

WINTER 2005-2006

# The Flame



Mennonite College of Nursing

Illinois State University

## Collaborative doctoral program furthers Mennonite tradition

By Megan Hopper

The Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) is building upon a longstanding academic reputation of excellence to introduce a collaborative doctoral degree program in Nursing in Aging with the University of Iowa (UI) College of Nursing.

This program is made possible by a three-year, \$1.2 million grant for improving advanced nursing education awarded in July 2005 by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

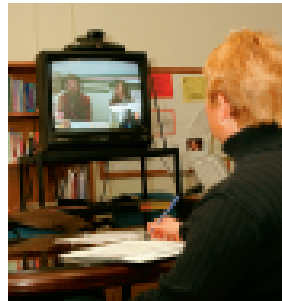
The purpose is to prepare leaders in nursing to conduct research in geriatric care and outcomes, teach in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs, influence policy, and develop models of geriatric/gerontological care. "The College of Nursing is very excited to have doctoral students," said Nancy Ridenour, dean of MCN. "It helps us to attract faculty, will further our research agenda, and will help us to produce faculty."

MCN faculty see the collaborative doctoral program as extending the college's developing area of expertise in gerontological nursing and improving the quality of care for older adults. "It will provide an opportunity for our patients in Central Illinois because the more we can understand about care for older adults, the better care we can provide," said Ridenour.

The collaborative doctoral program allows students to be taught by nursing faculty from MCN and the UI's College of Nursing. Students in Central Illinois will have access to courses taught at UI through PolyCom, a distance learning technology using interactive video.

"UI has had a doctoral program in nursing for a number of years, and they have funded research and expert faculty in nursing in aging," said Brenda Recchia Jeffers, director of MCN's graduate program. "Partnering with UI provides our faculty with additional opportunities to collaborate in research and provides our students with the opportunity to work with UI and MCN faculty who are experts in their field."

UI will award degrees to the first group of collaborative doctoral program students. Illinois State will begin to award degrees after curriculum development and necessary program approvals.



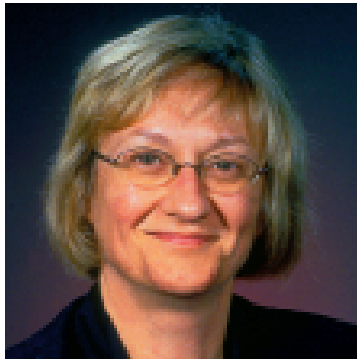
MCN and UI College of Nursing faculty agree the collaborative doctoral program is important for many reasons, one of which concerns critical shortages in the nursing field. "There certainly are a shortage of nurses and, even more important, a shortage in nursing faculty," said Ann Marie McCarthy, director of the UI Doctoral Program in Nursing. "This program is a way to help increase not only the number of nurses, but the number of nursing faculty members."

*"This program is a way to help increase... the number of nursing faculty members."*

The program also addresses the distance Central Illinois students have to travel to access a nursing doctoral program. "You have nurses who would go back to get their doctorate but there are too many obstacles with distance being one of them," said Sara Campbell, associate dean of MCN.

Five students will be admitted each year for the first few years of the program, with the anticipation of a total of 15 students by year three of the program.

"Our long-term goals are to significantly expand our externally funded programs of research and improving care outcomes that focus on the older adult," said Recchia Jeffers. "We will also incorporate what we are learning in our programs of research into the curriculum of our undergraduate and master's degree programs."



# Message from the dean

## Happy New Year!

Once again, we have many wonderful stories to share with you. Our faculty, staff, students, and alumni accomplish many great things. In fact, there are so many great things going on that we could no longer

cover everything in The Flame. We have developed a new tradition by creating an annual report for Mennonite College of Nursing. The annual report will focus on faculty and staff achievements, and will also highlight research, scholarship, and development. The first report was an amalgamation of the first six years Mennonite College of Nursing has been at Illinois State University. The Flame has a new look, and will highlight college, alumni, and student news.

