

# The Flame



SUMMER 2006

Mennonite College of Nursing

Illinois State University

## MCN pilots 12-month B.S.N. program for previous college grads

By Elaine Graybill

Tara Lancaster '00, who earned a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Illinois State University, is one of the 10 college graduates who will pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing in one compressed year of classes from Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN).

Mennonite has accepted Lancaster and nine others into the pilot year of the Accelerated B.S.N. Program, which, under funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, will take place from January through December 2007. Future programs will depend on funding. After four consecutive 12-week semesters in the space of 12 months, the pilot program students will have completed 14 courses and will graduate with degrees and be ready to prepare for nurse licensing exams. In the regular program, the same courses are spread out over four 16-week semesters separated by breaks.

Lancaster always planned to be a graphic designer, but the magazine in Peoria that employed her went out of business shortly before her marriage to J.D. Lancaster '00 and '03. She took the only job she could find, which was working as a dental assistant for a practice in Normal. "I really ended up liking the job," she said, and she stayed with it for four years, until her son, Rowen, was born. She enjoyed educating the patients, answering their questions, and making their experience of going to the dentist more pleasant.

When she became a mother she decided she needed a career that paid better and was flexible enough to create a schedule compatible with her family's needs. Nursing was a logical choice. Lancaster, who lives in Mackinaw, looked into nursing degree programs in the area and found most had waiting lists up to three years long. She started taking the six prerequisite courses she lacked at Illinois Central College. After she applied for the traditional program at MCN, which didn't have a waiting list, she received a phone call from Kelli Tillery Hill, coordinator of the Accelerated B.S.N. Program, suggesting it would be a good option since Lancaster had already earned a bachelor's degree. "I'm glad she called me, because I would never have known

about it," Lancaster said. She was among nearly 50 people who applied for the program, and she was one of 10 who received an acceptance letter.

At 28, Lancaster hits the average age for the cohort, which has a range from 21 to 47 years old. The cohort has one male, one member of a minority group, eight people with bachelor's degrees, and two with master's degrees. Their previous careers are in the areas of animal science, art, biology/microbiology, human development/family studies, medical technology, music, psychology, and Spanish.

Nine of the students have permanent addresses within one hour of Bloomington-Normal, which makes it likely they will enter the nursing profession in Central Illinois. New nursing graduates are a valuable commodity to any community, considering a projected need for more than a million new and replacement registered nurses in the United States by 2012, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Accelerated B.S.N. programs such as MCN's, seen as one way to meet the need, have increased in number since 1990. That year, 31 such programs were offered in the United States, and by 2005 the number had grown to 168, with nearly 50 additional programs in the planning stages.

*"Do we want to inject the health-care system with questioning, demanding nurses? I think the answer is yes!"*

MCN at Illinois State University had talked for years about offering an accelerated B.S.N. program, but did not have the resources until the Labor Department grant came through in December 2005. The grant, totaling a half-million dollars, is to help

### Learn more

about the Accelerated B.S.N. Program.

[www.mcn.ilstu.edu](http://www.mcn.ilstu.edu)

Continued on page 3



## Message from the dean

In keeping with our vision of Producing the Preferred Graduate, the 2006 graduates have completed their studies and have gone on to join the ranks of registered nurses, nurse administrators, and nurse practitioners. Graduation

this year was especially symbolic as we graduated the Class of 2006 on May 12—Florence Nightingale’s birthday. Following the path charted by Nightingale, Mennonite students, faculty, and staff have accomplished great things and are on the road to changing the world. Our programs are growing so much that we have undergone extensive remodeling of Edwards Hall to accommodate all the new members of the Mennonite College of Nursing faculty and staff.

There are so many wonderful things happening at the college. We received funding from the Department of Labor for the B.S.N. Accelerated Program, which will begin in January of 2007. This past spring, visiting scholars Professor Sarah Kagan and Dr. William

Thomas brought vision and enthusiastic energy to the campus and inspired us to continue our innovative approaches to nursing. I am especially proud of all our students. In this issue you will read about a nursing student who volunteered her time over break to help with the hurricane relief.

