



## Mennonite College of Nursing events calendar

### December 2003

**Tuesday, December 9**  
MCN Holiday Open House

3- 6 p.m. Ewing Manor, Bloomington

MCN will host a Holiday Open House for faculty, staff, alums, and guests.

### February 2004

**Thursday, February 12**

MCN Open House for students interested in nursing

1- 2 p.m. 306 Edwards Hall

For reservations, please call (309) 438-7400

### March 2004

**Monday, March 1**

MCN Open House for students interested in Nursing

1- 2 p.m. 306 Edwards Hall

For reservations, please call (309) 438-7400

### April 2004

**Thursday, April 15**

Featured speaker: Dr. Kathleen Buckwalter

1-3 p.m. Location TBA

Supported by the Hartford Award through The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing

**Tuesday and Thursday, April 27 and 29**

Alumni Board celebrates Nurses' Week with MCN faculty and students

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 306 Edwards Hall

### May 2004

**May 6-12**

National Nurses' Week!

**Friday, May 7**

MCN commencement

4 p.m. Braden Auditorium, Bone Student Center

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity

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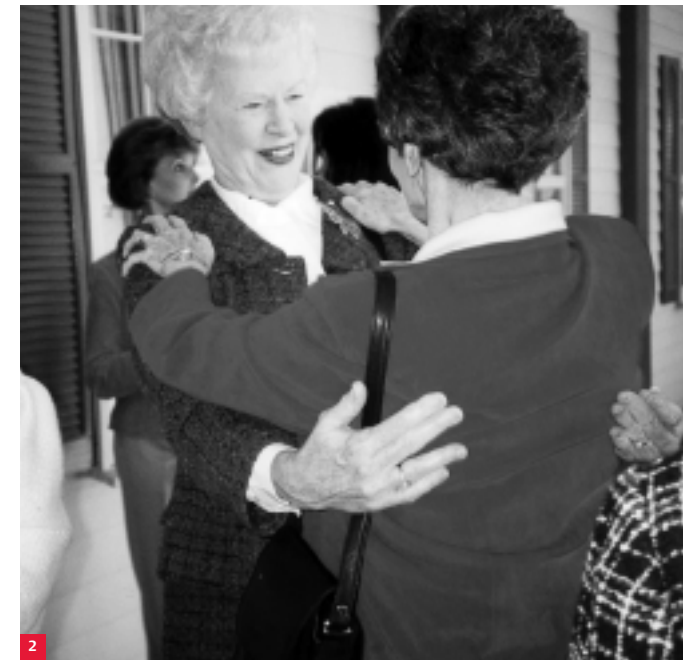
# The Flame

MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2003

## 2003 Homecoming highlights

Thanks to all faculty, staff, students, and especially alumni who helped make Homecoming 2003 a success! Congratulations to the 2003 alumni award recipients: Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton '70, Distinguished Alum; Jackie (Toohill) Deffenbaugh '90, Young Alum; and Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52, MNAO Alumni Service Award. You can read more about these remarkable women in this issue. Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2004, which will be Saturday, October 23, 2004.



1. SNA Officers and Alumni Award Winners. 2. Alumni Luncheon at Holiday Inn. 3. Interaction with Simman. 4. Colleen Ewing '93 and daughter, Shelby. 5. Class of '78 alums. 6. Betty (Wilson) Knuckles '51 and Lois (Hoobler) Philpott '40.

## Calendar of events

**November 27-28, 2003**  
Thanksgiving break\*

**December 6, 2003**  
Last day of classes

**December 12, 2003**  
Fall semester ends

**December 13, 2003**  
Commencement

**December 24, 2003-  
January 2, 2004**  
University offices closed\*

**January 12, 2004**  
Spring semester begins

**January 19, 2003**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day\*

**March 8-12, 2004**  
Spring break

**May 7, 2004**  
Spring semester ends

**May 7-8, 2004**  
Commencement

**May 17, 2004**  
Summer session begins

**May 31, 2004**  
Memorial Day\*

**July 5, 2004**  
Independence Day holiday  
observation\*

**August 6, 2004**  
Summer session ends

**August 23, 2004**  
Fall semester begins

\*University offices closed

## Dean's message

### Alumni Administrative Board 2003-04

#### President:

Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52

Donny Bounds '97

Jacqui (Luedtke) Foster '97

Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey '00

Karen (Roop) Magers '79

Courtney Nichols '02

Janet Sutter '80, '01

Larae Wagener '02

Amber (McCullough) Williams '99

#### Advisory Members:

Nancy Ridenour

Dean, Mennonite

College of Nursing

Julie Goodlick '81, '85

Senior Assistant Director, Alumni Services

Jenny Ward

Director of Development

#### Student representatives

Jenifer Patton

Senior

Katie Faragher

Junior

During this holiday season, we can indeed be thankful for our many blessings. The college continues to attract outstanding students, faculty, and staff. We are

making a difference in people's lives.

In this issue you will learn more about the many projects and accomplishments of the college. Dr. Caroline Mallory has received NIH funding for her research. Dr. Sara Campbell and Dr. Cindy Kerber received prestigious postdoctoral fellowships to study gerontology at the Uni-

versity of Iowa. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conference on DES was a huge success.

