



**MENNONITE
COLLEGE OF NURSING**
Illinois State University

Annual Report

2008-2009





**MENNONITE
COLLEGE OF NURSING**
Illinois State University

Annual

College mission

The mission of Mennonite College of Nursing is to educate undergraduate and graduate nursing students to serve the citizens of Illinois, the nation, and the global community. Mennonite College of Nursing acknowledges a particular responsibility to address the nursing and health care needs of urban and rural populations, including those who are vulnerable and underserved. The College of Nursing builds upon the educational foundation previously acquired by students. The college creates a dynamic community of learning in which reflective thinking and ethical decision-making are valued. The college is committed to the promotion of nursing scholarship at the national and international level through research, service, and practice. Mennonite College of Nursing is committed to being purposeful, open, just, caring, disciplined, and celebrative.



Report

About us

Mennonite College of Nursing became Illinois State University's sixth academic college on July 1, 1999. The rich heritage of Mennonite College of Nursing began in 1919. For more than 90 years, the primary mission has been to prepare professional nurses by providing a quality education. This mission continues at Illinois State. Mennonite College of Nursing is located in Edwards Hall.

Accreditation

Accredited degree programs: baccalaureate and master's

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 887-6791

Fax: (202) 887-8476

Date of last review for both programs: April 2007

Both programs accredited through: December 31, 2017

Next review for both programs: Spring 2017

Contact us

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

Phone: (309) 438-7400

E-mail: mcninfo-1@ilstu.edu

Web site: IllinoisState.edu/nursing



A message from the dean

I am honored to be appointed as the dean of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in this historic year. We are celebrating the 90/10 Anniversary, 90 years of nursing education and 10 years here at Illinois State University. Although I have only been here at MCN a few short months, I have learned so much about the incredible accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. I am also immersing myself in the rich tradition of MCN by reading the detailed histories chronicled in *The Passing of the Flame* and *The Flame Burns Brightly*, as well as meeting many of the friends and alums of MCN who have taken some part in shepherding MCN to its current success!

The MCN Annual Report is a publication that highlights college initiatives, development, and research. As you read through the pages of this issue, I hope you will be inspired by the passion the faculty, staff, and students have for MCN. Our undergraduate program continues to enjoy state board (NCLEX) pass rates that are the highest in the state if not the country. The students of the MCN Family Nurse Practitioner program consistently pass the FNP exam at approximately 100 percent.

We have faculty who have obtained highly competitive post doctoral fellowships, and funding for innovative programs and research. Undergraduate students are also being funded to work with faculty on their research. The outreach projects during the past year include MCN partnering with community businesses, social agencies, and individuals to address a unique external community need—from graduate students providing physicals to students in elementary schools, to national speaker events—MCN faculty, staff, and students continue to have learning and service experiences beyond the traditional classroom settings.

We are especially grateful for the generosity of those who were able to continue supporting MCN, in these difficult economic times. There are many nursing students who would not be able to continue their studies without the scholarships that are provided by our generous donors and friends. I wish you all could hear the joy in the students' voices when I call to tell them that they have received a scholarship! With the state of the economy, we are grateful for the many supporters of MCN. Nursing students are fortunate to be able to apply for private nursing scholarships to help offset tuition costs. I am also very proud of the Class of 2009, who had a 57 percent participation rate in the Spirit Tassel Challenge and collected more than \$1,300, which will go toward a scholarship for a nursing student. Thank you to everyone who has supported MCN!

Faculty and staff continue to make presentations across the country, and are being published in journals including *Journal of Professional Nursing*, *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, *Nursing Informatics*, and *International Journal of Nursing Studies*—just to name a few. Faculty continue to receive grant funding, and many have received outstanding awards and honors. Another award MCN received was the Outstanding School of Nursing Communications Award in recognition of its effective Web site and print communications. The award was presented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing and New York University. If you have not visited our Web site recently, I encourage you to visit IllinoisState.edu/nursing and see the updates that were done earlier this year.

MCN is an exciting place to be—whether you are a faculty member, staff member, student, alum, supporter, or part of our community, we have a rich history and will continue to grow to meet the needs for healthcare not only in the community, but also worldwide.

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor

Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow 2008–2011
American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow 2007–2008

Taking a different path

By Megan Murray

Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D, R.N., thought he was going to be a doctor until his mind was changed after taking a medical ethics course at Cornell University.

“We had a discussion that revolved around what information you would share with the family and the patient regarding a terminal condition. I thought we should share the information with both the family and the patient so that they could make appropriate arrangements.”

The instructor told him that as the physician, he was responsible for how much to share. Holston argued that the family had a right to know. “The instructor told me that I’d have major difficulties as an M.D. with that approach.”

Although he knew that this did not represent all M.D.’s, after some serious reflection, he decided not to pursue a medical career and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in English and French literature. After briefly working in publishing, a friend convinced him to look into nursing.

“It was a perfect fit. People always commented on how I would ‘nurse’ my projects. After taking the pre-entrance examinations, it was evident that nursing would be the perfect fit for me.”

Holston earned a diploma in nursing science from New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, a master’s in psychiatric/mental health from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and a Ph.D. in nursing theory development and electrophysiology from New York University. He also has completed two post-doctorates in clinical genetics and clinical research at The University of Iowa.

In April he joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an assistant professor with a joint appointment with the School of Biological Sciences. He is teaching biopsychological research of the aging individual and philosophy of science to doctoral students.

“I enjoy my students tremendously because I have the chance to see them develop their skill set that will serve them for the rest of their scholarly career. It gives me the opportunity to contribute to that. It’s a privilege.”

His appointment with the School of Biological Sciences allows him to focus on research as a bench scientist with the possibility of another opportunity. He is investigating Alzheimer’s disease, specifically late onset and sporadic Alzheimer’s.

He had an early interest in the elderly. “I was that little child you’d find sitting on the porch talking to them,” he said. “I’ve always found what they had to say fascinating and was concerned about their quality of life.”

The professor was intrigued by the biological mechanisms linking Alzheimer’s and depression. “Alzheimer’s goes hand-in-hand with both depression and the elderly, no question about it. Yet the understanding of the etiology and manifestations remain to be completely examined.”

He continues looking at the electrophysiological and genetic factors related to Alzheimer’s and ways to improve the assessment and diagnosis.

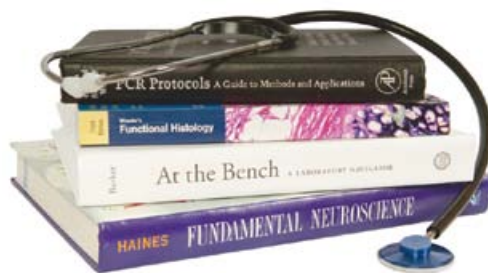
“I am very interested in seeing the correlates between changes in brain activity and the genetic expressions of persons in the early stages, as well as those without Alzheimer’s disease, to see if that information can be very useful in identifying individuals before they progress into Alzheimer’s,” he said.

Alzheimer’s disease is usually diagnosed when patients are in the moderate stage because the cognitive symptoms supposedly can be objectively assessed. Yet, patients also experience changes in behavior and function. Certain changes, such as difficulty writing a check, tying a shoe, or buttoning a shirt, occur before a change in cognition, and could be warning signs.

Previous research has been focused on the change in cognition but Holston’s work shows a change in function occurs first. He believes gene variants related to changes in behavior and function, as well as cognition, may be linked to changes in brain activity, which may lead to an earlier diagnosis. Also, he’s looking at how genetics can be used to identify late onset or sporadic Alzheimer’s and has found that it’s not consistent across diverse populations, such as ethnic minorities.

The professor’s passion and ethics are not only apparent in the choices he’s made, but also in his scientific research.

