

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions



Service Learning

Classroom knowledge
comes to life with
hands-on community
engagement

Letter from the Dean



In July, I returned to the role of dean after a year as interim provost. It was a busy year, but a wonderful opportunity to learn and be of service to our University. Special thanks go to Dr. Ann White, associate dean; Deborah Carl Wolf, assistant dean; program directors; and the nursing and health professions faculty and staff for their support and good work during my absence.

In this issue, you will read about our college's commitment to community engagement through service learning. Of special importance to our student-learning outcomes are the inter-professional activities that occur in the community and in our clinical simulations. Students learning together are better prepared to work together as members of the healthcare team.

A \$207,000 grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) has been received to establish and equip a geriatric clinical simulation room. This funding will assist us in the development of our interdisciplinary Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.

International study opportunities for our students are increasing. Friends and alumni of our college are invited to join us for one of this summer's three travel/study programs. (See page 19.) We also are eager to bring health professionals from other countries to study in our college.

We continue to take pride in the excellent performance of our graduates on their licensing exams (nursing continues to have the highest baccalaureate NCLEX pass rate in Indiana) and the positive evaluations of our graduates by employers. The success of nursing and health professions students is a tribute to the students and faculty.

The first class of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program will graduate in May. Our college has had many successes in its 22-year history, but the graduation of these doctoral students will stand as a significant mark. We look forward to the contributions that these graduates will make to healthcare and the continuing excellence of all our programs.

This summer we began work to update our college's strategic plan. The Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan for the University in July. In the strategic-planning process for our college, our intended outcomes are congruent with the University's plan and a renewed commitment to a common vision. We will include additional information about our strategic plan in the 2011 spring issue of the Synapse newsletter.

Nadine A. Coudret

Dr. Nadine Coudret
Dean, College of Nursing
and Health Professions

Synapse

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College of Nursing and Health Professions

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On the cover

Through service learning, students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions provide real service to the community and, at the same time, learn what it takes to put theory into practice. Hands-on activities change lives in the community and in the college.

See page 4.

Nursing celebrates more than 20 years of excellence



Tracy Shurig Maxwell '90 adjusts a bag for intravenous therapy.



Jimmy Boop '06 reviews records with a patient at Deaconess Hospital.

The influence of the College of Nursing and Health Professions is felt every day in hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, and other health-care settings throughout the region, the state, and the nation. The nursing program is celebrating more than 20 years of excellence.

The program got its start in 1988 when the University responded to the demand for a state-supported four-year nursing program in Southern Indiana and appointed Dr. Nadine Coudret dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Dr. Coudret and the three faculty that she recruited designed a curriculum focused on developing

graduates with high levels of critical thinking and clinical practice skills. The first students to complete all four years in the USI Bachelor of Science in Nursing program earned their degrees in 1992. A member of that class, Betty Brown, is a leader at the national level in healthcare quality. (See Alumni News, page 20.)

Dr. Ann White, associate dean and professor of nursing, said USI nursing graduates are highly sought after by employers. "The biggest strength we see in our graduates is their ability to function safely and effectively in the clinical environment," she said. "They have the ability to make good decisions, prioritize,

and think critically. They can identify when things are going well and when action needs to be taken."

Many nursing graduates are employed by St. Mary's Health System in Evansville. "The USI nursing program serves as an invaluable resource to St. Mary's Health System and our entire community," said Darcy A. Ellison, senior vice president and chief nursing officer. "The faculty, students, and graduates of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions combine their skills, talent, and dedication to support our goal of St. Mary's nursing excellence. They directly impact positive patient outcomes and enhance the overall patient experience."

University to confer first doctoral degrees DNP student research gains recognition

Jeni Embree, chief clinical officer at St. Vincent's Dunn Hospital in Bedford, Indiana, will be among the first 15 graduates of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program in the spring. Already, she is called upon in professional circles to report findings of her capstone project on nurse-to-nurse lateral violence. Lateral violence is defined as nurse aggression. It can involve role issues, a feeling of powerlessness, a culture of low self-esteem, and other factors.

"From literature, we know that the work environment is what drives nurses to stay in a certain workplace or leave," Embree said. "Sixty percent of new nurses leave their first job within the first six months due to lateral violence. If we're not nurturing, supporting, and keeping our nurses comfortable in the work environment, they're not going to be there to replace us when we retire."

Embree's article "Concept Analysis: Nurse-to-Nurse Lateral Violence" appears in the July/September 2010 issue of *Nursing Forum*. She was invited to give a webinar on the topic in late October for the Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders. She also has spoken at a Midwest meeting of the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives.



Jeni Embree meets with Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, USI provost.

When Embree enrolled at USI, she was seeking a high-quality doctoral program that would accommodate her busy work schedule. She also was an adjunct faculty member at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Nursing, a role she will resume after completing the doctoral program. The advanced degree will qualify her to teach at the graduate level. Embree also expects to benefit from her added knowledge and skills in her position with a larger organization. Dunn Memorial Hospital in Bedford joined the Indianapolis-based St. Vincent's Health on July 1.

She also wants to continue her research.

The Deaconess Health System in Evansville also is a large employer. "USI nursing graduates demonstrate a sense of maturity and confidence at an early stage in their career. This is evidence that they are coming through a very strong nursing program," said Cherona Hajewski, vice president for Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. "They are among our top candidates for new nurse recruits."

Since the first nursing classes began, the college has continued to innovate and expand opportunities for students interested in nursing. Degrees are offered through the doctoral level. The RN to BSN completion program is available via distance education, making it possible for individuals to continue their work and family responsibilities while furthering their education.

The college offered the first classes in the master's degree program in nursing in 1996. It, too, is available through distance education. Typically, 70 percent of the master's-level students come from the Tri-state and the remainder from other locations throughout the United States. In spring 2010, 79 students from 14 states completed a Master of Science in Nursing.

The nursing program reaches another milestone this spring when the college's and the University's first doctoral candidates graduate. Fifteen students are on track to graduate from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. These students are contributing to nursing practice with their capstone projects.

- Current enrollment
 - B.S.N. – 249 students
 - M.S.N. – 340 students
 - D.N.P. – 49 students
- Number of graduates
 - A.S.N. – 867
 - B.S.N. – 1,137
 - M.S.N. – 530
- Anticipated number of 2011 graduates
 - B.S.N. nursing entry students – 81
 - R.N.-B.S.N. – 37
 - M.S.N. – 78
 - D.N.P. – 15
- The University of Southern Indiana nursing program is ranked number one in Indiana for licensure exam pass rate by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.
- Of the 2009 M.S.N. graduates who self-reported taking the licensing exam for acute care nurse practitioner or family nurse practitioner, the pass rate was 100 percent.
- Eighty-eight percent of the college's nursing faculty are doctorally prepared or enrolled in a doctoral program.
- The nursing program stays on the leading edge of teaching and learning technology. An exceptional Clinical Simulation Laboratory and Telemedicine Laboratory offer students opportunities to develop their skills.