The inaugural McDowell Stafford Lecture Series brought several community members interested in creating positive environments for children together on the Illinois State University campus. Projects of this magnitude and scope require the interest and support of many people. I want to extend a special thanks to Dr. Jerry and Carole Ringer and to Dr. Ann Nolte for their generous support of this program through the Community Foundation of McLean County. In addition, the legacy provided by the McDowell Stafford and the Fell trusts ensure that we can continue to provide such programming in the future.



#### E-mail address request

Advances in technology have brought changes to the way many organizations do business, including Illinois State University. E-mail is becoming an increasingly popular way for the University to communicate with its 150,000-plus alumni, as it is an efficient way to distribute timely information, is a cost savings when able to replace the expenses of printing and postage, and is a preferred method of communication for many alumni.

To be sure the University has your e-mail address, update your information online at <http://www.illinois-state.onlinecommunity.com/updateuserinfo.htm>.

I have been awarded The Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship. During the three years of this fellowship, I will be increasing my knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership and strategic visioning. In addition, I have the opportunity to network with leaders throughout the country. As part of the fellowship, I will be working on a project entitled "Securing a Legacy for Nursing." This project is designed to strategically focus human and financial resources to ensure that nursing programs continue to produce outstanding graduates and that nurses are available to serve the many health concerns of our population. I am seeking partners in this wide-reaching project. Ideas that could be part of the project include scholarships for faculty and students, endowed professorships for the college, and endowed nursing practice positions. Another example is raising funds to ensure that underserved schools will have full-time school nurses. There are many very critical health needs that can be met by nurses. It is important for us to ensure that the financial and human resources are available now and in the future to meet the needs of underserved people. I look forward to talking with many of you and hearing your ideas!

Homecoming continues to be a wonderful time for us to reconnect. Thanks to all of you who attended this year. Please plan on coming to see us and join in the festivities next year on Saturday, October 23. Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2004! We are having our Holiday Open House this year on Tuesday, December 9 at Ewing Manor. I look forward to talking with you. Please plan to attend.

Joyous Holidays!

Nancy Ridenour  
nriden@ilstu.edu  
(309) 438-2174

## Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated dedication to the nursing profession, leadership, and outstanding professionalism, who has promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and who has been held in high regard by peers and the community. This year, this honor goes to Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton '70.

Kirkton received a Diploma in Nursing from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1970, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Goshen College in 1973, and Master's in Nursing from Ball State University in 1983. She is an associate professor and director in the Nursing Department at Goshen College.

Her career began as a staff nurse at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington in 1970. In 1971, she moved to Indiana and worked at Elkhart General Hospital. In 1973, she was on the faculty at Goshen College. In 1976, she moved to Iowa and worked at Mechanicsville Nursing Home and the University of Iowa Hospital. In 1978, she was employed as an associate professor at the Lutheran College of Health Professions, School of Nursing, in Indiana. Other positions she had at Lutheran College of Health Professions include student services coordinator, Bachelor of Science curriculum coordinator, and associ-

ate dean of the School of Nursing.

Her leadership in nursing education activities includes providing direction for the initial Lutheran College accreditation from the National League for Nursing, and for the initial accreditation of the Goshen College Bachelor of Science in Nursing program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Her professional activities include serving as chairperson for the Deans and Directors of Nursing Programs of Indiana, and membership in Mennonite Nurses' Association, American Association of Colleges of Nurses, Indiana State Nurses' Association, American Nurses' Association, and Nurses' Strategic Action Team, Sigma Theta Tau - International and National League for Nursing.

Kirkton is a person who likes change and enjoys a challenge. While at Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, she organized a student services department and provided a variety of academic and stress-management services for students. She also has conducted wellness seminars and workshops for both students and faculty. Kirkton said, "My greatest accomplishment has been to juggle my professional role while keeping family and church involvement a priority."



Vicky (Yordy) Kirkton '70

## Young Alumni Award

The Young Alumni Award is presented to someone who has graduated within the past 15 years and who has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the college, who has shown professional achievement, who has participated in distinguished community service, and who has personified the values of the college. This year the Young Alumni Award was given to Jacqueline (Toohill) Deffenbaugh '90.

Deffenbaugh received her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1990. She received an M.S.N. from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1995, and she is a certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

For the past seven years, she has worked as a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner for the Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Bloomington. Not only does this position give her the opportunity to provide prenatal care to obstetrical patients, but she also is able to counsel and educate women across the life span with a particular interest in menopausal health. Deffenbaugh also serves as a part-time adjunct faculty member

for Mennonite College of Nursing. She is dedicated to lifelong learning and to enhancing the learning of any student with whom she comes in contact.

Deffenbaugh is a member of the Illinois Society of Advanced Practice Nursing and of Sigma Theta Tau Honor's Society at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Deffenbaugh described her most important achievements, saying, "Professionally, I am most proud of the clientele I have developed while being a nurse practitioner. Their request for my knowledge base motivates me to provide the most complete and current information for them. I am as loyal to them as they are to me. Personally, I consider being the mother of two wonderful healthy sons my most crowning achievement. Though I am proud to have a career along with my family life, my husband and boys take top priority. I feel truly blessed in my professional and personal life roles."



Jacqueline (Toohill) Deffenbaugh '90





## Mennonite Nurses' Alumni Organization Service Award



Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52

Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52 is the first recipient of the Alumni Service Award. The Alumni Service Award recognizes exceptional service to the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, to the Mennonite Nurses' Alumni Organization, or to humanity, inasmuch as such service reflects the values of the college. The recipient may or may not be a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing.

