



Mennonite College of Nursing Events Calendar

Spring 2005

The following are events we are working on for the spring semester. More information about the tentative events will be forthcoming.

March 29, 2005

Long Term Care Career Fair and Seminar (Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home) at Edwards Hall

April 14, 2005

Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Speaker Event, Capen Auditorium, Edwards Hall

May 3 and 5, 2005

Alumni Board Celebrates Nurses Week with students

May 13, 2005

Commencement

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity

UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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The Flame

MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2004

85/5 Anniversary Celebration

In September of 2004, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated its 85/5 Anniversary—85 years of nursing, and five years at Illinois State University. The festivities began with an open house at Edwards Hall. Guests were able to observe current nursing students working in the labs, as well as demonstrations of SimMan, a simulated robot that faculty can program to have various illnesses for the students to diagnose. Guests walked through a historical timeline

from 1919, when the Mennonite Sanitarium was established, to 1999, when Mennonite College of Nursing joined Illinois State University. There were also project displays, accomplishments of Mennonite College of Nursing since joining Illinois State University, and goals for future projects.

Guests gathered in Capen Auditorium, and were welcomed by President Al Bowman. A history of the transition from Mennonite College of Nursing to Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University was presented by Mr. David Wiant. Remarks were also made from Donny Bounds, president of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization; Jennifer Mathre, president of the Student Nurses Association; Lynn Kennell, instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing; and John Presley, vice president and provost of Illinois State University. Dean Ridenour recognized distinguished guests and also honored

Anna Ropp, from the class of 1931, who celebrated her 100th birthday in July. A cake-and-punch reception immediately followed the presentations. *For more celebration photos turn to page 10.*

85th/5th
Anniversary Celebration
MENNONITE COLLEGE OF NURSING
at Illinois State University



Clockwise: Steve Wannemacher, CEO Heritage Enterprises, Dr. David Strand, Dr. Kathleen Hogan, attendants at the 85/5 MCN Anniversary celebration.



2004 Awards

The following awards were presented to students and faculty during the May 2004 Mennonite College of Nursing Commencement ceremonies:

The Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award in Clinical Practice
Jennifer Patton, RN-B.S.N. '04
Jaycie Roop, B.S.N. '04

The Dr. Herman Tiedeman Memorial Award
Kenny Van Dyke, B.S.N. '04

The Practicum Leadership Award
Theresa Adelman, B.S.N. '04

Senior Excellence Award
Sarah Weber, B.S.N. '04

The Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence
Ginger Denney, B.S.N. '04
Kristin Fry, B.S.N. '04
Kenny Van Dyke, B.S.N. '04

The Kathleen A. Hogan Teaching Excellence Award
Cathi Kaesberg, instructional assistant professor

The Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award
Brenda Jeffers, associate professor

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
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Illinois State
University

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



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dean's Message

Alumni Administrative Board 2004-05

President:
Donny Bounds '97

Secretary/Treasurer
Janet Sutter '80, '01

Director and Awards Committee Chair
Karen (Roop) Magers '79

Director and Homecoming Chair
Jacqui (Luedtke) Foster '97

Director and Nurses Week Chair
Courtney Nichols '02

Directors:
Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey '00
Larae Wagener '02
Amber (McCullough) Williams '99

Visit the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization Web site at www.illinoisstatealumni.org

We have so many wonderful things to be thankful for this holiday season. The 85/5 Anniversary Celebration provided us a very special opportunity to celebrate our rich history and look forward to our bright future.



Thank you to everyone who has been part of our development. As part of the celebration, Amy Irving, assistant to the dean/event coordinator and Jeff Grabb, coordinator of Computer Support, developed a historical timeline of accomplishments beginning from when the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School was founded in 1919, through Mennonite College of Nursing's transition to become the sixth college at Illinois State University in 1999.

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University has reached several new milestones. We have grown 40.5 percent in enrollment since coming to Illinois State University. We continue to have above state and national averages on the NCLEX and the FNP certification exams. We are now listed in the Top 100 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Awards to Health Professional Components. This is a major accomplishment that recognizes the work of Caroline Mallory, assistant professor, and the work of faculty and staff to support our research effort. This growth and development can only happen with your support. Tight budgetary times continue for the University. Without the generous support of friends and alumni we would be forced to decrease enrollment. Your support does make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our development. As part of the celebration, Amy Irving, assistant to the dean/event coordinator and Jeff Grabb, coordinator of Computer Support, developed a historical timeline of accomplishments beginning from when the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School was founded in 1919, through Mennonite College of Nursing's transition to become the sixth college at Illinois State University in 1999.

