

2007

Annual Report, 2006-2007

Mennonite College of Nursing

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MENNONITE COLLEGE
OF NURSING
Illinois State University

Annual Report

2006–2007



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 levels through research, service, and practice. Mennonite College of Nursing is committed to being purposeful, open, just, caring, disciplined, and celebrative.





**MENNONITE COLLEGE
OF NURSING**
Illinois State University

Annual 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 85 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, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 887-6791
Facsimile: (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

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A message from the dean

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University continues to excel in its focus on gerontology and aging. This past year, the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project team has continued to accomplish its objectives in educating students, faculty, nurses and the public about long-term care. The positive effects of this project are outstanding, and I have decided to feature the efforts of this team in the past year in this issue of the Annual Report.

We are also another step further in the approval process for a Ph.D. in nursing degree program at Illinois State. The Board of Trustees granted approval this past May, and now the program proposal is being reviewed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. We anticipate approval in 2008.

The college is busy upgrading technology, and thanks to a grant from State Farm Insurance Companies, the college was able to update the computer lab with new equipment. Also, we appreciate COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services for their generous gift, and the Friends Steering Committee for their fundraising success for "BabySim," which was recently purchased for the clinical lab.

This past year has been very successful for faculty and staff at Mennonite College of Nursing. Their dedication to teaching, research, service and practice helps the college fulfill its mission. We greatly appreciate all of the support from alumni, friends and donors – on behalf of the college, I thank you. We would not be able to accomplish all of the wonderful things without your support.

I am so proud of our faculty, staff, alumni, friends and donors and hope you enjoy reading about all of the accomplishments Mennonite College of Nursing has achieved in 2006-07. Mennonite College of Nursing is definitely the place to be!

Sara L. Campbell, DNS, RN, CNA, BC
Interim Dean and Professor

Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow



Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN, has been named a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, and will spend time in the nation's capital helping shape American health care policy. In July, Ridenour stepped down as dean of Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, and Sara Campbell, DNS, RN, CNA, BC was appointed interim dean.

This three-year Fellowship began with a 12-week orientation. Ridenour will meet key executive branch officials responsible for health policy and programs, members of Congress and their staffs, and representatives of health-related interest groups. After the orientation session, Ridenour will go through an interview process, and in January of 2008 she will begin her appointment as a congressional staff member.



Research

The faculty at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University place high importance on providing quality nursing education built on a strong foundation of the most current research and clinical knowledge. This year's annual report showcases many examples of faculty commitments to building nursing knowledge and clinical expertise. Faculty members Catherine Kaesberg, MSN, RN and Rita Schlomer, MS, RN, APN, CCNS are within the

first group of nurses in the nation to be certified as Clinical Nurse Leaders. In the area of research, Pam Lindsey, DNSc, RN and Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN were selected to receive nationally competitive post-doctoral fellowships.

This strong commitment by our faculty to build clinical expertise and generate nationally recognized nursing scholarship assures that all students attending MCN receive the very best in nursing education.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Professor and Director of the Graduate Program, Research and Scholarly Activities



Development

Our students, faculty and alumni continue to live the mission of our founders. In reading "The Passing of the Flame," by Robert Cassel, I discovered that in 1928, the Rev. Troyer asked the Alumni Association to pledge \$10,000 toward a capital campaign. In 1928, \$10,000 was a lot of money! It only took one year, and the alumni achieved that goal. Today, Illinois State undergraduates interested in nursing and our nursing students call on alumni to support the annual

fund and scholarship funds, and every year, alumni respond. In fiscal year 2007, over 25 percent of our alumni responded positively to our student callers, and over \$20,000 was raised in support of our annual fund drive.

In addition to our annual fund, others are responding to the call to help students have access to an excellent nursing education. Several have created legacies for those they love. The children of Dave and Jo Wiant; Mike, Susan, Chris, and Eric, created a nursing scholarship in their parents' name. Dave and Jo Wiant pledged additional support through a planned gift. Alma Stoddard created an endowment in the name of her beloved brother, Paul Stoddard. His legacy will live on at the Mennonite College of Nursing through a scholarship in his name. Their stories will be told and remembered. Because of these gifts, many students will be helped and many patients will receive great nursing care.

You don't need to be Bill Gates, Warren Buffet or Oprah Winfrey to leave a legacy. The most common legacy gifts are gifts of life insurance or a partial designation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan. These gifts can fit into most estate plans and do not require an attorney. The next most common form of a legacy gift is a will designation, which requires an attorney but allows you to divide an estate among multiple heirs and charities.

If you would like to make a legacy gift to the Mennonite College of Nursing, to make a lasting difference in nursing, or you have already made plans for the College in your estate plans and need to ensure its proper designation, please let us know. Such gifts will not only leave a legacy but impact health care for generations.

Jenny Ward
Director of Development



Innovative Teaching Nursing Home Project Prepares Nurses for Health Care Challenges Ahead

By Bob Aaron

The statistics tell the story.

Illinois' population is aging. And, America is getting older, too, as the post-World War II baby boomers move into their golden years.

Just seven years ago, at the turn of the 21st century, 12 percent of Illinois' population was age 65 or older. But, by 2025, it's forecast that 16.6 percent of the Land of Lincoln's populace will fall into that age group—a population cluster increasingly dependent upon long-term medical services.

Nationwide there were 37.3 million persons age 65 or older in 2006, representing 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, according to the federal Administration on Aging. But, by 2030, this group is expected to grow to 71.5 million, more than twice their number in 2000.

Staggering new and costly long-term health care challenges will be faced by Washington, Springfield and the other 49 state capitals, the health care and insurance industries, and individual families as the U.S. population ages.

Consequently, Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) is taking a visible leadership role to prepare the nursing community for the geriatric health care environment ahead. MCN and Heritage Enterprises, Inc., a leading nursing home care provider in Central and Northern Illinois, have teamed up on an innovative project, Expanding the Teaching-Nursing Home Culture in the State of Illinois. The venture is funded by a five-year, \$1.48 million grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

"The project's purpose," explained Charlene Aaron, MCN's project coordinator, "is to transform long-term care throughout Illinois. We want to make working in long-term care facilities more attractive to nursing graduates and we want to empower long-term care nurses at Heritage and the Illinois State nursing faculty."

Long-term care must be transformed because "a collision is about to happen" as the number of baby boomers increases and the number of nurses decreases, according to Donovan Gardner, a retired nursing home administrator and consultant, who serves on the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project Advisory Council.

Aaron, who worked in long-term care for years before joining the Illinois State faculty, believes that empowerment will come from the project's focus on continuing education of nurses already on the job and through building creative partnerships with long-term care providers like Heritage. She also is focused on enticing more students into geriatrics and that's one reason why MCN is offering students clinical experiences at Heritage facilities in Bloomington, Colfax, El Paso, and Normal. Over the years, between 30 and 70 students annually have worked in these nursing homes.

Nursing major Marie Deffner '08 participated in a semester-long clinical experience at Heritage's Colfax facility. It was an inspirational experience, she said, working with clients experiencing dementia and Alzheimer's, the memory-robbing disease that afflicts more than five million Americans. Deffner practiced making basic patient assessments, honed her communications skills with patients, and built relationships with them.

She worked with an Alzheimer's patient from Germany, who was completely dependent and immobile. "One day, I asked her a question in German," Deffner recalled, "and she responded. It was the one time I heard her talk. There was a spike in her mental capacity. Speaking to her in German brought back something from an earlier memory. It was truly amazing and will stay with me forever."

From experiences like Deffner's, Aaron explained, "Students put the theory they learn in the classroom to work in clinical settings. Through partnerships that focus on education and practice, we will be able to transform the culture of long-term care throughout Illinois."

The Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project (ETNHP) is a multi-pronged initiative:

- **Career Fairs.** The third annual Long-Term Care Career Fair, cosponsored by the Student Nurses Association, was convened in February 2007, attracting 131 students and 22 exhibitors, representing long-term facilities. The fair's goals were to spur students into seeking long-term health care positions following graduation and for long-term care organizations to recruit future employees.

- **National Speakers.** Several national speaker events have brought to campus renowned guest lecturers such as Barbara Resnick, a professor at the University of Maryland's School of Nursing, whose research as a geriatric nurse practitioner focuses on exercise and aging, and William H. Thomas, an international authority on geriatric medicine and elder care, who is president of The Center for Growing and Becoming, Inc., a nonprofit group dedicated to holistic approaches to aging and the care of seniors.

- **Summer Study.** The Summer Independent Study Toward Elder Research (S.I.S.T.E.R.) Project is a week-long experience for students and faculty at nationally recognized U.S. nursing universities. The S.I.S.T.E.R. project's aim is to study how older adults are cared for in various parts of the country and to bring outstanding practices back to Illinois. Fact-finding trips have been made to New York City and Portland, Ore.

Deffner joined three MCN faculty members on a S.I.S.T.E.R. visit June 11-15, 2007, to the John A. Hartford Center for Geriatric Excellence at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, where they participated in a three-day conference about how nursing applies to gerontology and how geriatric patients differ from other adults.