Deavers received her nursing diploma from Mennonite in 1952. She worked at Mennonite Hospital from 1952 to 1987. She started out as an OB manager and instructor, then became an OR staff nurse. Her final position at Mennonite Hospital was OR Coordinator.

In 1987, Deavers worked at BroMenn Medical Center as an OR coordinator. In 1990, she became the business manager in Surgical Services, working with budgets, major purchases, research, and implementing new programs. In 1995 she took an OR staff nurse position, and continues to work in that position today.

Deavers has been involved in the Mennonite Alumni Organization since 1952. She has served as president during the following terms: 1959, 1992-93, and 2000-present. In 1983, she became a charter member of the

Association of Operating Room Nurses, Chapter 1416.

In 1953, she helped coordinate and also taught Bloomington-Normal's first expectant mother classes at Mennonite. She was an OR consultant for Fairbury Hospital after BroMenn purchased it, and she also was a consultant for Globe Community Hospital in Globe, Arizona. She has worked on several alumni projects for nursing students, including care bags, ice cream socials, and picnics.

Deavers supported the transition of Mennonite from a diploma school of nursing to a college of nursing, and later to joining Illinois State University as its sixth college. She promoted the advantages of that move with fellow alumni and the community. She continues to promote the importance of active participation in professional organizations and alumni activities, and she is involved with community service and projects.

When asked how she felt about being the first recipient of this award, Deavers said, "I feel very honored at being nominated for this award. I'm also very touched. I have really enjoyed my association with the organization, which is only as good as the people involved, who are great."

## Nominations wanted

The Mennonite Nurses' Alumni Administrative Board is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Young Alumni Award, and MNAO service award.

**The Distinguished Alumni Award** is presented to a graduate who has demonstrated a dedication to the nursing profession, demonstrated leadership, shown outstanding professionalism, promoted and elevated the general nursing image, and been held in high regard by peers and the community.

**The Young Alumni Award** is presented to someone who has graduated within the past 15 years and who has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the college, demonstrated professional achievement, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the college.

**The Alumni Service Award** recognizes exceptional service to the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University; to the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization; or to humanity, inasmuch as such service reflects the values of the College. The recipient may or may not be a graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing

Nominations for these awards may be made by anyone and sent to the Alumni Administrative Board. The board will review the résumés of nominees and select no more than one recipient for each award each year. The awards will be presented during Homecoming in October.

### Nomination form

Distinguished Alumni Award  Young Alumni Award  MNAO Service Award

NOMINEE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS YOU SUPPORT THIS NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Attach an additional sheet of paper if necessary. Return nominations to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810

## St. John's Hospital joins Advisory Council

St. John's Hospital in Springfield is the newest member of Mennonite College of Nursing Advisory Council. The Advisory Council serves as an advisory body to the dean of Mennonite College of Nursing on aspects of the college, its mission and programs. MCN Advisory Council members include: BroMenn Health Care in Normal, Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Heritage Manor in Normal, Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, and OSF St. Joseph's Medical Center in Bloomington.

Michalene Marringer, R.N., M.S., FACHE joined St. John's in December 2002 as assistant administrator for Nursing Services. "St. John's goal is to improve the quality of patient care. One of the ways St. John's want to achieve this is by collaborating with schools of nursing," Marringer reported. Marringer met with Dean Nancy Ridenour, and together they developed several creative strategies. "There are many opportunities for the nursing profession and patient care," Marringer said. Through this collaboration, they hope to benefit both St. John's Hospital and Mennonite College of Nursing.

St. John's is planning several projects. One future project will renovate several areas throughout the hospital, including the patient tower, ICU, and inpatient operating rooms. They also will replace their information systems in all 13 of their affiliated hospitals. That new sys-



Top: MCN and St. John's faculty and staff. Above: the St. John's facility.

tem will change nursing documentation and how medication is distributed.

In September, St. John's nursing management participated in a strategic-planning process for nursing leadership. The outcomes of this process will provide nurses who work at St. John's ways to move forward with their careers. They are focusing on staff retention and they are proud to report a low vacancy rate.

Students from Mennonite College of Nursing are doing several of their clinicals at St. John's Hospital this semester. In August, faculty from Mennonite College of Nursing met with faculty from St. John's in Springfield to discuss and tour the different units in the hospital to which students will be assigned.

## "Ongoing DES health risks: The role of R.N.'s in Patient Education" workshop

Candy Tedeschi R.N.C., OGNP, was the featured speaker for "Ongoing DES Health Risks: The Role of R.N.'s in Patient Education" workshop, which was presented at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University on April 15, 2003. The workshop was jointly sponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, and was facilitated by Illinois State University Conference Services.

The purpose of the workshop was to educate participants about diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic estrogen drug that was given to millions of pregnant women from 1938-1971. Doctors thought DES would prevent miscarriages and prescribed the drug to many pregnant women. However, women who took DES and the children they carried are now at risk for certain health problems.

Tedeschi, originally from Danville, has spent most of her nursing career caring for women exposed in utero to diethylstilbestrol (DES). She was the coordinator of the DES Screening Center for three Long Island counties for 20 years. She has written many articles as well as a book chapter about DES problems. Tedeschi was involved with the development of CDC's DES Update as a member of the working group.

During her presentation, Tedeschi talked about the history of DES and the confirmed health risks associated with DES exposure. She discussed how to assess exposure to DES and how to help patients who were exposed to DES make appropriate decisions about their health care. Finally, she talked about the available resources that health-care providers need in order to stay on top of DES research. She said, "This drug, which was invented in 1938, probably won't find an end result until the late 2000s".