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The search is on to fill the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing. This collaboration between the college and the hospital is a model for the nation. It ensures the partnership between education and practice and enhances clinically-based, outcomes-oriented research for the community.

Homecoming is a very special time. I especially look forward to being able to talk with alumni and share in our enthusiasm for nursing and for the wonderful things that nurses do. Thank you to all of you who participated. I want to give a very special thanks to our Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee who were honored by receiving the Service Award. The Friends Steering Committee is responsible for significant financial and moral support to the college, and we thank them for their continued dedication.

In November, we held the second-annual Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship series. Stephen P. Trainor, pediatrician at Carle Clinic in Normal, Illinois, presented "ADHD—One Size Does Not Fit All." Laura Furman, Illinois Unit 5 school nurse, and Sue Mendez, instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing and family nurse practitioner, presented "A Snapshot of ADD/ADHD in School," which provided RN's contact hours from the Illinois Nurses Association. You will be able to read more about this event in the next issue of *The Flame*.

This has been a wonderful year of celebrations for Mennonite College of Nursing!

Joyous and Peaceful Holidays!

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

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

- Mary Cranston, RN, M.S.**—instructional assistant professor
- Marcena Gabrielson, RN, M.S.N., C**—instructional assistant professor
- Michelle Hopkins, B.A.**—extra help
- Jolene Horne**—secretary, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home and Research Office
- Melissa Neely, B.A.**—research coordinator
- Patricia Malik, Ph.D., CTRS**—coordinator, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home
- Bonnie Schmid, RN, MN, MPH**—advanced practice nurse, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home

Homecoming Highlights

Alums, faculty, staff, students, and guests from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, October 23, 2004. The Classes of 1944, 1954, 1964, 1979, and 1994 were honored this year. The Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony were held at the Holiday Inn in Normal. Congratulations to the 2004 alumni awards recipients: Judith (Monshau) Smith '78, Distinguished Alum; Amanda (Seidelmann) Bostjancic '02, Young Alum; and The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee, recipient of the Service Award. After the luncheon, there was an open house at Edwards Hall. Thanks to everyone who participated and made Homecoming 2004 a success! Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2005, which will be Saturday, October 8, 2005.

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The Class of 1964 celebrates their 40th reunion



The Class of 1944 celebrating their 60th reunion



Lorinda Williams, Class of 1994, working with SimMan



Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52, Jeanne (Kingdon) Tammen '44, and Charlotte (Tiffin) Leach '52



Edith (Neufeld) Michalovic, Class of 1962, and nursing student, Leigh Lucas



The Class of 1979 celebrating their 25th reunion



The Class of 1954 celebrating their 50th reunion

Distinguished Alumni Award



Judith J. Smith

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (or formerly the Mennonite School/College of Nursing) who

- 1) has demonstrated significant accomplishments and leadership in the field of nursing, as well as other civic, cultural, or charitable activities;
- 2) has demonstrated a dedication to nursing and shows outstanding professionalism, and by her/his example has promoted and elevated the general image of the profession of nursing;
- 3) has demonstrated continued interest in and support for the College; and
- 4) personifies the values of the College in her/his life. This is the highest award the College bestows upon its graduates.

The 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Judith J. (Monshau) Smith, '78, during the Homecoming Awards Ceremony.

Smith graduated from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing in 1978. In 1987, she received certification as an Oncology Certified Nurse from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1989, she received her B.S.N. from the School of Nursing at Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa. Smith received her M.S.N. in Nursing Administration from the School of Nursing and Health Sciences from the George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, in 1999, and also received certification as an Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse from the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the same year.

After graduation, Smith worked at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, as a staff nurse for the Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Smith had

the opportunity to experience a variety of positions in various hospitals throughout the midwest including charge nurse, trauma nurse, patient care coordinator, and oncology staff nurse.