"The conference expanded my knowledge," Deffner explained. "We discussed promoting the quality of life in caregiving. Geriatric patients face things differently than those under age 50—they are affected differently by drugs and cancer and we have to take that into consideration when we're caring for them."

- **Continuing Education.** Nurses can broaden their knowledge by taking advantage of various Continuing Education Learning Modules available on the MCN Web site, IllinoisState.edu/nursing. Among

Managing a Culture Change

It's not your grandmother's nursing home.

As baby boomers morph into senior citizens, their lifestyles likely will have a profound effect on long-term care in the future—effects that will go well beyond demands for private rooms, Internet connections, satellite TV, and flexible meal times.

"A culture change is going on in nursing homes," explained Mary Dyck, an assistant professor at the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University. "Nursing homes will have to offer a more home-like atmosphere. Baby boomers don't want a standard room and they may want breakfast at 9 in the morning, rather than at 7."

These looming changes, Dyck said, are "market-driven. Baby boomers won't accept cookie-cutter care. Long-term care hasn't operated in that mindset."

Kimberly Mau '96, director of nursing programs at Kankakee Community College, shares that view.

"Care of the older population," she explained, "has been seen as end-of-life care, rather than giving care to people as they live their lives. It's a hard concept to grasp. The Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project gives us the tools to make that culture change—to change perceptions and opinions about long-term care."

Today, nursing homes are built on a hospital model, explained retired nursing home administrator and consultant Donovan Gardner, and that model largely is driven by the requirements of Medicare.

Donovan sees an evolution unfolding, where the emphasis at nursing homes is shifting from nursing to homes.

"This evolution," Donovan explained, "is an effort to break away from a medical model to a social model. Some facilities are developing 'green house' programs, introducing more plants and pets."

A neighborhood concept is gaining popularity, he explained, where residential rooms are clustered around a social area for small groups of residents. And, these clusters are grouped into neighborhoods. He sees nurses working more like home health nurses and residents having a hand in menu planning.

"The demands of baby boomers will be different than the residents we are taking care of now," said Rose Stadel, an executive with Heritage Enterprises, Inc., a long-term care provider. "They are going to want more choices, they are going to want more freedom—that's what they're used to."

available study topics are pain management in the elderly, incontinence, wound management, and polyp-harmacy.

“I’ve been a nurse for 30 years,” Aaron said, “and I learn every day. These modules ensure that nurses are using the best practices to help ensure positive outcomes for patients in handling things like managing medications and how to prevent falls.”

The modules have been approved by the Illinois Nurses Association for continuing education credits and were created to help prepare nurses for certification in gerontological nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

• **Building Networks.** MCN is reaching out to community colleges across Illinois to build a nursing network to address the educational needs of nurses with associate degrees, personnel needs of long-term care facilities, and to help construct a pipeline of nurses interested in obtaining bachelor’s degrees. Programs have been conducted in partnership with Heartland, Kankakee, and Kaskaskia community colleges.

“There is enthusiasm and excitement about collaborating on these networking opportunities,” said Catherine Miller, associate dean of Health and Human Services at Heartland Community College with campuses in Normal, Pontiac, and Lincoln. “We encourage our graduates to return to school to get bachelor’s degrees in nursing. We encourage our students to be lifelong learners and to continue their education.”

Kimberly Mau ’96, director of nursing programs at Kankakee Community College (KCC), said, “It was very exciting to have the opportunity to host the consortium and for the Mennonite College of Nursing to share their information with us so we can start our own ball rolling here.”

Shortly after the May 3, 2007, consortium meeting at KCC, Mau met with representatives of Provena Senior Services, an organization based in Mokena, Ill., that operates 16 long-term care and other facilities in north central Illinois, to explore the possibility of launching a relationship similar to the Mennonite-Heritage association.

“With the declining number of nursing faculty,” Mau explained, “we need to be innovative in setting up learning experiences and establishing creative partnerships.”

The Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project has an important philosophical goal. “There is a pervasive perception in society,” Aaron explained, “that aging is a negative thing. We have to change that perception by presenting aging as “cool” and a time in life when there are opportunities.”

Part of that change in perception, Aaron said, is empowering students with knowledge to teach their clients about wellness as an approach to improving health.



Using Art in Long-Term Health Care

New York’s famed Museum of Modern Art was the site of a big lesson in long-term health care for the elderly one day in May 2005.

“It was a memorable experience,” recalled Rose Stadel, director of operations for Central Illinois for Heritage Enterprises, Inc., a long-term health care provider, and Mennonite College of Nursing’s partner in the innovative Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project (ETNHP). “We couldn’t stop talking about it—and what we were going to do when we got back.”

What happened was this. MCN representatives traveled to New York on a fact-finding trip as part of the Summer Independent Study Toward Elder Research Project (S.I.S.T.E.R), which is part of ETNHP. They went on an outing with adult day care center residents to the museum, where a curator described various artworks and engaged them in discussion.

“Most of the day care center residents,” recalled Charlene Aaron, ETNHP project coordinator, “couldn’t express themselves as they used to because of dementia, but they talked about what the artist had in mind and the use of color. It was impressive. Their caregivers were moved.”

“Being in the museum,” Aaron explained, “was a wonderful intervention for people with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. It calmed their behavior and stimulated their thought and communications. It put them in an environment where they were challenged and engaged them so they were more like the people they were before the disease took over.”

The experience was replicated at Illinois State, when eight to 10 Heritage nursing home residents visited the University’s art gallery.

“The experience was just as good as in New York,” Stadel said. “We listened to their interpretation of what they were seeing. They talked about having graduated from ISNU [Illinois State Normal University] and how some of their parents had taught there. It brought out so many stories. They had so much fun. The interaction was really good.”

Heritage residents toured the Illinois State galleries in 2006 and 2007.

“Now, we’re thinking of doing it twice a year,” Stadel said.



The nursing home project also is placing a premium on a preceptor program, which is a structured orientation program for new nurses in long-term care. The effort, Aaron said, will help recruit and retain nursing professionals in long-term care. This initiative was launched at the Heritage facility in Normal.

“One nurse works with new nurses,” according to Aaron, “to get them comfortable before they fly solo. In this program, the new nurses do simulations and various scenarios to see how they would handle this and that. Preceptors grade the new nurses.”

Plans are afoot to expand the preceptor program to Heritage facilities in Bloomington and El Paso, Ill.

MCN’s partnership with Heritage, which owns 22 long-term care facilities and manages another 10, all in Illinois, has given Illinois State nursing students a real-world laboratory to hone their nursing skills.

“The residents love them,” explained Rose Stadel, director of operations for Heritage’s central region. “The residents’ families are pleased to see that we have a relationship with the college.”

Heritage provides the students with a place to sharpen their leadership, health assessment, medication administration, and other professional skills.

“With new admissions,” Stadel said, “they do initial assessments, they look at care plans, and they interact with other employees.”

The Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project is operating in an environment facing a trio of stiff challenges, according to Stadel: staffing, funding, and technology.

“One reason Heritage has affiliated with the Mennonite College of Nursing is in the hope that students will have a good experience and it will encourage them to pursue careers in long-term care.

“Funding,” Stadel added, “especially reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers” is another challenge due to a series of very complicated rules as well as the cost of care, which might run as much as \$120 to \$150 a day.

However, Stadel also sees a trend line among baby boomers, where that demographic group is increasingly tending to invest in long-term care insurance.

A third challenge Stadel sees on the long-term care horizon is the constant need to keep up with changes in technology.

“Our relationship with the Mennonite College of Nursing is a win-win situation,” she said. “We provide opportunities for students and the Mennonite faculty and staff are great resources for us. The relationship benefits our residents—it gives them a higher quality of care and that’s what it’s all about.”

Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization Board of Directors

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OSF Healthcare

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Deb Smith

Assistant Administrator, Patient Services

It's a family affair

by Bob Aaron

Dave Wiant's four children mused over what to get their dad for his 80th birthday.

They finally found that perfect present, but it wasn't at the shopping mall or at a travel agency. The special gift was an endowed scholarship in the name of their father and mother, David and Joan. The scholarship is earmarked for students attending Illinois State University—a gift that will keep giving for generations.

Wiant is a retired assistant vice president for administrative services at Illinois State University. He first came to campus in 1958 and retired in 1986.

Recalling how the idea took shape for the Wiant Endowed Scholarship for the Mennonite College of Nursing, he said: "It was the kids' idea. They were trying to figure out what to give me for my 80th birthday. They were aware of the pride I took in the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) and in Illinois State as well." The scholarship was established in July 2006.

His vision for the endowment, Wiant said, is for it to reach \$100,000. "Every birthday, the kids contribute to the scholarship fund," he said. "It's a family affair. All of us are involved."

Wiant is looking forward to 2008 when the first scholarships funded by the endowment might be awarded.

He wants to see the endowment grow because health care is an increasingly important issue. "Nurses are a big part of that," Wiant explained. "I hope along the way people who might not otherwise be able to afford a nursing career will have the incentive to pursue it" because of the endowed scholarship.