Service learning

Transforming students and community



Students in the occupational therapy assistant program observed workers at Pittsburgh Glass Works before developing recommendations for safe and efficient performance of workplace tasks.

Away from the chalkboards, white boards, classrooms, laboratories, and email, students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions engage with scores of nonprofit organizations and people in the greater community. In some cases, students offer clinical services that impact individuals. In other cases, they develop programs that have a lasting impact on a community or clientele. In every case, students enhance the skills and knowledge they gain from the classroom and the textbook.

Service learning is a two-way street for the college and the community. Learn and Serve America, a national service learning resource, defines service learning as a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said that connecting students to the community is important to the educational experience the college provides. "When students engage in service learning," she said, "they deal with real-world issues. They become a part of the solution."

Bringing the college's resources to the community can have a direct benefit to organizations that want to provide a service or program but have inadequate funding, especially in a tight economy. College and community partnership gets things done. Mike Kough, administrator and associate pastor at the Potters Wheel Ministries in Evansville, said USI faculty and student involvement provides services his organization could not afford. This includes health fairs for adults and children; parenting classes; educational information on nutrition, oral health, mental health, and smoking cessation; men's and women's health clinics; and other services.

"During the first year students were here, they did a survey of health needs in the neighborhood," he said. "That has been helpful to us in grant writing and in letting others know our needs." Kough's experience reveals how faculty and students develop service learning projects. First, they determine a need with a community partner, then they design a program or service—within their capability—to fulfill that need.

In pursuit of a degree from the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions, every student will engage in some form of service learning. Every student will leave a mark on the community.

Dental clinic for medically underserved builds students' skills

The dental assisting program embraced an increased opportunity to provide service last spring with a \$7,300 grant from the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center to offer a dental clinic for the medically underserved. From January through May, the once-a-week clinic in the Health



Successful treatment brings smiles to the faces of dental hygiene student Amanda Schum and her young client.

Professions Center served 70 people, many of them with complex medical histories and extensive dental treatment needs. Area social service agencies referred clients to the clinic. Fifty-eight persons remain on the waiting list. The dental assisting faculty are looking at other grant opportunities that would make it possible to continue the program.

Kimberly Bastin, program director for dental assisting, said 20 students provided services at the clinic. "The experience made such a great impact on some students," she said, "that they have decided to continue their education and pursue a degree in public health."

Students stress oral hygiene to women's group

Seniors in dental hygiene perform oral cancer screenings each fall for the 100 residents of the Women's Addiction Recovery Manor (WARM) in Henderson, Kentucky. Before the screenings, students explain factors such as drug habits, smoking, alcoholism, or family history of cancer that contribute to higher risk for oral cancer. Each student examines patients using the Visilite system, a process that uses a dye and special light to highlight abnormal areas. Last year two

women were referred to an Evansville oral surgeon for follow-up care. The students also provide instruction in brushing and flossing and distribute toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.

Emily Holt, assistant professor of dental assisting/hygiene, said that students who have felt anxious about serving clientele in an alternative setting often come away from the WARM experience with a drive to do more such work.

"I learned a lot, including how to talk to drug and alcohol abusers about their addictions," reflects Megan Johnson '10. "When I left WARM, I felt like I had made a difference in the life of at least one woman who could not afford to go to the dentist right now."

Sonography expertise assists regional zoo

An unusual service opportunity presented itself to faculty in the diagnostic sonography program earlier this year. Dr. Maria Spriggs, veterinarian at the Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden, requested assistance in learning to use ultrasound equipment that had been donated to the zoo. Faculty members

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Claudine Fairchild, Amy Wilson, and Joy McBride provided a tutorial. "It was the same type of machine our students use for practice here in the lab on campus," Fairchild said.

After using a goat – not exactly a willing volunteer – for the tutorial, the faculty helped Spriggs with an ultrasound of a ring-tailed lemur that had fluid on her lungs, and assisted with an ultrasound-guided procedure to remove the fluid. The faculty have been instrumental in securing additional imaging attachments for the zoo's machine.

"The faculty's expertise in ultrasonography has expanded the level of care we can provide for the zoo animals by improving our technical capabilities," Spriggs said. "The faculty have provided training for me and improvements to our equipment. From a larger perspective, I believe that these affiliations between animal and human healthcare professionals are important as we continue to discover the many ways in which the health of humans, animals, and the environment are interrelated."

The collaboration offers the potential for students to be exposed to veterinary sonography. Faculty have returned to the zoo to help with ultrasounds of a colobus monkey suspected of having liver problems. McBride said the faculty are in the process of helping establish a relationship within the community for the zoo to have local imaging services.

Promoting healthy eating and proper weight

The campus setting provides food and nutrition students an opportunity to promote proper weight and healthy eating. Students in a community nutrition course last semester surveyed USI students to learn their attitudes toward obesity and diet, their awareness of factors contributing to weight gain and poor eating habits, and their knowledge of services to reduce obesity or improve diet quality. The project continues in the spring when food and nutrition students will use the data collected from 153 students to develop interventions. The goal is to improve the nutrition of students attending USI.

The food and nutrition students will share their information with USI community partner Christine Tolis, assistant program director for student wellness. Results could lead to policy development or changes, alteration of existing programs, marketing campaigns, or new programs. Dr. Julie McCullough, program director for food and nutrition, said that involving the recreation, fitness, and wellness staff is a cost-effective and cooperative approach to

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I will learn."

– Benjamin Franklin

effect change. The food and nutrition program received a grant from the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center to complete the project.

Interviews improve attitudes toward aging

For five years, students of Dr. Katie Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology, have recorded interviews with older adults. She has compiled data indicating that students who conduct oral-history interviews with older adults have an improved attitude toward aging and building relationships with older adults. One student said, "By knowing more, not only about my grandmother, but about older adults in general, I will be more compassionate."

Ehlman also is studying the benefits of the interviews to the older adults. She wants to know if the oral histories help the elderly feel they have made a contribution to the development and well being of future generations. Thanks to a faculty research award that she received in 2009, more than 40 oral-history interviews made by her students will be digitally archived in Rice Library and through Indiana Memory, a state program. With permission from the interviewees, the narratives documenting untold stories from the region will be preserved.

Better access to healthcare

Students studying health informatics in the graduate program in health administration are working with the town of New Harmony, Indiana, to make recommendations that could lead to better access to healthcare. The community has no physician. Students will conduct a feasibility study to assess needs and the possibility of placing telemedicine equipment in a building owned by the town. The technology would bridge the distance between doctors and patients, allowing consultations with specialists through video links. Students will gather information from community leaders and targeted audiences in New Harmony and explore what similar communities are doing in other regions. Students in health informatics also are pursuing solutions for needs at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana, and Gibson General Hospital in Princeton, Indiana.