Smith joined the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, in 1990. She currently works as a clinical trials nurse specialist in the Division of Cancer Prevention, Lung and Upper Aerodigestive Cancer Research Group. Prior to this position, she was the clinical research nurse specialist for the Radiation Oncology Branch. Smith also serves on numerous project teams and planning committees, including Web site Development, Emergency Response Planning, and Clinical Trials Recruitment and Retention.

In addition to her position at the National Cancer Institute, Smith is also an active member of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has served on the Technical Education Champions Project Team, as the associate editor for Research of ONS Online, and as a board member of chapters in Northern Virginia and Maryland.

Smith has produced numerous publications and abstracts, and will serve as guest editor for an upcoming issue of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing*. She is associated with several professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and American Nurses Association, just to name a few.

When asked what her most important achievements were, Smith responded, "The most important life challenge has been managing the fine balance between motherhood and a successful career. Professionally, I am most proud of the work I have done to advance oncology nursing science through my work at the National Cancer Institute and my relationship with the Oncology Nursing Society."

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, demonstrated professional achievement, participated in distinguished community service, and personified the values of the College.

The 2004 Young Alumni Award was presented to Amanda (Seidelmann) Bostjancic, B.S.N. '02.

Bostjancic received her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in 2002. During the graduation ceremonies, she was the recipient of the Clinical Excellence Award. The winner of this award is voted by fellow students and faculty of Mennonite College of Nursing.

Upon graduation, she was offered a position in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Her responsibilities include providing direct patient care, charge nurse, preceptor, unit council member, and a unit representative for Magnet Council.

In the winter of 2003, she received the MVP Award in the PICU, which is voted by fellow co-work-

ers. Last December, Bostjancic, along with a fellow staff member, participated in the annual Adopt-a-Family Program. Together they raised over \$1,000 for needy families in their community. They were able to purchase and wrap over 50 gifts for 10 children in the hopes they have a better holiday.

Bostjancic was recently asked to join the team of researching in the PICU. Her responsibilities will include obtaining information for the attending physicians in the PICU and Pediatric Surgical Heart Unit. Her long-term goal is having their research published.

When asked what her most important achievement was, Bostjancic replied, "I consider my most important achievement my continuing personal and professional growth. I have completed many educational courses, some required and some I sought out on my own as a personal challenge. I feel as though I have found my professional calling, and indeed am moving from novice to expert as stated in Patricia Benner's book, *From Novice to Expert*. Most importantly, I have an ever-growing passion for my unit and my career as a nurse."



Amanda Bostjancic

Nomination form

a Distinguished Alumni Award a Young Alumni Award a MNAO Service Award

NOMINEE'S NAME	YEAR OF GRADUATION
PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
REASONS YOU SUPPORT THIS NOMINEE	
YOUR NAME	
MAILING ADDRESS	
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

Service Award



Friends steering committee member, Betty Knuckles

The 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.

This year, the Service Award was presented to The Friends of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee.

The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing was established in the fall of 1993. When the College joined Illinois State University in 1999, the organization was revised to be named The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

The purpose of this organization is to bring together persons who are interested in the advancement of collegiate nursing education, specifically the programs of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

The following are members of The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee:

Janella Cooley	Barbara Efaw
Marilyn Freedlund	Betty Frisch
Nancy Froelich	Margaret Johnson
Stevie Joslin	Betty Knuckles
Harriet O'Daffer	Carole Ringer
Georgette Shupe	

The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing has several objectives. The first objective is to encourage the formation and continuation of a group of well informed community-minded persons who will offer financial support and encouragement to Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The second objective is to become fully informed about Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University and its programs since understanding and appreciation will be enhanced when an articulate, informed group of persons is present in the community. The final objective is to support the strengths found in existing programs and to encourage the development of new facets of programs and facilities as needed.

Through the support and annual fundraising efforts of these dedicated members, the group has provided the College with a grand piano, the Health Assessment Lab for graduate students, nursing scholarships, and state-of-the-art technology. The Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students appreciate The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Steering Committee and all of its support and dedication.