All of these accomplishments are possible because of you. We have had the very best annual fund campaign this year. Thanks so much to all of you who support us financially. We are very grateful. Because of the generous gifts of people like you, we are able to continue to Produce the Preferred Graduate.

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

**Isaac Akins**, multimedia Web developer for the Teaching Nursing Home Project

**Sandra Burke, Ph.D., RN**, assistant professor\*

**Annrika Campbell**, secretary for the Teaching Nursing Home Project

**Melissa Moody, MS**, academic advisor

**Beth Objartel, B.S.N., RN**, project RN for the Teaching Nursing Home Project

**Wendy Woith, Ph.D., M.S., RN**, assistant professor\*

**Pi-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., RN**, assistant professor\*

\*beginning fall 2006

## The Flame

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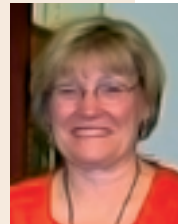
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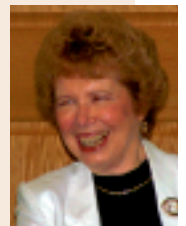
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## Retirements

Eileen Fowles, Ph.D., RNC, retired as an associate professor in May of 2006, after 12 years of teaching and research at Mennonite College of Nursing. Fowles primarily taught parent-child nursing and research courses. Fowles’ research focused on factors that influence healthy eating patterns in low-income pregnant women and examining the relationship between education and childhood obesity.



After 20 years of teaching and service, Camille Little, M.S., CS, retired as an instructional assistant professor in May of 2005; however, she served as part-time faculty for the RN-B.S.N. online program through the spring of 2006. Little taught many courses, including the RN-B.S.N. sequence, leadership and management, health assessment, and adult nursing. Little was also involved with developing the Teaching Nursing Home Project.



**Accelerated B.S.N.... continued from page 1**

train underemployed workers in Central Illinois, with part going to MCN for the accelerated program and the rest going to small business development training through the McLean County Small Business Development Center located in the Illinois State University College of Business.

The following month, January 2006, MCN hired Kelli Tillery Hill to coordinate the program. Hill was well known to MCN administrators because of her work with them through a non-profit agency. "The need is there" for such a program, Hill said, offering the fact that in 10 weeks of publicizing the program through word of mouth and a Web site, nearly 50 applicants had come forward. At a national conference she attended this spring for accelerated B.S.N. programs, she learned that employers elsewhere seek out graduates of those programs, who tend to be mature, committed, and have the perspective of another career. The application process for the accelerated program at MCN already is more selective because of "the unique considerations for this program," Hill said, and includes an interview, unlike the regular program. MCN interviewed the top 20 applicants for the new program to explore academic qualifications and to gauge whether they had the personal and financial support to make schoolwork their priority for one whole year. The cost is the same as the regular program, but the schedule does not permit students to work.

Employers may be a source of support for individual students in the accelerated program. Deborah Smith, assistant administrator patient services and chief nurse executive at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center (SJMC) in Bloomington said, "OSF St. Joseph has several employees who have been eagerly awaiting just such a program, currently working in other health-care specialties. We look forward to assisting them in completing their desire to become a nurse. These will be nurses who already have an established history at SJMC and engagement in the Mission of the Sisters in

serving with the greatest care and love."

Instructional Assistant Professor Gail Petro, curriculum coordinator for the pilot program, said she is excited about the caliber of students and the size of the cohort. Faculty teaching in the program "are privileged in a way with this because they have 10 students. This will be a chance for them to try some innovative things on a small scale." Petro spent the summer adapting the curriculum and Assistant Professor Pam Lindsey, undergraduate program director, worked out the schedule logistics for faculty who will be teaching in both the accelerated and regular programs simultaneously.

Faculty often find older students with career experience come to class with different attitudes than those of younger undergraduates. Hill heard a speaker at the accelerated B.S.N. program conference describe why turning these independent-minded students into nurses in such a program is a "win-win." Dean Gloria F. Donnelly of the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Drexel University said in her speech, "Do we want a nurse who questions, seeks out, has high standards, has a plan, knows what he or she wants? Do we want to inject the health-care system with questioning, demanding nurses? I think the answer is yes!"