The family members, who spearheaded the endowment, are: Michael Wiant '71, M.S. '77, who is director of the Dickson Mounds Museum at Lewiston, Illinois. He also is a 1967 University High School graduate.

Christopher Wiant '72 is president and chief executive officer of the Caring for Colorado Foundation in Denver. He graduated from University High School in 1968.

Susan Crabb is president and chief executive officer of Help Source in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She attended Metcalf School.

Eric Wiant, a computer information specialist with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, graduated from Normal Community High School.

Wiant and his wife, Joan, to whom he has been married for 59 years, take pride in the achievements of their children—a group that has earned two doctorates and a half dozen master's degrees from various institutions of higher learning.

Wiant's children were aware of the fact that their father planned to leave a life insurance policy to MCN upon his death.

"I was going to do that," Wiant explained, "in part because my mother was a graduate of the first class of the Army School of Nursing in 1917 at Walter Reed Hospital. I took pride in her profession and I'm proud that the Mennonite College of Nursing is part of Illinois State University."

MCN is a significant addition to Illinois State, Wiant said, "and it's nice to have my family be a part of it."

Wiant takes a philosophical view toward life, noting: "You can enjoy a longer life when you keep busy doing things for other people."

Doing things for other people is part of a Wiant family tradition. He recalled growing up during the Great Depression in Brookings, South Dakota, where his father was on the faculty of what was then known as South Dakota State College. He learned then that looking out and caring for others was very important.

Applying that same culture of philanthropy to his commitment to the Wiant family endowment, he remarked: "We could have spent our money on other things, but we'd rather leave our legacy to the University where it might help others."



Dave and Joan Wiant

"...my mother was a graduate of the first class of the Army School of Nursing in 1917 at Walter Reed Hospital. I took pride in her profession and I'm proud that the Mennonite College of Nursing is part of Illinois State University. MCN is a significant addition to Illinois State, and it's nice to have my family be a part of it."

Supporting education to improve life

by Bob Aaron

“It’s a way of supporting education in a field that is important to improving life.”

That’s why Alma Stoddard established the Paul Stoddard Endowment in June 2006 to support student scholarships in the Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

Alma Stoddard, an assistant professor emerita in the health, physical education, and recreation department, was a faculty member at Illinois State for about 15 years before retiring in 1982.

She established the endowment to honor her brother, Paul, who died at age 23 in 1947 after succumbing to colitis and infectious jaundice. “I have an affinity for the College of Nursing,” Stoddard said, “due to my brother’s illness.

“The Mennonite College of Nursing,” she added, “selects top-quality students. Many of them are honor students and they do outstanding work. They will help improve the quality of life of those they serve.”

Two scholarships already have been awarded to nursing students as a result of the Paul Stoddard Endowment. One of the recipients is Marie Deffner '08, a senior majoring in nursing from Normal.

“When I learned about Alma,” Deffner said, “it put things in perspective. She is so giving and so compassionate.”

Deffner was profiled in June 2007 by *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington-Normal’s daily newspaper, because of her longtime interest in becoming a geriatric nurse, a nurse who works with older adults. She grew up around older adults, knowing all four of her grandparents and a great-grandfather who was in a nursing home.

Deffner told *The Pantagraph*: “When I got into nursing school, I was the only one interested in geriatrics,” adding that pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and neonatal intensive care were popular areas for nursing students.

After she graduates from Illinois State, Deffner told *The Pantagraph*, she plans to work in a nursing home for a couple of years before earning a master’s degree in geriatric nursing. Ultimately, she wants to work with patients with dementia and conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Stoddard read *The Pantagraph* article about Deffner, noting “what a good feeling she gets from working with older people.”

Deffner said she felt profound gratitude about receiving the Stoddard scholarship. “I feel special,” she said, “and I appreciate it.”

Amy Ducharme '07, another recipient of the Stoddard scholarship, is employed at the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago as a nurse on the pediatrics floor.

“My family,” Ducharme recalled, “was so proud and excited when I received the scholarship. They knew how much nursing means to me.”

Ducharme pursued a career in nursing, she said, because “I really want to work with people. I want to compassionately help people and take care of people.”

Ducharme said that she “loved the nursing program” at Illinois State, noting that the faculty at the Mennonite College of Nursing is “so into teaching” and very close to their students.

“Class sizes are small,” she explained, “so you can really focus and get hands-on experience with your teachers.”

Ducharme rates the Mennonite faculty as outstanding because they are “dedicated and you can really tell that they love what they’re doing. The professors would help you out no matter what—that’s the way it is at Mennonite.”

Ducharme also was a recipient of the Geriatric Excellence Award, which required her to write an essay about a seminal experience that influenced her career choice. Her composition focused on her grandfather and the hospice care he received in his waning days in 2002.

“He had a hospice nurse,” Ducharme recalled, “who made sure that he was cared for and comfortable.”

Ducharme said she was impressed by the fact that Alma Stoddard, a retired faculty member, had decided to invest in the Mennonite College of Nursing as a way to honor the memory of her brother.

“I want to thank her for the award,” Ducharme said, “and I will keep the award in mind throughout my career in the nursing profession.”

Ducharme’s long-term goals are to gain some practical work experience and then in a year or two to return to school to earn a master’s degree as a nurse practitioner.



Alma Stoddard



Paul Stoddard

Administration faculty and staff



Administration

Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNAA, BC
Interim Dean and Professor

Dianne Clemens, M.S.N., RNC
Acting Undergraduate Program Director and
Instructional Assistant Professor

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Director of Graduate Program, Research &
Scholarly Activities and Professor

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Interim Associate Dean and Associate
Professor

Clinical Lab Office

Jennifer Mool
Clinical Nursing Lab Coordinator

Cheryl Nafziger
Clinical Practice Coordinator

Department of Labor Accelerated Program

Dan Murphy
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Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project

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Principal Investigator

Charlene Aaron
Project Coordinator

Isaac Akins
Multimedia Web Developer

Becky Altic
Project RN

Beth Objartel
Project RN

Librarian

Diane Mather, MALS
Science Reference Librarian

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Lisa Marinelli
Project Coordinator,
Collaborative Doctoral Grant

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Partners in Nursing of Central Illinois

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Women First! Project
Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Principal Investigator

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Latoya Watson-Taylor
Research Assistant

Faculty

Professors

Sara Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNA, BC
Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Associate Professors

Caroline Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Denise Wilson, Ph.D., APN, CNP

Assistant Professors

Kim Astroth, Ph.D., RN, MS
Sandra Burke, Ph.D., CNP, BC-ADM
Elizabeth Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, APRN, BC
Mary Dyck, Ph.D., RN, BC, LNHA
Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Pam Lindsey, D.N.Sc., RN
Wendie Medina, N.D., RN, MS
Wendy Woith, Ph.D., RN
Pi-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., RN

Full Time Instructional Assistant Professors

Dianne Clemens, M.S.N., RNC
Mary Cranston, M.S., RN
Marcena Gabrielson, M.S.N, RN, C
Cathi Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS
Colleen Kelley, M.S.N., RN
Lynn Kennell, M.S.N., RN
Cindy Malinowski, M.S.N., RN
Gail Petro, M.S.N., RN, ANP
Teresa Saxton, M.S.N., RN
Rita Schlomer, M.S., RN, APN, CCNS
Deb Stenger, M.S.N., RN

Presentations

JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007

Charlene S. Aaron, M.S.N., RN Project Coordinator, Expanding Teaching Nursing Home

Aaron, C., Campbell, S. (2006, September).
Expanding the Teaching-Nursing Home Culture
Across the State of Illinois. Invited presentation
to the Illinois Department of Public Health,
Long-Term Care Board, Springfield, Ill.

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN Assistant Professor

Astroth, K., Fish, A., Bachman, J. and Hsueh,
K. (2007, March). Exercise Stage of Change
Classification: A Comparison of Three
Instruments and an Interview. Presentation at
the Midwest Nursing Research Society, Omaha,
Neb.

Sandra Burke, Ph.D., CNP, BC-ADM BroMenn Endowed Assistant Professor

Harper, L. & Burke, S.D. (2007, April). Unit Based
Journal Clubs as a Vehicle to Change Practice:
A Mother-Baby Unit Experience. Poster presenta-
tion at the 13th Annual Nursing Research
Conference, Springfield, Ill.

Bierbaum, P. & Burke, S. (2007, April). Zero
Tolerance for Central Line Infections: An
ICU Exemplar. Poster presentation at the
13th Annual Nursing Research Conference,
Springfield, Ill.

Burke, S.D. & Bierbaum, P. (2007, February).
Reducing Infection Rates Using the SIP Bundle.
Podium presentation at the 8th Annual
Conference of Evidence-Based Practice at
Arizona State University, Phoenix.

Burke, S.D. & Bierbaum, P. (2007, January). Zero
Tolerance for Central Line Infections: An ICU
Exemplar. Poster presentation at the 1st Annual
NDNQI (National Database of Nursing Quality
Indicators) Conference, Las Vegas.