“I believe that my research will benefit the future, but how does one effectively share the passion with others? I know that the more opportunities I get to do my research, the more I can help and improve the quality of life of the elderly population. It’s that passion that keeps me motivated.”



Faculty and staff

Fall 2009

Administration

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and professor

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Interim associate dean, director
master's/doctoral programs and
research, professor

Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc, RN
Undergraduate program director,
assistant professor

Clinical lab office

Jennifer Mool, B.S.N., RN
Clinical Nursing Lab coordinator

Cheryl Nafziger, B.S.N., RN
Clinical practice coordinator

Judy Somers, B.S.N., RN
Assistant lab coordinator

Development

Jenny Ward
Director of Development

Expanding teaching nursing home project

Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, NEA-BC
Principal investigator

Charlene Aaron, M.S.N., RN-BC
Project coordinator

Librarian

Diane Mather, MALS
Science reference librarian

Office of the Dean

Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN
Dean and professor

Lissa Bevins
Administrative clerk

Jean Ann Dargatz, M.S.E.
Administrative aide

Diane Folken, B.S.
Associate director, business and finance

Amy Irving, B.S.
Associate director, public relations

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Interim associate dean, director
of master's/doctoral programs and
research, professor

Michelle Kaiden
Office support specialist

Office of Information Technology

Isaac Akins, B.S.
Technology specialist

Jeff Grabb, M.S.
Associate director

Office of Research and Scholarly Activities, Graduate Program Office

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Interim associate dean, director
of master's/doctoral programs and
research, professor

Chris Bray, M.S.E.
Program associate

Michelle Hopkins
Office support associate

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Associate director, master's program,
assistant professor

Melissa Moody, M.S.
Academic advisor

Office of Student Services

Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc, RN
Undergraduate program director,
assistant professor

Ellen Birky, B.S.
Office support specialist

Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC
Associate director, undergraduate program

Dan Murphy, M.S.E.
Undergraduate academic advisor

Tenna Webb
Office support specialist

Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois

Kelli Hill, M.S.E.
Project director

Transcultural experience

Karrie Ingalsbe, Ph.D., RN
Coordinator

Professors

Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, NEA-BC
Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Janet Wessel Krejci, Ph.D., RN

Associate professors

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA
Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Denise Wilson, Ph.D., APN, CNP

Assistant professors

Kim Astroth, Ph.D., RN, M.S.
Elizabeth D. Carlson, Ph.D., MPH,
APRN, BC
Marcena Gabrielson, Ph.D., M.S.N, RN, C
Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN
Sheryl Jenkins, Ph.D., ACNP
Cindy Kerber, Ph.D., APRN, BC
MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D.
Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN
Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN

Full-time instructional assistant professors

Dianne Clemens, M.S.N., RN
Mary Cranston, M.S., RN
Jo Anne Guymon, M.S.N., RN
Rachael Hudgins, M.S.N., RN
Dave Jansen, M.S.N., RN
Mary Johnson, M.S., RN
Cathi Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS
Colleen Kelley, M.S.N., RN
Lynn Kennell, M.S., RN
Cindy Malinowski, M.S.N., RN
Blanca Miller, M.S.N., RN

Jaime Penrod, M.S.N., RN
Gail Petro, M.S.N., RN, ANP
Teresa Saxton, M.S.N., RN
Ashlee Sloman, M.S.N., RN
Deb Stenger, M.S.N., RN, CNL

Part-time instructional assistant professors

Kimberly Buck, M.S.N., RN
Patricia L. Conte, M.S.N., RN, NEA-BC,
CNOR
Elizabeth Gephart, M.S.N., RN, PNP-BC
Karrie Ingalsbe, Ph.D., RN
Geri Kirkbride, M.S.N., RN
Shannon Laesch, M.S.N., RN
Brenda Lessen, Ph.D., RN
Sarah Lindsey, M.S.N., ACNS-BC
Camille Little, M.S., RN
Judy Maloney, M.S., RN, APN
Mary Micklus, M.S.N., RN
Beth Objartel, M.S.N., APN, GNP-BC
Genny Peterson, M.S.N., APN, CNP
Beth Phelps, M.S.N., RN
Rita Schlomer, M.S., RN, APN, CNS, CNL
Chrystal Smith, M.S.N., APN, CNP
Deb Smith, RN, M.S., M.B.A., NEA-BC,
FAEN
Cynthia Trainor, M.S., RN-C, LCCF, CD
(DONA)
Jennie Van Sckyndel, M.S.N., RN
Betty Weber, M.S.N., RN, CNA, BC

Menonite College of Nursing adjunct faculty

Angela Bentley, M.S., RN
St. John's Hospital

Mary Jo Brown, M.S.N., RN
St. John's Hospital

Kathleen Buckwalter, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
University of Iowa College of Nursing

Sheila Bunting, Ph.D., RN
Menonite College of Nursing

Trish Cunningham, M.S.N., RN
St. John's Hospital

Uday Deoskar, M.D.
Senior Health and Geriatric Medicine

Keela Herr, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, AGSF
University of Florida

Holly Jirka, M.S.N., RN
Memorial Medical Center

Sharon Miller, M.S.N., RN
St. John's Home Health

Leslie Montgomery, M.S.N., RN, CCRN
Memorial Medical Center

Kristi Olson-Sitki, M.S.N.
Memorial Medical Center

Marsha Reeves
St. Mary's Hospital

Nancy Semenza, Ph.D. RN
Memorial Medical Center

New full-time faculty profiles



Jo Anne Guymon, M.S.N., RN

Jo Anne Guymon joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an instructional assistant professor in August 2009. She received an associate degree in nursing from Kankakee Community College, a B.S.N. from Lakeview College of Nursing, and an M.S.N. from Ball State University. She teaches a Health Assessment Lab, Pathophysiology and Pharmacotherapeutics in Nursing, and an Adult Nursing II clinical. Her area of specialty is Leadership and Emergency Nursing. She is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association.

Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN

Ezra C. Holston is an assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing, and has a joint appointment with the School of Biological Sciences. He received a B.A. in English/French literature from Cornell University, a diploma in nursing science from New England Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, a M.S.N. in psychiatric/mental health from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, a Ph.D. in nursing theory development and electrophysiology from New York University, and two post doctorates (clinical genetics and clinical research) from The University of Iowa. Holston's research interests include gerontology, genetics, electrophysiology, neuropsychiatry, addiction, and health disparities. He teaches Biopsychological Research of the Aging Individual and Philosophy of Science. He is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society (Alpha Mu Chapter), American Society of Human Genetics, International Society of Nurses in Genetics, Psychophysiological Research, and International Society of Addiction Medicine. In summer 2009, he received a research award from Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Mary Johnson, M.S., RN

Mary Johnson joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an instructional assistant professor in August 2009. She received her B.S.N. from the University of Minnesota and her M.S. in geriatric nursing from Rush University in Chicago. She teaches Adult Nursing I and Adult Health Assessment. Her areas of specialty are geriatric and psychiatric nursing. She is a member of Theta Tau, National Gerontological Nurses Association, American Holistic Nurses Association, and the Intravenous Nurses Society.

MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D.

MyoungJin Kim is an assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing. He received a B.A. in marketing, an M.S., and a Ph.D. in applied statistics and research methods from the University of Northern Colorado. His areas of specialization include statistical methods, statistical process control, and statistics education. Kim's research interests include statistics education, statistical process control, simulation studies, and statistics in sports/games. He teaches three Ph.D. statistics courses; Statistical Methods I, II, and III; and is a member of American Statistical Association.



Alumni awards

The Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization has presented alumni awards during Homecoming weekend since joining Illinois State in 1999. After the 2008 Homecoming event, the alumni board made a decision to move the award presentation to a spring event. In May 2009, alumni awards were presented at the MNAO Awards and Reunion Banquet. This event was a huge success, and the board has decided the spring event will continue with recognizing award recipients and reunion classes.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a graduate of the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (formerly the Mennonite School/College of Nursing) who 1) has demonstrated significant accomplishment 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; 4) personifies the values of the college in her/his life. This is the highest award the college bestows upon its graduates.