## 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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# Xi Pi Chapter news

By Marcena Gabrielson,  
M.S.N., RN, C,  
Xi Pi president-elect

## Web page

Xi Pi has its own Web page on the MCN Web site! You can find important links as well as information about upcoming events and meeting times. Visit the Web page at [www.mcn.ilstu.edu/current\\_students/organizations/xipi.shtml](http://www.mcn.ilstu.edu/current_students/organizations/xipi.shtml).

## Xi Pi Tea

On February 14, 2006, Xi Pi hosted a well-attended tea for new and old members as well as anyone interested in Xi Pi. The tea was held in the Founders Suite in Edwards Hall. Marcena Gabrielson gave those in attendance an orientation to Sigma Theta Tau, presenting information of particular importance to new members. Special thanks to Wendie Medina for organizing this great event.

## Other events

On February 22, 2006, Xi Pi co-sponsored a seminar with Theta Pi on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. The seminar, "Changes in Graduate Nursing Education: The CNL and DNP," featured guest speaker Lucy L. Marion, Ph.D., FAAN, dean and professor of the Medical College of Georgia.

On March 9, 2006, Xi Pi co-sponsored a reception for and presentation by Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, of the University of Pennsylvania, entitled "Communication, Partnership, and Collaboration for our Ageing Society." Students and faculty of Mennonite College of Nursing and the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology conducted poster presentations during the reception. Xi Pi conducted an annual business meeting prior to this event for the election of new board members for 2006–2007.

On April 11, 2006, Xi Pi co-sponsored a reception for and presentation by Dr. William Thomas, the nationally known author of *What are Old People For?: How Elders Will Save the World*. Dr. Thomas discussed his book and the important role that senior citizens play in our society as well as changing our future perceptions about aging.

## Upcoming events

### Chapter Leader Academy

**September 28–30, 2006, Indianapolis, Indiana**

Please contact the Xi Pi board if you are interested in attending or want more information.

### Alzheimer's Memory Walk

**October 7, 2006, Constitution Trail**

Xi Pi will have a team for this important event. We'd like to invite not only Xi Pi members, current faculty, and students to participate in the morning fund-raiser, but we'd also like to challenge alums to come walk. We would like to make this an opportunity for alums to mingle with current students, to touch base with former classmates, and remember a special time in your lives while supporting those who struggle to remember. Consider forming teams with your classmates or walk as part of the college team. We would love to encourage alums to come and remember, enjoy seeing one another, and interact with our current students who would welcome the chance to interact and mingle with other nurses. Please help us to make this walk a special memory. For more information, please contact Mary Cranston at (309) 438-2381 or [mcranst@ilstu.edu](mailto:mcranst@ilstu.edu).

## New inductees for the 2005–2006 academic year

Charlene Aaron	Rebecca Masino
Cathy Belcher	Lori McCulley
Sara Brink	Amy Monical
Jaime Cash	Elizabeth Objartel
Bonnie Coburn	Lauren Park
Karen D'Souza	Kevonya Powell
Stephanie Dunlap Moore	Colleen Schaidle
Marissa Emerson	Becky Schmieding
Amy Green	Julie Schiera
Laura Hackworth	Jaymie Schmidt
Bethany Hanson	Dina Shehab
Elisabeth Hodapp	Ingrid Shingledecker
Lindsey Hunt	Rebecca Spencer
Nicholas Idle	Janessa Stimpert
Paul Jokisch	Megan Thompson
Carrie Jones	Catherine Troyer
Jennifer Leigh	Jean-Marie Tynes
Dana Lewis	

# Alumni notes

**Kelli (Finck) Peterson '96** and her husband, Mark, welcomed Kaylin Rae Peterson into the world on December 30, 2005. She was also welcomed by her sister, Averi Lyn, age 2. Kelli is an RN at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs in the Co-Emergency Department.

**Jean (Peterson) Abbott '97** and her husband, Russ, welcomed Andrew Kenneth Abbott on October 20, 2005. He was also welcomed home by his siblings, Jordan Matthew and Sophia Rose. Jean is a full-time mother.

**Jennifer (Rednour) Duhon '97** is the assistant director of the associate's degree nursing program at Illinois Central College. She is also a certified Nurse Assistant Program Director, and was published in the May 2006 issue of RN magazine. Jennifer and her husband, Michael, have two children, Caleb, age 3, and Isaac, age 1.