Careful mix of care and collaboration

Students in nursing, particularly in the mental health and community health nursing classes, have many opportunities for service learning. Faculty members Linda Evinger and Kathy Riedford have developed a formal service learning component in the mental health nursing course. Students have worked with nonprofit organizations – Ozanam Shelter, Potters Wheel Ministries, Hope Hall, Cedar Hall Community School, United Caring Shelters, Brentwood Meadows – to provide services the organization's clients otherwise might not have received. Activities have addressed topics such as stress reduction, anger management, exercise, and depression.

Allen Taylor and Miranda Wahnsiedler developed a project in coordination with the college's nursing practice agreement with the Vanderburgh County Detention Center. The two students prepared a pamphlet with information on sexually transmitted diseases.

"Because of my previous B.S. degrees in psychology and criminal justice," Wahnsiedler said, "I wanted to do my project at the Vanderburgh County Detention Center."

Karen Brossman, USI clinical instructor and nurse practitioner at the detention center, recommended the informational piece for use at ECHO Community Health Care Clinic. "The students did an amazing job," she said, "in understanding their audience and synthesizing the educational material for them."

Students in the community health nursing class plan and teach the curriculum for Camp Notta-Gonna Wheeze, sponsored each year by the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and St. Mary's Medical Center for children with asthma.

"It's important for nursing students to have experience with specific populations of people," said Julie St. Clair, instructor in nursing. "For school-age children, asthma is an important issue. At the national level, it is the number-one cause of student absences related to chronic illness."

"Asthma camp was a great experience," said nursing student Amanda Stewart. "I felt that we were able to educate the kids and make the learning fun."

In the spring the college provided health screenings for the medically underserved Hispanic population at the Juan Diego Center in Evansville. Students in nursing (graduate and undergraduate) and occupational therapy were joined by students in social work in providing more than 420 hours of clinical service during five monthly clinics. Nine faculty preceptors participated. Dr. Roberta Hoebeke and Dr. Elizabeth Bonham of the nursing faculty directed the program, funded by a grant from the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center.

"My day at the Juan Diego health fair was a learning experience that I will take with me into my future practice as a family nurse practitioner," said Rachel Stewart '10 M.S.N. "Trying to communicate with patients when there is a language barrier makes being a primary-care provider very difficult. I got to

see firsthand how, by working together, several providers and translators can fulfill a critical part of healthcare for these patients and get them into the programs they may need."

Sarah Nash, undergraduate nursing student, performed a blood-pressure check on a woman who had stopped taking blood-pressure medication because of its cost. "I offered her a paper that showed things she can do on her own to decrease her blood pressure," Nash said. "Hopefully, we showed patients affordable ways to correct potential health issues."

The college's nursing practice agreement to provide supplemental healthcare and health education to detainees at the Vanderburgh County Detention Center has been in effect since 2000. The program is funded by a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Division of Nursing. Undergraduate nursing students perform health assessments; graduate nursing students conduct physical examinations and

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Cassandra Kern '10, M.S.N., assesses a patient during a health fair at the Juan Diego Center. Looking on is Pilar Tirado '07, M.S.O.T., pastoral assistant at Nativity Catholic Church, where the center is located.



STELLAR members, from left, Wendy Johnson, Katie Sizemore, and Charlene Kaufman, mingled with residents at Seton Residence while delivering holiday gifts.

STELLAR members engage with elderly

Wendy Johnson, radiologic technology and health services major, likes spending time with the elderly.

"It's a population that needs attention," she said. "And spending time with them can be fun and easy. Sometimes they like to just sit and talk or watch TV."

STELLAR (Students and Elderly Linking Around Relationships) is a student organization that provides opportunities for the generations to interact. Last year as president of the organization, Johnson received a grant from the Student Government Association to provide holiday gifts for residents at area long-term care facilities. She organized an assembly line called the STELLAR Stocking Stuffer Extravaganza in the Health Professions Center. Members stuffed the stockings with snacks, tissues, and other items and delivered them.

Throughout the year STELLAR members organize birthday parties and other social activities that connect the generations. This year the group is working with residents at Solarbron, Seton Residence, Evansville State Hospital, and Pine Haven Health and Rehabilitation Center. Dr. Katie Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology, said students' attitudes toward the elderly improve as they engage with the older generation.

STELLAR membership is multidisciplinary, with students coming from occupational therapy, occupational therapy assistant, radiologic and imaging sciences, social work, business, health services, nursing, food and nutrition, and other majors.

In addition to Ehlman, Dr. Kathy Elpers, associate professor of social work, is a faculty sponsor.

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screenings for communicable diseases. Students from all disciplines participate in health fairs and health-education activities.

"Just about every time we have had a health fair at the center, we have made urgent referrals for follow up," said Dr. Mayola Rowser, program director for the Master of Science in Nursing program. "We are proud of the services we provide at the correctional facility for our community. If we can help individuals understand the need to change their health-risk behaviors, we might be changing the health-risk behaviors of generations to come."

Catherine Rupinta, former HRSA project officer for the nursing practice agreement, has called it an "exemplary program."

Encouraging children with disabilities

A service project that Karen Shields '07 M.S.O.T. completed as a student has inspired her to continue service in the community. Now a pediatric occupational therapist in Evansville, Shields developed a six-week gymnastic program for children with limited abilities when she was a graduate student. The success of that student project led her to respond to requests last fall to start a cheerleading program for children ages 8-18 with any limited physical or cognitive ability. The second season began in October at MEGA Gymnastics. Shields volunteers her time to teach the children in the cheerleading program. Their enthusiasm motivates her.

"Children increase their confidence, strength, and coordination and improve their ability to listen, follow directions, and follow multiple-step commands," she said. "The kids love it, and to see them progress is rewarding."

Dr. Barbara Williams, program director, said service-learning projects in occupational therapy are student-driven. "Students determine areas of need and propose projects. This insures a real commitment from students. They have a sense of ownership."

Helping manufacturing implement injury prevention

For a course on occupational performance taught by Susan Ahmad, students in the occupational therapy assistant program recently toured the Pittsburgh Glass Works (PGW) plant in Evansville. Working in teams,

they developed recommendations for safe and efficient performance of tasks they observed during the visit, arranged by Dr. James Butler, occupational medicine consultant at St. Mary's Northpointe Occupational Medicine Clinic. Students gave presentations on a return visit.

"We came away with a recommendation for all employees to perform stretching exercises for injury prevention," said Judi Morgan, occupational health nurse at PGW. "We plan to institute that during pre-shift meetings. The project benefited us, and the students got a real-life experience by touring the plant and seeing the manufacturing environment."

Danielle Morris was a member of the student team that presented the exercise suggestions. "I had never been in a factory," she said. "It made me more aware of how much repetitive motion is done every day on a job."

Occupational therapy assistant students provide fun and therapeutic activities to help three- to five-year-olds in the USI

Children's Learning Center develop gross-motor and fine-motor skills and pre-writing skills. For several years, students in both the occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs have helped elementary school students learn about proper backpack fit and load.