2008 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient



Geri Klein Kirkbride,
M.S.N. '01

2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient



Theresa A. Adelman '93,
M.S.N. '04

Young Alumni Award

The Young 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) is under the age of 35; 2) has demonstrated significant accomplishment and leadership in the field of nursing, or in other civic, cultural, or charitable activities, as may be notable among those of the specified age group; and 3) personifies the values of the college in her/his life.

2008 Young Alumni Award recipient



Dawn Conaty '95

2009 Young Alumni Award recipient



Amy Jo Turner '00

MNAO Service Award

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.

2008 MNAO Service Award recipient



Karen Roop Magers '79

2009 MNAO Service Award recipient



Ralph and Louise Bellas

Student Nurses Association officers

2008–2009

Elizabeth Guth • President
Jessica Lasak • Vice president
Amanda Probasco • Secretary
Amanda Whitley • Treasurer



From left, Amanday Whitley, Jessica Lasak, Elizabeth Guth, Amanda Probasco



Outreach projects

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Cultivating learning and service experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting is an everyday occurrence at Illinois State University through public service and outreach programs and events. Public service and outreach involve one or more university departments or units partnering with community businesses, social agencies, government representatives, or individuals to address a unique external community need.

September 2, 2008

School Physicals

Family Nurse Practitioner IV (NUR 477) students performed 18 physicals at Irving Elementary and 30 physicals at Sheridan Elementary Schools. This service is set up by the school nurse and Mennonite College of Nursing, and allows these students to stay in school. For more information contact Denise Wilson, associate professor, FNP Sequence leader, at ddwilso2@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2358.

September 27, 2008

American Heart Association, Heart Walk

Mennonite College of Nursing created a team to participate in the American Heart Association's Bloomington Heart Walk at The Shoppes at College Hills. The Student Nurses' Association participated in warm up exercises for the participants and led the walk. For more information contact Kim Astroth, assistant professor, kmastro@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2367.

September 27, 2008

Alzheimer's Association, Memory Walk and First Aid Station

Mennonite College of Nursing and the Xi Pi Chapter participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. Some faculty members volunteered to help at first aid stations, while others participated in the memory walk. For more information, contact Mary Cranston, instructional assistant professor, at mcranst@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2381.

October 9, 2008

10th Annual Regional Nursing Conference

Keynote speakers:

Joanne Disch, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, of Minneapolis, is professor and director of the Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership, and holds the Katherine R. and C. Walton Lillehei Chair in Nursing Leadership at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

Sue Clark, RN, vice president of government relations at Consulting4biz, a Springfield company that offers a variety of lobbying, political action, and association management services.

This event was cosponsored by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, Department of Nursing at Heartland Community College, Department

Continued from previous page

of Nursing at Bradley University, Illinois Central College, Methodist College of Nursing, STTI–Epsilon Epsilon Chapter, OSF St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, McLean County Coroner–member at large, STTI Xi Pi Chapter, and OSF St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing STTI–Tau Omicron Chapter.

For more information, contact Cindy Kerber, assistant professor, at ckerber@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2983.

December 1 and 3, 2008

Senior Health Fair

Adult Nursing II (NUR 231) junior students held a “Senior Health Fair” at the Schoolhouse Apartments in Gibson City. Students provided residents with information about benefits of massage, diabetes education, lowering cholesterol, dental hygiene, osteoporosis, nutrition, fall prevention, and hydration. For more information, contact Colleen Kelley, M.S.N., RN, instructional assistant professor, at ckelley@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2773.

February 10, 2009

5th Annual Long-Term Career Fair and Professional Seminar: Focusing on Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Expertise in Elder Care

This event was an occasion for long-term care organizations and their staff to share information about their programs and services. It was also intended to encourage nursing students from Mennonite College of Nursing and other area nursing programs to seriously consider long-term care as a viable career option. Speakers included Ginger Rogers, APRN, GNP-BC, Evercare; and Joanne Miller Ph.D., APN/GNP, Rush University, College of Nursing. For more information, contact Charlene Aaron, project coordinator, at csaaron@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-7116.

March 7, 2009

Third Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference: Evidence-Based Practice Across the Healthcare Continuum

Keynote speaker:

Robin P. Newhouse, Ph.D., RN, CNA, CNOR, associate professor at University of Maryland’s School of Nursing

This event was Presented by Xi Pi Chapter at the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in cooperation with Theta Pi chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University College of Nursing, Epsilon Epsilon Chapter at Bradley University Department of Nursing, and Tau Omicron Chapter at Saint Francis Medical

Center College of Nursing. Coprovided by BroMenn Healthcare.

Double Platinum Sponsor: OSF Saint Francis Medical Center

Platinum Sponsor: BroMenn Healthcare

For more information, contact Deb Stenger, instructional assistant professor, at dasteng@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2576.

April 9, 2009

Expanding Teaching Nursing Home National Speaker Event

Keynote speaker:

Michael Verde, founder and president of Memory Bridge: The Foundation for Alzheimer’s and Cultural Memory. He is also the director of the Global Opportunity Leadership Institute, a summer program designed to develop the leadership skills of exceptionally capable young people who are economically disadvantaged. This event was cosponsored by the Economic Development Council of Bloomington-Normal, Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization, and Sigma Theta Tau International-Xi Pi Chapter. For more information, contact Charlene Aaron, project coordinator at csaaron@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-7116.

April 28, 2009

School Physicals

Family Nurse Practitioner IV (NUR 477) students performed 24 physicals at Irving Elementary and 24 physicals at Sheridan Elementary Schools. This service allowed these students to stay in school. For more information, contact Denise Wilson, associate professor, FNP Sequence leader, at ddwilso2@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2358.

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization

Board of Directors July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Donny Bounds '97 • President
Alice (Kumler) Deavers '52 • Past president
Karen (Roop) Magers '79 • Director
Sarah (Kaiser) Lindsey '00 • Director
Sonia (Hetman) Wernsman '98 • Director
Larae Wagener '02 • Director

Advisory members

Sara Campbell • Interim dean and professor, Mennonite College of Nursing
Jamie Sennett • Assistant director, Alumni Relations
Jenny Ward • Director of Development

Sigma Theta Tau International—Xi Pi Chapter

Third annual evidence-based practice conference

In April 2009, nurses, nursing students, and other healthcare professionals learned more about how applied research methods can improve patient care and safety at the Evidence-Based Practice Across the Healthcare Continuum conference at Illinois State University.

The conference, copresented by the Xi Pi chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing at Illinois State's Mennonite College of Nursing, focused on how nurses and other healthcare professionals at all levels can use evidence-based practice methods to improve patient care and safety in all healthcare settings. Evidence-based practice is a decision-making process for patient care that integrates the best available research, clinical expertise, and information on individual patient characteristics.

The conference keynote speaker was Robin P. Newhouse, an associate professor at the University of Maryland's School of Nursing. Newhouse's most recent research focuses on evidence-based nursing practices in rural hospitals and the quality and effectiveness of care provided by advanced practice nurses. She is a member of the Research Council for the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is an invited member of the Council for Training in Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice at Northwestern University's Department of Preventative Medicine in Chicago.

Other Central Illinois Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society in Nursing chapters serving as conference copresenters were the Theta Pi chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University College of Nursing, the Epsilon Epsilon chapter at Bradley University's Department of Nursing, and the Tau Omicron chapter at the Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing.



Development

President Al Bowman recently encountered a senior nursing student on the Quad who was working on a petition drive to preserve state funds of financially needy students. She told the president that her total family income was less than \$20,000 and the only way she could afford an Illinois State education was through financial support. The student was very worried about completing her degree.