**Heather (Messman) Johnson '99** and her husband, Darian, welcomed their first child Braden Michael Johnson into the world on December 9, 2005. Heather currently works as an ER nurse

**Jamie (Witmer) Carlock '01** and her husband, Kyle, welcomed their first daughter, Ella Sophia, on August 2, 2005. Jamie is an RN at Rockford Memorial Hospital.

**Kate (Jajkowski) Strejcek '02** married Ted Strejcek on December 17, 2005. Kate completed her master's degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Illinois at Chicago in May 2006. She is a staff nurse on the hematology/oncology unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

# 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

Nancy Ridenour, dean,  
Mennonite College of Nursing

Jamie Sennett, assistant director,  
Alumni Relations

Jenny Ward, director of development,  
Mennonite College of Nursing

## 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.



# Rebuilding the hope

By Amy Irving

While most students return home or go on a vacation during the holiday season, senior nursing student Erin Farris volunteered to help with the relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina victims. In the spring of 2006, Farris was a guest speaker in Marcena Gabrielson's "Community Health" class, and shared her experience with fellow nursing students.

In 2005, the Gulf Coast was devastated by not one, but two, category 5 hurricanes. The second, Hurricane Katrina, was the costliest and one of the deadliest in American history. This hurricane caused catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Senior nursing student Erin Farris traveled with 27 other volunteers from Grace Bible Church in Normal to Mississippi in January of 2006. As they drove by the Mississippi coastline, they saw where the levees were destroyed and water poured into the communities. Homes were displaced or destroyed, trees were uprooted, and litter was everywhere.

Farris and her group stayed at the Bible Fellowship Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi, where Fred Muffet and his wife organize volunteers to help hurricane victims in this area. They call their project "Rebuilding the Hope." Ever since the hurricane destroyed this area, groups have been staying at



this church. Sometimes there are only six or seven people; other times there are many more. Their mission is to clean, repair, or rebuild in order to meet the needs of the community. "We met one woman who broke her arm and was so embarrassed at how her yard looked," Farris said. "So we told her we were here to help her and cleaned up the debris in her yard. She was so thankful."

There were no street signs or addresses. In order for them to give directions, the group used an upside-down Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer as their "point of reference" to get to places. The group visited a brand-new school that was just built before Hurricane Katrina, but now the school stands empty as there are no students in the area to attend. There were signs that FEMA had been in the Pass Christian area. According to home and business owners, FEMA dropped off trailers and covered roofs with tarps and then left. The home and business owners were on their own until they heard from FEMA again.

Some homes looked fine on the outside, but when the volunteers went inside, it was a different story. Water lines were up to the ceiling fans, and black mold was becoming a problem. Residents who have a background in construction were able to rebuild their own homes, but many of the residents depended on volunteers to help them.

"The worst part of this experience was how overwhelming the damage is. I left feeling like we had barely made a dent and that there is still so much to do," Farris said. "The best part was getting to know people personally involved. In the newspaper I read about people who are hurting and saw disasters on TV and felt like there was nothing I could do. This time I was given the opportunity to do something. We went door to door and were able to ask people their needs. Even if it was simply to pray with them, we were able to help."

Farris advises that if people want to volunteer their time after a disaster to look for area churches, volunteer organizations, or not-for-profit organizations, as they often coordinate trips for groups of people. She also suggests not to go by yourself, but to find at least one friend or family member to join you. When asked if she would want to volunteer again, Farris said, "Absolutely. It was a blessing to be able to go and help. I just wish I could have done more."



# Collaborative doctoral program opens new doors for students

By Megan Hopper

A new era will begin this fall as students admitted to the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) and the University of Iowa (UI) College of Nursing collaborative doctoral program in Nursing in Aging embark on their first full year of study.

Teri Saxton, instructional assistant professor at MCN, is one of the students accepted to the program. "This program is going to open a lot of doors for me," said Saxton. "I'm hoping the program will help me to establish myself as a researcher as well as help me to become a better teacher."