Radiologic technology students help zoo staff

Radiologic technology students Wendy Johnson and Ashlee Wittman got a new perspective on their chosen field during the summer when they assisted with radiographs at the Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden. The zoo staff sedated a horse in an enclosure. Portable x-ray equipment was used to make images of the animal's front hooves to check for separation of the hoof wall and inflammation. The students, more accustomed to the digital process, developed the x-ray film. "It was exciting to take what we know and apply it at the zoo," Johnson said.

Dr. Martin Reed, program director for radiologic technology, and Amy Wilson of the diagnostic medical sonography faculty,



Occupational therapist Karen Shields volunteers her time to organize and teach the SPIRIT Cheer Team for children with special needs.

accompanied the students. The visit was a continuation of a relationship already established by the sonography faculty. Reed and students plan to help the zoo's veterinary staff develop x-ray technique charts that will ensure good exposures despite the size of the animal or body part.

Suzanne Stewart '88 M'00, quality education coordinator for St. Mary's Medical Center and an adjunct faculty member in radiologic technology, also has involved students in service activities. Students have accompanied her to present information at high school career fairs and to eighth graders visiting St. Mary's to explore health-related careers.

History of service from respiratory therapy

Service learning in the respiratory therapy program goes back 25 years. Students perform pulmonary function screenings for nonprofit groups or companies hosting health fairs and offer screenings each fall at the USI Wellness Fair. The college's program to offer services at the Vanderburgh County Detention Center also involves respiratory care. In the past six years, students have completed 400 spirometry studies on residents there.



Respiratory therapy student Allen Robinson '10 helps an asthma camper use her peak flow meter.

Robert W. Hooper, program director, said service opportunities increased in 2005 when respiratory therapy students began joining with the nursing program to help with Camp Notta-Gonna Wheeze for children with asthma. The respiratory care students measure campers' peak flow rates, listen to breath sounds, assist with general education, and help with rescue bronchodilator treatments when children experience asthma attacks.

"I would venture to say that USI students benefited most from the experience," said Melissa Hudson '10, who helped staff the asthma camp this year. "Most of the children were reasonably aware of their condition—what their triggers are, when they are wheezing, and even when to use their inhalers. Even more impressive, though, were their attitudes in coping with the disease. They are remarkable examples of how asthma is quite manageable, given the right education, self-awareness, and preparedness."

Jacqueline Richards '75 M'98 is a registered respiratory therapist in the Community Outreach Services Office at St. Mary's Health Services, a camp sponsor. "USI students are well prepared," she said. "Campers love the USI students because they spend time with them and play games. Many of the children don't have that kind of contact on a day-to-day basis. And many parents have told us that their children learn a lot about asthma from the camp counselors."

Hooper said practical experience helps students improve their communication skills and ability to collaborate with professionals in other health disciplines. "It also helps them expand their perception of themselves," he said. "The rewards of serving someone in the community are different from serving someone delivered to you in a hospital."

Changing lives

Throughout the college and the community, service learning makes a difference. It meets direct needs for community partners and provides experience that deepens learning for students and prepares them for careers in nursing and health professions.



Following a meal, nursing student Dana Fiedler, right, checks the blood-glucose level of a camper.

Nursing students assist with diabetes camp

Nursing students assisted for the first time this summer with Camp John Warvel, an American Diabetes Association (ADA) resident camp held in Webster, Indiana.

Janet Oakley, who joined the nursing faculty last fall, is leadership chair of the ADA's national Leadership Board and former manager of the Deaconess Diabetes Center in Evansville. She and 10 nursing students participated in the camp, which offers children an atmosphere where they can acquire new skills in caring for their diabetes according to their developmental levels. "Positive attitudes about diabetes and self-confidence in diabetes management are instilled through education, encouragement, and example," Oakley said.

Following the camp, Carol Dixon, ADA program manager for the Indianapolis area, told Oakley: "The medical staff all spoke very highly of your group. They were pleased with the students and how quickly they picked up the processes."

Nursing student Laura Hall said, "I was able to help nine 12-year-old girls, all who have Type 1 diabetes, have a fun week at camp. They did not have to worry about whether they were 'low' or 'high' (related to blood sugar), because I was there to worry for them and be ready with a response as needed. I can put the knowledge I gained on how to control diabetes into my future teaching as a nurse."

Each nursing student worked with a medical student and a pharmacy student, giving them experience in inter-professional collaboration. "They learned more than any textbook or instructor could teach them about diabetes," Oakley said. "They learned the real life of children living with a chronic disease—from the trenches of camp."

Iraqi college students learn about community health

USI one of two universities chosen for leadership exchange program

"I've got it! I've got it!" That excited cry resounded through the Clinical Simulation Center when participants from the Young Iraqi Leaders program tested their skills at intubation.

Twenty-three college students from Iraq, many of them interested in careers in the health professions, recently spent four weeks on the University of Southern Indiana campus strengthening their leadership skills and learning about community health and social services. They also learned about American culture and shared insights from theirs.

USI was one of two universities in the United States selected to host leadership institutes for the students. The Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program for Undergraduate Students is administered by World Learning and sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The program prepares students to make positive change in their country.

Anthony W. Schmitt, assistant professor of respiratory therapy, demonstrated intubation for the students using the standard laryngeal scope and the newest technology, the GlideScope Video Laryngoscope.

"The students were in awe of our changing technology," Schmitt said. They practiced the procedure on the SimMan advanced patient simulators using both devices.

Schmitt found the students well prepared. They answered any question he posed on anatomy. He learned from them that nurses perform intubation in Iraq. In the United States, physicians, respiratory therapists, nurse anesthetists, or trained paramedics handle the responsibility.

Leading through collaboration

A nursing student, Nawres Mahmood, wants to promote the "we" leadership style she has observed in the United States back in her home country.

"Our leaders in Iraq are leading by the old system," she said. "They think 'I' and not 'we.' We are learning to think 'we.' Work that you do as a group is better work."



Kathy Phillips, coordinator of the Clinical Simulation Center, shows Iraqi nursing student Nawres Mahmood how students practice skills with the advanced patient simulator.

While she and fellow participants were shocked—in a good way—by the technology available in the Health Professions Center and at area healthcare facilities, Mahmood said they were even more awed by the communication between leaders and staff and between faculty and students.

Two faculty members from the College of Nursing and Health Professions—Dr. Kevin Valadares and Dr. Brandon E. Eggleston—were among lead faculty for the leadership-training component of the institute.

Valadares, associate professor and director of the health services/administration programs, said, "The idea is not to make the students experts in healthcare or social service but to develop in them an ability to think in a broader perspective. We want them to be able to use different styles of leadership, such as collaboration."

Many of the students from Iraq perform volunteer work and want to do more.

"They see the need right in front of them," he said. "Because of security issues in their

country, help sometimes cannot reach those who need it. Many of these students want to start nonprofit groups that will bring help closer to the people."