More than 85 people attended the free workshop, including nursing students, R.N.'s, faculty, doctors, and the general public. This activity was approved for 2.7 contact hours by the Illinois Nurses Association, Continuing Education Approver Unit, which is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

For more information about CDC's DES Update, you can go to the CDC web site for health-care providers at [www.cdc.gov/DES](http://www.cdc.gov/DES), or call (888) 232-6789.



Dean Ridenour, Candy Tedeschi, Amy Harcar (CDC Representative).

## MCN's first NIH grant funded for \$420,000

Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Mallory, assistant professor, who will receive \$420,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for her project "Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV among Women."

**Q: Tell us about your project.**

A: "This is a pilot project designed to develop and test a theoretically based intervention to help women protect themselves from contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Women will be recruited from substance-abuse treatment centers and county detention facilities in McLean and Champaign counties. The intervention "Women First!" consists of two-hour sessions over the course of six weeks. Women in the intervention group will receive education and skills training within a context that values women to promote the use of protective practices."

**Q: What is the time frame for this project?**

A: "The study will be conducted over a three-year period. There is time built in for development of the research protocols, intervention, and a preliminary trial of the intervention and data-collection procedures. The pilot study is a crucial step in the development of a more comprehensive study that I will begin seeking grant funding for in the third year."

**Q: Are there other faculty, staff, and students who will be involved in this grant?**

A: "A grant this size requires a team of researchers for successful completion. I expect that we will be offering undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to be involved at every level of the study, including participant recruitment and retention, data collection and analysis, and writing for publication. The grant also provides resources for a part-time staff member who will

implement the intervention and assist in managing the grant. Several specialists are serving as consultants on the grant, including Dr. Barbara Dancy from the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Dr. Matthew Hesson-McInnis from the Department of Psychology at Illinois State University, and Pam Lindsey, undergraduate director for Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. Frankly, I would not have been successful in getting the project funded if it were not for the support of faculty and administration at Mennonite."

**Q: What are you most excited about accomplishing from this grant?**

A: "Wow, that's hard to say, because there is so much to be excited about. Carrying out this kind of work has been my goal since the moment I began doctoral studies. However, I think the prospect of helping women to improve their health is truly a privilege. I am quite honored that experts in the field of HIV prevention thought well enough of my proposal to give me the chance to make a difference in women's lives."

**Q: What will be the most challenging part of this grant?**

A: "The whole thing is challenging. Seriously, I expect to learn something new every hour that I spend working on this project. In addition to the mechanical details of the research, we are also dealing with topics that are characterized by taboo and stigma, namely sex, drugs, and AIDS. Many challenges will simply be beyond any forethought and will have to be dealt with along the way, but that's part of the excitement."

**Q: How will this grant affect your teaching at Mennonite?**

A: "I believe strongly that being on the cutting edge of behavioral research improves the quality of my instruction in a number of ways. The kind of thinking that is

required in conducting research is also required in practice, and as a researcher I can role-model those reasoning skills for students. Using examples from my research program also allows students to see firsthand the process of gathering evidence for nursing practice. Finally, my research will provide insight into how behavior change for health improvement can be implemented with implications for a variety of risk-taking behavior such as smoking and drug use. Students can use that knowledge in their practice."

**Q: What is your advice to others who are pursuing grant funding?**

A: "I think for any research program to be successful, whether it is funded or not, the researcher must have a strong interest in and commitment to the topic. You have to do your homework in terms of knowing the state of the science on that topic. You have to have good research training and mentoring. You have to build the program logically, from developmental studies to descriptive research, to pilot studies and experimental trials. You must be open to learning. You must be persistent."

## Hartford Institute selects Brenda Recchia-Jeffers as postdoctoral scholar

The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, part of the New York University Division of Nursing, has named Brenda Recchia-Jeffers R.N., Ph.D., to be a Scholar in its 2003 Geriatric Nursing Research Scholars and Fellows Program. Recchia-Jeffers, an associate professor of nursing at the Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing, was selected for having conducted significant research in gerontologic nursing and for her strong leadership potential. She is among 12 nurses from the Midwest region selected for this program, now in its sixth year, which fosters new gerontologic nursing researchers with the goal of improving the quality of health care for older adults.

The focus of Recchia-Jeffers's research is on ethical issues that arise with research involving human participants and particularly on the factors that influence older adults to participate in research studies. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications including *Advances in Nursing Science*, *MEDSURG Nursing*, and *The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.

"Our program aims to bring together outstanding new scholars who are conducting significant research in gerontologic nursing and to give them an opportunity to interact with leading experts in the field," said Terry Fulmer R.N., Ph.D., FAAN, co-director of the Hartford Insti-

**Q: Why is this grant important to you, MCN, and the University?**

A: "The general mindset about getting grants is that once you get one it's easier to get others. Being funded by the NIMH provides additional evidence that the college and the University have the resources to support high quality, rigorous research, and that means we are more likely to get more grants. The presence of strong research programs and grant funding improves our ability to attract a high quality student body and faculty. Research and funding also strengthen our graduate programs. Not to be overlooked is the income generated by external funding that is essential for promoting a strong learning environment on this campus. So there are lots of reasons why this grant is important."

