience,” said Student Nurses Association President Emily Brownlie. “The advanced projector system is also an amazing perk some of the rooms have, with the technology helping immerse us in a recent scenario experience. In addition, having the common area of the new simulation lab, with windows that let in lots of sunlight, copious charging stations, and a plethora of seating, there is a new center for community within nursing.”





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CODE FOR A  
**VIRTUAL TOUR!**

# DAY IN THE LIFE

## MCN Springfield

By John Twork

Senior nursing major **Marie Sabio's** journey to becoming a nurse started when she was young, and ultimately, led her to Springfield.

"I've always been very compassionate," Sabio said. "When I was little, everyone told me, 'You'd make a great nurse,' and I guess it was just ingrained in my brain."

In spring 2025, Sabio will earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She and her classmates will also make history



Marie Sabio participates in a class discussion.

as the first cohort of almost 30 Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) Springfield graduates.

"I'm going to feel so accomplished," said Sabio, a native of Lombard.

After transferring from the College of DuPage, Sabio enrolled in the new MCN Springfield program in fall 2023. Springfield students follow MCN's traditional BSN plan while being immersed in Memorial Health's nearby hospital network.

Students attend classes in a 10,000-square-foot facility that opened in August 2023 following a \$2 million renovation primarily financed by Memorial Health as part of Memorial's 10-year, \$6 million commitment. The MCN Springfield location features modern classrooms, meeting rooms, and lounge spaces.

"It's cool to have new equipment, and it's nice to be in a new facility," Sabio said. "Personally, I like smaller class sizes. So, that works out well for me too."

Sabio said MCN Springfield's faculty are preparing her for clinicals and beyond. She is particularly grateful for Instructional Assistant Professor Heather Wiegand.

"She was amazing. She really cares," Sabio said. "There was one point where I started getting a little squeamish at certain things like IV infiltrations. It would make me a little lightheaded. And I opened up to her about it, and she was 100% there



Marie Sabio takes a break between classes in the lounge.



Marie Sabio is among the first cohort of Mennonite College of Nursing Springfield students.

for me, and she sent me an article and said, 'You can still be a nurse if this happens to you.' She was just really supportive."

Between classes, Sabio and her classmates can relax in the lounge, which is equipped with a fridge, vending machine, and coffee maker.

"There's a booth area there that I like because it's comfortable," Sabio said. "It's nice because there are two whiteboards on the wall where we write ice breaker-type questions and answers like favorite holiday season or who's going to win the Super Bowl."

MCN Springfield students take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to clinical experiences within Memorial Health's network. Sabio said working in the field takes their education to the next level.

"It's serious," Sabio said. "When I go into work, I could have to give someone CPR. They could 'code' while I'm in there. So, I'm always thinking, 'What if this happens? What if that happens?'"

During clinicals, Sabio and her classmates are assigned a patient to care for either by administering medicine or head-to-toe assessments. She said the repetition



of working in the hospital while continuing to take classes has helped alleviate her initial trepidation.

“It’s nice to apply what you’ve learned in the classroom,” Sabio said. “And I think that definitely helps with my confidence because it’s like, ‘Oh, we talked about this. I know this. I’m comfortable. I can help the patient that way.’”

Sabio, who also works as a patient care technician at Springfield Memorial, said one of her favorite parts of nursing is connecting personally with patients. After graduating, Sabio envisions herself

working in the intensive care unit (ICU) or on a med surg floor. Eventually, she might become a travel nurse.

For now, Sabio is focused on earning her BSN, and she has advice for future MCN Springfield students who follow in her cohort’s historic footsteps.

“Find a group of people who you’re going to work with and who will help encourage you to keep studying,” Sabio said. “It’s hard to study all the time and continuously do schoolwork. So, it’s nice to have people encouraging you who are on the same path as you.”



Marie Sabio cares for a patient during clinicals at Springfield Memorial Hospital.



### MCN ROTC NURSING STUDENTS

From left, Emma Wilbert, Lesley Flores-Salgado



### MCN STUDENT-ATHLETES

From left, Jazmine Neely, Lauren Hervey, Jayden Standish, Ella Vacek, and Kaitlyn Donovan



### TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

MCN Springfield facility

# Transcultural

## NURSING

By Evan Brown, Senior Nursing Major

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“EACH NURSE I INTERACTED WITH TRULY LOVED WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND HAD A DEEP PASSION FOR HELPING PATIENTS AND A STRONG DESIRE TO PROVIDE HEALING.”

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This summer I had the privilege of traveling to Panama as part of Mennonite College of Nursing's Transcultural Nursing Experience student team. I witnessed first-hand that medical practices around the globe have more similarities than differences. The obstacles,

such as speaking different languages or not having the most advanced equipment or procedures, do not have to be a hindrance to excellent nursing care.

Despite a potential language barrier, the patients in Panama responded to our caring gestures, whether it was a gentle pat on the shoulder or a holding of the hand. Though we could not always converse with the patients, approaching them with gentleness, respect, and the desire to help says it all, without the use of words.

As observers in the hospital setting, we saw that the Panamanian nurses attended to patient needs, always working with the best interest of the patient in mind. What some hospitals in Panama lacked in state-of-the-art technology, the nurses made up for in quality holistic care. The evidence was obvious in the way patients interacted with nurses. Patients trusted the nurses and had a deep appreciation for the health care workers, expressed by their attentive listening and smiles of gratitude. The nurses in Panama worked to build relationships with their patients, and their respect for the nursing profession has been passed down from generation to generation.

In Panama, nursing is less of a profession and more of a lifestyle or calling. Nurses in Panama work under less-than-ideal circumstances and are expected to provide quality care despite a heavy patient load. What stuck with me most was how much the nurses love their work. Each nurse I interacted with truly loved what they were doing and had a deep passion for helping the patients and a strong desire to provide healing. The people receiving care had a profound appreciation for the nurses and the work that they do.

Although the technology, working conditions, and equipment quality may not have been the same as what we are used to in the United States, the holistic care for the patient was evident. There is something to be said about treating people as human beings first, and as patients second. Dr. Madeleine Leininger, the foundress of Transcultural Nursing says, “May all nurses, nurse educators, and nurse researchers practice human caring within a holistic and transcultural context.”

I believe this quote describes the experience I had on this learning trip. The transcultural, holistic care I observed has changed my perception of patient care from treating a person's medical needs to caring for a fellow human being. When providing holistic care, a nurse not only aids in healing the medical needs of the patient but also provides a broader kind of healing that only human interaction and affection can ensure. The time spent in Panama and the things learned will follow me into the nursing field as a licensed RN and will impact the quality and practice my future patients will receive.