Hands-on experiences

The students visited the diagnostic medical sonography lab and the dental clinic in the Health Professions Center for hands-on experiences. They also learned about the college's capability in the area of telemedicine.

The Iraqi students toured St. Mary's Hospital, a homeless shelter, a center for victims of domestic violence, and other sites related to community health and social services. They had service opportunities at Patchwork Central and Habitat for Humanity.

Forty-eight students began the leadership program in Washington with orientation. Twenty-five students went from there to Colorado State University where they focused on civic engagement and social advocacy.

Planned gift focuses on needs of elderly



Baker

Bruce Baker, former chair of the USI Board of Trustees, has a natural interest in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. He is owner of Newburgh Health Care and Residential Center in Newburgh, Indiana. His concern for issues that affect the elderly is reflected in his designation for a planned gift established several years ago in the USI Foundation. Proceeds from a gift of life insurance will benefit the college's Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.

"The Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness is a great resource for USI and the Tri-state," Baker said.

Established in 2008, the center focuses on gerontology education research, health promotion, and community outreach.

One of its first projects was a state-funded study assessing the benefits of using bladder ultrasound scanners in nursing homes. The center also is involved in the college's sponsorship of the Mid-America Institute on Aging, an annual conference that began in 2008. An Advisory Council of faculty members and community professionals will assist in further development of the center's vision and mission.

"It has long been a vision for me to have this resource for our University and community," said Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the college. "In keeping with Bruce Baker's leadership in the nursing-home industry, this deferred gift will allow the center in the future to continue to help our region address the needs of the elderly."

Baker served more than 18 years on the USI Board of Trustees, the longest tenure of any USI trustee. He was chair of the board for two terms, from 1992 to 1997 and from 2006 to 2007. He and his wife Carol are life directors of the USI Foundation, and he is chair elect.

Alumna establishes first scholarship designated for sonography student

Encouragement from faculty at a time when she needed it most inspired Kara R. Dyhrkopp Brass '07 to establish a scholarship for a student in diagnostic medical sonography.

Brass had just been accepted into the inaugural class of the program in spring 2005 when her father Anthony Wayne Dyhrkopp of Shawneetown, Illinois, died of a heart attack while she was home for a weekend visit.



Lea R. Schuch is the 2010 recipient of the Anthony Wayne Dyhrkopp Memorial Scholarship.

"It was traumatic for my family," Brass said. "I was contemplating what to do—whether to continue in the program or go home and be with my family."

Faculty members Claudine Fairchild and Amy Wilson urged her to stick to her career plan.

"They were there for me. I was able to catch up on my work," said Brass, who graduated cum laude in 2007. She is the chief cardiac sonographer at St. Mary's Medial Center in Evansville. Her specialization in cardiac sonography reflects her determination to help people, like her father, with heart issues.

Brass said that establishing a scholarship in memory of her father is the perfect ending to the story. "His name will be carried on through the scholarship," she said. "He always told our family to pursue our dream."

Anthony Dyhrkopp was state's attorney for 16 years, assistant Illinois attorney general for six years, and hearing officer for Secretary of State Jesse White for six years.

Brass established the scholarship with a gift to the USI Foundation. She plans to present the scholarship annually and to increase the amount over time. The scholar-

ship is the first designated specifically for a student in diagnostic medical sonography. It goes to a second-year student who displays courage and perseverance.

College remembers

William H. Mitchell



Mitchell

William H. "Bill" Mitchell, retired owner and operator of M&M Oil Company in Albion, Illinois, died August 28, 2010. He and his wife, Trudy, who survives him, were longtime residents of Albion before moving to Evansville in 2008.

The Mitchells have been friends of the College of Nursing and Health Professions for many years. Students and faculty in the nursing program benefit from the nursing scholarship and endowment for faculty enhancement, which they established. Their generous gift also provided technology for the Health Professions Center. In recognition of their support, Mitchell Auditorium bears their name.

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A contribution of \$25 or more to any USI Foundation fund makes graduates "active" members of the USI Alumni Association.

Reflections

*Deceased

Clip form and mail in envelope



Welcome to new faculty

The College of Nursing and Health Professions welcomed two new faculty members in the fall. In addition, a faculty member in radiologic technology is now teaching in the nursing program.



Hathaway

Dr. Charles F. Hathaway has joined the college as assistant professor of nursing. His teaching will focus on nursing management in the care of adults and financial management in nursing and healthcare organizations.

Hathaway previously was associated with Carington (formerly Apollo) College and Grand Canyon University, both in Phoenix, Arizona. He earned an associate degree in nursing at Austin Peay State University, a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center, and a master's degree in nursing at the University of Evansville. He completed a Doctor of Education degree in 2009 at NOVA Southeastern University.

A Certified Nurse Educator, he is a member of the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Association for the Study of Higher Education.



Schmuck

Heather Schmuck '01 '02, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, was previously associated with Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. She was a staff technologist from 2001-05 and served as a clinical educator in radiology from 2005 until joining USI.

Schmuck earned an associate degree in radiologic and imaging sciences and a bachelor's degree in health services from USI. She is enrolled in the USI master's program in education.

A member of the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists, Schmuck teaches the introductory course in radiology, radiation physics, and radiograph positioning as well as a practicum course.



Titzer

Jennifer Titzer '93 '00 M'10 has been named instructor in nursing. She coordinates the undergraduate nursing course on the introduction to patient care and serves as lecturer and clinical instructor for the course on medical/surgical nursing.

Titzer joined the radiologic technology faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Professions in 2005. She continues to teach advanced patient care for the imaging sciences in that program. She has previous experience with the Heart Group and St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

In addition to being a USI faculty member, Titzer is an alumna of four programs and a current student. She earned associate degrees in radiologic technology and nursing and a bachelor's degree in health services from USI. She is a 2010 graduate of the USI master's degree program in nursing. Her concentration was on the nursing education track. She is now enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Titzer is a member of the Society of Invasive Cardiovascular Professionals, Sigma Theta Tau International, and Pinnacle Adult Honor Society. She is president of the USI Nursing Alumni Society. Her practice interests are cardiac and peripheral vascular health, health and wellness promotion, and leadership.

Colleen Walsh presents DNP capstone project at international meeting



Walsh

Colleen Walsh, instructor in nursing, made a presentation in September at the first international conference of the International Collaboration of Orthopaedic Nursing in Dublin, Ireland.

Walsh's presentation was titled "Developing an Orthopaedic Nurse Practitioner Program." She developed a continuing education program for nurse practitioners managing the care of clients with complex neuro-musculoskeletal disorders as a capstone project for her doctoral program. Walsh is a member of the first cohort in the Doctor of

Nursing Practice program offered by the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions. Dr. Ann White is serving as her faculty mentor.