Burke, S.D., Schreiner, B., Cornell, S., Shwide-
Slavin, C. & DeJesus, C. (2006, August).
The Diabetes Career Lattice: A Garden of
Opportunities for Educators. Presentation at
the American Association of Diabetic Educators
Annual Meeting, Los Angeles.

Burke, S.D. & Bierbaum, P. (2006, July).
Implementing the SIP Bundle in a Community
Hospital. Poster presentation at the 5th Annual
Conference on Evidence-Based Practice, San
Antonio.

Burke, S.D. & Bierbaum, P. (2006, July).
Implementing the SIP Bundle in a Community
Hospital. Poster presentation at the Memorial
Medical Center Research Conference,
Springfield, Ill.

**Sara L. Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNA, BC
Associate Dean, Associate Professor**
Aaron, C., Campbell, S. (2006, September).
Expanding the Teaching-Nursing Home Culture
Across the State of Illinois. Invited presentation
to the Illinois Department of Public Health,
Long-Term Care Board, Springfield, Ill.

Elizabeth Carlson, D.N.S., MPH, APRN, BC Assistant Professor

Carlson, E. & Engebretson, J.C. (2007, June).
Complexity Theory: Relevance to Holistic
Nursing. Workshop presentation at the 27th
Annual Conference of the American Holistic
Nurses Association, Tahoe, Calif.

Jennie Collings, M.P.H. Program Associate, Collaborative Doctoral Program

Jeffers, B.R., Collings, J. & Marinelli, L. (2007,
January). Developing Doctoral Faculty: A
Mentoring Program. Poster presentation at
the AACN 2007 Doctoral Conference, Captiva
Island, Fla.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, BC, LNHA Assistant Professor

Dyck, M.J. (2006, November). Administrative
Strategies to Prevent Weight Loss in Nursing
Home Residents. Presentation at the
Gerontological Society of America, Dallas.

Dyck, M.J. (2006, October). Administrative
Strategies to Prevent Weight Loss in Nursing
Home Residents. Poster presentation at the
National Gerontological Nursing Association
Convention, Cincinnati.

**Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Director of the Graduate Program, Research
& Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor**
Roth, M., Mottar, R. & Jeffers, B.R. (2006,
June). Pillow Talk: Examining Pillow Cores
in a Regional Burn Center. Poster presenta-
tion to the APIC: American Association for
Practitioners in Infection Control, Tampa, Fla.

Jeffers, B.R., Collings, J. & Marinelli, L. (2007,
January). Developing Doctoral Faculty: A
Mentoring Program. Poster presentation at
the AACN 2007 Doctoral Conference, Captiva
Island, Fla.

Jeffers, B.R. (2006, December). Research
Environments and the Research Report Card.
Presentation at the DHHS ORI 2006 Research
Conference on Research Integrity, University of
South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

Jeffers, B.R. (2006, February). Invited panel
member at the 2006 Illinois Wesleyan/
Mennonite College of Nursing joint Theta Pi/Xi
Pi conference on the Doctorate in Nursing
Practice and Clinical Nurse Leader. Illinois
Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill.

Jeffers, B.R. (2006, April). Invited panel member
at the 2006 Memorial Medical Center/Nu Pi
research conference, Research: It's Not Just for
PhDs: Critiquing the Evidence. Springfield, Ill.

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN Assistant Professor

Kossman, S. (2007, May). Blue Sky: Creating
Technology – Enhanced Chronic Care
Management for Teens with Depression.
Poster presentation at the American Medical
Informatics Association (AMIA) spring confer-
ence, Orlando, Fla.

Kossman, S. (2007, January). Evaluating Online
Courses: Looking Beyond As Good As Face to
Face. Presentation at the 7th Annual University-
Wide Symposium on Teaching and Learning,
Normal, Ill.

Kossman, S. (2006, November). A Nursing
Perspective on EHR. Presentation at the Central
Illinois Health Information and Management
Systems Society, Champaign, Ill.

Kossman, S. (2006, November). Designing
Study Nurses' Training to Enhance Research
Integrity: A Macroergonomic Approach.
Paper presentation at the AMIA (American
Medical Informatics Association) 2006
Biomedical and Health Information
Conference, Washington, D.C.

Kossman, S. (2006, October). Research TRIP:
sTEPs Along the Way. Keynote address at the
Sigma Theta Tau Xi Pi Induction Ceremony,
Normal, Ill.

Kossman, S. (2006, July). Blue Sky: Developing
Technology-enhanced Chronic Care
Management for Teens with Depression. Poster
presentation at the University of Maryland
School of Nursing Summer Institute in Nursing
Informatics, Baltimore.

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

**Director of the Undergraduate Program,
Assistant Professor**

Lindsey, P.L. (2006, October). The Relationship Between Organizational Factors and Psychiatric Nurses' Decision to Restrain. Poster presentation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Long Beach, Calif.

Lindsey, P.L. (2006, August). Creative Teaching Strategies. Presentation at the Mennonite College of Nursing College Council Faculty/Staff, Normal, Ill.

Caroline M. Mallory, Ph.D., RN

Associate Professor

Mallory, C.M. & Hesson-McInnis, M. (2006, August). Randomized Clinical Trial of an Intervention to Prevent HIV Among Women at High Risk. Poster presentation at the XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Mallory, C.M. & Neely, M. (2006, August). Acceptability of an Intervention to Prevent HIV Among Women at High Risk. Poster presentation at the XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Mallory, C.M. (2006, August). Facilitated the University Teaching Workshop, No College Student Left Behind, Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.

Lisa Marinelli, M.P.A.

Project Coordinator, Collaborative Doctoral Program

Jeffers, B.R., Collings, J. & Marinelli, L. (2007, January). Developing Doctoral Faculty: A Mentoring Program. Poster presentation at the AACN 2007 Doctoral Conference, Captiva Island, Fla.

Wendie C. Medina, D.N.P., RN,

APN-CNS, CRRN

Assistant Professor

Medina, W.C. & Kling, B. (2006, October). Living the Dream - Advanced Practice Nurses as Mento in LTC Wound Care. Poster presentation at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Annual National Conference, Chicago, Ill.

Medina, W.C. & Armstrong, L. (2006, October). Behavioral Communication-Understand GERD in Aging Adults with ID. Poster presentation at the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) Annual National Conference, Chicago, Ill.

Melissa Neely, B.A.

Research Coordinator, Women First Project

Neely, M. & Mallory, C.M. (2006, August). Acceptability of an Intervention to Prevent HIV Among Women at High Risk. Poster presentation at the XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN

**Dean and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson
Fellow**

Ridenour, N. (2007, March). Nursing Moments: Leadership in Philanthropy. Paper presentation at the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows meeting, New York, N.Y.

Ridenour, N. (2006, October). Grassroots Health Policy: Building Local, State, and Federal Constituencies for Nursing. Paper presentation at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Washington, D.C.

Deb Stenger, M.S.N, RN

Instructional Assistant Professor

Stenger, D. (2007, March). Poster presentation at XiPi Evidence-Based Practice Conference, Normal, IL.

Wendy L. Woith, Ph.D., RN

Assistant Professor

Woith, W.L. (2007, March). Delay in Seeking Treatment and Adherence to Tuberculosis Medication Therapy in Russia. Paper presentation at the 2007 Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference, Omaha, Neb.

Pi-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., RN

Assistant Professor

Yeh, P.M., Wierenga, M.E. & Yaun, S.C. (2007, April). Factors Influencing Family Caregiver Burden of Cancer Patients in Taiwanese Hospital. Poster presentation at the Nurses as Scientists 13th Annual Research Conference, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield, Ill.

Yeh, P.M., Wierenga, M.E. & Yaun, S.C. (2007, March/April). Factors Influencing Family Caregiver Burden of Cancer Patients in Taiwanese Hospital. Poster presentation at the Asian American Pacific Island Nurses Association's 4th Annual Conference, "Asian Pacific Island Families: Bridging Inter-generational Health Concerns," San Francisco.

Yeh, P.M., Wierenga, M.E. & Yaun, S.C. (2007, March). Factors Influencing Family Caregiver Burden of Cancer Patients in Taiwanese Hospital. Poster presentation at the 20th Annual Pacific Nursing Research Conference, "Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence in Nursing Research," Honolulu.

Publications

JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007

Sara L. Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNAA, BC

Associate Dean, Associate Professor

Campbell, S.L. (2007). Hear your soul speak to you (endnotes section). *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 33(1), 56.

Campbell, S.L. (2006). The concept of attractiveness and older adults with mental illness residing in nursing homes (in the Aging Matters Column). *Journal of Psychological Nursing and Mental Health Services*, 44(9), 15-18. Invited Column.

Elizabeth Carlson, D.N.S., MPH, APRN, BC
Assistant Professor

Mahoney, J.S., Carlson, E., & Engebretson, J.C. (2006). A framework of cultural competence in advanced practice psychiatric and mental health education. *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care*. 42(4), 227-237.

Carlson, E., Engebretson, J.C., & Chamberlain, R.M. (2006). Photovoice as a social process of critical consciousness. *Qualitative Health Research*. 16(2), 836-852.