Homecoming 2003—How the Class of 1958 Celebrated Its 45th Reunion



In October of 2003, the Class of 1958 celebrated its 45th reunion year. In attendance were Joan (Stoller) Gaston, Cherilyn (Donley) Harvey, Ruth (Beck) Juhler, Sandra (Johnson) Lehman, Joan (Martin) Plenert, Elfrieda (Landes) Ramseyer, Evelyn (Traub) Saul, Guylan (Smith) Simpsen, and Marlene (Abels) Weichman. Members all stayed the night at the Holiday Inn in Normal and had brunch together on Sunday morning. They had a wonderful time sharing and getting caught up on what everyone was doing at this time in their lives. They continue to recognize what excellent education they were given at the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing, and are grateful for the dedication of their instructors. They look forward with great anticipation to celebrating their 50th in 2008.

Alumni Notes

Births and New Additions:

Christine (Putnam) Emmons, B.S.N. '97 and husband Dave welcomed their first child, Connor David, on April 16, 2004.

Sarah (Drumm) Fullerton, B.S.N. '96 and husband Jim welcomed son Reece James on May 11, 2004. Sarah works as an RN in the Intensive Care Unit at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois.

Lisa (Carlson) Harris, B.S.N. '94 and husband Dan welcomed Jessica Rose on February 14, 2004. She was welcomed home by her 2 1/2-year-old triplet siblings, Brett, Bradley, and Lauren. Lisa is a staff RN on ICU/Telemetry unit at Kishwaukee Community Hospital.

Mindy (Klienmeyer) Hazard, B.S.N. '97 and husband Kevin, B.S.N. '95 welcomed Nicholas Dale on April 6, 2004. Kevin is an internal medicine resident at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. Mindy is a PACU RN at UW Hospital and is also an online M.S.N.-FNP student at St. Louis University.

Becky (Biroschik) Leibach, B.S.N. '98 and husband Gary welcomed Celie Elizabeth on July 28, 2004. Sister Abby (4) and brother Callahan (2) welcomed her home. Becky works part-time as an office nurse at The Musculoskeletal Center in Champaign, Illinois.

Kate (Cowan) Newman, B.S.N. '01 and husband Ryan welcomed son Joshua Ryan on June 24, 2004. He was welcomed home by older brother Allan (19 months). Kate is currently a cardiovascular intensive care nurse at Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign, Illinois.

Sonya (Stanton) Russo, B.S.N. '98 and husband Doug welcomed son Mason Douglas on February 23, 2004. He joins older brother Payton (10). Sonya currently works in Labor and Delivery as a staff RN at BroMenn in Normal, Illinois. She is also in her third year of the master's program at the University of Illinois Chicago-Peoria campus to become a certified nurse midwife.

Jill (Ozga) Stoops, B.S.N. '94, M.S.N. '00 welcomed her first child, Theodore "Ted" Steven Stoops, on June 23, 2004. Jill works as a nurse practitioner at UIS Campus Health Service in Springfield, Illinois.

Updates/Progress:

Linda Meints Cooper, M.S.N. '99 was elected treasurer of the Illinois State University Alumni Association. She is currently a nurse practitioner at Illinois State University.

April (Milashoski) Hammer, B.S.N. '88 received the 2004 Oncology Nursing Society Excellence in Nursing Informatics Award. She serves as the chief clinical officer

at Oncology-Hematology Associates of Central Illinois, PC, in Peoria.

Jennifer Jacobs, B.S.N. '99 graduated with her M.S.N. from the University of Phoenix and was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society in July 2004.

Laurel Neitling '78 graduated on July 24, 2004, from the University of Phoenix with an M.S.N. She was accompanied by her daughter Rachel and son, Tom Bruecker, to the graduation ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona. She is currently seeking application to the doctoral program in education and informatics. Laurel is currently working as a human resource development specialist at Euclid Hospital in Euclid, Ohio, and resides in Mentor, Ohio.

Amber (Dobson) Oberheim, B.S.N. '98 graduated from the University of Illinois in May 2004 with an M.S.N. She is currently a nurse practitioner with Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants, Ltd. and is practicing in Decatur, Illinois. Amber and her husband Chris have two daughters, Hannah (4) and Avery (1).

Weddings:

Mary (Wulf) Bigelow '78 recently married Bruce Bigelow. She is currently working at the Carle SurgiCenter in Champaign, Illinois.