# Bone Scholar

## Emily Brownlie



The Mennonite College of Nursing would like to congratulate student Emily Brownlie for being selected as one of the Robert G. Bone Scholars for the 2024-25 school year. Between studying, clinicals, her role as the Student Nurses Association president, and her job as a tutor, Brownlie has her hands full while pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Her motivation to care for others and unwavering dedication during her time at MCN will follow her as she embarks on her journey as a new graduate nurse.

### What has kept you motivated throughout your time at MCN as a nursing student?

My friends both inside and outside of the nursing program! I have had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people, and having their love and support has been life changing. Also, I have been lucky to have amazing clinical instructors who saw me and my classmates as whole people beyond students and supported us in this phase of life. Furthermore, when I come across a hard day in nursing school, I remind myself why I'm at Mennonite College of Nursing. I think of all the people I am going to meet. I think of my grandparents and family whom I only want the best care. I think of my mom who made it through nursing school. I think of how much I love to work with others. When the going gets tough, there are so many different things to be grateful for, and that reminds me that I am capable and that I am not alone.

### Please describe a specific clinical experience or class that significantly impacted your growth as a future nurse.

I think one of my most impactful clinical experiences was working with an older woman who was going through a lot of changes at once. She was incredibly kind and patient even though she expressed unease with her hospital experience. Despite it all, she kept reassuring me that she could never lose and would always win because she's here and she's improving day by day. The week after I took care of her, she was getting discharged and even though she wasn't getting discharged home, she trusted and was confident everything was going to be ok. She was going through a lot of major changes, and although she was overwhelmed and experiencing a lot of stress, she was so kind and understanding. She was just grateful for all the help she received. Even me washing her hair was something that made her so happy. I cannot help everyone, but for the people I do, I will always be happy to be part of their journey!

### Explain any jobs/internships/shadow opportunities you have had as an ISU student:

This summer, I started an internship with Northwestern Medicine at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. It is an eight-week experience throughout this summer.

### What on-campus organizations are you involved in?

Throughout my time at ISU, I have been in a lot of different organizations. During these past few semesters, I was a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a service sorority here on campus. I also was a "labbie" for the spring semester at the MCN Simulation Center and helped run simulations! Furthermore, this past year I was the secretary of the Student Nurses Association (SNA), and next year, I will be taking on the role of president! I also work as a tutor for BSC 160 at the Julia N. Visor Center, and I'm a peer mentor for the Honors Program.

### Is there anything else you would like to include about your experiences winning the Bone Scholarship?

Thank you to everyone who believes in me every day, especially the days I don't. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity to represent myself, my family, and everyone who has supported me along the way.

### Lastly, what does being a nurse mean to you personally?

For me, being a nurse means being able to make someone's day a little better. I can't solve all the medical problems of the world, but I can do my best to help someone going through a hard time feel a little better in whatever way they need, whether that means a shoulder to cry on, a person to vent to, or someone to be as positive as possible. Being a nurse means I will be touching a lot of lives, and I hope that touch makes their day a little easier than it was before.

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CODE FOR THE  
FULL STORY.



# MCN events at a **GLANCE**



1. January 2023 BSN Stethoscope Ceremony
2. February 2023 Play 4Kay Reception
3. April 2023 Leadership Academy
4. April 2023 Sigma Xi Pi Chapter Spring Induction
5. 40th Class Reunion, April 2023
6. 50th Class Reunion, April 2023
7. 60th Class Reunion, April 2023
8. 70th Class Reunion, April 2023
9. May 2023 ABSN Stethoscope Ceremony



- 10. June 2023 Simulation Center Groundbreaking Event
- 11. September 2023 Homecoming
- 12. October 2023 Scholarship Banquet
- 13. April 2024 Golden Jubilee
- 14. April Leadership Academy
- 15. April 2024 Sigma Xi Pi Chapter Spring Induction
- 16. May 2024 ABSN Stethoscope Ceremony
- 17. May 2024 MSN Hooding Ceremony

VISIT OUR  
FLICKR SITE FOR  
MORE PHOTOS  
OF EVENTS.



# LEGACY of COMPASSION

## Mother and daughter graduate from Mennonite College of Nursing

By Muriel Bean

In 1996, a new graduate of the Mennonite College of Nursing, Kelly (Schieler) Johnson, embarked on her journey as a new-graduate nurse at BroMenn Medical Center. Little did she know, 26 years later, her daughter, Hannah Johnson, would be graduating as a Bone Scholar from the nursing program and following in her footsteps to become a nurse.

This mother-daughter duo left their mark on Mennonite College of Nursing, and now, both use their education and training to make a difference as nurses.

“I never expected any of my kids to follow in my footsteps as a nurse, but it has been so fun watching Hannah take this path,” Kelly said. “It makes me very proud that she is using her brain and heart to serve others.”

Hannah began her nursing career as an ICU nurse in the Surgical and Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit at the University of Iowa Hospital. She now works as a bilingual RN care coordinator

at the Community Health Care Clinic in Normal. She was introduced to this avenue of nursing through the CAUSE (Change Agents to the Underserved Service Education) program at ISU, which functioned to incorporate primary care clinicals into MCN’s nursing curriculum.

Down the road from this clinic, Kelly works as a staff nurse in the emergency room at Carle BroMenn Hospital. Her 25-plus years of nursing experience allows her to lead confidently in this department. After working in multiple nursing specialties, Kelly found an ongoing passion for emergency room nursing.

Between 1996 and 2022, much has changed in the world of nursing. In Hannah’s first clinical semester, the world shut down due to the COVID-19 virus. This global pandemic caused Hannah to have a *unique* clinical experience, to say the least. Apart from this, one of the other major differences between their nursing school experiences consists of

the technology they used while obtaining their respective degrees.

“I took every exam on my laptop using special computer software that emulated NCLEX-style questions. We also got to use virtual reality equipment in the Simulation Center to help



practice real-life nursing scenarios,” Hannah explained.

Although Kelly didn’t have these same resources during her time at Mennonite, she said she still learned the same foundational nursing concepts that Hannah did 26 years later. They now not only share the relationship of mother-daughter but also have a newfound connection as nursing colleagues.

“Working in health care is something that you don’t understand unless you are in it,” Hannah said. “So, it’s nice to be able to have her as a support. We both understand the mental, physical, and emotional toll that nursing can take, so we support each other through hard times and even can learn from each other in our different specialties.”