Mark Dabbs, M.S.N., CNAA, BC, RN

Instructional Assistant Professor

Dabbs, M. (2007). Nurses need to recognize child abuse and take action. *Advance for Nurses*, 5(13), 15.

Smith, D. & Dabbs, M. (2007). Transforming the care delivery model in preparation for the clinical nurse leader. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 37(4), 157-160.

Dabbs, M. (2007). Lessons learned from opening a truly universal bed unit. *v(4)*, 29.

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

Assistant Professor

Dyck, M.J., Culp, K., & Cacchione, P.Z. (2007). Data quality strategies in cohort studies: Lessons from a study on delirium in nursing home elders. *Applied Nursing Research*. 20(1), 39-43.

Dyck, M.J. (2007). Nursing staffing and resident outcomes in nursing homes: Weight loss and dehydration. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. 22(1), 59-65.

Amy Green

Undergraduate Nursing Honor Student

Green, A. & Jeffers, B.R. (2006). Exploring moral distress in the long-term care setting. *Perspectives: Journal of Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association*. 30(4), 5-9.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN

Director of the Graduate Program, Research & Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor

Green, A. & Jeffers, B.R. (2006). Exploring moral distress in the long-term care setting. *Perspectives: Journal of Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association*. 30(4), 5-9.

Lynn Kennell, M.S.N., RN

Instructional Assistant Professor

Fowles, E. & Kennell, L. (2007). Innovations in long-term care incorporating geriatric content into an undergraduate parent-child nursing course -- an innovative approach. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 33(3), 13-18.

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

Hosilton, E.C., Schweitzer, R., Gasper, P., Meeker, M.E., Hendrix, C.C., Kossman, S.K., & Piamajariyakul, U. (2006). Preparing junior investigators to develop gerontological research. *Nursing Outlook*, 54(5), 287-293.

Kossman, S. (2006). Perceptions of impact on electronic health records on nurses' work. Park, H-A; Murray, P; and Delaney, C. (Eds) *Consumer-centered computer supported care for health people*. Proceedings of NI 2006 (IOS Press: Amsterdam). 122, 337-341.

Brennan, P.F., Burke, L., Casper, G.R., Sebern, M., Krause, C., Kossman, S., Severtson, D., & Murphy, J. (2006). Creating technology-enhanced practice: A university-home care-corporate alliance. Park, H-A; Murray, P; and Delaney, C. (Eds) *Consumer-centered computer supported care for health people*. Proceedings of NI 2006 (IOS Press: Amsterdam). 122, 664-648.

Kossman, S., Casper, G.R., Severtson, D.J., Grenier, A.S., Or, C., Carayon, P., & Brennan, P.F. (2006). Designing study nurses' training to enhance research integrity. *American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)*, 439-443.

Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson Fellow

Ridenour, N. (2006). Building and sustaining chapter viability through philanthropy; *Sigma Theta Tau International: Indianapolis, Chapter Philanthropy Resource Guide*, 2-4.

Deb Smith, M.B.A., RN, CNAA
Instructional Assistant Professor

Smith, D. & Dabbs, M. (2007). Transforming the care delivery model in preparation for the clinical nurse leader. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 37(4), 157-160.

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

Wilson, D.D. (2006). Managing migraines. *BroMenn Healthy Outlook for Women*, 3.

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

McElmurry, B.J., Solheim, K., Kishi, R., Coffia, M.A., Woith, W. & Janepanish, P. (2006). Ethical concerns in nurse migration. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 22(4), 226-235.

Funded Grants

JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007

Charlene S. Aaron, M.S.N., RN
Project Coordinator, Expanding Teaching Nursing Home

(2007, March). Grant Writing Initiative Award for 2007. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$1,000.

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

(2007, March). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$3,203.

Sandra D. Burke, Ph.D., CNP, BC-ADM
BroMenn Endowed Assistant Professor

(2006, August). Mentorship to Advance Scholarship in Evidence-Based Practice. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University Vulnerable Populations, \$2,000.

Sara L. Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNAA, BC
Associate Dean, Associate Professor

(2006, October). Expanding the Teaching-Nursing Home Culture in the State of Illinois. Funded by Illinois Department of Public Health, \$371,488.

(5/1/2006 - 8/31/2006). Summer Geriatric Traineeship. Funded by University of Illinois, College of Nursing, \$3,496.

Elizabeth Carlson, D.N.S., MPH, APRN, BC
Assistant Professor

(2007, June) Breast Cancer, Culture of Aging and Health Disparities. Funded by Pery and Helen Obalil Grant: The Illinois State University Parents' Association Board, \$250.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, BC, LNHA
Assistant Professor

(7/1/2005 - 6/30/2007). Nursing Leadership Interventions and Weight Loss in Nursing Homes. Funded by John A. Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Fellow, \$120,000 (Year 2).

Marcena L. Gabrielson, M.S.N., RN, C
Instructional Assistant Professor

(2006, July). John A. Hartford Foundation Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Scholar. Funded by John A. Hartford Foundation, \$100,000.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Director of the Graduate Program, Research & Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor

(10/2006). Evaluation of a Vascular Education Package. Leslie Montgomery, MS, RN, CCRN, principal investigator; Brenda Recchia Jeffers, co-principal investigator. Funded by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, \$500.

(7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007). Collaborative Doctoral Program with the University of Iowa. Brenda Recchia Jeffers, principal investigator. Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), \$1,127,475 (Year 2).

(2006, July). Advanced Nursing Education Traineeship FY 2006. Funded by HRSA Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Grant Application, \$19,603.

(1/1/2006 - 12/31/2006) Implementing Evidence-Based Practice. Nancy Ridenour, principal investigator; Brenda Recchia Jeffers, co-principal investigator. Funded by Memorial Medical Center, \$20,000.

Catherine B. Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS, CNL
Instructional Assistant Professor

(9/1/2005 - 8/31/2008). Bioterrorism Response Infusion Model. Frank Waterstraat, principal investigator; Eileen Fowles, co-director, co-principal investigator; Cathi Kaesberg, content consultant. Funded by Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA), \$286,418 (Year 2).

Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

(2006, December). Blue Skies: Developing Technology-Enhanced Chronic Care Management for Teens with Depression. Funded by Illinois State University, Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations, \$4,000.

(3/1/2006 - 2/29/2008). Blue Sky: Developing Technology-Enhanced Chronic Care Management for Teens with Depression. Funded by National Library of Medicine, \$136,289 (year 2).

Pamela L. Lindsey, D.N.Sc, RN
Director of the Undergraduate Program, Assistant Professor

(2007, March). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations: Mentoring Grant. Funded by Illinois State University Mentoring Grant, \$1,500.

(2006, August). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations: Mentoring Grant. Funded by Illinois State University Mentoring Grant, \$2,125.

Caroline M. Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor

(2007, April). Women's First. Funded by Illinois Department of Public Health, \$52,000.

(2007, March). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$750.

(9/30/2004 - 8/31/2006). Risk of HIV Among Middle Age African American Women. Funded by The National Institute of Aging (NIA), \$70,000 (Year 3).

(9/1/2003 - 8/31/2006). Multitheoretical Approach to Prevent HIV Among Women. Funded by The National Institute of Health (NIH), \$140,000 (Year 4).

Wendie C. Medina, D.N.P., RN, APN-CNS, CRRN

Assistant Professor

(2006, August). Student Nurses' Self-Attributes of Skill, Comfort and Approach in Caring for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Funded by Illinois State University Research Grant, \$1,000.

(2006, August). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$1,125.

Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson
Fellow

(1/1/2006 - 12/31/2006) Implementing Evidence-Based Practice. Nancy Ridenour, principal investigator; Brenda Recchia Jeffers, co-principal investigator. Funded by Memorial Medical Center, \$20,000.

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

(7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007). Collaborative Doctoral Program with the University of Iowa. Brenda Recchia Jeffers, principal investigator; Denise D. Wilson, lead writer. Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), \$1,127,475 (Year 2).

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

(2006, August). Biobehavioral Nursing Research Grant. Funded by University of Illinois at Chicago, \$41,646.

(2006, August). Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University; \$1,000.

(2006, August). University Research Grant. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University; \$1,125.

(2006, July). Nurse Educator Fellowship Program. Funded by Illinois Board of Higher Education, \$10,000.

Pi-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

(2007, June). Influences of Spiritual Well-Being, Coping, and Care Continuity on Family Caregiver Burden and Mental Health. University Research Grant. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$3,946.63.

(2007, March). Grant Writing Initiative Award for 2007. Funded by Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University, \$1,000.