**Q: Is there anything else you want to share about this project?**

A: "Just that I am thrilled to have this opportunity to conduct such important work and grateful to everyone who made it possible."

tute for Geriatric Nursing. "This unique opportunity to hone research skills helps these individuals gain the competitive edge they need to attract research funding and publish the results."

The 12 scholars and fellows attended an intensive weeklong seminar at New York University from July 7-11, 2003, at the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University, The Steinhardt School of Education, Division of Nursing.

They met with nationally recognized experts in geriatric nursing, addressed issues and obstacles in undertaking high-quality research, and received individual mentoring and critiquing.

Each year, the scholars and fellows are chosen from a different region of the United States. Prior programs have focused on the West, South, and East regions. For more information on this and other programs of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, please visit [www.hartfordign.org](http://www.hartfordign.org). The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing seeks to shape the quality of health care that older Americans receive by promoting the highest level of competency in the nurses who deliver that care. By raising the standards of nursing care, the Hartford Institute aims to ensure that people age in comfort and dignity.



Brenda Recchia-Jeffers

*By raising the standards of nursing care, the Hartford Institute aims to ensure that people age in comfort and dignity.*

*"I think the prospect of helping women to improve their health is truly a privilege. I am quite honored that experts in the field of HIV prevention thought well enough of my proposal to give me the chance to make a difference in women's lives."*

### Mennonite College of Nursing dean receives prestigious nursing fellowship

Nancy Ridenour, dean of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, is among 20 nursing leaders from across the nation to be named a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

The prestigious Executive Nurse Fellows Program provides advanced leadership training for nurses in senior executive roles who are helping to shape the future of the nation's healthcare system.

The fellowship program, now in its sixth year, is supported by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to health and health care.

During her three-year fellowship, Ridenour will study

ways to improve fund-raising efforts and endowments for health-care facilities and nursing education and also examine health-care work environment issues such as job satisfaction, workplace safety and alternative ways to provide nursing care to patients.

"Being selected as an Executive Nurse Fellow is a great honor and a valuable learning opportunity," said Ridenour. "During my fellowship I will get to work with and learn from a team of nationally recognized leaders from the health-care field and other sectors of the economy. The fellowship will give me a nationwide perspective on major issues facing health care and nursing."



## Faculty/staff notes

### Appointments/recognition

**Sara Campbell** has been awarded a NINR-funded Fellowship Training in Nursing Effectiveness research grant from Gerontological Nursing Intervention Center at the University of Iowa. Her project will examine characteristics of attractiveness in long-term care residents and long-term care environments. She also has been named to the review panel for the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, and served as a reviewer for a book *Becoming Influential: A Guide for Nurses* by Eleanor Sullivan. In addition, she served as abstract reviewer for Midwest Nursing Research Society's (MNRS) 2003 convention.

We welcome **Mary Dyck**, assistant professor, to Mennonite College. She began her appointment this fall.

**Eileen Fowles** received the "Honor-a-Researcher Award" from the Childbearing-Related Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS).

**Karrie Ingalsbe** served as abstract reviewer for Midwest Nursing Research Society's (MNRS) 2003 convention.

**Cindy Kerber** was selected to attend the Summer Scholars Program sponsored by the Gerontological Nursing Intervention Center at the University of Iowa. She also has been awarded an NINNR-funded postdoctoral fellowship in gerontological nursing from the Gerontological Nursing Intervention Center at the University of Iowa. She will study "Comorbidity of Problem Gambling and Depression in the Older Population."

**Susan Kossman** successfully defended her dissertation on April 17, 2003. Congratulations Dr. Kossman!

We welcome **Wendie Medina**, assistant professor, to Mennonite College. She began her appointment this fall.

**Sue Mendez, Gail Petro and Emily Schlenker** were accepted into the 2003 Technology Teaching Program at Illinois State University.

**Brenda Recchia-Jeffers** has been appointed to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses "National Ethics Work Group" to develop ethics-related material for critical care nurses. She also was selected as a Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Research Scholar by the John A. Hartford Foundation for Geriatric Nursing at New York University.

**Nancy Ridenour** has been selected as a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Executive Fellow.

**Emily Schlenker** has been named to the Education Committee for the American Holistic Nurses' Association.

We welcome **Denise Wadzinski** to Mennonite College. She was appointed to a secretarial position with the college this fall.

**Jenny Ward** has been appointed to be the director of Development for Mennonite College of Nursing.

**Denise Wilson** is a member of Illinois State University's Presidential Search Committee. She was a grant review panel member to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Grants Program, Career Ladder Program Grants in Washington D. C. in August 2003. She also was a grant review panel member for the HRSA Basic Nurse Education and Practice Grant Program in Maryland in April 2003.

### Grant funding

**Dianne Clemens, Gail Petro, and Wendy Woith** received a Teaching-Learning Development Grant from Center for the Advancement of Teaching at Illinois State University for their project: "First Semester Curriculum: From Chaos to Cohesion."

**Dianne Clemens, Sue Mendez, Gail Petro, and Emily Schlenker** received funding to participate in the State Farm Teaching Technology Fellows program.

**Mary Dyck** received \$25,367 from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her project "Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase I" during the second year of her predoctoral fellowship.

**Mary Dyck** received a University Research Grant at Illinois State University for her project "Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase II."

**Eileen Fowles** received a University Research Grant at Illinois State University for her project "Identification of Healthy Eating Strategies in Low-Income Pregnant Women."

**Eileen Fowles and Brenda Jeffers** received funding to develop Web-based content modules for nursing ethics at Illinois State University.