Hannah notes that sometimes these conversations happen over their lunch break if they find themselves working on the same days.

Now, they are dedicated to making a meaningful impact in the Bloomington-Normal community, exemplifying the very mission of Mennonite College of Nursing.

### Are YOU a legacy?

If so, we want to hear about it! Please contact [MCNInfo@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:MCNInfo@IllinoisState.edu) to tell us your story.



Kelly Johnson, *second from left*, posed with her classmates in the 1995 issue of *The Flame* after winning the Funniest Costume Award at the annual Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis.

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

## Aubrie Hubbert

**APRN, CNP, CANS, CPSN**  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
[SpringfieldClinic.com/medicalspa](https://SpringfieldClinic.com/medicalspa)  
@AubrieHubbert.Plastics.NP

Aubrie Hubbert provides Medical Spa services at Springfield Clinic's Center for Plastic Surgery. She collaborates with Dr. Joel Wietfeldt as a board-certified family nurse practitioner. Hubbert is also a certified aesthetic nurse specialist and a certified plastic surgical nurse.

Hubbert ranks in the top 1% nationally in patient experience, based on scores from the "Care Provider Overall" question on surveys completed with Press Ganey. She has been awarded Best Nurse Practitioner in 2022 and 2023 by the *State Journal-Register* Readers' Choice awards.



Hubbert graduated with her BSN from MCN in 2010 and the FNP program at MCN in 2015.

### What was your experience like in the FNP program?

The Mennonite College of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner program offered a part-time mixed format curriculum with face-to-face

elements to provide deepened learning and online elements to facilitate flexibility and life balance. I was able to continue working as a nurse while enrolled in the program. I conveniently arranged clinicals in Springfield, where I lived at the time. An unexpected bonus was that I received MCN scholarships that helped offset some of the tuition.

### What advice would you give a nurse considering pursuing a Family Nurse Practitioner degree?

If you're on the fence, enroll in classes to work toward an MSN! The hospital I worked at provided financial assistance toward academic advancement. This helped lighten the academic and financial load once accepted into the program.

### Can you describe what a typical week looks like as a plastic and reconstructive FNP?

I currently work four, 10-hour shifts. I am in-clinic two and a half days and first assist in surgery one and a half days. I see on average

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program.



### BSN—MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner

**Delivery:** Partially online

**Credit hours:** 44 credit hours; 660 clinical hours

**Time frame:** 2-3 years

**Start:** Fall term

**Priority application deadline:** February 1

20 to 30 cosmetic patients a day in-clinic. The majority of my practice is injectables, peels, and laser treatments.

### What is your favorite aspect of your career?

I love helping women (and men) feel and look their best. I am in a career where I get to do that. It might be as simple as tox between the eyes or as complex as breast reconstruction following a breast cancer diagnosis. From small to big, I get to be there to help.

### Congratulations on ranking in the top 1% nationally in patient experience and Best Nurse Practitioner. What does it mean to you to provide exceptional patient care?

Thank you. It's simple. Treat others how you would like to be treated. Work hard. Stay honest and humble.

### Anything you would like to add?

Never be stagnant. Seek professional advancement. Always try to better yourself.

I have set goals throughout my career. I successfully built and branded The Medical Spa for Springfield Clinic. I am one of three dual-certified aesthetic and plastic surgical nurses in Illinois. Recently, I became a national trainer for injectables. I'm looking forward to that role in elevating the aesthetic industry and promoting safety while achieving cosmetic results.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE FULL STORY.



# John Blakeman

**Ph.D., RN, PCCN**

Associate Professor, class of 2020

Dr. John Blakeman started in the Ph.D. program in August 2016 and ultimately graduated in May 2020. While it did require careful time management and focus, during this time, he was able to balance working full-time with his coursework. Learn more about Blakeman's Ph.D. journey and how he developed strong collegial relationships with other students and appreciated the appropriate levels of academic rigor and expectations while allowing flexibility.



## Why did you decide on Mennonite College of Nursing for a Ph.D.?

I started looking at Ph.D. programs in 2015. There were three primary reasons that I chose MCN for my Ph.D. First, MCN had (and still has) a great reputation, and I heard many positive comments about the University, college, and faculty. I also

knew that MCN produced high-quality, competent graduates. Second, I found the program very affordable, especially compared to other similar programs across the country. And third, from a practical perspective, MCN was close to home—only about 90 minutes from where I lived at the time. When I attended MCN for my Ph.D., the majority of classes were held in-person. However, that has since changed, and most class time is online, which makes the program even more accessible to individuals who live farther distances from ISU.

## What was your experience like in the Ph.D. program?

The Ph.D. program really taught me to be a researcher. I grew so much in how I thought about theory, research, and clinical practice and how these three categories are intertwined. I was challenged by my faculty to think about my personal research interests and to grow those interests into a program of research.

The faculty were always supportive and answered my (sometimes many) questions without delay. Being in the Ph.D. program, I always felt more like a colleague than a student, in the sense that faculty were always interested in our perspectives as students; class was often more discussion-based, rather than lecture-based, and it was evident that faculty valued our personal experiences and expertise.

## What advice would you give a nurse considering pursuing a Ph.D.?

There are so many different pieces of advice that I could give, depending on the situation. But at the end of the day, I think I

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Scan the QR code to learn more about the week in the life of an associate professor.



**BSN—Ph.D.**

**Credit hours:** 75

**Time frame:** 4 years, part-time

**Start:** Fall term

**Application deadline:** July 15

**Post-master's Ph.D. also available**

would say this: It sometimes seems like a Ph.D. in nursing would be impossible. But it is not impossible. It is a lot of work, yes, but so is a pre-licensure degree in nursing, like an ADN or BSN. I actually found my time in the BSN program to be more stressful and difficult than my Ph.D., not because the Ph.D. was “too easy” or because the BSN was “too hard,” but because the Ph.D. program is set up in a way to allow folks more time to think and to complete work. There is a lot of memorization, and there are a lot of exams in an ADN or BSN program. But the Ph.D. is much more paper and project centric. I found that I was able to schedule my time more easily with the Ph.D. program and was better able to schedule myself around family events, work, and other aspects of my personal life. I really encourage folks to reach out to one or more folks with a Ph.D. in nursing to ask about the experience and to better understand what having a Ph.D. in nursing can do for a person. I am always happy to talk to folks who are considering this journey.