Faculty Interviews

July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Professor

Catherine B. Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS, CNL, Instructional Assistant Professor
Cathi Kaesberg and Kim Astroth were interviewed by the Vidette. Their interview appears in an April 3, 2007, story: "Patients advised not to lie to physicians" by Vidette reporter Amy McKewen.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, Director of the Graduate Program, Research & Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor
Deb Smith, M.B.A., RN, CNA, Instructional Assistant Professor

Brenda Recchia Jeffers and Deborah Smith were interviewed by writer E. Crocker on the Clinical Nurse Leader. Their interview, "New kid on the block," appeared in the March 19, 2007, issue of *Advance for Nurses*.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, Director of the Graduate Program, Research & Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor

Brenda Recchia Jeffers was interviewed by Illinois State University Channel 10 regarding the approval of the new doctoral program through Academic Senate. The interview aired April 13, 2007.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers was interviewed by writer B. Kancelbaum for *Advance for Nurses*. Her article, "Enhancing Geriatric Research," was published in the June 11, 2007, issue.

Awards, Honors and Accomplishments

July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007

Charlene S. Aaron, M.S.N., RN
Project Coordinator, Expanding Teaching Nursing Home

- Received certification from ANCC as a Gerontological Nurse in February 2007.

Kim M. Astroth, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

- Served as a reviewer for *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* for a manuscript, "Nursing practice improves patient outcomes: Evaluating the effectiveness of a healthy lifestyles group for outpatient mental health clients."

Sandra Burke, Ph.D., CNP, BC-ADM
BroMenn Endowed Assistant Professor

- Recipient of the first Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations Award. Also receiving this award were Dr. Pam Lindsey, Dr. Wendy Medina and Dr. Wendy Woith.

Sara L. Campbell, D.N.S., RN, CNA, BC
Associate Dean, Associate Professor

- Recipient of the William E. and Nancy Froelich Endowment for Long Term Care Award in March 2007.
- In September 2006, was invited by the Director's Council of Public Representative (COPR), National Institute of Health to be a COPR Associate.
- Was elected as the chair to the CCNE Nominating Committee in August 2006.

Mary J. Dyck, Ph.D., RN, BC, LNHA
Assistant Professor

- Was selected as a manuscript reviewer for *Applied Nursing Research*, *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, and *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*.

Marcena L. Gabrielson, M.S.N., RN, C
Instructional Assistant Professor

- Successfully passed her Ph.D. comprehensive exam.
- Was selected as a 2006-2008 John A. Hartford Foundation BAGNC Scholar.

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN
Director of the Graduate Program, Research & Scholarly Activities, Associate Professor

- Was appointed as a member of the John A. Hartford/AACN Gerontology Core Curriculum Committee.

**Catherine B. Kaesberg, M.S.N., RN, CNS, CNL
Instructional Assistant Professor**

- Received certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader.

**Susan Kossman, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor**

- Was selected as a Mennonite College of Nursing's Outstanding College Researcher in February 2007.

**Pamela L. Lindsey, DNSc, RN
Director of the Undergraduate Program,
Assistant Professor**

- Was selected as a 2007-2009 John A. Hartford Foundation/Atlantic Philanthropies Claire M. Fagin Fellow. The Hartford/Atlantic Post-doctoral Fellowship is a nationally competitive fellowship sponsored by the Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity Program. Last year, only seven fellows were named nationwide. Lindsey will continue her work in mental health and Dr. Kitty Buckwalter, University of Iowa, will serve as her mentor.
- Recipient of the first Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations Award. Also receiving this award were Dr. Sandi Burke, Dr. Wendy Medina and Dr. Wendy Woith.

**Caroline M. Mallory, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor**

- Was selected as a manuscript reviewer for Research in Nursing and Health.
- Was selected to serve on scientific review panel for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

**Wendie C. Medina, D.N.P., RN, APN-CNS, CRRN
Assistant Professor**

- Was invited to serve as a grant reviewer for the Rehabilitation Nursing Foundation (RNF) Research Fund Committee.
- Recipient of the first Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations Award. Also receiving this award were Dr. Sandi Burke, Dr. Pam Lindsey, and Dr. Wendy Woith.

**Beth Objartel, MSN, RN
Project RN, Expanding Teaching Nursing
Home**

- Received certification from ANCC as a Gerontological Nurse in February 2007.

**Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Robert Wood Johnson
Fellow**

- Was honored at the 18th Annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards ceremony in the education category in May 2007.

**Rita Schlomer, MS, RN, APN, CCNS, CNL
Instructional Assistant Professor**

- Received certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader.

**Denise D. Wilson, Ph.D., APN, CNP
Associate Professor**

- Received the Graduate Program Teaching Excellence Award in May 2007.
- In 2007, received an honorable mention for the Excellence in Civic Engagement Award.

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

- Selected as an IBHE Nurse Educator Fellow in December 2006.
- Recipient of an NINR/NIH Post-doctoral Fellowship: "Training in Biobehavioral Nursing Research." She will be working with Dr. Janet Larson and others at the University of Chicago College of Nursing examining tuberculosis and health care workers.
- Recipient of the first Partnership for Research Involving Vulnerable Populations Award. Also receiving this award were Dr. Sandi Burke, Dr. Pam Lindsey and Dr. Wendy Medina.

**Pi-Ming Yeh, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor**

- Was accepted to participate in the GNIRC/HCGNE Iowa Summer Scholars Seminar in June 2007.
- Was appointed to be the representative for the Mennonite College of Nursing on the University Research Council.
- Was invited to serve as a reviewer of the Journal of Nursing Scholarship.



Nursing Student Selected as a Bone Scholar

Rebekah Hertz of Herscher, III., has been selected as one of the 2007-08 Illinois State University Bone Scholars.

The scholarship is named in honor of the late Robert G. Bone, president of Illinois State from 1956 to 1967. Bone Scholars are selected through a rigorous campus-wide competition on the basis of their scholarly achievements and their engagement and leadership in activities in the university community and beyond.

Private Scholarship Recipients JULY 1, 2006-JUNE 30, 2007

**Helen A. Bender
Endowed Scholarship**
Katie Hammarstedt

**Ralph M. & Mary Esch
Endowed Scholarship**
Lisa Gillespie
Katie Hammarstedt
Lauren Woodard

**Jenny Lu Etcheson
Endowed Scholarship**
Lisa Gillespie

**The William E. and Nancy Froelich
Endowment for Long Term Care**
Dr. Sara Campbell

**Clara E. Gerhart
Endowed Scholarship**
Leslie Carmack
Joanna Nance
Carrie Tucker

**M. Rudelle Goodwin
Endowed Scholarship**
Kathryn Anderson

**The Jeanette Gorecki
Endowed Scholarship**
Leslie Carmack

**Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Endowed
Faculty Development Award**
Dr. Caroline Mallory

**Elizabeth Davis Holder Endowed
Scholarship**
Melissa Sullivan

**Richard and Julia Johnson Endowed
Scholarship**
Melissa Sullivan

**Roger and Stephany Joslin Endowed
Scholarship**
Katie Hammarstedt
Brittany Woolley

Meredith Lovelass Annual Scholarship
Shelley Nicholson

Lena Maxwell Endowed Scholarship
Ashley Hoerr

Edwin Mellon Annual Scholarship
Elizabeth Frazier

MCN Transcultural Endowment
Danielle Dautel
Rebekah Hertz
Stephanie Koester
Amanda Krueger
Katie Levine
Margo Smith
Amanda Wenthe
Jessica Wollenberg

**MNAO Endowed Student &
Transcultural Scholarships**

Kathryn Anderson
Amanda Andrews
Erin Astroth
Jessica Blanchard
Peter Borkowski
Amanda Boydston
Melinda Cheek
Kathryn Czuprynski
Elizabeth Frazier
Kayla Gains
Amanda Goldfarb
Brittney Hardin
Jessica Kottman
Jess Memmel
Whitney Mizera
Allison Morrissey
Tara Paul
Diane Romito
Julie Spielman
Libby Wolf

**Curtis & Mary Ellen Griggs
& William Morlan Annual Scholarship**
Whitney Mizera

**Virginia Mosbacher
Endowed Scholarship**
Leslie Carmack

Physicians Annual Scholarship
Melissa Sullivan

Anna Ropp Endowed Scholarship
Bettianne Atkins

**Rachel Rogers Schilling
Annual Scholarship**
Jessica Memmel

**The Jesse and Louise Schmied
Endowed Scholarship**
Julie Spielman

**Seeley-Barton
Endowed Scholarship**
Carrie Tucker

**Gertrude E. Skelly
Charitable Foundation**
Bettianne Atkins
Joanna Nance
Margaret St. Peters

**The LaRue Sloan Annual
Scholarship in Nursing**
Alycia White

**The Vivian O. Stockdale
Endowed Scholarship**
Kathryn Anderson

The Paul Stoddard Endowment
Marie Deffner
Amy DuCharme

**Marie Yoder Endowed
Scholarship Fund**
Kari Bruening

2007 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 generous gifts. In April, President Al Bowman and 46 private scholarship donors and scholarship recipients attended the event.

Photos, top row from left, Roy Schilling and President Bowman; Tudy Schmied and Julie Spielman; Sara Campbell, Larry McCray and Pam Lindsey; bottom row, Elizabeth Frazier and Dale Mellon; Melissa Sullivan, Julia Johnson and Richard Johnson; Jo Ropp, Bettianne Atkins, and Ron Ropp; Meredith Lovelass, Shelley Nicholson and Tom Lovelass



It's a ... SimBaby!