Another student preparing to begin her first full year in the program is Geri Kirkbride, director of nursing services at St. Vincent Memorial Hospital in Taylorville and instructional assistant professor at MCN. "I'm excited to be a part of a new program and I think it is a great way to continue my nursing career," said Kirkbride. "I don't see this program as an endpoint, but as just another step in my journey as a nurse."

When researching doctoral nursing programs, both Saxton and Kirkbride looked at other schools in and outside of Illinois. What sets the collaborative doctoral program apart from others, said Saxton, is not only its easy access, but also that the program offers a Doctor of Philosophy degree and a focal area in aging.

For Kirkbride, the collaboration between MCN and the UI College of Nursing made the collaborative doctoral program an easy choice. "I think UI brings a good foundation to MCN to build upon in the Ph.D. program and I think that, as a student, I will benefit from that foundation," she added.

In addition, Kirkbride said the progressiveness of using Polycom, a distance-learning technology, puts the collaborative doctoral program on the cutting edge.

Marcena Gabrielson is currently enrolled in the collaborative program. "This is an excellent way of acquiring great knowledge. I can easily combine my job with getting my Ph.D. with no travel time and more time to study," said Gabrielson.

Mennonite College of Nursing has scheduled a panel discussion for Thursday, September 7, 2006, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., to share information about becoming a student in the collaborative doctoral program. For more information about this event, contact Jennie Collings in the collaborative doctoral program office at (309) 438-7210.

## 2006 degree candidates

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

Kelly Adams  
 Laura Bade  
 Karla Bassetti  
 Michelle Bawden  
 Jessica Bimm  
 Kelly Borg  
 Mary Braunschweig  
 Sara Brink  
 Jennifer Brown  
 Wendy Burk  
 Jeanne Carlton  
 Jaime Cash  
 Rachel Cox  
 Amber Cruz  
 Ashley Dammerman  
 Karen D'Souza  
 Jonathan Eberhardt  
 Megan Edwards  
 Marissa Emerson  
 Erin Farris  
 Caitlin Fry  
 Katherine Goding  
 Melissa Gould  
 Amy Green  
 Staci Handelman  
 Nicole Hacker  
 Bethany Hanson  
 Allison Harms  
 Erin Harvey  
 Hillary Hauseman  
 Elisabeth Hodapp  
 Kristen Hughes  
 Sara Huinker  
 Lindsey Hunt  
 Nicholas Idle  
 Kaitlyn Johnson  
 Nicole Keilman  
 Holly Kingdon  
 Erin Kirby  
 Kathryn Kuhn  
 Dana Lewis  
 Carly Lindenmeyer  
 Gina Maltase  
 Rebecca Masino  
 Dana Matsko  
 Lori McCulley  
 Erin McEldowney  
 Jason McFerren  
 Trisha McKinnie

Catherine McNalis  
 Tara Mendralla  
 Christine Mirochna  
 Nichole Mitchell  
 Jennifer Mondek  
 Amy Monical  
 Natalie Morgan  
 Benjamin Myers  
 Nicole Naiden  
 Sarah Neil  
 Kelley J. Novak  
 Lauren Park  
 Melissa Peck  
 Kristin Phillips  
 Brianna Piet  
 Cynthia Placencia  
 Lauren Ploszek  
 Kevonya Powell  
 Andrea Puzzo  
 Diane Reed  
 Melena Roy  
 Colleen Schaidle  
 Julie Schiera  
 Jaymie Schmidt  
 Becky Schmieding  
 Ingrid Shingledecker  
 Kira Smoots  
 Morgan Snyder  
 Rebecca Spencer  
 Erin Spickler  
 Ashley Spivey  
 Janessa Stimpert  
 Jennifer Stouffer  
 Linda Stroh  
 Megan Thompson  
 Teresa Turner  
 Meghan Vandeloigt  
 Jessica Wagner  
 Elizabeth Ward  
 Karen Williams  
 Kathleen Yong  
 Ann Yording

### Registered nurses receiving Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.)

Richard Baker  
 Cathy Belcher  
 Stephanie Breedlove  
 Susan Carl  
 Leslie Carmack  
 Krista Cebuhar