## What do you see yourself doing in 5-10 years?

I love what I do. And for that reason, I see myself doing much the same in the coming years. I plan to pursue eventual promotion to full professor and to continue honing my program of research, expanding into more intervention-focused research. I also hope to further expand my teaching in the graduate program.

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# Kelly Holt

DNP, APRN-FPA, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC

Class of 2023

Kelly Holt, PMHNP, started her health care career as a certified nurse's assistant in high school and later became an LPN, RN, and



then a master's FNP (in 2008). In 2019, she graduated with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP), and her last academic program was at MCN where she obtained her post-doctoral certificate and successfully passed boards to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. She has been a family nurse practitioner for the past 15 years and is currently practicing as a PMHNP and FNP at Carle in Mattoon.

## Why did you decide on Mennonite College of Nursing for your PMHNP certificate?

A colleague mentioned the PMHNP program at Illinois State while she was attending, and after researching it, I immediately applied. One of the biggest factors was that Illinois State is a well-established and well-respected school. The curriculum, cost, and online format were also great influences.

## What advice would you give a nurse considering pursuing a PMHNP certificate?

If psychiatry is your passion and you enjoy a challenge, *go for it!* I cannot imagine there is a program out there that could have prepared me any better than ISU's did. The mental health population is drastically underserved, and knowing you are able to help fill that need and improve the lives of your patients is very fulfilling. I would do it again without a second thought.

## Can you describe what a typical week looks like as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner?

Each week I see around 40 patients, some as new patient consults and others for follow-up visits. I manage their medications, provide therapy, and field calls/messages regarding medications, side effects, and sometimes crisis calls. I take the time to stay up to date with condition management guidelines and medication recommendations.

## What is your favorite aspect of your career?

Knowing that I am helping an at-risk population live higher quality and more productive lives is one of my favorite aspects of

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program.



### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate

**Delivery:** Online

**Credit hours:** 24 credit hours; 540 practice hours

**Time frame:** 4 semesters

**Start:** Summer term

**Priority application deadline:** February 1

**This program is for you if:** You are already licensed as a family nurse practitioner and would like to become a licensed PMHNP.

the PMHNP profession. One of the best things is seeing a patient in follow-up and hearing how much better they feel and how that has affected them, their families, and their lives. It is such an honor to be a trusted professional during the most vulnerable moments in my patients' lives.

## I'm assuming at times this career could take a toll on your own mental health. How do you fight burnout and practice self-care?

Unfortunately, burnout in health care is very real. I try to follow the advice that I give to my patients and practice self-care. I engage in therapy two to three times per month, practice grounding and relaxation techniques, and take time to engage in hobbies such as sewing, cooking, and reading.

## What do you see yourself doing in 5-10 years?

At some point in the next 8-10 years, I would like to be practicing psychiatry remotely and/or in private practice. Virtual medicine is gaining popularity due to the flexibility it offers to patients, and it affords us the opportunity to have more control over our time, which improves job performance and satisfaction. I would like to be able to travel and continue to serve the mental health population as I approach retirement.

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# FACULTY/STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## NEW COLLEAGUES



### JILL STOOPS

MSN, APRN, FNP-BC  
Instructional Assistant Professor

Jill Stoops started her nursing journey as a BSN Mennonite College of Nursing graduate in 1994. She worked for Carle Hospital in Champaign on the cardiac step-down unit for four years before deciding to go back and get her Family Nurse Practitioner degree. Stoops then went into the Carle Hospital float pool while going back to school part-time. Stoops received her MSN, FNP-BC from Mennonite College of Nursing in 2000. She has been practicing as a nurse practitioner since 2000 in the areas of private OB/GYN care, Planned Parenthood, UIS Campus Health Service for more than 13 years, and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health (STI clinic) for 11 years. After decades of bedside and clinic in-person care, Stoops has decided to give back to the school that helped form her nursing career and is excited to help the new generation of nurses thrive. Stoops has two children, a 20-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter, and a 3-year-old Golden Retriever therapy dog, Nala.



### CAITLIN ECKHART

MSN, RN  
Instructional Assistant Professor

Caitlin Eckhart began her career as a nurse in 2003 when she graduated from Illinois Central College with her associate degree in nursing. In 2006, she obtained her RN-BSN degree from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. Eckhart obtained her master's degree in nursing from Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in 2009, where she graduated with honors. She previously taught med-surgical nursing clinicals to senior level nursing students at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. In addition, she taught community health and orthopedic nursing clinicals for Bradley University. Eckhart also has extensive experience as an acute medical-surgical telemetry nurse and has worked as a school nurse. Additionally, she has experience working as an RN in home health. Eckhart joined the Mennonite College of Nursing in the fall of 2024. She was recently accepted into MCN's Ph.D. program, with plans to start summer 2025. Eckhart lives in Niantic with her husband of 10 years, Jacob, and her three cats, Avigail a.k.a. "Kins," Prissy, and Jack.



### RACHEL ROTRAMEL

MSN, RN, CCRN, CV-BC, NC-BC  
Instructional Assistant Professor

Rachel Rotramel received her associate in nursing at Richland Community College in 2014, then later earned her bachelor's (2017) and master's (2019) degrees in nursing executive leadership at Benedictine University. Her bedside nursing career consists of acute care nursing in the critical care and cardiovascular specialties. She serves as the chapter leader of the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Holistic Nurses Association. Rotramel strongly values holistic assessment of clients, supporting their autonomy, and creation of individualized plans of care. Additionally, Rotramel assists others in combating burnout, stress, and anxiety through a nurse coaching practice. Rotramel is a mother to five young children and wife to an emergency department nurse. She enjoys family time, academic and creative writing, as well as the outdoors.



### LINDSEY PRIOR

Academic Advisor and Coordinator of the EMPOWER Program

Lindsey Prior started at Illinois State University in May 2017 as an academic advisor in University College. She transitioned to Mennonite College of Nursing in October 2023 as an academic advisor and coordinator of the EMPOWER Program. As the EMPOWER coordinator, she will focus on programming that supports community and belonging within our major. Prior graduated with her bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University. She enjoys being active and making memories with her family: Tom (husband), Riley, 4, Avery, 2, and Haven (Golden Retriever/Siberian Husky mix).



### MINDY FINCH

DNP, MSN, RNC-OB,  
Director of Undergraduate Programs

Mindy Finch is an accomplished health care professional, educator, and administrator with an extensive background in nursing. She has significantly contributed to the field since starting her nursing career in 2002. Throughout her career, Finch has demonstrated unwavering dedication, compassion, and a strong sense of responsibility toward her patients and the nursing profession. Her expertise as a nurse, combined with her roles as an assistant

professor, nursing house supervisor, dean of a college of nursing, and board of health member, has established her as a respected figure in the health care community.