With a degree from Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN), this student will find a good paying job, and the opportunity for a better life. She will have the skills to serve thousands of others.

Our need for scholarships is growing. During the past fiscal year, 196 students applied for MCN scholarships. The college was able to award 62 private scholarships. Next fiscal year, the enrollment in our undergraduate prelicensure program will double. We expect the number of scholarship applications to also increase accordingly. However, because of the difficult economic climate, the number of endowed scholarships available will substantially decline.

Many of our donors, in spite of the economy, made scholarship gifts this year, so that their scholarships would be awarded. We can't thank you enough. Each scholarship will help keep an exceptional student in school and on his/her way to becoming an exceptional nurse.

We are delighted to announce that the class of 2009 understood the increased need for scholarships, and combined their personal gifts to create the class of 2009 scholarship. This \$1,000 will be awarded to a senior.

A new annual campaign for faculty and staff support was also launched at Illinois State. More than 66 percent of MCN faculty and staff participated in the Gladly we Give campaign this year.

Alumni support through the telefund raised more than \$20,000. Our alumni are very supportive of student scholarships. Thank you for helping in that important way. Each year the

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alumni scholarship funds are combined to give as many \$1,000 scholarships as possible to nursing students. If you did not get a call this year, please call me and check to be sure we have accurate contact information for you.

You make a difference in the lives of our students.

Jenny Ward
Director of Development
(309) 438-7178

Advisory board

July 1, 2008–June 30 2009

BroMenn Health Care

Linda Johnson
Vice president, patient services/chief
nurse executive

Carle Foundation Hospital

Pam Bigler
Director of nursing

Heritage Manor

Rose Stadel
Director of operations, central division

Memorial Medical Center

Marsha Prater, Ph.D., RN
Vice president, patient care services

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center

Deb Smith
Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer

Friends Steering Committee

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

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

Senior Spirit Tassel Challenge 2009

Thank you to the SNA officers and the class of 2009 for their generosity in giving back to Illinois State's Mennonite College of Nursing. The total raised was \$1,381.41. For each gift of \$20.09 a senior was able to honor an individual or group that they chose to thank for supporting them while they were in nursing school. Of the 81 seniors in the class, 46 participated.

The senior's first goal was to raise \$1,000 in order to provide a class of 2009 scholarship for a financially needy senior. In addition to the \$1,000 scholarship, more than \$300 were donated to the simulation lab. Additional gifts were designated to the ISU student foundation.

Thank you to the following seniors for their support of MCN:

Joanna Albee
Diane Alder
Collette Ansteth
Kristen Avara
Kaylee Babcock
Kathleen Berkery
Angela Braker
Julia Cleveland
Danielle Davis
Kelsey Dent
Mary Doerfler

Kathleen Earnest
Sarah Fyfe
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Chike Osude

Changing fields

By Kate Arthur

On the football field, linebacker Chike Osude's job was to make sure nothing good happened for the offense in the middle of the field. Off the field, it's a different story. As a nursing student, he wants to make sure nothing bad happens.

The former high school football star wears a lab coat in the ivy-covered Edwards Hall and checks vital signs, slipping a blood pressure cuff around a slender arm and quietly listening for the sound of blood pulsing through arteries. It's a different role for the transfer student who was recruited for nursing and chose Illinois State "because I feel at home here."

The Crystal Park native is the recipient of a merit scholarship from the Joslin Scholarship Fund. This endowed scholarship helps Illinois State attract outstanding undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

Stephany "Stevie" and Roger Joslin, long-time Bloomington-Normal civic leaders, are committed to high quality nursing education. "We'll do anything we can to promote excellence in nursing," Stevie said. "If this brings a top student to ISU to pursue a nursing career, we're thrilled. Scholarships make a huge difference."

Stevie was a member of the board of Mennonite College of Nursing before it became a part of the University. She helped energize The Friends of Mennonite College of Nursing. Roger, a retired vice chairman and chief financial officer of State Farm Mutual Insurance and chairman of State Farm Fire and Casualty, was the first chairman of the board when Bloomington-Normal's Brokaw and Mennonite hospitals merged to form BroMenn Healthcare.

After three campus visits, Osude made the decision to attend Illinois State.

"I liked the school and everything about it," he said, even though nursing wasn't a career he considered in high school. His mother, a single parent, supported six children on a nurse's salary but he thought it was a woman's profession.

"I just couldn't see myself doing it," he said. "As I grew older and matured, I found out more about nursing and what a good occupation it is."

"Nursing recruiting merit scholarships are new for MCN," said Janet Krejci, the college's dean. "In the past, MCN didn't offer scholarships until students were partway through their junior year and we realized we were losing top students. The Joslin Scholarship Fund will help attract and retain high-achieving students."

“As I grew older and matured, I found out more about nursing and what a good occupation it is.”

Private scholarship recipients

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

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Marissa Nelson

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Mauria Herman

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Elizabeth (Betsy) Devlin

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Angela Linklater

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Amanda Whitley

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Kayla Benckendorf, Jenna Davis,
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**MCN Alumni Student
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Abby Chovanec, Jessica Clipp,
Catie Curry, Laura Debolt,
Miranda Dimmerling, Kristen Doe,
Christine Faulkner, Kayla Fletcher,
Melissa Fox, Emily Fredbloom,
Amanda French, Aubrie Ghrist,
Sarah Gulino, Katie Herman,
Mauria Herman, Rachel Johnson,
Catherine Judd, Matt Koester,
Karmen Kudlicki, Chelsea Leesman,
Maura McDonald, Katie Mehlick,
Lee Murrin, Katie Norris, Jennifer
Rakosky, Megan Rappleyea, Allie
Rigor, Nicole Rossom, Amanda
Sherman, Rochelle Wright

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Ashley Kil

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and William Morlan Annual
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Jeffrey Sawyer

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Dina Gabra

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Scholarships make a difference

We thank everyone who has supported student scholarships at Mennonite College of Nursing. As the demand for professional nurses increases, so do our needs for even more scholarships.

For the 2008–2009 academic year, 196 students applied for MCN scholarships. Of the 196 applications, 112 noted unmet financial need. The college was able to award 62 private MCN scholarships to the 112 students with unmet financial need. While the number of these scholarships has risen each year, the unmet needs for our students also continues to rise.

2009 Scholarship Luncheon

Mennonite College of Nursing appreciates all of the financial assistance provided by various scholarships to students pursuing a career in nursing. Individuals who endow private scholarships to Mennonite College of Nursing are invited to an annual scholarship luncheon to meet with the recipient(s) of their gift. In April, President Al Bowman and 46 private scholarship donors and scholarship recipients attended the luncheon. All captions are listed from left to right.



Kaylee Babcock, Kristen Avara, Debbie Roth, Lindsay Bustl



Dale Mellon, Ashley Kil



Alma Stoddard, Emily Dubrick



Jerry Etcheson, Megan Rappleyea, Marion Etcheson, Carol Flesher



Jo Ropp, Katherine Czarnota, Ron Ropp



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Tom Lovelass, Angela Linklater, Meredith Lovelass



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Mauria Herman, Kay Wilson

Honor roll of donors

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University is grateful to the following alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations for their generous gifts and pledges received by the Illinois State University Foundation.

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We have made every attempt to ensure accuracy. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and contact Jenny Ward, director of Development, at (309) 438-7178 or jsward@ilstu.edu.

Mennonite College of Nursing research mission

Mennonite College of Nursing faculty engages in research and scholarship to address the nursing and health care needs of urban and rural populations and to identify effective strategies to reduce health disparities in vulnerable and underserved populations. Faculty strive to engage the community served

through research in a reciprocal relationship to assure research practices are attentive to the special needs of vulnerable populations during all phases of the research process, including study planning, recruitment, obtaining consent for research, data collection, and reporting findings.