Rosemary Herzberger  
 Michelle Hooper  
 Ruth Johnson  
 Cherie Koch  
 Alicia Lindberg  
 Karin Maybanks  
 Edith Perdew  
 Linda Sampson  
 Keith Schumacher  
 Alicia Smith  
 Casey Swift  
 Lisa Vinson  
 Jennifer Walker  
 Allison Weir  
 Regina White  
 Sue Winger

### Candidates for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) master's degree

Jennifer Baker  
 Bonnie Coburn  
 Ginger Gentry  
 Laura Hackworth  
 Jennifer Leigh  
 Carmilyn Lesemann  
 Patricia Reichard  
 Elizabeth Vose

### Candidates for Nurse Educator Graduate Certificate

Bonnie Coburn  
 Patricia Reichard

### Candidate for post-master's FNP Certificate

Lisa Shepherd

### Candidates for Nursing Systems Administration (NSA) master's degree

Charlene Aaron  
 Stephanie Dunlap  
 Elizabeth Objartel  
 Sandra Scheidenhelm  
 Deborah Stenger

# Student Nurses' Association (SNA)

Mennonite College of Nursing would like to thank the 2005–2006 SNA officers for their leadership and commitment to community service: Colleen Schaidle, president; Jennifer Stouffer, vice president; Mary Braunschweig, secretary; and Rebecca Spencer, treasurer. This past year, the SNA officers have been active in promoting health-related and community service projects on campus. As part of their commitment to wellness, they offered blood pressure screenings on several occasions each semester at Illinois State's Recreation Center. SNA participated in several community-based projects, including the Relay for Life's Heart Walk, the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Russell Rush's Roof Sit for SIDS, and they also played bingo with residents at Manor Care Nursing Home. They participated in the Adopt-a-Family program last December and arranged a holiday party for the residents at El Paso Healthcare. In order to reduce costs of the SNA spring formal, they held a Kiss-a-Pig fund-raiser.

Additionally, the SNA officers attended the National Student Nurses' Association Conference in Louisville, Kentucky; encouraged members to participate in the homecoming parade and tailgate activities; and bagged groceries at the local Cub Foods and Jewel-Osco to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.

To the officers and members who worked behind the scenes to make these events happen, MCN thanks you for all of the time you have invested to promote good citizenship, leadership, and community service.

## Mennonite College of Nursing student awards

### Spring 2006

#### Geriatric Nursing Excellence Award in Clinical Practice

Amy Green

#### Dr. Tiedeman Memorial Award

Kathleen Yong

#### Outstanding Graduate Student(s) Achievement Award

Jennifer Baker and Sandra Scheidenhelm

#### Senior Excellence Award

Colleen Schaidle

#### Alumni Award for Clinical Excellence

Jaime Cash



### 2006–2007 SNA officers

#### Congratulations to the following Student Nurses' Association officers for the 2006–2007 academic year:

Traci Sucharski, president  
Katie Wendt, vice president  
Brittany McNichols, treasurer  
Jennifer Walas, secretary

### Student receives honorable mention award

In March 2006, prelicensure student Lauren Park received an honorable mention award at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for her poster "Determining the Relationship Between Condom Self-Efficacy and Condom Use Among Women Attending an STD Clinic." Her poster was in the top six undergraduate posters presented at this meeting.

### Graduate students provide physicals at elementary schools

On April 26, 2006, Associate Professor Denise Wilson and students from the Family Nurse Practitioner IV course performed 37 physicals at Irving and 33 at Sheridan Elementary Schools. This service allowed these students to stay in school.





## From the director of development

**Congratulations graduates!**

It is the end of another academic year at Mennonite College of Nursing. The Class of 2006 has held its graduation. One hundred students received bachelor's degrees in nursing and 13 received master's degrees. Wow! As I sat with my young son at the commencement ceremonies, I was astounded at the number of high achievers in our college. My son announced each corded graduate: "Cum laude! Magna cum laude! Summa cum laude!" More than one-quarter of the graduating class received these distinctions. The day was even more special as it occurred on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale.