### **SARAH VAN ALEBEEK**

Executive Assistant to the Dean

Sarah Van Alebeek began in MCN in May 2024. She supports the dean administratively through scheduling, writing reports, drafting letters, and coordinating special projects. Van Alebeek graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2007 with a B.A. in political science and in 2012 with her Master of Public Administration. She brings a diverse background to her role, having spent 15 years working in higher education with much of her experience in and around international education. Van Alebeek enjoys spending time with her family: Wouter (husband) and children Emma and Samuel, and traveling.



### **EMILY MIXSON**

MSN, RN, TNS  
Instructional Assistant Professor

Emily Mixson earned her BSN (2010) from Bradley University and MSN (2023) with an emphasis in nursing education from Indiana Wesleyan University. Mixson has been a nurse for 14 years with experience in the emergency department, surgical intensive care unit, and as a pre- post-surgical nurse at an outpatient surgery center. During her time in the emergency department, she was the clinical nurse educator for two years, where her passion for teaching developed. In 2021, Mixson obtained her master's to return to the educator role. Mixson worked as an extra-help RN in the Mennonite College of Nursing lab while attending school for her master's degree. She knew she wanted to work as an instructor at the Mennonite College of Nursing after she graduated. Mixson is married to Bob, and they have two children, Grayson, 9, and Lilian, 7.



### **EMILY ERICKSON**

MSN, RN

Emily Erickson obtained her BSN from Bradley University and MSN from Chamberlain University. Her primary nursing focus is emergency medicine and is currently a practicing adult/adolescent/pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) at Saint Francis in Peoria. She lives in Washington with her wonderful husband (Spencer) and dog (Missy-Moo). In Erickson's free time, she loves to read and practice martial arts.



### **KRISTEN ANDERSON**

RN, BSN

Kristen Anderson started at Mennonite College of Nursing in January 2024 as a post licensure instructional coordinator and academic advisor. She transitioned to this role after spending 10 years as a nurse in the acute care setting. Anderson supports students as an advisor and aids in coordination of clinicals for family nurse practitioner students. She graduated from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in communication and completed her Bachelor of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago. Outside of work, Anderson enjoys traveling and spending time with her family: Brent (husband), Nora (daughter), Brodie (son), Burke (son), and Archie (labrador retriever).



### **JESSIE CASIDA**

Ph.D., RN, APN-C, FAAN  
Margaret Randolph Research & Innovation Scholar, Professor

Dr. Jessie Casida is a nationally and internationally known academic nurse, scientist, and leader. Over the past 34 years, he held multiple clinical, research, educational, and leadership appointments in various health care systems and universities nationwide. Before arriving at Illinois State, Casida was the George and Boyce Billingsley Endowed Chair in Nursing, professor, executive director of the School of Nursing, and health specialization coordinator for the Ph.D. in Public Policy program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He also held faculty and leadership positions at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and Johns Hopkins University. Some of his notable contributions to nursing and health care included inventing the first self-management mobile app (VADCareApp®) for left-ventricular assist device (LVAD)—a mechanical heart; transforming undergraduate and graduate nursing programs; pioneering roles of advanced practice nursing in mechanical circulatory support; building a cardiac surgery program and elevating its standards of nursing practice; developing and advancing LVAD self-management and caregiving science; and he was a founding member of the cardiac surgery critical-care nurse certification examination with the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. Casida's research program has inspired and influenced multiple scholars worldwide to examine the effect of LVAD therapy beyond mechanical, physiological, and epidemiological outcomes. Casida was recognized by multiple awards, including Columbia University's Distinguished Alumni in Nursing Education and Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

*Not pictured: Megan Berry, FNP; Maria Castiblanco, MSN, RN; Krista Donnelly, FNP*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Shayla Dennis

#### Instructional Experience Coordinator

Get to know the professional often behind the scenes at Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) responsible for organizing the undergraduate courses and clinical sites, Shayla Dennis. Scheduling classes and clinicals for over 930 undergraduate students for three programs and two locations, along with faculty instructors, is no easy task. Still, Dennis's strong organizational skills and master puzzler capabilities make for a smooth experience for students and faculty alike. If you have the pleasure of working alongside Dennis, you will most certainly be welcomed by her warm demeanor and can-do attitude.

Dennis recently celebrated her second anniversary at MCN, joining the staff in July 2022. One of her favorite aspects of her job is organizing all the schedules and pieces together. In addition, she has the pleasure of building relationships with everyone at MCN, including the undergraduate and graduate directors, advisors, faculty, and staff.

One of her most recent accomplishments was scheduling clinicals and courses at MCN's new location in Springfield.

Before her time at MCN, Dennis enjoyed working at Illinois State as an assistant chef and procurement manager for seven years in Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality. Dennis has always felt a connection to ISU. Having an aunt who worked as ISU's director of the Multicultural Center, Dennis felt a solid connection to the campus. She knew she wanted to complete her education at ISU and evolve as a professional.

In 2023, Dennis participated in the Bloomington area's Multicultural Leadership Program, assisted and supported by ISU. During this nine-month program, the class learned about crucial equity, diversity, and inclusion conversations and had the opportunity to network with local businesses.