A big thank you to COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services, the MCN Friends Steering Committee, and Dave and Karen Magers (class of '79) for helping raise money for the college to purchase a SimBaby. SimBaby is a full-scale infant patient simulator that will allow nursing students to practice pediatric emergency skills and scenarios.

Friends Steering Committee

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



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Dolores Bauman	Jennifer Clemens	Fish and Associates	Kelli Hill
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Emily and Weldon Bender	Linda and Roger Clemmons	Amy Fitzpatrick	C. Wendell Hinesley
Barbara and Jerry Benjamin	Linda and Daniel Cole	Janet and Robert Flageole	Kendall and Teresa Hoffacker
Candace Benner	S. Lauretta Coleman	Carol Flesher	Lee and Alan Hoffman
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Twyla and Dale Legner	Nancy and David O'Neill	Diane and Ronald Skidmore	Daphne and John Wepprecht
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Brittany McNichols	Jane Rieger		
Marilyn and Charlie Mehl			
Sue Marie Mendez			
D. Keith and Rita Mikel			

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.

Alumni awards



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 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 or his life. This is the highest award the College bestows upon its graduates.

2006 distinguished Alumni Award Recipient
Laura (Cisco) Baue, RN, B.S.N., M.Ed., NCSN
Class of 1981, B.S.N. 1987



The Young 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) is under the age of 35; 2) has demonstrated significant accomplishments 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 or his life.

2006 Young Alumni Award Recipient
Daphne (Burnett) Piercy, MSN, APN, FNP
Class of 1996, M.S.N., 1999

2006-07 Student Nurses Association Officers



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

Accelerated B.S.N. Update

In January of 2007, the first group of students was admitted into an accelerated B.S.N. option at Mennonite College of Nursing. This option is designed for second degree students. These students will complete their course work and graduate in December 2007. The accelerated B.S.N. was funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant written by Sue Deason of Extended University.

MCN will offer the accelerated B.S.N. option again in 2008, offered in conjunction with Extended University at Illinois State and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. The number of students accepted for 2008 has doubled to 20.



Cathy Kaesberg



Rita Schlomer

Clinical Nurse Leader

In the fall of 2007, Mennonite College of Nursing offered a new sequence in the graduate program. The clinical nurse leader (CNL) will prepare students to function as leaders who will improve patient care and safety within complex health care environments. Partners in education and health care practices collaborated to develop the CNL role. MCN collaborated with BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington to prepare the CNL. The first students in the CNL sequence will be nurses from each of the institutions, which have committed to hiring CNL graduates from MCN.

Cathi Kaesberg and Rita Schlomer are instructional assistant professors at MCN who went through the process to become certified clinical nurse leaders this past summer. The national pass rate for this exam is approximately 84 percent. Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, director of Graduate Programs and Research, said, "The CNL is a provider and manager of care at the patient's bedside. The CNL has additional educational preparation in outcomes-based practice and quality improvement to ensure high-quality care delivery. I am so pleased that two of our faculty are certified in this practice area."



Elizabeth Carlson, Ph.D., MPH, APRN, BC, assistant professor

Dr. Elizabeth Carlson is a certified gerontological nurse practitioner and clinical specialist in community health nursing. She joined Mennonite College of Nursing as an assistant professor in 2007. Carlson teaches nursing research in the undergraduate program, and co-teaches several family nurse practitioner courses in the graduate program. She also has provided assistance to the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project.

How did you become interested in nursing and gerontology?

I got interested in nursing when I was in high school and worked as a candystriper and nurse's aide (what would now be called a CNA). After high school, I worked for a number of years as a unit clerk in various hospitals. I married, had children, and went back to college when the youngest was 2.

I became interested in advanced practice after a particular patient died. I was determined to have more control over the care patients received. In the hospital setting, I observed that as many as 75 percent of the patients would not have needed to be hospitalized if someone had intervened sooner.

Where did you go to school?

I did all my schooling at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, which is the largest health science center in the world (Texas is big on being big). I got my BSN from the School of Nursing in 1994.

I was the third graduate of a dual MSN/MPH program that was offered by the School of Nursing and the School of Public Health. At the School of Nursing, I was in the gerontological nurse practitioner track and the adult nurse practitioner tract. At the School of Public Health, I was in the community health tract, graduating in 1997.

As a doctoral student, I was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, which provided me with salary and educational expenses for three years while I attended the doctor of science in nursing (DSN) program at the UTHSCH School of Nursing. I graduated in 2003. They recently changed my degree to a Ph.D.

I am certified as a gerontological nurse practitioner (GNP) and a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) in community health nursing.

Before joining MCN, where did you work?

From 1997 to 2000, I worked as a GNP for a hospital system that opened a geriatric outpatient office for older adults. From 2000 to 2005, I operated my own practice, Visiting Health Care, seeing patients in their homes. These were, of course, older adults with multiple chronic diseases. This was a real eye-opening experience, as most of my clients had been patients of the outpatient clinic and I'd known them for years. Now I was seeing them in their homes and neighborhoods and realized just how much we do not know when we see patients only in the clinic setting.

After I earned my doctorate, I was awarded a three-year, full-time doctoral research fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in the Department of Cancer Prevention. I continued to develop my research skills and continued my work at the community level to develop systems of care for older adults.

Why is it important to have nursing students consider gerontology as a specialty?

From a practical perspective, unless you go specifically into a pediatric practice, you will be working with aging adults. Gerontology is the study of aging and geriatric practice, whether medicine or nursing, is focused on managing the spectrum of complexity as older adults age. That spectrum changes, depending on whether you are working with a healthier outpatient clientele, those living in assisted living facilities, or those living in a nursing home setting. That complexity includes not only the functional well-being of the patient, but also the family or caretakers.

What research projects are you working on at MCN?

My main research interests have focused around cancer, culture, and health disparities. The cultural piece has centered on developing the idea of social capital and what that concept means to collaborative relationships. When I was in Houston, that focus came from working with neighborhood communities. Now that I've moved to MCN, I see a perfect fit working with the Expanded Teaching Nursing Home Project to get evidence-based practice into long-term care. The underlying ingredient for success is engaging everyone in collaborative best practice initiatives.

I've also been involved with developing the curriculum for the gerontological nurse practitioner program, which was one of the objectives of the ETNH grant. The curriculum has passed through College Council and the University level. We will admit our first students for their first course in summer 2008.

Mary Cranston, MS, RN, instructional assistant professor

When Mary Cranston was about 5 years old, she remembers visiting her grandmother, who had hardening of the arteries, in a nursing home.

"I remember during one visit, my grandmother was going on and on about how it was raining in the room. My mother just cried and cried. I went to the closet, got out an umbrella, opened it and sat on the bed with my grandmother. She was fine after that and we had a lovely conversation."

Although she didn't know it at the time, such experiences would spark Cranston's interest in gerontology.

Growing up, Cranston never dreamed of becoming a nurse. She wanted to be a teacher. When she was in high school, her friends asked her to be a candystriper with them at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, Ill. Although she wasn't interested, being a good friend, she agreed.

"I remember my first day was spent with a gentleman who was actively dying, confused and then comatose," she said. "This experience got me hooked on nursing. The irony of this story is my friends who wanted to be nurses went to college and are now teachers, and I am now a nurse."

When asked about her interest in gerontology, Cranston said, "I think my interest in gerontology began with my grandmothers. Of all the people who can give you insight into the past and a window of what life will be like in the future, it is older adults. They have so much to draw from and so much to teach us if we only give them the chance. They are my sociologists, theologians and historians as well as practical advisors."

Cranston received her B.S.N. from the University of Iowa School of Nursing. She took additional courses in gerontology to enhance her studies in nursing. She received her master's of science degree in gerontological nursing. Cranston participated in an internship at the Rush Alzheimer's Family Care Center, an adult day center established to assist families in keeping their loved ones with dementia at home.

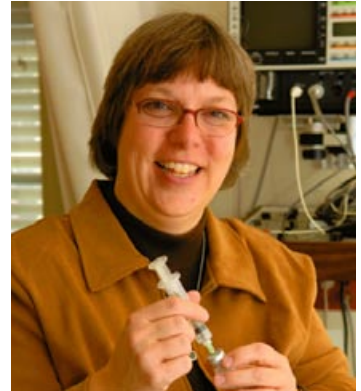
In 2003, Cranston accepted a position at Mennonite College of Nursing as an instructional assistant professor. She teaches several courses in the undergraduate program.

"I feel very fortunate to work at Mennonite College of Nursing," she said. "It gives me the opportunity to work with a strong, insightful group of nurses and teachers who constantly strive to teach nursing more effectively and creatively. It is an honor and privilege to work with them."

Cranston participated in the Summer Independent Study Toward Elder Research (S.I.S.T.E.R.) project for the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project as the initial faculty participant. She was selected to participate in the Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium in the fall of 2007. The national initiative is designed to enhance and solidify geriatric curriculum in nursing education. She also presented at the 39th Biennial Convention for Sigma Theta Tau in November 2007.