I was amazed on Friday after graduation to see our senior class officers on campus. Indeed, they were still working hard preparing for their licensure exams. I appreciate the leadership of these officers and their commitment to make the world better. As Florence Nightingale reminded us, "*Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.*"

The Class of 2006, led by president Colleen Schaidle, decided not to be content with the status quo, but to begin giving back to the college before even leaving. On behalf of the Class of 2006, the SNA officers presented Dean Ridenour with a gift of \$552 at a candle-lighting ceremony. Their gifts will be put to good use, to aid the college in providing the best education possible for the classes that follow. Thank you!

Mennonite College of Nursing's fiscal year is also drawing to a close, and our annual fund drive is also drawing near. For those who missed the calls of our pre-nursing students, look for a mailer, or give me a call. Thank you to all of our alumni across the years who have donated to the Mennonite College of Nursing this year. Your gifts do make a difference— they help our nursing students and our program make this world a better place. Alumni support this year surpassed our expectations! Student support in the form of scholarships continues to be a top choice for our alumni, though other popular choices are the general



fund and simulation technology.

Thank you to all of Mennonite College of Nursing donors for the confidence you show in our college, to entrust in us to use your funds wisely, and to make

*"Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better."*

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

this world a better place  
for patients and their  
families.

# Gallery of spring 2006 events

## Body Worlds

In August of 2005, the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization sponsored a bus trip to the Museum of Science and Industry to view the Body Worlds exhibit. Twenty-nine alumni, staff, and guests attended this event.



## Marfan Syndrome lecture

On February 20, 2006, Meredith Lovelass '73 talked with nursing students about Marfan Syndrome, a heritable condition that affects the connective tissues including the skeleton, eyes, heart, nervous system, skin, and lungs.

## Nursing students from England visit MCN

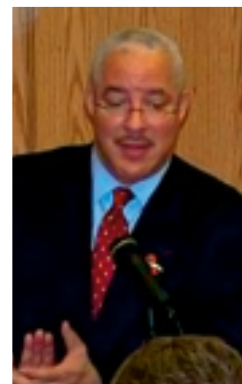
In March 2006, Mennonite College of Nursing welcomed two nursing students from England through the college's transcultural nursing program. Michelle McCormick, from Henfield, West Sussex, and Michelle Dennis, from Brighton, East Sussex, observed a variety of clinical placements in the community during their

two-week stay. Many thanks to the students and alumni who allowed these students to job shadow! The students learned a great deal about the United States health-care system and they had positive things to say about their observations. If you would be interested in hosting visiting students from England for the day in a clinical setting or serving as a host family during their stay, please contact Janeen Mollenhauer, associate director of the undergraduate program, at (309) 438-2417.



## NCWHS Future Healthcare Club

The Normal Community West High School (NCWHS) Future Healthcare Club students toured Mennonite College of Nursing on March 2, 2006. There were 34 students who ranged from freshmen to seniors, and all have expressed an interest in health care. Cheryl Nafziger, MCN clinical simulation lab coordinator, worked with Ann Hamer, NCWHS school nurse, to arrange this visit. Students were shown demonstrations of SimMan and the IV simulator, as well as Polycom interaction between the labs.



## IDPH press conference

Dr. Eric Whitaker held a press conference at Mennonite College of Nursing on March 8, 2006. He addressed faculty, staff, and students about Governor Rod Blagojevich's initiatives for nursing.



## Second-annual long term care career fair

The second-annual Joe Warner Teaching Nursing Home Long Term Care Career Fair took place on January 24, 2006, at the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University. This event gave long-term care organizations the opportunity to share information about their programs and services. Participants were also able to attend lectures by Judy Bass, LTCP, MHP, FLMI, ACS, ALHC, HIA, of State Farm; Anna Ortigara, M.S., RN, FAAN, vice president of Campaign for Cultural Transformation

at Life Service Network in Hinsdale; and Janet Pringle Specht, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, associate professor of adult and gerontological studies at the University of Iowa.



### Nurses Week

In May 2006, the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization were on campus to distribute ice cream to nursing students and wish them luck on their finals.



### Pfizer Visiting Professor

Mennonite College of Nursing and the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology collaborated and received a grant by Pfizer Inc. to host Sarah H. Kagan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, for a visiting professorship at Illinois State University in March of 2006. Professors Brenda Jeffers (MCN) and Rita Bailey (Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology) were the PI and co-PI, respectively. Kagan was the guest speaker for several classes. She also conducted community presentations at the Community Cancer Center and the Bone Student Center.