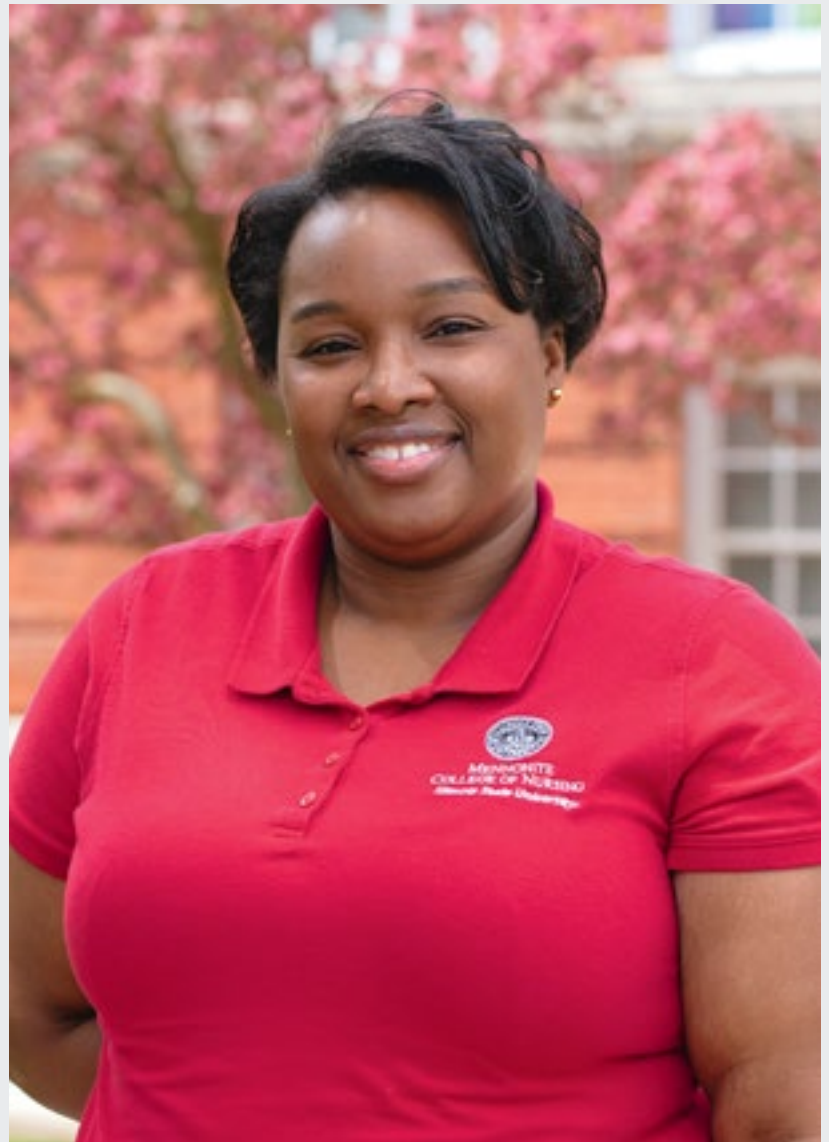
Having had a rewarding experience, Dennis is still connected to the program and its mission.

Outside of ISU, you can find Dennis at a local trivia competition with her friends; look out for the team "Three Chicks and One Rooster." Pop culture and reality TV are a nice escape for Dennis and are her expertise areas in trivia.

A master griller, Dennis is quite the chef and grills a variety of foods, including a peach cobbler. She was gifted the love of cooking from both her grandparents and her dad. Her culinary skills will surely inspire you to try new recipes and enjoy a good meal.

She recently got back into reading after taking a break in graduate school. Her current read is No. 16 of the *Steel Brothers Saga* by Helen Hardt.

Still trying to figure out what the future holds, Dennis hopes to continue to grow and evolve at Mennonite College of Nursing as she is always willing to learn more. Her goal to conduct research and publish in the future is a testament to her passion and dedication, and it's something we can all look forward to.



## IN MEMORIAM



Mennonite College of Nursing's beloved, **Dr. Kim Schafer Astroth**, passed away on September 4, 2023.

An esteemed faculty member and graduate program director, she initiated the BSN to DNP and BSN to Ph.D. doctoral programs. She also oversaw the development of the Psych-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner post-master's certificate and the Nursing Leadership and Management sequence in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She also was an experienced critical care nurse. Astroth was recognized for her research and has over 50 articles published in professional nursing and medical journals. She also co-authored five textbooks.

Astroth presented at numerous professional conferences, nationally and internationally, including in Ireland, Australia, South Africa, and Puerto Rico. She received several awards; among those are MCN's Nurse of the Year, Outstanding College Researcher, *Nephrology Nursing Journal's* Research Writing Award, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Nurse Educator Fellowship Award. Astroth was dedicated to her profession and MCN, and she worked tirelessly to improve nursing education and patient care delivery. Astroth was highly respected and loved by her colleagues and students. She touched the lives of thousands through her nursing and her teaching.

Astroth was a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and she was an active member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

# KIM ASTROTH

## GRADUATE SUPPORT FUND

### SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

The Kim Astroth Graduate Support Fund was established by Dr. Kim Astroth in 2023 to support graduate students in the Mennonite College of Nursing.

### CLASS LEVEL

Master's, Doctorate.

### DEPARTMENT

Mennonite College Of Nursing

### REQUIREMENTS

#### High School GPA

There is no High School GPA requirement for this scholarship.

#### Essay

There is no essay required for this scholarship.

#### Application Deadline

No deadline has been specified.

#### Financial Need

This scholarship requires a student to have a financial need to be eligible to receive the scholarship. In order to establish "financial need", a student must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can file the FAFSA at [studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa).

This scholarship is not open to international students.

### MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

A graduate student demonstrating financial need in the Ph.D. program

A graduate student demonstrating financial need in the DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program.

MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING

# ANNUAL

..... R E P O R T .....



**41** STUDENTS  
MINORING

**185** HONOR  
STUDENTS

**10** STUDENTS ATTEND  
TRANSCULTURAL  
PROGRAM



..... FELL SCHOLARSHIP .....

NURSING STUDENTS

**50**

..... MCN .....

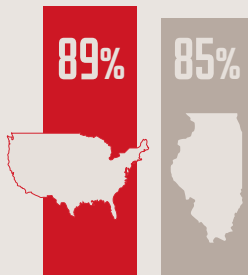
SCHOLARSHIPS

**93**



FNP PASS RATE

2023 NCLEX PASS RATE  
(U.S. AND ILLINOIS)



**93%**

2023 NCLEX  
PASS RATE

**94%**

5-YEAR  
NCLEX AVERAGE  
PASS RATE

**\$314,950**  
MCN SCHOLARSHIPS TOTAL



## FALL 2024 ENROLLED STUDENTS

# 891

### UNDERGRADUATE

Traditional BSN Normal+Springfield,  
Accelerated BSN

# 219

### FRESHMEN

# 4.07



### FALL 2024 AVERAGE FRESHMAN GPA

## NEW, FULL-TIME, FIRST-TIME, UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION REPORTS FALL ONE TO FALL TWO RETENTION

• AT ISU • AT MCN



Fall 2018 Cohort



Fall 2019 Cohort



Fall 2020 Cohort



Fall 2021 Cohort



Fall 2022 Cohort

## RETENTION RATE—FTIC

(First time in college)

Defined as fall 2022 starts retained to fall 2023

# 93.4%

### RETAINED AT ISU

# 86.9%

### RETAINED AT MCN

Per ISU PRPA data

## NEW, FULL-TIME, EXTERNAL TRANSFER, UNDERGRADUATE RETENTION REPORTS FALL ONE TO FALL TWO RETENTION

• AT ISU • AT MCN



Fall 2018 Cohort



Fall 2019 Cohort



Fall 2020 Cohort



Fall 2021 Cohort



Fall 2022 Cohort

Data source:

[Nursing.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/nursing/documents/pdf/ilapnursingedprogpasstrates.pdf](https://nursing.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/nursing/documents/pdf/ilapnursingedprogpasstrates.pdf)

# DEAN'S CABINET



**KEVIN  
CONLON**

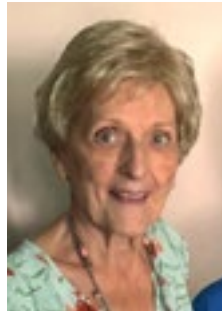
Founder and President,  
Conlon Public Strategies



**LARRY H.  
DIETZ, Ph.D.**

President Emeritus, Illinois  
State University's 19th President  
(2014-21)

Interim President of St. Cloud  
State University in Minnesota



**BEVERLY  
GRIMES**

1960 Mennonite School  
of Nursing



**JOAN  
GUENTHER**

Community Member



**NAPOLEON  
KNIGHT, M.D., MBA**

Executive Vice President  
and Chief Medical Officer,  
Carle Health



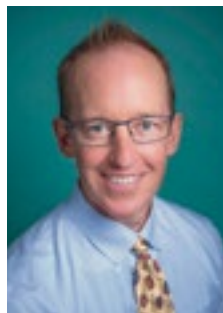
**BILL  
LAWRENCE**

Area Vice President, Arthur J.  
Gallagher Risk Management,  
LLC



**PUNEET  
LEEKHA, J.D.**

Chief Operating Officer and  
General Counsel; Incoming  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Chestnut Health Systems



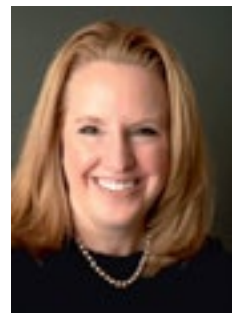
**SCOTT  
MORGAN, M.D.**

Urologist; Springfield Clinic



**AMY  
O'BRIEN**

Instructional Assistant  
Professor at MCN  
MCN Alumna, BSN '09,  
MSN '14



**LISA  
PITTMAN**

**MHA, MSN, RN, NEA-BC**  
Vice President and Chief  
Nursing Officer  
OSF HealthCare St. Joseph  
Medical Center



**MARSHA  
PRATER, Ph.D.**

RN, Chief Nursing Officer  
Emeritus, Memorial Health



**JENNIFER  
SEDBROOK, M.S.**

CEO, Girls Scouts of  
Central Illinois



**STEVE  
SMITH**

(Convener) CEO,  
Association Management  
Center, Two-time alum  
(B.S. '89, M.S. '93)



**STEVE  
TIMMERMANN**

Vice President of Lending,  
Bank of Pontiac, B.S. '88



**KATHY  
YODER, DNP**

MCN Alumna, BSN '96  
FNP MSN '05;  
McLean County Coroner



# Contracts, Grants, and Sponsored Research

## FELLOWSHIP

**Megan L. Rappleyea,**  
RN, MSN, OCN, CNE

Rappleyea, M. (Principal), “Nurse Educator Fellow,” Sponsored by Illinois Board of Higher Education, State, \$10,000 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).

## GRANTS

**Theresa A. Adelman-Mullally,**  
Ph.D., RN, CNE  
Assistant Professor

Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter Research Grant, Other, \$500. (May 2023-September 2023)

Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International, XI PI Chapter, Other, \$1,761. (April 2023-September 2023)

**John R. Blakeman,** Ph.D., RN, PCCN  
Associate Professor

Blakeman, J.R. (Principal), Eckhardt, A.L. (Co-Principal), Kim, M.J. (Co-Principal), “A cross-sectional, descriptive study of the lay public’s conception of the term chest pain,” Sponsored by University Research Grant, Illinois State University, \$3,540. (July 2022-June 2023)

**Susana J. Calderon,** Ph.D., RN  
Assistant Professor

Calderon, S. (Principal), “Feasibility of children yogurt intervention and oral and gut microbiomes,” Sponsored by The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Federal, \$11,485.70. (September 22, 2022-December 31, 2023)

**Denise L. Hammer,** DNP, RNG-NIC  
Associate Professor

Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter Research Grant, Other, \$500. (May 2023-September 2023)

Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International, XI PI Chapter, Other, \$1,761. (April 2023-September 2023)

**Jung Eun Kim,** Ph.D., RN  
Assistant Professor

Kim, J.E. (Principal), “Effects of digital health literacy on diabetes knowledge among older adults in the United States: Cross-sectional study,” Sponsored by Sigma Xi Pi chapter, Illinois State University, \$1,995 (January 1, 2024-January 30, 2024).

**Myoung Jin Kim,** Ph.D.  
Professor

Blakeman, J. (Co-Principal), Kim, M. (Supporting), Eckhardt, A.L. (Co-Principal), Rueda-Acedo, A. (Supporting), “Development and testing of the Chest Pain Conception Questionnaire–Spanish version,” Sponsored by University Research Grant, Illinois State University, \$4,000 (July 1, 2024-June 2025).

**Teresa K. Novy,** DNP, GERO-BC,  
CNEcl, CWON  
Assistant Professor

Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter Research Grant,

Other, \$500 (May 2023-September 2023).

Adelman-Mullally, T. (Co-Principal), Hammer, D. (Co-Principal), Novy, T. (Co-Principal), “Impact of a Dedicated Education Unit Clinical Model versus Traditional Clinical Model for Accelerated Bachelors Nurses,” Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International, XI PI Chapter, Other, \$1,761 (April 2023-September 2023).

**Patricia L. Pence,** Ed.D., MSN,  
RN, CNE  
Associate Professor

Pence, P., “SoTL University Research Grant,” Sponsored by Illinois State University, Illinois State University, \$2,500 (October 19, 2022-2023).

**Michele D. Shropshire,** Ph.D.,  
MSN, RN  
Associate Professor

Shropshire, M. (Principal), Şengün, S. (Co-Principal), “Gamification: A Learning Tool in Gerontological Nursing Education,” Sponsored by Illinois State University, \$3,879 (January 17, 2023-2024).

## INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**John R. Blakeman,** Ph.D., RN, PCCN  
Associate Professor

Blakeman, J., DeVon, H.A., Stapleton, S.J., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L. (2024). Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Emergency Department Triage Nurses’ Response to Patients with Potential Acute Coronary Syndrome. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.