In this issue, we are proud to report on the progress of our collaborative Ph.D. program with the University of Iowa College of Nursing. As you know, we are developing a center of excellence for the care of the older adult. The Ph.D. program provides wonderful opportunities for students, faculty, alumni, and the community to increase expertise in care of the older adults in Central Illinois.

As part of our Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project, three students and faculty member Mary Cranston traveled to New York City to work with the Hartford Center at New York University. Beth Objartel, graduate student in the NSA program, tells us about some of their experiences on that trip.

The long tradition of Mennonite students participating in transcultural trips will be enhanced by the newly endowed transcultural fund. This fund, in addition to the generous donations from the Mennonite

College of Nursing Alumni Organization, will provide scholarships and grants to support the transcultural program. I think you will enjoy the article about a local nurse who had the rare and exciting opportunity to work with Mary Breckenridge in the Frontier Nursing Service.

I am annually renewed by the gracious and exciting times we have at Homecoming. The alumni are an inspiration to us all. Mennonite's Distinguished Alum, Cindy (Murphy) Ptasnik '81, brought tears to our eyes as she described her work with placing orphans in loving homes. A special highlight was our recognition of one of Cindy's mentors, Dr. Chow, for his generous work with our students. Yvette (Conerly) Glenn, M.S.N. '01, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for her work as a wound care specialist at Danville Illiana Medical Center (VA). She also works part-time facilitating baccalaureate nursing courses online for the University of Phoenix.

I hope all of you will make plans to attend Homecoming this fall. The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization is currently making plans for Homecoming on Saturday, October 14, 2006. We hope to see you there!

Best Wishes!

Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN  
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow  
Dean and professor  
Telephone: (309) 438-2174  
E-mail: nriden@ilstu.edu

## Welcome new faculty and staff

**Charlene Aaron**, project coordinator, Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project

**Lissa Bevins**, staff clerk, Dean's Office

**Dustin Brown**, technology specialist

**Sandi Burke**, BroMenn Endowed Clinical Assistant Professor

**Jennie Collings**, project director, Collaborative Doctoral Program

**Lee Ann Gordon**, secretary, Collaborative Doctoral Program

**Kelli Tillery Hill**, accelerated program coordinator

**Michelle Hopkins**, secretary, Graduate Program, Research, and Scholarly Activities

**Cheryl Nafziger**, clinical lab coordinator

**Teri Saxton**, instructional assistant professor

**Rita Schlomer**, instructional assistant professor

## The Flame

Winter 2005-2006

Published periodically

www.mcn.ilstu.edu

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

(309) 438-7400

Newsletter editor: Amy Irving

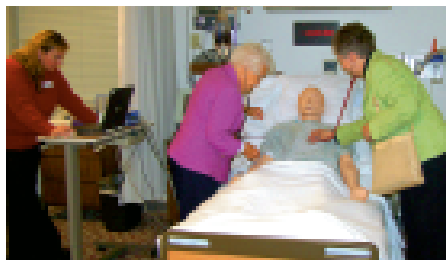
(309) 438-7418

amirvin@ilstu.edu

# 2005 Homecoming highlights



Alums, faculty, staff, students, and guests from Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University celebrated Homecoming, October 3-9. This year's theme was "Redbirds in Paradise." Mennonite College of Nursing held an alumni luncheon and awards ceremony on Saturday, October 8, at the Holiday Inn in Normal. Classes celebrating a reunion year included 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1980, and 1995. After the luncheon, the college held an open house at Edwards Hall, where alums and guests could visit the building and see demonstrations in the labs. Thanks to everyone who participated and made Homecoming 2005 a success! Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2006, which will be held Saturday, October 14, 2006!



## Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization

### Board of Directors

#### President

Donny Bounds '97

#### Director and awards committee chair

Karen (Roop) Magers '79

#### Directors

Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey '00

Larae Wagener '02

Sonia (Hetman) Wernsman '98

#### Past president

Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52

#### Advisory members

Julie Goodlick '81, M.S. '85, senior assistant director, Alumni Relations

Nancy Ridenour, dean, Mennonite College of Nursing

Jenny Ward, director of development, Mennonite College of Nursing

### 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](mailto:amirvin@ilstu.edu).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS/COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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## Alumni notes

**1931**

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Anna (Kropf) Ropp**, who passed away on June 9, 2005. She was Mennonite College of Nursing's oldest living alum, and will be greatly missed.