Elizabeth (Skarbek) Myers, B.S.N. '99 recently married Jonathan Myers, MD. Elizabeth is currently president of the nursing staff and kidney transplant coordinator at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Kristi (Neputy) Smith, B.S.N. '95 was married on June 5, 2004, and resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

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			

100-year-old, Oldest MCN Graduate, Still a Nurse in Mind and Spirit



Anna Ropp

By Elaine Graybill

Nursing isn't something Anna Ropp '31 once did, it's something she was—and still is. “Even at 100, she is concerned for people and their well-being,” said her son Ron Ropp. Mrs. Ropp, known as “Ann,” is the oldest living graduate of Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN), which was called Mennonite School of Nursing when she attended. She once gave travel vaccinations to the entire Harlem Globetrotters basketball team when they played in Normal just before an overseas trip, and she had to stand on a chair to do it. With her family, she has established the Anna Ropp Scholarship Fund at MCN. Beyond that, she is a role model for today's students at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

Mrs. Ropp's service to the community has diminished since she gave up driving at 98, which has made it more difficult for her to get to meetings of the McLean County Home Extension and the MCN Alumni Association, to BroMenn Auxiliary, through which she was a hospital volunteer until age 99, and to her Mennonite church group. Her voluminous baking of cookies and coffeecakes has decreased since



Anna Ropp and Donny Bounds, president of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization

she moved into a Normal retirement apartment early in 2004 due to a smaller kitchen.

Though her outside activities are fewer, Mrs. Ropp herself is undiminished. She has some wisdom to pass along to young nurses just starting out. “They used to say the patient came first and it's a worthy cause to be able to help someone,” she said. “You have to be dependable.”

She entered nursing as Ann Kropf, who grew up on a farm in western Missouri with a mother who often went out to help friends and neighbors with childbirth and medical problems. Her mother sometimes took her along on her calls, and the young Ann

was drawn to a nursing career.

In 1927, she fulfilled her wish to attend nursing school by traveling to Bloomington to attend Mennonite School of Nursing. That was a logical choice because she had grown up in the Mennonite Church, and she had close relatives and friends in Eureka, Illinois. When she came to school she was in her early 20s, older than most of her class, but she still recalls a comment by her teacher Lena Maxwell that older students make the best nurses, because they are more settled.

Ann's life took a turn after she met Pete Ropp, a young farmer from Normal. The nursing school had a reputation as a good place to find young women, and young men—including Pete—sometimes came around on Saturday nights. Rules were strict and the student nurses couldn't go out very often. However, Mrs. Ropp said, “On Sunday afternoons if the weather was nice, they would come to pick up a bunch of us and take us for a ride. We appreciated that.” She and Pete were married in 1932, a year after she graduated from the three-year program.

When she was at Mennonite School of Nursing, the classes were taught by physicians in the evenings. She went to Springfield for pediatrics training, and she took a dietetics class at Illinois State Normal University in Edwards Hall, where MCN now resides. Mrs. Ropp recalls the first time she was put in charge of a hospital floor, as a junior-year student working the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington. “I must have counted the pills six times to make sure I had the right medication for the right patient. I would lie awake at night hoping I had done everything right.”

She finished nursing school in the depths of the Great Depression, and felt fortunate to get her first job, as a private-duty, round-the-clock nurse for a seriously ill physician in Bellflower, Illinois. “That grinds on you,” she said. During World War II she helped with the nursing shortage by going to Mennonite Hospital a couple of days a week to help anywhere she was needed, from obstetrics, her least favorite place, to surgery, her favorite place. Like her mother, people in the community trusted her and often called her for medical advice, and she earned the nickname “Doc.”

Later in her career she spent 22 years working as relief day supervisor at Mennonite Hospital. She worked mainly on weekends when the other supervisors were gone and “carried the little black book,” she said, overseeing where to put patients, and handling patient deaths and the emergency room. She also trained many nurses who worked for her. For much of

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

that time she juggled her job with raising three sons: Allen, Ron, and Paul.

Things were not like today when she began nursing in the 1930s. “We had to take more responsibility for ourselves because we didn't have a supervisor on every floor,” the way today's nurses do. Also, she said, “The equipment they have today is far beyond what we had.” She referred to modern times as “this age of throwing away.” In her career before disposable items became commonplace nurses made dressings for surgery, sterilized needles, checked to

be sure needles were sharp enough to be reused, sterilized rubber tubing, and did many other such tasks.

She and her husband were married for 71 years, until his death at age 98. In retirement, he also was a volunteer at BroMenn Hospital.