The University of Massachusetts-Lowell will deliver the continuing education program. Dr. Miki M. Patterson, a faculty member at UMass-Lowell and past president of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses, is Walsh's practice partner for the capstone project. Any registered nurse is eligible to take the self-study introductory course. The advanced courses will be available as a post-master's certificate program. Walsh developed the program at the request of HealthSouth Corporation's Northeast Region. The HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville is a member of the Northeast Region.

Walsh is a certified orthopaedic nurse, clinical specialist, and acute care nurse practitioner. She teaches orthopaedic certification review courses throughout the country and is a member of the speaker's bureau for the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses.

Maria Shirey named fellow in American Academy of Nursing



Shirey

An associate professor of nursing who is known for her work in advancing authentic leadership to promote healthy work environments for professional practice has been selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

Maria R. Shirey is among 117 nurse leaders who were inducted in November during the organization's 37th annual meeting and conference in Washington, D.C. She was nominated for the honor by two academy fellows and selected by a 15-member fellow selection committee for her achievements in the nursing profession. Selection criteria include evidence of significant national and/or international contributions to nursing and healthcare.

The United States has almost three million licensed registered nurses. The American Academy of Nursing's 1,500 fellows are nursing leaders in education, leadership, practice, and research.

In a 2006 article for *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*, Shirey defined authentic leadership as "positive leadership practiced by individuals who are genuine, trustworthy, reliable, and believable."

"As a leader, you want to create a healthy work environment," she said. "You want people to be able to communicate, collaborate, and recognize each other in a meaningful way. In order for that to happen, the leader has to foster a climate for it. Leaders have to understand the needs of the individuals who work for them and know how to empower them."

Shirey's research on work complexity and stress as they relate to nurse managers has contributed nationally toward interventions in four key areas: formalizing creation of developmental programs for nurse managers, testing innovative stress-reduction programs tailored for nurse managers, creating internships for nurse managers, and developing succession-planning programs for nurse managers.

Authentic leaders set others up to succeed. "We need to build and support nurse leaders so they, in turn, can facilitate the work of nurses at the front line," Shirey said. "All nurses should be leaders, regardless of whether they have a formal leadership title, but nurse leaders in a formal role can create an environment that gives others the tools to provide and sustain good patient care."

Shirey joined the faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Professions as associate professor in 2009 after four years as an adjunct faculty member. She teaches in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Shirey previously was principal consultant in her own firm, Shirey & Associates.

In 2010-11, Shirey is serving a second consecutive term as chair of the board of directors of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation. She has been appointed deputy editor of the journal *Nursing Forum* and named to the editorial board of *Nursing Administration Quarterly*.

Shirey presented research in September at the 21st annual International Networking Education in Healthcare Conference at the University of Cambridge in England. She has made presentations at professional meetings throughout North America and in Europe, Australia, and Africa.



Hermes

Carol Hermes named ACHE fellow

Carol Hermes, program director/instructor emerita in health services/administration, has become a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders. A limited number of healthcare executives hold the recognition, the highest standard of professional development. She was awarded the credential in March. Hermes serves on the USI Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness Advisory Council.

Elkins, Melton design online program

Ethel Elkins and Jeanne Melton, instructors in health services, have developed an online educational program based on the book *Hardwiring Excellence* by Quint Studer, founder of the Studer Group. They received a grant from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA), which partnered with the Studer Group to provide support for faculty to develop teaching guides, exercises, and exam questions tied to resources available from the consulting group.



Elkins



Melton

Health services students help USI to national baseball championship

The University of Southern Indiana won its first national championship in baseball this year with the help of two student athletes from the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The Screaming Eagles beat the University of California-San Diego 6-4 to win the 2010 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II National Championship.

Sophomore second baseman and health services major Brad Vance of Louisville, Kentucky, was the NCAA II Midwest Regional Most Valuable Player. USI hosted the regional tournament. "After struggling through part of the season," Vance said, "winning the regional MVP means so much to me because I came through for the team during the most important part of the year—and I did it in front of my hometown fans and family."

Vance played a major role in the NCAA II Championship Series by driving in three runs in the title game.

Junior centerfielder and health services major Justin Blinn of Vincennes, Indiana, was named to the championship series All-Tournament team after leading the Eagles with a .389 batting average in the final five games. Blinn chose to attend USI for the excellence of the health professions program and the well-established baseball program.

"Playing for a national championship is something every kid dreams of," he said. "Now it is something that my teammates and I will be able to say we achieved."



Vance



Blinn

The national championship was played in Cary, North Carolina. The USI baseball team set a single-season school record with 52 wins - 14 losses.

Nursing students attend national conference



USI nursing students met Rebecca M. Patton, president of the American Nurses Association, at the National Student Nurses Association 58th Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. From left are Samone Glenn; Bridget Gelhausen; Ashley Whitney; Andrew Weisman; Patton; Jane Swartz, USI instructor in nursing; Emily Hopf; Sarah Smith; and Amanda Wilson. The five-day conference was held in April.

MHA degree earns Top 5 ranking

The Master of Health Administration degree at the University of Southern Indiana received a Top 5 ranking from GetEducated.com, a consumer group that reviews and ranks online degrees for cost, quality, and credibility. The graduate program is offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions.



In addition to USI, the online university rankings Top 5 included these online graduate schools: University of South Dakota, George Washington University (DC), University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Lamar University.

The rankings further reveal the Top 25 Best Values for consumers seeking an affordable online degree from graduate schools offering distance masters in healthcare. All 25 Best Buys come from online universities with residential campuses.

GetEducated reviewed 34 graduate schools online offering 58 online healthcare administration degrees or online healthcare masters degrees in career areas such as health law, health care management, dietetics and nutrition, and clinical practice.

More information on the rankings and affordable online degrees is available at www.geteducated.com.

Nursing students assist with athletes' physicals



Nursing students volunteered their assistance to measure blood pressure, pulse, height, and weight and help with vision screenings when student athletes gathered in the Physical Activities Center for annual physicals.

Sigma Phi Omega holds induction

Nineteen students were inducted into the USI chapter of Sigma Phi Omega in a ceremony held in August during the third annual Mid-America Institute on Aging.

Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) is a national academic honor and professional society in gerontology. The USI chapter includes a multidisciplinary group of students interested in issues that affect the aging. Membership includes undergraduate students in food and nutrition, exercise science, health services, imaging sciences, international studies, and social work as well as graduate students in social work.

Dr. Katie Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology and director of the Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, is 2010 faculty sponsor. Dr. Martha B. Raske, professor of social work and chair of the Department of Social Work in the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services, will assume that responsibility in January.

The Department of Health Services received a Major as Home grant provided by the USI Office of Academic Affairs to reinstate a chapter of SPO at USI. Activities will include a service learning project in cooperation with the STELLAR student organization and an annual induction and luncheon program.

Peggy Hollis named USI Distinguished Nursing Alumna



Hollis

Peggy F. Hollis, a specialist in wound, ostomy, and continence care at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, is the 2010 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award presented by the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

Hollis is board certified as a clinical nurse specialist in adult health. She also holds certification from the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board. She joined St. Mary's in 1987 as a staff nurse in oncology and has held her present position since 2003.