**1945**

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Lucille (Leininger) Williamson**, who passed away on September 18, 2005.

**1976**

**Connie (Small) Dant** graduate summa cum laude in May 2005 with a B.S.N. from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Connie was also elected to the local chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and is employed as a nurse manager for Allina Health Systems.

**1983**

**Ellen (Rayburn) Wylie** and her husband, Mark, returned from China in May 2005 after adopting 18-month-old Rachel JiaSi Wylie. She was born November 6, 2003, in Chongqing, China, and is joined by her siblings, Sarah (15), Andrew (13), Christopher (11), and David (8). Ellen works in the mother/baby unit at BroMenn once a week—a position she has had since 1984.

**1989**

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of **Angela Braner**, who passed away on May 22, 2005.

**1995**

**Jennifer Hutchings** is a case manager for hematology, specifically bone marrow transplantation/leukemia, at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Her previous position was a clinical trials research nurse in the GI department.

**1997 and 2001**

**Susan Catt** gave birth to triplets on September 21, 2005. Their names are Morgan Catherine (3 pounds, 14 ounces), Samuel Robert (4 pounds, 10 ounces), and Benjamin Cooper (5 pounds, 4 ounces). Susan still plans to continue her education in medical school.

**1998**

**Leslie (Hughes) Vasich** and husband, Joe, welcomed twins Nathan and Julia on April 15, 2005. Nathan and Julia have 2-year-old twin brothers, Reece and Sam. Leslie worked as a labor and delivery nurse until the birth of her oldest twins, and now is a busy stay-at-home mom.

**1999**

**Shannon (Frerichs) Laesch** is the owner of Independence Home Care Inc., a business she started in 2003. She graduated with her M.S.N. in nursing education from St. Francis Medical Center, College of Nursing, in December 2005. In addition to running her home care business, she will be teaching clinicals for MCN and Heartland Community College. She resides in Lexington with her husband, Doug, and their children, Kayleigh (5) and Tanner (1).

**2001**

**Gretchen (Rainey) Anderson** married Ezekiel Anderson on July 30, 2005. They are both RNs at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Jamie (Witmer) Carlock** married Kyle Carlock on May 22, 2004. Jamie works as a registered nurse at Provena Medical Center in Urbana.

**Jennifer (Megan) Urbanc** gave birth to Megan Elizabeth Urbanc on February 18, 2005. Jennifer works at OSF St. Francis Medical Center Children's Hospital of Illinois in the Pediatric Intermediate Unit.

**Alea (Betterton) Kinsella** and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first baby boy, Tyler Evan, on May 2, 2005. Alea is an RN at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates.

**2002**

**Kimberlee (Drenth) Burke** married Mike Burke in October 2003. In June 2005, they welcomed their first child, Cayden Michael. Kimberlee is an RN at an infertility clinic. They are currently building a home in Minooka, Illinois.

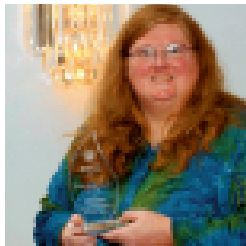
**Jamie (Schwarz) Bond** married Victor Bond on April 23, 2005. Jamie works at the Women's Health Care Center as an RN in the OB/GYN office in Peru, Illinois.



# Alumni awards

## 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award

The 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Cynthia (Murphy) Ptasnik '81. Ptasnik is the co-founder and director of Americans Adopting Orphans in Seattle. She and her husband founded this non-profit international adoption agency licensed in the states of Washington and Missouri with programs in China and Vietnam. The agency places 75-100 orphaned or abandoned children each year in American homes. Part of Ptasnik's work is reviewing and interpreting medical information about children for adoptive parents and explaining prognosis and treatment options, since many of these children come with medical issues. She also creates health exam records and assessment tools for foreign medical personnel. To find out more information about Americans Adopting Orphans, please visit their Web site at [www.orphans.com](http://www.orphans.com).