Mrs. Ropp is in the spotlight now because of her long and distinguished history of excellence, but she never expected any glory. She considered herself just one of many people who were doing their jobs, and she doesn't want her peers who have passed on to be forgotten.

Family Campaign

On January 1, 2000, Illinois State launched the five-year Redefining “normal”: The Campaign for Illinois State University. The five-year goal of this campaign is to raise \$88 million. Within this campaign, there is also the University Family Campaign, in which Illinois State University faculty and staff are asked to participate. Mennonite College of Nursing is leading in employee participation for the University Family Campaign with 96 percent of current full-time faculty and staff participation!

When asked why she thought most full-time faculty and staff of Mennonite College of Nursing made contributions to the Family Campaign, Dean Nancy Ridenour replied, “The dedication of faculty and staff to the mission of the college and its financial viability insure that we will continue to produce outstanding nurses.”



Announcing the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing

At the 85/5 Anniversary celebration, Dean Ridenour announced the establishment of the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing. “The first endowed professorship at Illinois State University is dedicated to increasing collaboration between academics and service,” Ridenour said. “This Professorship will further the research agenda of the College and BroMenn Healthcare.”

The BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing is established in honor of the founding institution of Mennonite College of Nursing. An endowed professorship enables Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University to:

- Provide financial support for an academic position for the general benefit and study of nursing
- Enrich the learning environment for both undergraduate and graduate nursing students

- Enhance the academic rigor by linking research and teaching
- Foster clinical research
- Foster collaboration between BroMenn Healthcare and Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University

Each candidate for the BroMenn Endowed Professorship in Nursing must be a distinguished individual (including Illinois State University current tenure track professors and those outside the University), well-known as a scholar, or professional in his or her field.

The ideal candidate will provide expertise on topics of interest and benefit to the local community and will conduct research consistent with the mission of BroMenn Healthcare.

85th/5th
Anniversary Celebration
Mennonite College of Nursing
at Illinois State University

Celebration Speakers



President, Al Bowman



Donny Bounds, President of
Mennonite Nurses Alumni
Organization



David Wiant



John Presley, Vice President and Provost



Lynn Kennell, Instructional Assistant Professor



Jennifer Mathre, President of
Student Nurses Association



Senator and Mrs. John Maitland talk with Dale Strassheim and Dave Wiant after the presentations



Current nursing student views the historical timeline



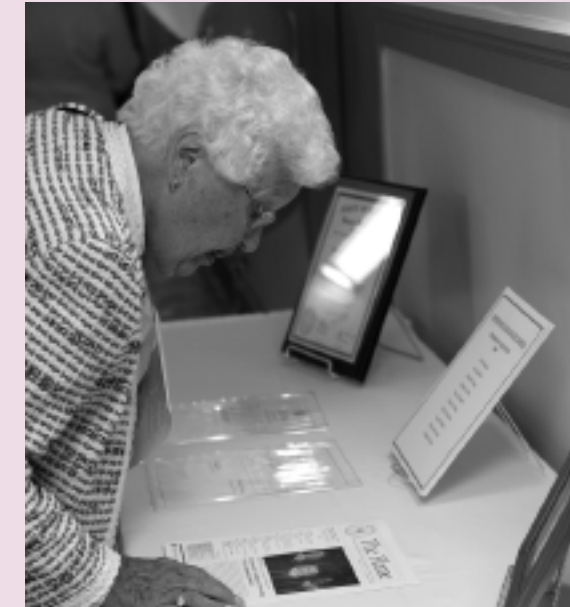
Mark Langenfeld of State Farm, and Dianne Clemens, faculty, talk with nursing students at the open house.



Sonja Reece, Lois Philpott and Betty Knuckles at the reception



Anna Ropp and her son Ron Ropp at the open house



Lois Philpott looks at a historical display at the open house



Roger Hunt, CEO of BroMenn Healthcare

Faculty and Staff Notes

Accomplishments

Mary Dyck successfully defended her dissertation and received her Ph.D. in Gerontological Nursing Research from the University of Iowa in May of 2004. Congratulations!

Brenda Jeffers, Ph.D. was appointed as the director of Graduate Program and Research in May of 2004.

Denise Wilson, Ph.D., and the nurse practitioner students completed 66 school physicals at Irving and Sheridan Elementary Schools in Bloomington in April of 2004.