**Brenda Jeffers** received a University Research Grant for her project "Use of Research Integrity Practices in Nursing: An Online Survey."

**Susan Kossman** received a University Research Grant for her project "Student and Faculty Perceptions of Nursing Education Culture and its Impact on Minority Students."

**Caroline Mallory** received \$420,000 from NIH for her project "Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV among Women."

**Nancy Ridenour** received \$25,000 from HRSA for her project "Enhancement of Nursing Education in Long-Term Care."

**Nancy Ridenour and Mary Dyck** received \$5,663 from the Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center at the University of Iowa for their project "Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes, Phase II."

**Denise Wilson** received \$1,977 from the McLean County Medical Society. These funds will be used to purchase physical examination equipment for Irving and Sheridan Schools.

**Denise Wilson** received an Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Grant in the amount of \$28,316 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration and Bureau of Health Professions.

### Presentations

**Astroth, Kim**, "Measuring Exercise Stage of Change." 27th Annual Research Conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 2003.

**Astroth, Kim**, "Psychometric Issues when Measuring Exercise Stage of Change." University of Missouri-Columbia Research Day. April 2003.

**Campbell, Sara**, "Understanding the Role of Leadership in Development of Nursing Education and Community Partnerships." Paper abstract for Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society 37th Biennial Convention Leadership Sessions, Toronto, Canada. November 2003.

**Campbell, Sara**, "Identification and Exploration of Resident Attractiveness/Unattractiveness in the Long-Term Care Setting." Poster abstract for The Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting, San Diego, California. November 2003.

**Campbell, Sara and Jeffers, Brenda**, "Use of Team Leadership to Create an Educational Culture Committed to Providing Best Practice Care of Older Adults." Poster abstract for Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society 37th Biennial Convention Leadership Sessions, Toronto, Canada. November 2003.

**Campbell, Sara, Clemens, Dianne, Grabb, Jeff, Jeffers, Brenda, and Little, Camille**, "Creating Excitement for Geriatric Nursing Careers: Changing Culture, Curriculum, and Clinical Practice." Paper presentation for Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, St. Petersburg, Florida. March 2003.

**Fowles, Eileen**, "Factors Influencing Nutritional Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women." AWHONN 2003 Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. June 2003.

**Fowles, Eileen**, "Developing and Psychometric Evaluation of the Barriers to Healthy Eating Scale" and "Factors Influencing Nutritional Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women." 27th Annual Research Conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 2003.

**Ingalsbe, Karrie and Kennell, Lynn**, "An Innovative Approach to Teaching Transcultural Nursing." Mennonite College of Nursing's Research Day. April 2003. "Cultural

*Continued on page 10*

### Mennonite College of Nursing student awards Spring 2003

*These awards were presented at the annual Mennonite College of Nursing commencement and pinning event on Friday, May 9:*

**Kelly Leonard '03**, Senior Excellence Award

**Teresa Novy '03**, R.N. /B.S.N. Geriatric Excellence Award in Clinical Practice

**Dawn Mitchell '03**, Dr. Tiedeman Memorial Award

**Sara Woodard '03**, Alumni Awards for Clinical Excellence and Dr. Tiedeman Memorial Award

**Marcena Gabrielson M.S.N. '03**, Graduate Student Scholarly Achievement Award and Graduate Student Practicum Leadership Award

**Joleen Hudson '03**, Prelicensure Geriatric Excellence Award in Clinical Practice



*Clockwise from top left:  
Kelly Leonard,  
Dawn Mitchell,  
Marcena Gabrielson,  
Sara Woodard,  
Teresa Novy. Not pic-  
tured: Joleen Hudson.*

Sensitivity and Awareness." Illinois State University Student Health Services. August 2003.

**Kaesberg, Cathi**, "Strategies for NCLEX Success." Illinois Wesleyan University. April 2003.

**Kerber, Cindy**, "Attitudes Toward and Incidence of Gambling Among College Athletes." 27th Annual Research Conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, Grand Rapids, Michigan. April 2003. Also presented this topic at the Shaping Nursing Practice: A Day of Sharing Inquiries, Explorations, Examinations, Investigations, and Research into Clinical Nursing Practice Conference at Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing/STT Research Day. October 2003.

**Kerber, Cindy**, "Seeing is Believing: An Overview of Mental Illness using Video Clips" (funded by BroMenn Foundations). Bloomington, Illinois. November 2003.

**Mallory, Caroline**, "Developing Support for Prevention Research in an Urban African-American Community." 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. July 2003.

**Schlenker, Emily**, "Use of Touch Therapy in Care of Dementia Clients: Phase Two." Western Social Science Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada. April 2003.

**Schlenker, Emily**, presented a paper on outdoor healing spaces for a clinical session at Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial convention in Toronto, Canada. November 2003.

**Publications**

**Campbell, Sara**. "Cultivating Empowerment in Nursing Today for a Strong Profession Tomorrow." *Journal of Nursing Education*, 42(9), 423-426. September 2003.

**Campbell, Sara**. "Identification of Empowering and Disempowering Experiences of Nursing Staff and Residents in the Long-Term Care Setting." *Geriatric Nursing*, 24(3), 170-175. May/June 2003.

**Campbell, Sara and Mallory, Caroline (with Donna Konradi and Donna Redding)**. "Identifying the Ideal Qualities of a New Graduate." *Nurse Educator*, 28(3), 104-106. May/June 2003.