## 2005 Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Yvette (Conerly) Glenn, M.S.N. '01, received the 2005 Outstanding Young Alumni Award. She works as a wound care specialist at Danville Illiana Medical Center (VA) in Danville. She also works part-time facilitating baccalaureate nursing courses online for the University of Phoenix. Glenn serves on two national committees relating to wound care and has traveled within the VA system.

## 2005 MNAO Service Award

The 2005 Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization Service Award was presented to David K. Chow, M.D. Dr. Chow is an obstetrician/gynecologist/infertility specialist in Bloomington. He served as a trustee during the 1980s and 1990s, and supported the College of Nursing during the transition to Illinois State University. Chow has served as a preceptor for nursing students for many years, giving them hands-on experiences that leave them very excited about OB/GYN nursing. In addition, he supports the role of advanced practice nurses as evidenced by his partnerships with nurse practitioners over the years.



## Nomination form

Distinguished Alumni Award     Outstanding 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.



Lynn Westcot



## The Frontier Nursing Service experience

By Amy Irving

In today's world, sometimes we take for granted all of the conveniences and comforts we have—electricity, telephones, and motorized transportation. Imagine yourself without any of these luxuries. What would you do if you needed medical attention and the nearest health care facility was more than 10 miles away? Such was not an uncommon situation for the women in the Frontier Nursing Service (FNS), which was founded in 1925 by Mary Breckinridge.

### History of Mary Breckinridge

Mary Breckinridge was born in 1881 to a Southern aristocratic family who traveled worldwide to places that exposed her to different cultures and lifestyles. After losing her first husband to appendicitis,

*After losing her first husband to appendicitis, Breckinridge turned to a career in nursing.*

Breckinridge turned to a career in nursing. She attended St. Luke's School of Nursing and received her diploma in 1910. A few years later, she married her second husband, and they had two children, a son and a daughter.

Her daughter was born premature and lived only six hours. At the age of four, her son died of appendicitis.

In 1920, Breckinridge filed for divorce and resumed her maiden name, something that was unheard of at that time. She decided to dedicate her life to nursing, and joined the American Committee for Devastated France at the end of World War I. While she was in Europe, she learned about nurse-midwives and wanted to bring this training back to rural America. She studied at the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies and received her certification from the Central Midwives Board. In 1925 she returned to the United States and settled in rural Kentucky where she founded the Frontier Nursing Service (FNS).

### Working with Mary Breckinridge

Nurses who worked with Breckinridge in the FNS traveled by horseback in rural Kentucky through snow, ice, mud, and water to see their patients. One of these nurses was Lynn Westcot, Ed.D. '77. Marcena Gabrielson, Mennonite College of Nursing faculty, invited Professor Westcot to be a guest speaker in the nursing community health class. The students learned about Westcot's experiences in the FNS.

Westcot was in her last six months of training at John Hopkins when the administration announced that they were going to shorten courses. This concerned several students, including Westcot. She went



**Marcena Gabrielson and Lynn Westcot**

to the director on behalf of the students to express their concerns and the board of directors agreed to a six-month internship for students who wanted to complete their training. Students had several options to choose from; however, the Frontier Nursing Service was the only one Westcot really wanted. She and another classmate were selected for this internship. Westcot's parents paid for a round-trip bus ticket, and a friend gave her all of the supplies she would need. The internship was from December 15, 1944, to June 15, 1945.