### Teaching Nursing Home national speaker event

In April 2006, the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project hosted Dr. William H. Thomas, author of *What Are Old People For?: How Elders Will Save the World*, for the annual national speaker event. The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization and Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International were co-sponsors.



## T'was the Night Before Graduation 2006

By Mary Braunschweig, SNA secretary

T'was the night before graduation when all through MCN  
We were smiling and laughing for soon it's the end!

My stethoscope was packed in my bags with care  
In hopes real quick, you'd listen, I have some memories to share:  
In the past two years I have made so many friends  
While visions of wounds and needles danced through our heads

And Nicole looking stylish and I in my scrubs  
Had just settled down for one of Michelle's backrubs  
When four in the morning there arose such a clatter  
We sprang from our beds to clinical we scatter

Away to Springfield we flew like a flash  
Hillary flies down the highway but she'll never crash.

The moon still so high and tons of snow  
This is what we have to do to know what we know  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
But a clinical teacher and 10 girls in nursing gear.

With Colleen always so lively and so quick  
I want to know what is her trick!

More rapid and stricter the teachers they came  
They whistled and shouted and called us by name!

Now Rachel! Now Amy! Now Liz and Kristen!  
On Katie on Christine on Karla and Ingrid!

To the ATI lab and pass the NCLEX they call!  
Now work away, work away, work away all!

As Amy Green does research we all know she'll pass  
Oh Carly! Our Carly...you never came to class!

As Cathi yells, "I am a ventricle" and she chants  
I know one week I saw Erin Irish dance!

Then second semester I saw the twinkling of a few engagement rings  
Oh wait, and have you noticed that Jeannie just loves beautiful things  
Megan and Cynthia worked hard in that lab  
And Jen said quit working when I was a crab!

Mostly it was fun but at times we'd all go insane  
Then I'd run into Shelly Lauren and Katie all at Germaine's!

Dana's diagnostic postings...geez! You always won  
We all nominated Caitlyn as the completely sweet one.

And as Gail always said we must know our normals  
We also danced and laughed at our nursing formal!

My poor roommates have now seen me at every emotion  
They listened laughed and dealt with me...and that takes devotion!

And when the going gets tough and we keep on trying  
Colleen, Staci, and I went sky diving!

Soon we'll be throwing our caps in the air  
We'll be on cardiac, labor and delivery, or even intensive care.

But here I exclaim before we drive out of sight  
Happy graduation to all, I LOVE YOU! And to all a good night!

### Candlelighting ceremony

On April 25, 2006, the Student Nurses' Association hosted the annual candlelighting ceremony. Candlelighting is a time for faculty, staff, and nursing students in the graduate program,

RN-B.S.N. sequence, and prelicensure sequence to share special experiences they have encountered in nursing. This ceremony has traditionally been viewed as the "Passing of the Flame" from those students who are graduating in May to those students who are returning in the fall.

# 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).

## Saturday, October 7

MCN and Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Pi Chapter—  
Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Constitution Trail

Xi Pi will have a team for this important event and all members and friends of Xi Pi are invited to join us. See page 4 for more information, or contact Mary Cranston at (309) 438-2381 or [mcranst@ilstu.edu](mailto:mcranst@ilstu.edu).

## Saturday, October 14

Homecoming Awards Ceremony  
and Luncheon, Doubletree Hotel

Please mark your calendars and call your classmates to attend homecoming with Mennonite College of Nursing!

10:30 a.m.: Registration at the Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Radisson), 10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington

11 a.m.: Dean's welcome, reunion class recognition, presentation of 2006 awards, and reunion class photos

12:30 p.m.: Luncheon

2 p.m.: Open house, Edwards Hall

Registration brochures will be mailed in September. For more information, please contact Amy Irving at (309) 438-7418 or [amirvin@ilstu.edu](mailto:amirvin@ilstu.edu).

## Saturday, October 28

Xi Pi Induction Ceremony and Family Day  
Weekend Open House, Capen Auditorium  
and Edwards Hall

## Thursday, November 30

Mennonite College of Nursing  
Holiday Open House, Ewing Cultural Center



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