Office of Research and Scholarly Activities (ORSA)

The purpose of ORSA is to facilitate faculty/student research in the area of Health Decision-making in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention that will significantly improve the health of the public across health care settings.

The ORSA works closely with the University Research and Sponsored Programs Office at Illinois State University during proposal preparation, managing grant funding and ensuring high standards are followed in all phases of the research process. Additionally, ORSA works closely with the University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Mennonite College of Nursing Department IRB representatives to maintain a record of all research protocols to assure adherence to Federal Regulations and protection of human participants in research.

Interdisciplinary efforts in research and collaboration with community and service partners are supported by ORSA with the goal of improving the health of individuals, families, and communities.

The Office of Research and Scholarly Activities is managed by the Director of the Graduate Program, Research and Scholarly Activities, Brenda Recchia Jeffers.



Research

The growth of research and scholarship at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University continues to progress. The college welcomes our second cohort of Ph.D. students this fall. This group of six outstanding nurses shares an interest in developing programs of research in multiple and diverse aspects of aging. Some beginning research interests that have been identified by this group of students include examining administrative strategies to improve end-of-life care in the long-term care setting, exploring the use of electronic personal health records to improve patient and family self-management of chronic illness, and an international interest in studying the phenomena of stigma in older adults with neurological disorders.

MCN's faculty commitment to research mentoring for both our undergraduate and graduate students has been further realized by the development of a new recognition award, the Meridean Maas Faculty Mentor award. This award is named in honor of the dedicated gerontological scholar and researcher Meridean Maas, professor emerita, University of Iowa, a friend and mentor to faculty at MCN. The award will recognize MCN faculty who have demonstrated excellence in mentoring student research development at the undergraduate and graduate level.

I am also excited to welcome Susan Kossman in her new role as associate director of Graduate Programs; Myoung-Jin Kim, assistant professor, who is teaching and consulting in the area of statistics; and Ezra Holston, assistant professor, holding a joint appointment in nursing and biology.

Due to the dedicated efforts of our faculty, staff, and students, great things are happening at MCN!

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Interim Associate Dean, Director master's/doctoral programs and research

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Interim Associate Dean, Director master's/doctoral programs and research

Presentations

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Charlene S. Aaron, RN, M.S.N.

Project coordinator for the Teaching Nursing Home, instructional assistant professor

Aaron, C.S. (2009, May). "Dementia Care and Support for Caregivers." Paper presentation for the Dementia Caregivers Conference in Bloomington.

Aaron, C.S. (2008, November). "Community College, Long-Term Care Consortiums and the Impact on Communication between Educators and Practitioners." Poster presentation with Elizabeth A. Objartel, Becky Altic, and Sara L. Campbell for The Gerontological Society of America's 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

Sara L. Campbell, DNS, RN, CNAA, BC

Interim associate dean and professor

Campbell, S.L. (2008, November). "Community College, Long-Term Care Consortiums and the Impact on Communication between Educators and Practitioners." Poster presentation with Elizabeth A. Objartel, Becky Altic, and Charlene S. Aaron for The Gerontological Society of America's 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

Elizabeth D. Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, GNP-BC, PHCNS-BC

Assistant professor

Carlson, E.D. (2009, August). "Undergraduate Research Engages Life-Long Learners." Information session presented to the 25th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning in Madison, Wisconsin.

Carlson, E.D., Engebretson, J.C., and Chamberlain, R.M. (2009, July). "Social Capital and Complexity Theory: The Science and Language of Collaboration." Paper presentation presented to the 4th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences at the University of Athens, Greece.

Carlson, E.D. (2008, December). "Cultural Competency in the Era of Evidence-Based Practice." Paper presentation for the Promoting Evidence-Based Cultural Competence in Healthcare Delivery through the Illinois Coalition of Nursing Resources in Naperville.

Carlson, E.D. (2008, November). "Managing Social Capital for Effective Outcomes." Paper presentation for the Organizational Foundations for Leading Change at the Kansas City University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

Carlson, E.D., Kruger, A., and Cohen, M.Z. (2008, October). "Understanding Distress During Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)." Paper presentation for the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science 2008, National State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research in Washington, D.C.

Bradley, R., Fitzgibbons, D., Klass, G., **Carlson, E.D.,** and Asbury, B. (2008, July). Paper presentation for the Faculty Panel: ISU Classroom-Community Partnership workshop at the Instructional Strategies, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology at Illinois State University in Normal.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA

Assistant professor

Dyck, M.J., Schwindenhammer, T., Mool, J. (2009, April). "Gerontological Clinical Simulation Laboratory." Poster presentation for the Connecting the Dots: Geriatric Nursing,

Education, and Clinical Simulation Conference in Durham, North Carolina.

Dyck, M.J. (2009, March). "Administrative Strategies to Prevent Weight Loss in Nursing Home Residents." Paper presentation at the 33rd Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in Minneapolis.

Marcena L. Gabrielson, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN

Assistant professor

Gabrielson, M. (2008, November). "The Long Term Care Decision Making of Older Lesbians: A Narrative Analysis." Poster presentation at the John A. Hartford 2008 Building Academic, Geriatric Nursing Capacity Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Gabrielson, M. (2008, October). "The Long Term Care Decision Making of Older Lesbians: A Narrative Analysis." Paper presentation at the SAGE (Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders) 2008 Conference in New York.

Gabrielson, M. (2008). "The Long Term Care Decision Making of Older Lesbians: A Narrative Analysis." Poster presentation at the Midwest Nursing Research Society, 2008 Conference in New York.

Jeff D. Grabb, M.S.

Associate director of technology

Grabb, J.D. (2009, March). "Scholarship Reconsidered and Digitized: New Opportunities for Faculty/Technology Dialogues." Paper presentation for the EDUCAUSE 2009 Midwest Regional Conference in Chicago.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Director master's/doctoral programs and research, professor

Jeffers, B.R. (2008, September). "Institutional Collaboration for a Ph.D. Program in Nursing." Paper presentation at the Innovative Partnerships for Student Learning Conference hosted by Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan, and Heartland Community College, Double Tree Conference Center, Bloomington.

Jeffers, B.R. & Marinelli, L. (2008, September). Developing Distance Technology Partnerships to Facilitate Student Learning. Paper presentation for the Innovative Partnerships for Student Learning Conference hosted by Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan, and Heartland Community College, Double Tree Conference Center, Bloomington.

Jeffers, B.R. (2008, October). "Ethical Considerations at the End-of-Life." Invited presentation to BroMenn Clergy Association, BroMenn Medical Center, Normal.

Jeffers, B.R. (2008, November). "Graduate Nursing Education to Support Resilience in the Aging Adult." Paper presentation as part of the Hartford Institute Summer Scholars and Fellows Symposium: Shaping and Changing Environments to Promote Health, Quality of Life, and Resilience in Older Adults, Gerontological Society of America, 61st Annual Scientific Meeting, National Harbor, Maryland.

Jeffers, B.R. and Lusk, B. (2008, December). "Building the Pipeline for Master's and Doctoral-prepared Nursing Faculty." Invited presentation to Illinois Center for Nursing Advisory Board Meeting, Illinois Deans and Directors, at Illinois State University, Normal.

Sheryl D. Jenkins, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN

Assistant professor

Jenkins, S.D. (2009, March). "Transcultural Comparison of Critical Thinking in Nursing." Poster presentation for the 33rd Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in Minneapolis.

Jenkins, S.D. (2008, October). "Thailand: A Transcultural Journey." Paper presentation for the Transcultural Brown Bag at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University in Normal.

Cynthia Sullivan Kerber, Ph.D., APRN, BC

Assistant professor

Schlenker, E. & **Kerber, C.S.** (2009, April) "From Eden to Normal." Western Social Science Association 51th Annual Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kerber, C.S., Black, D. & Buckwalter, K. (2008, October). "Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders among Older Adult Recovering Pathological Gamblers." American Public Health Association. San Diego, California.

Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN

Associate professor

Kossman, S.P. (2009, March). "Needs Assessment for Blue Sky: Technology-Enhanced Chronic Care Management for Teens with Depression." Poster presentation for the 33rd Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in Minneapolis.

Kossman, S.P. (2008, November). "How to strive to be teacher of the year." Paper presentation for the Education Workshop Group: Workshop on "Teaching Theories, Tools, and Technologies" for the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Kossman, S.P. (2008, August). "Finding and keeping your balance as a new college professor." Paper presentation for a small group at the Illinois State University Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) new faculty orientation in Normal.

Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc, RN

Assistant professor

Lindsey, P.L. (2008, October). "Evaluating Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications with Older Adults." Poster presentation for the American Psychiatric Nurses' Association 22nd Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

Jennifer Mool, RN, B.S.N.

Clinical Nursing Lab coordinator

Dyck, M.J., Schwindenhammer, T., **Mool, J.** (2009, April). "Gerontological Clinical Simulation Laboratory." Poster presentation for the Connecting the Dots: Geriatric Nursing, Education, and Clinical Simulation Conference in Durham, North Carolina.

Elizabeth A. Objartel, M.S.N., APN, GNP-BC

Instructional assistant professor

Objartel, E.A. (2008, November). "Community College, Long-Term Care Consortiums and the Impact on Communication between Educators and Practitioners." Poster presentation with Charlene S. Aaron, Becky Altic, and Sara L. Campbell for The Gerontological Society of America's 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in National Harbor, Maryland.

Deborah A. Stenger, M.S.N., RN, CNL

Instructional assistant professor

Stenger, D.A. (2008, November). "Leadership and Evidence-Based Practice." Poster presentation for the Nursing Leaders from Vladimir, Russia-Bloomington/Normal Sister Cities Program in Bloomington.

Wendy L. Woith, Ph.D., RN

Assistant professor

Woith, W.L. (2009, March). "Health Care Workers' Knowledge of Tuberculosis and Infection Control in Russia." Poster presentation for the 33rd Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference in Minneapolis.

Woith, W.L. (2008, November). "Tuberculosis in Russia." Paper presentation for the Illinois State University Health Science Program in Normal.

Publications

July 1, 2008–June30, 2009

Elizabeth D. Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, GNP-BC, PHCNS-BC

Assistant professor

Engebretson, J.C., Mahoney, J.S., and **Carlson, E.D.** (2008). "Cultural competency in the era of evidence-based practice." *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 24, 172-178.

Fleming, J.A., Mahoney, J.S., **Carlson, E.D.**, and Engebretson, J.C. (2008). "An ethnographic approach to interpreting a mental illness Photovoice exhibit." *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, 23(1), 16-24.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA

Assistant professor

Kerber, C.S., Dyck, M.J., Culp, K., and Buckwalter, K. (2008). "Antidepressant Treatment of Depression in Rural Nursing Home Residents." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 29, 959-973.

Dyck, M.J. (2008). "Weight Loss Prevention in Nursing Home Residents: A Pilot Study to Determine Administrative Strategies." *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 34(1), 28-35.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Director master's/doctoral programs and research, professor

Jeffers, B.R., Robinson, S., Luxner, K., Redding, D. (2008). Nursing faculty mentors as facilitators for evidence-based nursing practice. *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development Faculty*, 24 (5), E8-E12.

Cynthia Sullivan-Kerber, Ph.D., APRN, BC

Assistant professor

Kerber, C.S., Black, D.W. & Buckwalter, K. (2008). Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders Among Older Adult Recovering Pathological Gamblers. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 29(9), 1018-1028.

Continued from previous page

Kerber, C.S., Dyck, M.J., Culp, K.R. & Buckwalter, K. (2008). Antidepressant treatment of Depression among rural nursing home residents. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 29(9), 959-973.

Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN

Associate professor

Kossman, S.P. (2009). *Transforming Nursing Education: The Culturally Inclusive Environment*. Book by S. Boshier and M. Pharris. Kossman wrote Chapter 2: "The Power of the Nurse Educators: Welcoming and Unwelcoming Behaviors.", 27-60.

Kossman, S. P., and Brennan, P.F. (2008). *Nursing Leadership: A Concise Encyclopedia*. Book by H. Feldman. Kossman & Brennan wrote the chapter: "Nursing Informatics," 416-419.

Johnson, K., Valdez, R., Casper, G., **Kossman, S.P.,** Carayon, P., Or, C., and Brennan, P.F. (2008). "Experiences of Technology Integration in Home Care Nursing." *AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings 2008*, v.2008, 389-393.

Kossman, S.P., and Schiedenhelm, S.L. (2008). "Nurses' Perceptions of the Impact of Electronic Health Records on Work and Patient Outcomes." *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, 26(2), 69-77.

Pamela L. Lindsey, DNS, RN

Assistant professor

Lindsey, P.L. (2009). "Starting an Accelerated Baccalaureate Nursing Program: Challenges and Opportunities for Creative

Educational Innovations." *Journal of Nursing Education*, 48(5), 279-281.

Denise D. Wilson, Ph.D., APN, CNP

Assistant professor

Wilson, D.D. (2008). "Herpes Zoster: Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment—2008 update." *Advances in Skin and Wound Care: The International Journal for Prevention and Healing*, 21(12), 582-590.

Wilson, D.D. (2008). "Test Plan Category: Physiological Integrity; Subcategory: Reduction of Risk Potential: Part 1." *McGraw-Hill Review for the NCLEX-RN Exam*, Chapter 16, 465-516.

Wilson, D.D. (2008). "Manuale de Tecniche Diagnostiche ed Esami di Laboratorio (Italian version of McGraw-Hill's Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests)." New York: McGraw-Hill.

Wendy L. Woith, Ph.D., RN

Assistant professor

(2008). "Delaying in seeking treatments and adherence to tuberculosis medications in Russia: A survey of patients from two clinics." *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 45(8), 1163-1174.

Funded grants

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Sara L. Campbell, DNS, RN, CNAA, BC

Interim dean and professor

(2008, October) "Education for Leadership: Expanding and Diversifying the RN-BSN Workforce." Dan L. Murphy is the Coprincipal Investigator. Robert Wood Johnson and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, \$100,000.

Elizabeth D. Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, GNP-BC, PHCNS-BC

Assistant professor

(2009, April). "Building Social Capital to Foster Development of New Nursing Professionals." Sheryl Jenkins was the principal investigator; **Elizabeth Carlson**, Debora A. Stenger, Jamie Penrod, Cindy Kerber, and Susan Kossman were coprincipal investigators. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at Illinois State University, \$10,000.

(2009, January). "Leveraging Gerontology Expertise to Reduce Health Disparities in Rural Elders." A team award with Mary J. Dyck, Cynthia S. Kerber, and Susan P. Kossman. Research and Scholarship Development Program Grant. Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$6,665.

(2009, January). "Grant Writing Mentorship Program." Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$4,000.

(2008, July). "Evaluation of the Pedagogy of Journal Clubs for Undergraduate Nursing Research." Sandra D. Burke is the principal investigator and Elizabeth D. Carlson is a coprincipal investigator. Teaching-Learning Development Grant for the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) at Illinois State University, \$6,000.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA

Assistant professor

(2009, January). "Leveraging Gerontology Expertise to Reduce Health Disparities in Rural Elders." A team award with Elizabeth D. Carlson, Cynthia S. Kerber, and Susan P. Kossman. Research and Scholarship Development Program Grant. Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$6,665.

(2008, July). "Educational Needs Assessment for Nursing Home Directors of Nursing." University Research Grant, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$4,000.

(2008, Summer) Summer Grant Writing Initiative Award. Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$1,000.