Once Westcot arrived for the FNS, she was assigned a horse. The interns worked under a midwife and had districts that they served. On Christmas Eve, Mary Breckinridge asked to see Westcot. Westcot's midwife supervisor had become ill, and Breckinridge asked Westcot to take over half of the district and had another nurse midwife that mentored and helped her when needed. Westcot had many stories to tell about her experiences. She recalled one particular family whose first names all started with the letter "O," and all of the births in this family were breech. Oma, the mother, was pregnant with twins, and Westcot was her nurse. Oma was due in February; however, she started having labor pains in the middle of January. The midwife from the center delivered Oma's first twin, and Westcot delivered the second. Much to Westcot's surprise, the twins were not breech, nor did the family give them names beginning with an "O." The twin girls were named Lynn and Rose, after the nurses who cared for them. During her internship in the FNS, Westcot delivered 18 babies in six months.

Westcot wanted to stay in the FNS after her internship; however, her father encouraged her to come back home. After graduating from John Hopkins, Westcot became a supervisor of obstetrics. She continued her education at Peabody College (Vanderbilt University) where she received her master's degree in community health, and then later earned her doctoral degree in education from Illinois State. Westcot is currently the parish nurse at the First United Methodist Church in Normal. She will always remember and cherish her

wonderful experience of working with Mary Breckinridge in the Frontier Nursing Service.

### **Transcultural Experience—Frontier Nursing School**

Mennonite College of Nursing students have the opportunity to participate in a Transcultural Nursing Experience during the summer. Their options include working on an Indian reservation in Lame Deer, Montana; working in school health and clinics in Austin, Texas; observing at hospitals in Eastbourne, England; and, new this year, the opportunity to work

*Students who attend the Frontier Nursing School will work in four different clinics and one hospital.*

at the Frontier Nursing School in Lexington, Kentucky. Students who attend the Frontier Nursing School will work in four different clinics and one hospital. Areas of study will include primary care, home health, and midwifery. Students will observe at the clinics and hospital. Their accommodations will be much different than Professor Westcot's experience, as they will be staying in a dorm that has a large full kitchen, dining room, living room, and fireplaces, plus a library with Internet connections. The brick fireplace in the library came from Florence Nightingale's home. Students will be able to share rooms, although single rooms are also available. Students who complete this Transcultural Experience will receive three credit hours.

Even though times have changed, the commitment of nurses helping those in need continues.

## **Transcultural Nursing Experience Summer 2006 schedule**

**May 6–19**  
Eastbourne, England

**May 13–20**  
Austin, Texas

**May 13–27**  
Lame Deer, Montana, and Lexington, Kentucky

# Best practices in nursing care of older adults

By Beth Objartel, MCN graduate student

New York City—the “Big Apple” itself—was the destination for three MCN students and faculty member Mary Cranston when we participated in Mennonite College of Nursing’s “Summer Independent Study Toward Elder Research” project. The S.I.S.T.E.R. pro-



gram was funded by the Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Project which sent undergraduate senior Amy Green and graduate students Beth Objartel and Charlene Aaron for four busy days where we were immersed in activities at the John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. The institute is a part of New York University’s Division of Nursing with the mission of “seeking to shape the quality of health care for older

was exciting, fast-paced, and motivating. The MCN team met with Director Mathy Mezey who noted the main goals of the institute in four key areas: nursing education, nursing practice, nursing research, and nursing policy. We also learned of the N.I.C.H.E. network, which operates in 164 sites in 34 states, Canada, and the Netherlands. N.I.C.H.E. facilities operate with in various settings, and outcomes research shows an impressive array of results, including decreased length of stay for elderly patients, reductions in readmission rates, greater patient satisfaction, and reductions in costs associated with hospital care for the elderly.

Another segment of the trip was a visit to an ACE unit located at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. We toured the specialized nursing unit that is fully adapted to the specific care needs of the elderly including large clocks, non-slip floors, and grouped dining facilities. Interdisciplinary team meetings concerning each patient’s specific needs met daily. We learned about the processes of admission and discharge planning and met with nursing staff who serve as role models for excellence and dedication to the care and well-being of older adults.