In September of 2004, she was notified that Mennonite College of Nursing had a 100 percent pass rate for the FNP certification exams.

Funding

Mary Dyck, 2004-2005 University Research Grant. Illinois State University internal grant program. "Nursing Staffing Interventions Tool Development." PI: Mary J. Dyck. \$2,882

Presentations

Mary Dyck, "Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes: Weight Loss and Dehydration. Improving Chronic Care Quality." University of Missouri-Columbia, September 10-11, 2004, Columbia, Missouri.

"Nursing Staffing and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes: Geographical Variations in Weight Loss and Dehydration." Gerontological Society of America, November 22, 2004, Washington, D.C.

Kerber, C. H. S., Mary Dyck, and Culp, K. "Prevalence of Depression in Iowa Nursing Home Residents." Gerontological Society of America, November 23, 2004, Washington, D.C.

Eileen Fowles, Fowles, E. and Gabrielson, M. "Nutritional Adequacy in Low-Income Pregnant Women." Paper presented at the AWHONN: Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nursing Convention, June, 2004, in Tampa, Florida.

Fowles, E. and Hendricks, J. "Healthy Eating Strategies Used by Low-Income Pregnant Women: An Application of the Positive Deviance Approach." Poster presented at the 2004 State of the Science Congress, sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science and National Institute of Nursing Research, October, 2004, in Washington, D.C.

Karrie Ingalsbe, "Cultural Diversity." 10th Annual Nursing Research Conference, March 29, 2004, Springfield, Illinois.

Karrie Ingalsbe and Lynn Kennell, "Developing International Partnerships." Annual Transcultural Nursing Society, June 14, 2004, Alicante, Spain.

Diane Mather, Presented at the Vladimir Medical College in Vladimir, Russia, listing the accomplishment and goals related to the Vladimir Library. Presented experiences as a consultant to the Vladimir Medical Library in Russia to the Bloomington-Normal Sister City Program. March 2004.

Wendie Medina, Poster, "Development of an Observational Tool to Identify GERD in at Risk Older Adults with Mental (Intellectual) Disabilities." 15th International Nursing Research Congress, July 22, 2004, Dublin, Ireland.



"Behavioral Health." 10th Annual Nursing Research Conference, April 29, 2004, Springfield, Illinois.

Nancy Ridenour, "Strategies for Securing a Legacy for Nursing." Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nursing Fellowship meeting, October 7, 2004, San Jose, California.

Publications

Campbell, S., Grabb, J., and Jeffers, B. (2004). "Strategic use of faculty workgroups to develop online interactive geriatric curricular modules." CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing, 26 (4), 203-208.

Culp, K., Wakefield, B., **Dyck, M. J.**, Cacchione, P. Z., Decrane, S., and Decker, S. (2004). "Bioimpedance analysis and other hydration parameters as risk factors for delirium in rural nursing home residents." Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, 59A(8), 813-817.

Fowles, E. and Feucht, J. (2004). "Testing the barriers to healthy eating scale." WJNR: Western Journal of Nursing Research, 26 (4), 429-443.

Jeffers, B. (2004). "Rising Above: New Questions, New Opportunities/First, Acknowledge and Name It." AACN News.

Ridenour, N. (2004). "Nursing leadership: philanthropy in action." Nursing Outlook, 52 (3), 158-59.

Grant Updates

African American Women Choosing Wisely

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., will lead of team of researchers including Gardenia Harris, Ph.D., in the School of Social Work at Illinois State and Cheryl Stampely, Ph.D., at Virginia State University in conducting a study to explore risk-taking and prevention practices of midlife African American women regarding HIV/AIDS. The study is being funded by the National Institute on Aging for \$140,000 over a two-year period. The research team will conduct interviews and focus groups among African American women ages 40-65 to determine the social, cultural, and individual factors that lead women to engage in risk-taking and prevention behaviors related to HIV infection. This research will provide a foundation for the development of culturally appropriate data collection instruments and the design of relevant interventions to help women protect themselves against HIV infection.

Hartford Geriatric Nursing Excellence Recipient Katie Langten Completes Summer Externship at Mayo Hospital, Rochester, Minn.