**Dyck, Mary**. "Evidence-Based Protocol: Quality Improvement in Nursing Homes." The University of Iowa Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center. 2003.

**Emily Schlenker** has a chapter in *The HeArt of Nursing*, which was published last year by Sigma Theta Tau. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of this book, please contact Schlenker at ecschle@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2404.

**We want to hear from our Mennonite graduates!**

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff and alumni love to hear all those wonderful stories about our graduates. Do you have a story about your nursing career you would like to share? What about an adventure or experience you've had that relates to nursing that may inspire others? Please call Amy Irving at (309) 438-2174 or email her at amirvin@ilstu.edu to make arrangements to relate your stories. Who knows, your story may be one of the alumni chronicles included in the next Flame. We hope to hear from you soon!

**Where are they now? Mary Troglio, class of 1986**

Mary Troglio graduated from Mennonite College of Nursing in 1986 with her B.S.N. She was not the typical nursing student at that time. She was married and pregnant with her first child her junior year. Her due date was around the same date final exams were scheduled, so she arranged with her teachers to take her finals early. The same day her other classmates were taking their last final exams, Troglio gave birth to a baby girl: Gwen.

Throughout her senior year, Troglio would bring Gwen to various college functions. After Troglio graduated from Mennonite, she worked as a surgical nurse at Methodist in Perry for two years. She then took a position at Memorial in Princeton for seven years. Troglio is now employed as a surgical nurse at St. Margaret's Hospital in Spring Valley. She lives in Princeton with her husband, Donald, and their children, Gwen (age 18) and Daniel (age 16).

When Troglio received the last issue of *The Flame*, she read about calling Mennonite College of Nursing to share stories from alumni. She wanted her classmates who attended school with her to know that Gwen is graduating from high school this year. She has decided to follow her mother's profession, and will be attending nursing school in the fall. Thank you Mary, for sharing your story!



Left, top: Mary and Gwen Troglio, 1986. Inset: Gwen Troglio, 18 years old.

**Letter from Alum:**

I enjoyed the last issue of *The Flame*, especially the articles about the transcultural program. As I was the first faculty on the Texas LaCasa connection, it brought back memories seeing the picture of the house where we stayed.

My memories date back about 20 years to spaghetti suppers in the Mennonite cafeteria to raise money for trips. My friend Beth and I spent the summer of '81 in Haiti. I have to think that was an experience that shaped so much of my life today. I still remember the street vendors and folks coming to the house to sell bananas, the kids with burns screaming during baths, the worms in the bedpans, the guy on the Stryker frame, the Ward III kids (with kwashiorkor – a form of malnutrition) who had the run of the building and came and played with my pen and paper every time I worked, the re-use of just about everything, the mopping pee off the floor because I wasn't watching the bottle close enough and the catheter collection overflowed...the list could go on.

Then I have the memories of taking students on trips as a faculty member. I took students to rural Kentucky twice. Once my roommate/student Faye had to rescue a turtle that was crossing the road – he became

another roommate thanks to supplies at the nearby Wal-Mart. We got to experience how folks hid the moonshine and the effects of black lung from coal mining. We enjoyed the nursing staff sharing their experiences and the students loved home health and learned more about how patients really lived.

Then there was Texas, where we saw the Hispanic side of town and how a community bands together to provide services. It was neat to not only see the nursing, but also to be able to use our time to serve meals, scrape a little paint, and help a community agency give out emergency funds.

I'm sure my experiences had lots of influence on my values and are part of the reason I have my two kids (Maria from Mexico and Johana from Guatemala) today. I'm so glad these opportunities still exist for students. Thanks for the update on the program.

**Mary Anne Kirchner C.N. '82, B.S.N. '87**

Available exclusively at Star Uniforms & Gifts, The Mennonite College of Nursing afghan features landmarks and symbols of the college. This beautiful custom afghan will make a great keepsake of your alma mater. 100 percent pre-washed cotton, machine washable, "50x65", made in the USA by Riddle Manufacturing, Inc.

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## Alumni notes

### Births and new additions

'82 and '87 **Mary Anne Kirchner** adopted Johana Kimberly, age 3, from Guatemala in February. Johana's big sister, Maria (age 7) welcomed her home on March 1, 2003. Kirchner works as a Clinical Education Specialist at BroMenn in Normal.

'93 **Tamara (Kendall) Ahrens** and husband, Brett, welcomed Jackson Lane Ahrens on May 14, 2003. Jackson is brother to Tyler Lee Ahrens, 21 months. Ahrens is a full-time mom raising her two sons.

'94 **Andrea (Luebbering) Childers** and husband, Jason, welcomed Marin Katherine Childers on November 8, 2002. Before the birth of her daughter, Childers worked in pediatric intensive care at Children's Memorial in Chicago.

'98 **Erin (Bluhm) Waite** and husband, Andy, welcomed Levi Mitchell on March 27, 2003. Levi's big brother, Jacob (age 3), welcomed him to their new home in Putnam, Connecticut. Waite is labor and delivery R.N. at Worcester Medical Center in Worcester, Massachusetts.

### Progress notes

We welcome updates from alumni for *The Flame* publication. We want to know about your activities, career news, family news, and other significant activities (weddings, births, honors and awards, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments). Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni. Please fill out this form and return it so your news will be published in the next issue. Mail to Illinois State University, Mennonite College of Nursing, Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810, or E-mail to amirvin@ilstu.edu.