Diana Mason, editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Nursing*, also met with us during our visit to the journal’s office. She and her team of editors led a roundtable discussion of topics pertinent to the nursing profession and care of the elderly. Her major point was the empowering of each one of our group to impact change in health policies affecting the elderly. We came home with a wealth of information and resources about where to obtain information about “best practices” in caring for elderly patients, and with a renewed sense of dedication to become “gero-smart” as we look at becoming credentialed in this important area of health care. Talk to any one of us and you’ll hear our comments of appreciation for the opportunity we had to widen our horizons in nursing care of the elderly with this stimulating and very informative learning experience!

*This is the only nursing-focused organization in the country setting a serious agenda for caring for older adults over age 65.*

adults by promoting the highest level of geriatric competence in all nurses.” This is the only nursing-focused organization in the country setting a serious agenda for caring for older adults over age 65; these persons utilize 48 percent of hospital days, account for 69 percent of homecare visits, and comprise 83 percent of nursing facility residents. Yet less than 1 percent of practicing nurses are certified in geriatrics.

The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing sponsors a wide network of projects and resources that help nurses increase their skills, integrate new care models, and set policies and address issues concerning the elderly patient. The schedule







## From the director of development

Happy New Year to our alumni, family, friends, and partners!

The year 2005 was a year of building. Together, we have built on our success of the past, and together we can meet the challenges and needs in the future. Since 1919, when the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School was officially founded, our nursing school was known for excellence in preparing nurses with exceptional practical training. As times changed and nursing education evolved, more general and college-level education has been added to the nursing education program. Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing and later Mennonite College of Nursing embraced the change, and its leaders became teachers not only to students, but to other nursing schools. Today, Mennonite College of Nursing and nursing colleges around the country face critical faculty shortages and, once again, Mennonite College of Nursing is stepping forward as a leader. With the support of our partners, alumni, and friends, Mennonite faculty have initiated a new doctoral program in collaboration with the University of Iowa. Nurse leaders seeking the highest levels of education in nursing research and practice will be attracted to the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. The legacy of our founders and those who came before remains the firm foundation on which together we build success.

2005 was also a year of building our endowment. The Mennonite College of Nursing Endowment is a compilation of funds which are invested. The endowment fund was created through the very generous gifts of firm believers in the Mennonite Nursing Program missions. The gains are distributed among the various funds, which have been established by generous alumni and supporters of the college

for specific reasons. Our endowment has been a real blessing! In addition, our alumni continue to strongly support our nursing student scholarships through the

*The legacy of our founders and those who came before remains the firm foundation on which together we build success.*

annual fund. This year, nearly \$50,000 in scholarships will be awarded to hard-working nursing students.

Your support, your partnership, and your financial gifts are truly appreciated. Together we will continue to meet the increasing challenges for today's nurses. Your support is vitally important to build on the firm foundation that is the Mennonite College of Nursing. Thank you!

Jenny Ward  
Director of development, Mennonite College of Nursing  
Telephone: (309) 438-7178  
E-mail: [jsward@ilstu.edu](mailto:jsward@ilstu.edu)

## Pfizer Visiting Professorships in Clear Health Communication



*Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, will visit Illinois State University during the week of March 6, 2006.*

Associate Professor of Nursing Brenda Recchia Jeffers, director of the Graduate Program, Research, and Scholarly Activities, and Assistant Professor Rita Bailey, Speech Pathology and Audiology, received a Pfizer Medical and Academic Partnerships Grant to sponsor Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, as a Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Clear Health Communication. The funds from this grant will be used to host Professor Kagan for a three-day exchange at Illinois State University with students, faculty, research fellows, and community members.

Kagan holds a primary academic appointment as associate professor of gerontological nursing at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Nursing. Kagan's primary clinical appointment is gerontology clinical nurse specialist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where she offers advanced nursing consultation to patients, their fami-

lies, nurses, and physicians on the complex needs of older adults related to their hospitalization for acute or chronic illness. In 2003, Kagan was named a MacArthur Fellow, and is one of only two nurses to receive this esteemed prize for creative and innovative work, which is popularly called the "Genius Award."