Blakeman, J., Zegre-Hemsey, J.K., Mirzaei, S., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L., DeVon, H.A. (2024). Emergency nurses’ recognition of and perceptions of sex differences in acute coronary syndrome symptoms. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Blakeman, J.R., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L., Stapleton, S.J., DeVon, H.A. (2024). A nationwide study of emergency nurses’ triage decisions for potential acute coronary syndrome. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Blakeman, J.R., Eckhardt, A.L. (2023). Cardiovascular Disease in Women: An Update for Nurses. *Nursing Clinics of North America*.

Blakeman, J.R., Eckhardt, A.L., Kim, M. (2023). Initial Development of the Chest Pain Conception Questionnaire. *Heart & Lung*.

**Susana J. Calderon, Ph.D., RN**  
Assistant Professor

Calderon, S., Silva, R.C., Fonseca, M.R.A., Vilas-Boas, V.A., Misko, M., Monsano-Schlosser, T.C. (2023). Compassionate interprofessional and interagency community: palliative care. *Hospice & Palliative Medicine International Journal*, 6(3), 81-82.

**Sheryl D. Henry, Ph.D., ACNP, APN**  
Professor

Hubbell, A., Astroth, K.M., Jenkins, S., Woith, W.L. (2023). Influences on Long-Term Physical Activity in African American Women: A Scoping Review. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.

**Annette Hubbell, Ph.D., RN,**  
MSN, CNS  
Assistant Professor

Hubbell, A., Astroth, K.M., Jenkins, S., Woith, W.L. (2023). Influences on Long-Term Physical Activity in African American Women: A Scoping Review. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.

**Jung Eun Kim, Ph.D., RN**  
Assistant Professor

Kim, J.E., Dee, V. (2024). Utilization of Orem's self-care deficit nursing theory in Korean immigrants with diabetes. *Theory and Research for Nursing Practice*, 38(1), 91-104.

Min, E., Shin, J., Jung, S., Kim, J.E. (2023). *Related Factors on hospitalization of nursing home residents in Korea using quasi-Poisson regression*. The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Conference.

Min, E., Shin, J., Jung, S., Kim, J.E. (2023). *Utilization of LASSO and Poisson regression dealing with count variables in nursing home research*. The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Conference.

Shin, J., Dee, V., Kim, J.E. (2023). Factors Affecting COVID-19 Incidences and Deaths of Geriatric Hospital Patients in Korea. *Research in Gerontological Nursing*, 1-10.

Kim, J.E. (2023). Factors Related to Diabetes Self-Care among Immigrants in the United States: A Scoping Review. *Research in Community and Public Health Nursing*, 34(2), 171-182.

Kim, J.E., Jiang, Y., Dee, V. (2023). Implications on Self-Care Behaviors Among Older Korean Immigrants Diagnosed with Diabetes Residing in the United States: A Path Analytical Approach. *Journal of Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders*.

Kim, J.E., Jiang, Y.H., Dee, V. (2023). Psychometric Properties of General Self-Efficacy (GSE) Scale Korean Version for Older Korean Immigrants with Diabetes: A Cross-Sectional Study in the United States. *Nursing Reports*, 13, 844-854.

**Myoung Jin Kim, Ph.D.**  
Professor

Blakeman, J., DeVon, H.A., Stapleton, S.J., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L. (2024). Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Emergency Department Triage Nurses' Response to Patients with Potential Acute Coronary Syndrome. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*.

Blakeman, J., Zegre-Hemsey, J.K., Mirzaei, S., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L., DeVon, H.A. (2024). Emergency nurses' recognition of and perceptions of sex differences in acute coronary syndrome symptoms. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Blakeman, J.R., Kim, M., Eckhardt, A.L., Stapleton, S.J., DeVon, H.A. (2024). A nationwide study of emergency nurses' triage decisions for potential acute coronary syndrome. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Blakeman, J.R., Eckhardt, A.L., Kim, M. (2023). Initial Development of the Chest Pain Conception Questionnaire. *Heart & Lung*.

**Sandy D. Nielsen, Ph.D., RN-BC**  
Assistant Professor

Cossio, A., Cobb, W., Fugit, A., Nielsen, S., Hesson-McInnis, M., Prasun, M. (2024). Examination of Nursing Staffs' Perceptions of the COVID-19 Vaccine Using the Health Belief Model. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 46(3), 229-235. Mennonite College of Nursing.

**Marilyn A. Prasun, Ph.D., CCNS,**  
CNL, CHFNP, FAHA  
Professor

Cossio, A., Cobb, W., Fugit, A., Nielsen, S., Hesson-McInnis, M., Prasun, M. (2024). Examination of Nursing Staffs' Perceptions of the COVID-19 Vaccine Using the Health Belief Model. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 46(3), 229-235. Mennonite College of Nursing.

## MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

**Denise L. Hammer, DNP, RNC-NIC**  
Associate Professor

Magazine interviewee

Illinois State University *Redbird Scholar*, Spring 2023.

## PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

### Keynotes/plenary addresses

**John R. Blakeman, Ph.D., RN, PCCN**  
Associate Professor

Blakeman, J. (Author and Presenter), Keynote Address for Memorial Health's 27th Annual Nursing Research Conference, "My Research Road Trip: From Apples to Hearts," Memorial Health, Springfield, Illinois (April 2024).

**Jung Eun Kim, Ph.D., RN**  
Assistant Professor

Kim, J.E., Xi Pi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, "Effect of digital health literacy on diabetes knowledge among older adults with diabetes in the U.S.," Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing, Normal, Illinois (April 9, 2024).

### Lecture/oral

**Kate M. Peterson, Ph.D.(c), RN,**  
CPN, CNE

Instructional Assistant Professor

Peterson, K., Ford, N., Stockmann, C., 2024 International Association for Human Caring (IAHC) Virtual Journal Club, "Nursing Faculty Well-Being: A Qualitative Study," International Association for Human Caring, Online (May 2024).

### Poster presentations

**John R. Blakeman, Ph.D., RN, PCCN**  
Associate Professor

Blakeman, J. (Author), Calderon, S. (Presenter), Watkins, S. (Other), Kim, M. (Author), Peterson, K. (Author), Prasun, M. (Author),

Mennonite College of Nursing Scholarship Symposium, “A Cross-Sectional Study of Hispanic and Latina/o/e/x Individuals’ Acute Coronary Syndrome Symptom Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs,” Mennonite College of Nursing, Online (March 2024).

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