Cranston recommends gerontology to everyone who enjoys people.

"Older adults are such a resource to us all with gifts and insights that only add to your own life," she said.



BroMenn Endowed Professor Update

by Sandra Burke, Ph.D., RN, BroMenn endowed assistant professor

The 2006 – 2007 academic year was a busy time for projects at BroMenn Regional Medical Center. The survey of nurses' attitudes, beliefs and evidence-based practice patterns (EBP) was completed in August and the results shared in a series of articles in the *BroMenn Times*.

During the summer and fall, we worked together to identify appropriate venues for presenting the EBP work done at BroMenn, and followed that up by writing and submitting abstracts for presentations at local, regional and national conferences.

Many of our abstracts were accepted for presentation. In January, Pam Bierbaum presented our poster on reducing central line infections in ICU patients at the first annual NDNQI conference in Las Vegas. The following month, Pam and I traveled to Phoenix to present a paper on a successful change process used to reduce surgical site infections at BroMenn.

The first Annual Evidence-Based Practice Conference at Illinois State was held in February. The Mennonite College of Nursing and the Xi Pi, Theta Pi, Tau Omicron, and Epsilon Epsilon chapters of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society co-sponsored the event with BroMenn.

The conference featured Drs. Bernadette Melnyk and Ellen Fineout-Overholt who spoke to a sell-out crowd of more than 500 students and practicing RNs. BroMenn nurses presented a number of posters at the event. In April, Beth Objartel presented a poster at the 14th annual national EBP conference at the University of Iowa and I presented two of our posters at the annual research day at Springfield Memorial Medical Center.

I continue to chair the Council for Evidence Based Practice and Research and work with the unit-based journal clubs. In March, the Same Day Surgery Journal Club nurses began a comprehensive review of literature on the topic of local anesthesia to reduce the pain of IV catheter insertions. Based on their findings, work began to design a replication research study. Their work was summarized into an abstract and submitted for poster presentation at the ninth annual EBP conference in Phoenix.

Computer Lab Updated

By Jeff Grabb, associate director of technology

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University held a celebration on February 20, 2007, with faculty, staff, students and special guests to reveal the updated computer lab in Edwards Hall. This update was made possible in part by funding from State Farm Companies Foundation.

The computer lab originally had only 16 computers for student use. This proved to be insufficient to support MCN's growth and the continued improvement of the success plan. The success plan is a Web-based testing regimen overseen by a faculty mentor and designed to help nursing students develop skills that will help them in passing their licensure exam (NCLEX).

State Farm funding was used to purchase computers and furniture, upgrade wiring and perform computer lab maintenance. Funds also were used to purchase servers, storage, software, and wiring that support the college in administering the success plan.

Students now have access to 24 seats, a 50 percent increase. Also, the room had started to look dated and didn't reflect the modern nursing environment. This was changed with new desks and chairs, which helped make the lab more functional and attractive.

Most of the lab updates were completed in the summer of 2006. This included 26 new desks that can be reconfigured for computing or for traditional instruction by lowering the LCD screens. Also, 26 computers and screens were installed. Part of this process included adding network and power connections to the lab.

A new projector bright enough to be visible in most light conditions was added. In December of 2006, Illinois State's Classroom Technology Support Services collaborated with MCN to complete a cart that made the projector capable of displaying laptop, computer, DVD or video information on the main screen. The computer lab's videoconferencing system was re-installed, allowing the use of the projector and other technologies within the room.

All of the nursing programs utilize the computer lab, whether it's for technology training, orientation, research, videoconferencing or basic computer access. Thanks to State Farm Companies Foundation, the computer lab was redesigned as a multi-use space that benefits the education of nurses.



Jim Rutrough, vice chairman and chief administrative officer, State Farm Insurance Companies; Willie Brown, executive vice president, State Farm Insurance Companies; Al Bowman, president, Illinois State University; Nancy Ridenour, former dean, Mennonite College of Nursing



Collaborative Doctoral Program: Caring for Older Adults

By Jennie Collings, program associate, collaborative doctoral program

The second year of the Collaborative Doctoral Program (CDP) grant was a busy and very productive sequence of events. The main focus of the year's efforts was seeking approval for the doctor of philosophy in nursing proposal, and behind that very visible product was a host of projects designed to accomplish additional grant objectives.

The Ph.D. program description, curriculum, and policies were approved by the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) Graduate Program Curriculum Committee and College Council in the fall of 2006. After approval within the College, the process moved to the University level: Graduate School, Academic Senate and Board of Trustees, respectively. All three of these governing bodies approved the proposal in the spring of 2007.

"The proposal for the Ph.D. in nursing is intellectually rigorous and academically solid," said Dr. Kimberly Nance, director of graduate studies at Illinois State. "Moreover, the new doctoral program will help to address urgent local, state, national, and indeed international needs for professors and researchers in the critical area of health care."

The final destination of the approval journey is the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The proposal was formally submitted to IBHE during the summer of 2007 with the expectation that a decision will be made early in 2008.

To help address the nurse faculty shortage by quickly moving students toward teaching positions, Illinois State University granted MCN approval to offer doctoral-level nursing courses on a temporary basis until the doctoral program is approved. The inaugural course at MCN was qualitative research design, offered in the fall of 2006 and taught by Dr. Caroline Mallory. Three students successfully completed the course. To further enhance the learning experience, the second course offered brought together three professors to share their experiences. Five students successfully completed health policy, which was offered in the spring of 2007 and taught by Ann Cary, Ph.D., MPH, RN, A-CCC, associate dean for academic affairs, graduate program director, director of MS/MPH Program, director of MPH Online, Program in Public Health Practice at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., RN, professor and director, Graduate Program and Research and Scholarly Activities at MCN; and Nancy Ridenour, Ph.D., RN, APRN, BC, FAAN, professor and former dean of MCN, Robert Wood Johnson Executive Fellow.

The course blended distance and traditional learning strategies to help minimize travel for students and increase the efficiency of completing their studies. "The use of real-time interactive video supplemented by Web-based asynchronous learning tools provides students with a rich learning environment that allows nursing experts from across the country to contribute to the University classroom experience," said Jeffers.

The doctoral program continues to gain interest from potential students as evidenced by eight students enrolling in the fall 2007 course: theoretical basis of nursing research, taught by Sandi Burke Ph.D., CNP, BC-ADM. Multiple recruiting events are planned for the coming year to enhance the pool of applicants.

To help prepare MCN faculty, students and staff for the anticipated Ph.D. program, the CDP grant staff coordinated numerous research and scholarship opportunities throughout the year. Monthly brown bag scholarship lunches served as the venue for speakers to share expertise related to research and scholarship. Individuals from the University's Research and Sponsored Programs, Grants Accounting, and the Institutional Review Board, as well as faculty within MCN, provided a wealth of information.

"I most enjoyed the pre-MNRS presentations by our faculty who are also pre- and post-docs," said Caroline Mallory, MCN interim associate dean and associate professor. "It was a great chance to hear about their work and provide a forum for constructive criticism in preparation for their formal presentations at research conferences."

To aid in scholarly achievement, the CDP enlisted the help of external experts in the field. Barbara Resnick, Ph.D., CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, conducted a grant writing seminar for faculty in April 2007. Resnick is a professor of nursing and adjunct associate professor for the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland. She also is a geriatric nurse practitioner and a member of the steering committee of the Gerontology Doctoral Program at her University. In January 2007, Dr. Zarina Hock joined the Doctoral Program Grant staff as an editing consultant. She met individually with faculty, staff and students to provide feedback and guidance on writing endeavors. Hock will continue in this role during the final year of the grant.

The collaborative effort with the University of Iowa continued to gain strength in the second year of the grant. Key partners at both institutions met regularly to discuss grant progress and future plans. Janet Specht, Ph.D., RN, associate professor at the University of Iowa, was the key speaker for a January 2007 mentoring workshop for MCN faculty.

"The mentoring workshop provided a great opportunity to explore together the concepts of mentoring, how they might be implemented and each of our experiences with mentors—what we would like to emulate and what we would change. It was a good day to think about how we can help students become nurse scientists through mentoring," Specht said.

Faculty from MCN and UI took full advantage of the annual Midwest Nursing Research Association conference when they met to discuss the progress of the CDP and ideas for the final year. MCN administrators made a trip to Iowa to plan for the final year of the grant. According to Dr. Sara Campbell, "The visit to Iowa to discuss progress thus far, and plan for ongoing collaborative efforts was quite successful. Collaborative endeavors are hard work, but the outcomes can be fantastic!"

The doctoral program grant will enter the third and final year of funding with an enormous amount accomplished, but still much to do. Grant activities for the final year include student recruiting, offering of a third doctoral course, development of media material to announce and promote the program, continued faculty development, identification of funding sources for the college, faculty and students, and continued collaboration with the University of Iowa, College of Nursing. The "to-do list" will certainly grow with insight and recommendations from the administration, faculty, and staff whose imagination and dedication are making this program a reality.

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