Ezra C. Holston, Ph.D., RN

Assistant professor

(2009, June). "Investigating Emotional Intelligence in Nursing Students: Developing the Art of Reflection." **Ezra C. Holston** is the principal investigator; MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D., Susan P. Kossman, RN, Ph.D., and Janeen Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC are coprincipal investigators. Sigma Theta Tau International, Xi Pi Chapter, \$1,750.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Director master's/doctoral programs and research, professor

(2009, July). "2009 Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship." Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), \$30,424.

(2009, January). Central Illinois Workforce Collaborative: Registered Nurses & Nurse Faculty Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, P.I. Kelli Hill, Director

RWJ Partners Investing in Nursing of Central Illinois and Special Projects Manager Economic Development Council, Bloomington-Normal, Co-P.I. Jennie Collings, Director of Medical Development, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Midstate Medical District of Illinois and Brenda R. Jeffers, Professor, Director Doctoral, Master's Programs and Research MCN at Illinois State University, \$50,000.

Sheryl D. Jenkins, Ph.D., M.S.N., RN
Assistant professor

(2009, April). "Building Social Capital to Foster Development of New Nursing Professionals." Elizabeth D. Carlson, Deborah A. Stenger, Jamie Penrod, Cindy S. Kerber, and Susan P. Kossman were coprincipal investigators. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at Illinois State University, \$10,000.

Colleen Kelley, M.S.N., RN
Instructional assistant professor

(2009, January). Nurse Faculty Capacity Grant. Career Link—Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Received money towards her textbooks for Ph.D. classes.

Cynthia Sullivan-Kerber, Ph.D., APRN, BC
Assistant professor

(2009, April). "Building Social Capital to Foster Development of New Nursing Professionals." Sheryl D. Jenkins was the principal investigator; Elizabeth D. Carlson, Deborah A. Stenger, Jamie Penrod, **Cindy S. Kerber**, and Susan P. Kossman were coprincipal investigators. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at Illinois State University, \$10,000.

(2009, January). "Leveraging Gerontology Expertise to Reduce Health Disparities in Rural Elders." A team award with Elizabeth D. Carlson, Mary J. Dyck, and Susan P. Kossman. Research and Scholarship Development Program Grant. Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$6,665.

MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant professor

(2009, June). "Investigating Emotional Intelligence in Nursing Students: Developing the Art of Reflection." Ezra C. Holston is the principal investigator; **MyoungJin Kim**, Susan P. Kossman, and Janeen Mollenhauer are coprincipal investigators. Sigma Theta Tau International, Xi Pi Chapter, \$1,750.

Susan P. Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Associate professor

(2009, June). "Investigating Emotional Intelligence in Nursing Students: Developing the Art of Reflection." Ezra C. Holston is the principal investigator; MyoungJin Kim, **Susan P. Kossman**, and Janeen Mollenhauer are coprincipal investigators. Sigma Theta Tau International, Xi Pi Chapter, \$1,750.

(2008, July). "Leveraging Gerontology Expertise to Reduce Health Disparities in Rural Elders through Telehealth." Coprincipal investigators with Elizabeth D. Carlson, Cynthia S. Kerber, and Mary J. Dyck. Research and Scholarship Development Program Grant. Research and Sponsored Programs at Illinois State University, \$6,665.

(2008, July). "Blue Skies: Technology-enhanced Chronic Care Management for Elders with Depression." Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$3,000.

(2008, July). Provost's Summer Faculty Professional Development Fellowship; Research Development Grant: Developing Informatics Competency in Nursing Education and Students. Illinois State University, \$5,000.

Pamela L. Lindsey, DNS, RN
Assistant professor

(2009, April). Grant Writing Initiative Award. Illinois State University, \$1,000.

(2009, May). FY 09 Research and Sponsored Program Research Enhancement Funds, Illinois State University; \$2,000.

(2008, October). Evaluating Appropriate Use of Psychotropic Medications with Older Adults in Acute Care Psychiatric Settings; PI: Gerontological Nursing Interventions Research Center pilot grant, University of Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; \$9,864.

Janeen R. Mollenhauer, M.S., LCPC
Associate director of the Undergraduate Program

(2009, June). "Investigating Emotional Intelligence in Nursing Students: Developing the Art of Reflection." Ezra C. Holston is the principal investigator; MyoungJin Kim, Ph.D., Susan P. Kossman, RN, Ph.D., and **Janeen R. Mollenhauer, MS, LCPC** are coprincipal investigators. Sigma Theta Tau International, Xi Pi Chapter, \$1,750.

Daniel L. Murphy, M.S.
Project coordinator for the Accelerated B.S.N. Program

(2008, October) "Education for Leadership: Expanding and Diversifying the RN-BSN Workforce." Sara L. Campbell is the principal investigator; Dan L. Murphy is the coprincipal investigator. Robert Wood Johnson/American Association of Colleges of Nursing, New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, \$100,000.

Teri A. Saxton, M.S.N., RN
Instructional assistant professor

(2008, December). Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Educator Fellowship. IBHE, \$10,000.

(2008, December). Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) National Forum-Student Scholarship. IHI, \$1,750.

Deborah A. Stenger, M.S.N., RN, CNL
Instructional assistant professor

(2009, May). "Building Social Capital to Foster Development of New Nursing Professionals." Sheryl D. Jenkins is the principal investigator; Elizabeth D. Carlson, **Deborah A. Stenger**, Jamie Penrod, Cindy S. Kerber, and Susan P. Kossman are coprincipal investigators. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), \$10,000.

Wendy L. Woith, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

(2008, September). "Health Care Workers's Knowledge of Tuberculosis and Infection Control in Russia." American Nurses Foundation, \$3,500.

(2008, July). "Russian Health Care Workers' Intention to Wear Personal Respiratory Protection." Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$2,000.

Awards and honors

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Charlene Aaron, M.S.N., RN-BC

Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors

Charlene Aaron, Project Coordinator Expanding Teaching Nursing Home, was appointed to the state of Illinois Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors in fall 2008. She will represent the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Association for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, LNHA

University Research Initiative Award Recipient

Mary J. Dyck, assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing, received the University Research Initiative Award in February 2009. This award recognizes faculty members who have initiated a promising research agenda early in their academic careers. Dyck's research focuses on nursing home quality. She is studying the continuing education needs of nursing home directors of nursing. Her previous work has looked at nursing staffing, administrative strategies, and resident outcomes.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Director master's/doctoral programs and research, professor

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, professor, director of doctoral and master's programs and research, was elected to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Research Leadership Network, Steering Committee as Communications Chair. The Research Leadership Network (RLN) is comprised of nursing faculty who have leadership roles facilitating research within their nursing programs.

Debra J. Jenkins, M.S.N., RN, Paul Ambrose Scholar MCN doctoral student

Debra J. Jenkins received the Rising Stars of Scholarship Sigma Theta Tau 2009 Award.

Cindy Kerber, Ph.D., RN

Aging and Rural Health Research Award

Cindy Kerber, assistant professor, received the Aging and Rural Health Research Award from the Gerontological Health Section during the American Public Health Association 136th Annual meeting in October 2008. Kerber received this award for her paper, "Co-morbid Psychiatric Disorders in the Older Adult Pathological Gambler," which was based on her work completed during her post-doctoral fellowship.

Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN

American Psychiatric Nurses Association

Pam Lindsey, assistant professor, was elected to a two-year term for member-at-large on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Chapter of American Psychiatric Nurses Association.

American Psychiatric Nurses Association

Pamela L. Lindsey, assistant professor, was elected to a two-year term for member-at-large on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Chapter of American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She was also selected to participate in the American Psychiatric Nurses' Association's Institute for Safe Environments, Older Adults workgroup.

Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Award

Pamela L. Lindsey, assistant professor, was selected as the recipient of this award at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

Summer Scholars Seminar

Pamela L. Lindsey, assistant professor, was selected to participate in the Summer Scholars Seminar; sponsored by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence and the University of Iowa Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence and the Gerontological Nursing Intervention Research Center.

Beth Objartel, M.S.N., RN, GNP-BC

Gerontological nurse practitioner

Beth Objartel, instructional assistant professor, passed the GNP certification exam in fall 2008.

Teri Saxton, M.S.N., RN

Illinois Board of Higher Education Recipient

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Scholarship Award

Teri Saxton, instructional assistant professor at Mennonite College of Nursing, has been selected to receive the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The purpose of the award is to ensure the retention of well-qualified nursing faculty at institutions of higher learning that award degrees in nursing. Fellowships are \$10,000 and will support projects identified by the faculty in their application for the award. Saxton will use the funding to increase her knowledge in patient safety to assist with curricular revisions, attend a conference specifically related to enhancing the educational process of adult learners, schedule site visits to programs with an RN/MSN track, and increase Illinois State library holdings of books related to patient safety and adult learners.

Saxton also received a conference scholarship award and travel stipend from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to attend the IHI 20th Annual National Forum in December 2008.

Deb Stenger, M.S.N., RN, CNL

New clinical nurse leader

Deb Stenger, instructional assistant professor, passed the Clinical Nurse Leader certification exam in December 2008.

Jessica Sullivan, B.S.N.

MCN master's student

Jessica Sullivan received the Rising Stars of Scholarship Sigma Theta Tau 2009 Award.

Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN

The Virginia S. Cleland Scholar Award

Wendy Woith, assistant professor, received the Virginia S. Cleland Scholar Award in fall 2008. With this award, Woith will continue her international research related to decreasing the risk of transmission of TB in healthcare workers.

AACN Communications Awards

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University received the Outstanding School of Nursing Communications Award in recognition of its effective Web site and print communications. The award is presented by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing and New York University.

The communications award, part of the 2008 Awards for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing Education, recognizes Mennonite College of Nursing's effective use of Web- and print-based communications to convey the college's commitment to high-quality nursing care for vulnerable and underserved older adults. Mennonite's Web site highlights two new initiatives specifically focused on preparing nurses at the graduate level to practice and conduct research with older adults.

The Awards for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing Education, now in their eleventh year, recognize nursing faculty and model baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs that encourage the highest standards of gerontological nursing education.

New for 2008, the Outstanding School of Nursing Communications Award recognizes schools of nursing that use collateral materials to display a positive image of older adults. Through Web site images, brochures, and other printed materials, the awarded school prominently represents older adults across the continuum of care and demonstrates that older adults are included in the full range of patient populations.

Graduate Council approves MCN faculty for graduate faculty status

In December 2008, the Graduate Council approved the following MCN faculty graduate faculty status:

Full graduate faculty status

Kim Astroth
Wendy Woith

Associate graduate faculty status

Sheryl Jenkins
Cindy Kerber

Faculty who have full graduate status may serve as chairs on thesis and dissertation committees and vote on graduate faculty matters. Faculty who have associate graduate status are eligible to teach graduate courses, and serve on thesis and dissertation committees.



Graduate office program highlights

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN

Appointed to associate director, master's program

In January 2009, Susan Kossman was appointed as the associate director, master's program. Her responsibilities include overseeing the admission process, monitoring student progress, working with sequence coordinators to provide administrative assistance as needed to oversee sequence curricula and sequence implementation, marketing and recruiting of program sequences, collaborating on course scheduling and teaching assignments, submitting federal traineeship applications and other applications for master's student funding, and distributing graduate tuition waivers and traineeship monies. Kossman is a member of the Graduate Program Curriculum Committee and will serve on the Graduate Coordinators Committee at the university level.



Chris Bray, M.S.
Project associate, Doctoral Program
Office of Research and Scholarly Activities

Chris Bray joined MCN in April 2007. In her current role as the project associate for the Doctoral Program, she provides distance education support for real-time online synchronous education/learning for courses in the doctoral and graduate programs. Bray is responsible for interviewing, hiring, and supervising graduate assistants for the ORSA office and Ph.D. program. She provides an orientation for all graduate assistants at MCN. In summer 2009, MCN expanded its offices to the Professional Development Building, where she provides first-level technical support for the building.

MCN receives first place for the University Path to Excellence Award

For the second year in a row, Mennonite College of Nursing received first place for the University Path to Excellence Award from the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT). This award was presented at the 2009 Teaching and Learning Symposium Luncheon Program in January. CTLT recognizes three departments with the highest level of faculty participation in teaching development activities during the past calendar year, and presents a first, second, and third place award. MCN's faculty participated in teaching development activities that totaled 20.88 average hours/FTE. There was a tie for second place between the School of Social Work and Educational Administration and Foundations that each totaled 16.03 average hours/FTE.



MNRS highlights

Mary Dyck, assistant professor, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, was the recipient of the 2009 Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Gerontological Nursing Research Section New Investigator Award.

The award recognizes the contributions of a new investigator who has conducted nursing research that has the potential to enhance the science and practice of gerontological nursing. Dyck was presented with a plaque during the Gerontological Nursing Research Section meeting held in conjunction with the MNRS annual meeting March 27-30, in Minneapolis.

Dyck's research focuses on the quality of care in nursing homes and administrative systems to enhance nursing care for older adults. Her nationally-recognized research efforts have been supported by grant funding and fellowships from the National Institutes of Health, John A. Hartford Foundation, and Illinois Board of Higher Education.



Partners in Nursing grant highlights

Age to Age

The Partners in Nursing Project developed the Age to Age intergenerational program with Evergreen Village Supportive Living and students from Prairieland Elementary School. Fifth graders and older adults are paired together as “buddies” in an innovative program coordinated by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University (MCN), McLean County Unit District 5, and Evergreen Village Supportive Living. The Age to Age program

gives school-age children and older adults a chance to interact and gives nursing students a unique perspective on caring for aging adults.

Mary Cranston, a nursing instructor at MCN, and Deb Foster, a fifth grade teacher at Prairieland Elementary School in Normal, plan biweekly activities for 22 pairs of buddies, each consisting of a fifth grader and a resident from Evergreen Village Supportive Living. Janette Jones, activity director at Evergreen Village, began recruiting interested residents when the program began last September. Cranston’s undergraduate nursing students from MCN promote the intergenerational interactions.

The final farewells were said, some tearfully, after the last visit at the Evergreen Village Supportive Living Community on April 27. A number of the students, however, plan to visit or write to their buddies, even after moving on to junior high.

Age to Age was created to increase interest in caring for aging adults. “I see fifth graders intently listening to stories of the past. There is a sense of energy in the room as buddies both young and old share. Faces are animated and leaving always comes too soon,” Foster said.

The program was coordinated through the Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois (PIN). PIN is funded through a grant to the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, and is administered by Kelli Hill at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. “It is difficult to tell which generation enjoys the visits the most,” Hill said.



Student/faculty research projects

After receiving the Paul Ambrose Scholarship in 2008, Jessica Sullivan, a master’s student in the FNP sequence, teamed up with her faculty mentor, Associate Professor Caroline Mallory, to work on a research project. Mallory received NIH funding for her grant titled “Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV Among Women,” and Sullivan used the dataset from this grant as a secondary analysis for her project titled “Condom Use in Women Survivors of Sexual Victimization.”

Undergraduate students, Megan Rappleyea and Rachel Johnson, are working with Assistant Professor Wendy Woith on her project titled “Emotional Representation of Tuberculosis in Russia.” Rappleyea worked with Woith on a literature search during the summer. Rappleyea and Johnson are working on the data analysis.



Above (from left), Rachel Johnson, Wendy Woith, Megan Rappleyea. Right, (from left), Jessica Sullivan and Caroline Mallory.



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