Her service to the College of Nursing and Health Professions includes assistance in developing a continuing education program in wound management that has been completed by nurses across the United States and from other countries. She also works with USI nursing students in the clinical setting.

A resident of Boonville, Indiana, Hollis earned a bachelor's degree in 1999 and a master's degree in 2003 from the USI nursing program. She was honored October 19 at the annual dinner of the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

Food and nutrition major Ballinger garners Academic All-America honors



Ballinger

Women's cross country/track and field senior All-American Mary Ballinger was named in June to the ESPN The Magazine/College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America second team for the College Division.

Ballinger is the first student athlete in the history of the USI cross country/track and field program to earn Academic All-America honors. A food and nutrition major, she has a 3.54 cumulative grade-point average. Ballinger is from Chesterton, Indiana.

College wins award for collaboration

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has received the 2010 Collaboration Award from the Indiana Rural Health Association for establishing a Critical Access Learning Network.

The network links rural Critical Access Hospitals to the College of Nursing and Health Professions. In the award presentation, the college was commended for providing a cost-effective, flexible approach to providing evidence-based practice knowledge to nurses and other healthcare professionals in rural settings through the use of telecommunications. The award was presented in June at the 13th annual Indiana Rural Health Conference in Indianapolis.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Accreditation News

Dietetics program moving forward

The dietetics track of the food and nutrition program is moving forward with 12 students accepted into it. Eleven of the 12 are on track to graduate in the spring. Another 36 students have indicated an interest in the program by choosing pre-dietetics as their major.

The dietetics track recently was accorded "Candidacy for Accreditation" by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education. Candidacy for Accreditation is a status that allows students who meet graduation requirements to apply for supervised practice programs in dietetics. Students must complete a 1,200-hour supervised practice program before taking the national registration exam. A successful first-site visit provides Candidacy for Accreditation, the initial step for the dietetics education programs. A team conducted a two-day site visit of the USI program last fall.

Initial site visit set for DNP program

A team representing the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) will conduct a site visit April 18-20 for accreditation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The report on the visit is expected

in October. The accreditation decision will be retroactive to the date of the site visit, which precedes graduation of the first class. Fifteen students are on track to graduate from the program in May.

Dental programs to have site visit

A team representing the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association will conduct a site visit for reaccreditation of the dental assisting and dental hygiene programs February 23-25. The visit follows an extensive self-study. All accredited programs receive a follow-up site review every seven years. The report on the visit is expected in the summer.

Sonography tracks will have site visit

The Joint Review Commission on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) is expected to schedule a site visit during fall semester to review the cardiac and vascular concentrations in the diagnostic medical sonography program for initial accreditation. The decision is expected in the spring.

Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness

Advisory Council broadens mission

A new Advisory Council for the college's Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness brings together an inter-professional group of University faculty and community members.

The group met recently in a retreat to broaden the mission for the center and establish a vision. Priorities include continuing to develop the center's internal structure, serving as a hub for showcasing faculty research on gerontology, and enhancing awareness of the center within the University community. Dr. Katie Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology and director of the center, said the group also wants to collaborate with regional partners, including other Indiana universities that offer similar centers on aging or a focus on gerontology research.

In addition to Ehlman, members of the Advisory Group include Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions; Deb Carl Wolf, assistant professor of dental hygiene and director of the dental hygiene program; Sherri Mathis, assistant professor of occupational therapy assistant; Dr. Mari K. Hopper, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Guoyuan Huang, associate professor of physical education; Dr. Martha Raske, professor of social work and chair of the Department of Social Work; Dr. Kathy Elpers, associate professor of social work; Carol Hermes, program director/instructor emerita in health services/administration; and Jean Tillery, assistant executive director of the Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging. The Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness was established in 2008.

Hartford Foundation executive addresses aging institute



Corinne Rieder, center, executive director and treasurer of the Hartford Foundation, spoke about improving healthcare and social services for America's rapidly aging population as keynote speaker at the third annual Mid-America Institute on Aging. With her are Dr. Nadine Coudret, left, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and Dr. Martha Raske, chair of the USI Department of Social Work. Sponsored by the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging, the two-day conference attracted more than 230 attendees.

Faculty, students embrace travel/study in Germany

The classes, the culture, and the people they met at the International Summer University in Germany left a lasting impression on College of Nursing and Health Professions faculty and students.



Eggleston

Dr. Brandon M. Eggleston, assistant professor of health services/administration, was invited to teach a three-week course in international public health. "It was the best class I've ever taught in terms of participation and the interest level of students," he said.

Five USI students, including three majoring in health services, attended the summer program, which also offered courses in international business and international marketing in its first year. The program was sponsored by the University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrueck, a USI exchange partner since 1990. Twenty students from the United States, South Korea, Germany, Denmark, and Scotland enrolled in the intensive course of their choice. The students also had an introduction to German language and culture. The program included weekend trips to Berlin and Paris, excursions to famous German companies, cooking events, and other opportunities outside the classroom.

Health services major Darius Rowser liked the idea of a concentrated study and travel program. "I wanted to learn about all the public health systems in one course in a short time," he said.

He came back armed with a better understanding of how other countries manage public healthcare, including universal availability. Rowser enjoyed helping students from other countries and cultures voice their opinions. "In the United States, it is easy to voice your input," he said.

Rowser penned his signature and "USI" on the Berlin Wall.

Eggleston will return to Osnabrueck in November as a guest lecturer and will teach again in 2011 at the International Summer University. Dr. Kevin J. Valadares, associate professor and program director for health services/administration, will teach in Osnabrueck during the University's block week in December. At press time, arrangements were in progress for the College of Nursing and Health Professions to host a faculty member from Osnabrueck's health administration program in January.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and Dr. Ann White, associate dean, served on a four-member USI delegation in March that visited Osnabrueck and other European universities to explore partnerships. A team from Osnabrueck visited the USI campus in May. Plans are under way to offer a collaborative three-week travel/study program for nursing and health professions students in summer 2011 with the University of Osnabrueck. Strengthened partnerships with universities outside the United States address USI President Linda L. M. Bennett's strategic-planning goal to increase experiential learning opportunities for students.



Darius Rowser is flanked by fellow USI students Jessica Schwarz and Kristin Plahn along with students from other universities during a weekend trip to Paris.

Students, alumni, and college friends Sign up now for summer travel/study programs



Three travel-study opportunities are available for students, alumni, and college friends this summer. Academic credit and continuing education credits are available for each program. Family and friends can participate as guests.

- Learn about the British healthcare system, May 22-June 5, Harlaxton College, Grantham, England
- Healthcare through the Life Circle, July 1-July 24, University of Osnabrueck, Germany
- International Summer University – Public Health, July 24-August 13, University of Applied Sciences, Osnabrueck, Germany

Contact Heidi Gregori-Gahan, director of International Programs and Services, 812/465-1248, gahan@usi.edu or health.usi.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jeanne Dewig Mesker '82, dental hygiene, is Friends and Alumni coordinator at Mater Dei High School in Evansville.