NAME		MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE)	
DATE	CLASS YEAR		
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE	E-MAIL		
PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER			
NEWS/COMMENTS			

### Updates/progress

'75 **Judy Bourland** works at two facilities. She has been a surgical nurse at United Hospital since 1984. She also works for an orthopedic surgeon assisting in total joint surgery. She loves the many hats she wears! She has two children, two grandsons, and a third grandchild on the way. She keeps busy gardening, running, biking, and traveling.

'80 **Marsha Reeves** completed her Bachelor of Science in Health Education degree in 2003 at Illinois State University. She is the director of surgical Services at OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac.

'89 **Lisa Kay Nesler** is one of two registered nurses selected for the John Dystel Nursing Fellowship in MS Program. This six-month education program is designed to give nurses an opportunity to learn more about the unpredictable effects of MS and how to improve the quality of care for the more than 400,000 Americans living with the disease.

'95 **Kevin Hazard** received his medical degree from Southern Illinois School of Medicine in Springfield on May 17, 2003. He entered an internal medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison in July.

'95 **Nathan Slider** is a lieutenant in the Navy Reserves. He received orders for support of operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom to care for the sick and wounded from Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned to the United States in June 2003.

### Deaths

'30 **Beulah (Schertz) Roth** passed away on March 30, 2003.

'32 **Florence (Badertscher) Amstutz** passed away on September 5, 2001.

'38 **Lila (Birky) Zumwalt** passed away on February 12, 2003.

'41 **Helen (Oak) Nixon** passed away on February 28, 2002.

'47 **Phyllis (Winter) Reynolds** passed away on January 30, 2003.

'93 **Mary Kirincich** passed away on February 12, 2003.

## Student Nurses' Association

The fall 2003 semester is under way and the Mennonite College of Nursing Student Nurses' Association (SNA) is busy planning for a year full of exciting community service activities and fund-raising events. The SNA officers, under the leadership of President Sarah Weber welcomed new prelicensure and R.N. /B.S.N. students into the organization.

Through internal and external networking, students are getting a chance to develop their leadership skills and become active members in the community.

This fall the students planed to get involved in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, the Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis, blood pressure clinics, and spring banquet planning. They also made a float for the 2003 Homecoming parade. Recently, the officers finished designing a Mennonite College of Nursing afghan that incorporates pictures of Troyer Hall and Edwards Hall. Through the generosity of the vendor, Star Uniforms, the SNA will make a profit from every afghan sold. You can find an order form



2003-04 SNA Officers, from left: *Jonna Burchett, Neesha Nicklaus, Matt Carr, Sarah Weber.*

for this afghan in this issue of *The Flame*.

The SNA Officers for the year include Weber, Vice President Matt Carr, Treasurer Jonna Burchett, and Secretary Neesha Nicklaus. If you have any community service activities in which you would like the SNA to participate, please contact faculty advisors Pam Lindsey or Janeen Mollenhauer at (309) 438-2175.

### Student Nurses' Association 2003-2004 agenda

(Subject to change)

#### November 11 meeting

Jingle Bell Run  
B/P clinics

#### November 25 meeting

Faculty potluck

#### December 2 meeting

Point winners  
Guest speakers –  
summer externship information

#### January 20 meeting

Gondolas provided  
Semester overview  
B/P clinics

#### Discuss:

Spring banquet (March 26 or 27)  
Elections  
Health Career Fair (February 17)

#### February 3 and 17 meetings

Health Career Fair  
B/P Clinics

#### Discuss:

Elections (March 16)  
Spring Banquet (March 26 or 27)

#### March 2, 16, and 30 meetings

B/P clinics  
Elections  
Spring banquet  
Faculty potluck (April 20)

#### April 13 meeting

New officers  
Faculty potluck (April 20)  
B/P clinic  
Springfest

## The gift of a lifetime...

By Dorothy M. Witte, director of Development

What is your fondest memory related to a gift? Is it one that you received...or one that you gave? That is a question worthy of thoughtful consideration, and the “timing” is perfect. The holiday season provides much opportunity for gift exchange, and you can use these experiences to gauge your feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. If your greatest joy comes from pleasing others, then you owe yourself the “gift of a lifetime.”

The “gift of a lifetime” is a means to an end. It is an opportunity for you to pre-arrange for the distribution of your estate,\* and, in so doing, give a final gift to those causes, organizations, and individuals you cherish most.

A final expression of caring...

What a delightful process: you experience the joy of planning these gifts, create a lasting legacy, and know your resources continue to benefit others. Whether your estate is massive or modest, your “gift of a lifetime” is a means of continuing to do “good work” for future generations.

An alternative means of creating the “gift of a lifetime” is through a memorial contribution. You honor a loved one by giving in their name while perpetuating the “good work” of the recipient organization.

We ask you to consider designating Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University\* in your “gift of a lifetime.” Please feel free to contact me, Dorothy M. Witte, director of Development, via telephone at (309) 438-3134, e-mail at dmwitte@ilstu.edu, or by mail at Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060. I look forward to the possibility of assisting you.

\*Estate assets may include cash, marketable securities, real estate, retirement account, life insurance, and stock. An example of bequest language: “I give, devise and bequeath (\_\_\_\_\_ percentage, or the residue of my estate, or \$\_\_\_\_\_) to Illinois State University Foundation, its successors or assigns, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, to further the objectives and purposes of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.”



Dorothy M. Witte

If your greatest joy comes from pleasing others, then you owe yourself the “gift of a lifetime.”

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