Kagan will visit Illinois State University during the week of March 6, 2006. She will interact with faculty, staff, and students at various workshops, classes, and clinical site visits. Kagan will be able to reach out to nursing staff at hospitals in the Springfield area via PolyCom presentation, while lecturing at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Two presentations will be open to the community. Kagan's first community presentation, "Ageism, Evidence, and Decision Making: Constructing Cancer Care for Older Adults," will begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the Community Cancer Center in Normal. On Thursday, March 9, the community is invited to attend Kagan's presentation, "Communication, Partnership, and Collaboration for Our Ageing Society," which will begin at 7 p.m. in the Old Main Room at the Bone Student Center. Prior to this presentation, guests will be able to view displays highlighting faculty research from Mennonite College of Nursing and the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

This event, supported by Pfizer, is co-sponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing; Speech Pathology and Audiology; Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Pi Chapter; and the Student Nurses Association.

### Sarah H. Kagan's community presentations

#### Wednesday, March 8

5 p.m.

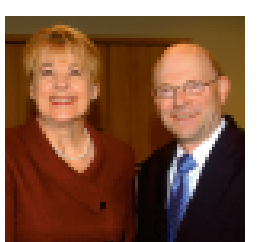
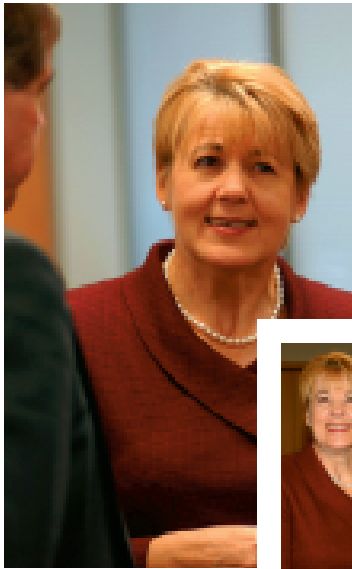
"Ageism, Evidence, and Decision Making:  
Constructing Cancer Care for Older Adults"  
Community Cancer Center, Normal

#### Thursday, March 9

7 p.m.

"Communication, Partnership, and  
Collaboration for Our Ageing Society"  
Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

# Photo gallery of fall 2005 events



October 4, 2005—Illinois State University Installation Ceremony for Professor Sandi Burke



September 20, 2005—BroMenn Welcoming Reception for Professor Sandi Burke



September 30, 2005—Thailand Nursing Council visits Mennonite College of Nursing



November 10, 2005—The Impact of Methamphetamine on Agriculture, Health Care, and Child Welfare, co-sponsored by the Marion McDowell Stafford Lectureship Series in Child and Family Health



# Mennonite College of Nursing events

The following are tentative events for spring 2006. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.mcn.ilstu.edu](http://www.mcn.ilstu.edu) or the University Calendar at [www.calendar.ilstu.edu](http://www.calendar.ilstu.edu).

## March

**Saturday, March 4–Friday, March 17**

Mennonite College of Nursing will host two nursing students from England

**Monday, March 6–Thursday, May 25**

Telefund for Mennonite College of Nursing

**Wednesday, March 8**

Pfizer Visiting Professorships in Clear Health Communication, Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Community Cancer Center, Normal

**Thursday, March 9**

Pfizer Visiting Professorships in Clear Health Communication, Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

**Friday, March 24**

Illinois State Undergraduate Research Symposium

Bone Student Center

## April

**Tuesday, April 11**

Expanding Teaching Nursing Home National Speaker Event

Dr. William H. Thomas

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

**Thursday, April 13**

Mennonite College of Nursing Scholarship Luncheon

Circus Room, Bone Student Center

**Friday, April 21**

Illinois State Graduate Research Symposium  
Bone Student Center

**Tuesday, April 25**

Mennonite College of Nursing  
Candlelighting Ceremony

Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center

## May

**Thursday, May 4**

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization celebrates Nurses Week with students  
306 Edwards Hall

**Friday, May 12**

Mennonite College of Nursing  
Commencement

Braden Auditorium, Bone Student Center

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity

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