Katie Langten is currently in her third semester as a prelicensure student. She is one of the recipients of 2004 Hartford Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award, and has completed a summer externship at Mayo Hospital in the geriatric medical unit. The Mayo geriatric medical unit has been rated as the Fourth Best Practice Unit in care of the older adult. The experience at Mayo allowed Langten to expand her knowledge and skills in care of the older adult. As the Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award recipient, Langten was asked to read her winning essay on care of the older adult at Fall Convocation.

Langten, along with prelicensure student Amy Green, and first semester RN to B.S.N. students Katie Tipton and Shirley Lohman traveled in October with Hartford Grant lead faculty Camille Little and Dianne Clemens to attend the National Gerontological Nursing Association nursing conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Expenses for conference and travel were funded in part by the following grants: The Hartford Geriatric Curriculum Grant, The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Federal Initiative, and the HRSA Grant Enhancement of Nursing Education in Long-term Care. Green, Tipton, and Lohman completed educational projects related to care of the older adult that demonstrated excellence and the potential for significantly improving care of the older adult.

The Geriatric Excellence Award is given to a student who demonstrates sensitivity and caring for the geriatric population and their families; demonstrates a commitment to the geriatric population; demonstrates excellence in geriatric nursing through the application of knowledge, skills, and values consistent with the values of nursing; and demonstrates the ability to contribute to the improvement of geriatric nursing practice. Recipients are chosen on the basis of personal essays and practice as a student.

The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project

The Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home is off to a great start! The goals of the project are to (1) increase the number of long-term care clinical work and education experiences for registered nurse students, (2) increase the number of mentoring experiences in long-term care for students, and (3) increase the number of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State graduates who are employed in long-term care. The four sister nursing homes participating in the grant are Heritage Normal, Bloomington, El Paso, and Colfax. Newly hired personnel for the grant project include Patricia Malik, coordinator, and Bonnie Schmid, advanced practice nurse. Some of the grant activities that are being planned are a press conference, clinical learning activities, virtual case studies, speaking events, a long-term care career event, field trips to specialized nursing homes, and a unique student externship option. Two students and two faculty members attended the National Gerontological Nursing Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Gerontological Society of America Interdisciplinary Conference in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for more information as the grant unfolds!

"Women First!"

Professor Mallory and members of the research team are into the second year of a study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to test an intervention to prevent HIV infection among women exiting county jails and drug treatment facilities. Statistical consultant Matthew Hesson-McInnis, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, research coordinator Melissa Neely, and research assistant LaToya Taylor have contributed to the development of the infrastructure for the study and the team is now ready to begin participant recruitment and the first training sessions for women at risk.

By Jenny Ward, director of Development

Thank you to all of the people whose names are listed on the following pages. It is because of your commitment to nursing and your willingness to give up some of your personal treasure to the greater good of nursing that we have been able to keep our nursing programs strong.

The need for nurses is not going away any time soon; in fact, the nursing shortage is predicted to continue beyond the next decade. The Mennonite College of Nursing is continually called on to step up and to do more, educate more, and with less base funding. That is why the support of our corporate partners, friends, alumni, and our own faculty and staff are so important. Your support helps us to retain and recruit our very important nursing faculty. Without them, we cannot change enrollment, in spite of the overwhelming need.

Thank you for stepping up and helping out! This fall we were especially concerned about scholarships for our students. Thank you to our alumni who give annually to the alumni scholarship fund; your generosity is helping our students in tough financial times. Thank you to our endowed scholarship donors, who have dug a little deeper to assure us that we had the funds necessary to award our scholarships this year. And thank you to our new scholarship donors—you chose to honor the careers and lives of loved ones by providing special annual scholarships to nursing students!

The tradition of excellence promoted by our founders continues today. For those who attended Homecoming, or the celebration of 85 years of Mennonite Nursing and five years at Illinois State, it is evident that the traditions of our founders are strong. Nursing is more than a job to our leaders, alumni and students; it is who they are. At 100, Ann Ropp may not practice nursing anymore, but she is a nurse—in the way she lives, the way she serves, and the way she cares. Thank you to all who have contributed to Ann's scholarship fund. Your generosity has enabled us to award the first Anna Ropp Scholarship this fall, and helped to remind us of what it means to be a nurse.

Jenny Ward, director of development, can be reached at (309) 438-7178 or by e-mail at jsward@ilstu.edu.



Jenny Ward

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