Betty Brown '92, nursing, is president elect of the National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ), the nation's leading organization for healthcare quality professionals. She is chief quality and patient safety officer at Parkview Health in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A NAHQ fellow since 2006, she is co-chair of the national Fellowship Review Board. She also has been active in the organization's Indiana affiliate. Brown was a member of USI's first nursing class, earning an associate degree in 1990 and a baccalaureate degree in 1992. She was the 2005 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award from the USI Nursing Society.



Brown

Kathy Peak '93, radiologic technology, is the technical director of the vascular lab for Evansville Surgical Associates.

Jill Harbison '00, occupational therapy, is a policy analyst for the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C. She earned a master's degree in sociology from the University of Louisville.

Holly Montgomery '05, occupational therapy, '06, M.S.O.T., works for a non-government organization in the Middle East.

Dan Lucky '07, M.S.N., of Modesto, California, is an advocate for patient access to healthcare. He recently produced a video called "California Nurse Practitioner" that appears on YouTube. In 2009, Lucky launched a police nurse program in Ceres, California, which is an outgrowth of a proposal he developed as a graduate student in nursing with the support of USI faculty. Dr. Loretta Ford, founder of the nurse practitioner movement, also was a mentor for the project. The program provides primary care services to police officers and underserved members of the community. A police academy graduate, Lucky is a public health nurse practitioner with the Ceres Police Department. "Although the program is evolving weekly, it is still in line with my USI proposal," he said.

Voneece "Ginger" Little '08, health services, teaches for the Health Sciences program at Grantham University and the Allied Health programs at Daymar College. She received the VIP faculty award in May at Grantham. Little is pursuing a doctorate in business administration with a specialization in healthcare administration from Northcentral University.

Whitney Nash '08, food and nutrition, is a health educator in the Weight Management Center at Floyd Memorial Hospital in New Albany, Indiana. She lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Julie Amos '09, occupational therapy, '10, M.S.O.T., of Peoria, Arizona, is employed by STARS (Student Therapies and Resource Services). She is an occupational therapist in Avondale and Goodyear, Arizona.

Lesley Lockhart '09, radiologic technology, is a computed tomography technologist at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, Kentucky.

Michael Hawa '09, nursing, is the first recipient of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville. A patient and family nominated Hawa for the award to recognize the care he gave during the patient's acute hospitalization in the cardiovascular intensive care unit. Hawa joined St. Mary's as a registered nurse in June 2009 after a year as a student intern. St. Mary's became a partner in the national DAISY Award program this year. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.



Hawa

DeAndra Magdaleno '09, dental assisting, '10, health services, is a dental assistant with Meyer & Hall in Bedford, Indiana. She also works in emergency-room and front-desk registration at Monroe Hospital in Bloomington, Indiana.

Julie Talbot '09, diagnostic medical sonography, is associated with Evansville Surgical Associates and Deaconess Hospital. She is a registered diagnostic medical sonographer and registered vascular technologist.

Samantha S. Davis '10, health services, is a marketing assistant with Wabash Valley Eye Center. She is based in the Vincennes, Indiana, office.

Robert Hafner '10, M.S.N., of Independence, Missouri, visited the USI campus for the first time when he attended spring Commencement.



Robert Hafner met Dr. Ann White, associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, at Commencement.

He completed the acute care nurse practitioner track of the master's program in nursing through distance education. "I've never taken harder tests," he said. "They were challenging." Hafner is no stranger to distance ed. He completed a bachelor's degree in nursing through the University of Kansas while stationed in Iraq as an acute care nurse in the intensive care unit of a combat support hospital and as a flight nurse. Because military service prevented him from attending graduation when he earned the bachelor's degree, he was especially interested in participating in USI Commencement.

Hafner formerly was associated with the burn unit at the University of Kansas Hospital. He has earned certification as an acute care nurse practitioner and has accepted a job working with the hospitalist group at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence.

K. K. Hayes '10, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant at Transcendent Healthcare in Owensville, Indiana.

Leah Oeth '10, diagnostic medical sonography, '10, health services, is a sonographer at The Women's Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana.

Katlyn A. Thais '10, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist at Herman Family Dental in her hometown of Vincennes, Indiana.

Calling all
alumni

Send news along with your degree and year of graduation, major, address, phone number, current position, and employer to dgutley@usi.edu.

Hands-on activities promote careers in healthcare

Twenty-eight high school students exploring careers in the health professions completed hands-on activities with faculty and students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions during the summer as part of a two-week Health Science Institute (HSI) co-sponsored by Deaconess Health System and the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. The college also hosted middle school students attending HCAMPS (HealthCare Academy for Middle School Pupils' Success), sponsored by St. Mary's Medical Center. Both HSI and HCAMPS were supported in part by grants from the Southwestern Indiana Area Health Education Center, hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Professions.



Use Facebook?

Join the Facebook group page for your academic program.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has Facebook pages for each program. Share information about yourself, post photos, and communicate with former classmates.

Go to www.facebook.com and search for USI CNHP along with your program name (example: USI CNHP diagnostic medical sonography).



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**College of Nursing
and Health Professions**

University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47712

Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education



Workshops and Conferences

Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing Conference, March 10
Healing Touch Workshop, March 12-13
8th Annual Nursing Leadership Conference, April 6
15th Annual Research and Healthcare Issues Conference, April 20
Advanced Faith Community Nurse Retreat, April 30
17th Annual Case Management Conference, May 12
13th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 13
Pulmonary Fibrosis Symposium, June 10

2010-11 Certificate Programs (Internet-delivered instruction)

Alzheimer's Disease Management, six weeks, begins March 14, September 19
Anticoagulation Patient Self Testing Educator, three weeks, independent study
Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks, begins January 17, March 21, May 23, July 25, October 3
Case Management, six weeks, begins April 4, August 22
Clinical Simulation, four weeks, begins February 21, September 12
Diabetes Management, six weeks, begins February 14, August 15
Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness Certificate Program, 10 weeks, January 19-April 4, September 21-November 30
Heart Failure, five weeks, begins January 17, September 26
Hypertension Management, five weeks, begins February 21, August 1
Lipid Management, six weeks, begins January 31, September 12
Oncology Management, eight weeks, begins March 21, August 22
Pain Management, six weeks, begins January 24, August 8
Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins March 7, September 19
Telehealth for Home Health, four weeks, begins February 7, September 12
Wound Management, six weeks, begins April 18, September 26

Customized programs

Let the College of Nursing and Health Professions tailor programs to meet the specific needs of your organization.

Registration and program information:
Visit health.usi.edu or call 812/365-1148
Peggy Graul - Conferences, continuing education
Victoria Piggott - Certificate programs