

# Nursing Alumni News



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## USI Nursing Alumni Newsletter

### College of Nursing and Health Professions

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## Nursing Grads Share Their Memories

*This year, USI celebrates its 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the USI Nursing Program. During this milestone year, two early graduates took time out from their busy schedules to share some memories and explain who inspired them to pursue a career in nursing (and their “throw-back” grad photos!).*



**Cathy R. Murphy, MSN, MHA, RN** is an administrator of Joint Venture Services at Deaconess Hospital, where she oversees service line budgets, marketing, physician partnerships, and strategic planning for the neurosurgical and vascular practices. From 1999-2013, Cathy was director of critical care departments, an outpatient cardiovascular short stay service, and joint venture procedure labs at St. Mary’s Medical Center. Her leadership activities included human resource management of approximately 85 FTEs, oversight of clinical operations, evidence-based practice clinical integration, and quality process improvement for these assigned services. Cathy enjoys leading clinical teams to promote quality, advance clinical knowledge, embrace health care challenges, and provide the “best” patient experience.

Cathy was a member of USI’s first graduating class for the BSN program in 1990. At that time, their classes were at Johnson Hall at the Deaconess Main Campus, and they were in-person classes, with no Internet or video-conferencing. These were the days before computers were widely used in the classroom: all typewriters and no Microsoft Powerpoint! She said that when she was earning her BSN, nursing preceptorships were more clinical in nature, there were not opportunities for leadership or management preceptorships.

*Continued on page 3*

**Elizabeth J. “Betty” Brown, MBA, MSN, RN, CHPQ, FNAHQ** currently owns her own company and holds the title of Principle for ELLO Consulting. Betty’s work is primarily with the LifePoint Hospital System, a for-profit company with over 60 hospitals in 22 states. She works on site with these hospitals as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in healthcare quality, accreditation, risk, regulation/compliance, infection prevention, case management, medical staff services, patient safety and utilization management.



Betty holds registered nurse licensure in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Betty progressed from critical care tech to Registered Nurse, Educator, Infection Control, Director of Medical Surgical Nursing with Good Samaritan Hospital, Quality and Infection Control Director with Welborn Hospital. Betty has been the “C” suite, Vice President/Senior Vice President, system quality leader for three large health systems, St. Mary’s in Evansville, TriHealth in Cincinnati, Ohio and Parkview Health in Fort Wayne.

*Continued on page 2*

# Nursing Grads cont.

## **Betty Brown - Continued from page 1**

Betty has served Indiana and Ohio on the Boards for Healthcare Quality for over 20 years, mentors healthcare quality professionals toward higher levels of practice and fellowship with 10 to 12 mentees at any one time, has published in numerous professional journals, has written a book and chapters in healthcare quality. Betty is the Past President of the National Association for Healthcare Quality and currently serves the National Association on the Leadership Development Team.

Betty graduated from USI with her ASN degree in 1990 and earned her BSN from USI in 1992. Betty remembers expectations were high and outcomes set were challenging. Betty was fortunate to serve as the President of the ASN class and the President of the BSN class. The first class members helped to design the original nursing pin, decided not to have a capping ceremony as it was the time of moving away from caps, and worked for six weeks after graduating with a selected clinical teaching associate in a practicum that laid a foundation for clinical performance that the first class members' carry to this day. Betty remembers the superb teachers in the program and in required classes for USI which include but are not limited to **Dr. Nadine Coudret, Dr. Ann White, Dr. Cindy Sublett, Dr. Warren and Dr. Marie Hankins, Tim Mahoney, Dr. Jack Marr, Dr. Charles Petranek, Dr. Melissa Vandever** and **Cindy Goodwin**.

Betty shared what first inspired her to be a nurse:

*My son Rhett was born with Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCIDs) and though he lived only 17 months, the loss of this precious child provided the platform for me to make a change in my career. I made the decision to go back to school once my daughter, Andrea, was in school. My mother, **Dorothy Drexler Burke Thornburg** suggested I look into nursing as a career, and my sister, **Lois Morgan**, a registered nurse, encouraged me as well. The nurses who cared for my son at Welborn Baptist Hospital (**Nancy McCleary** was a stand out in this time) influenced my desire to be an intensive care nurse.*



**Lois M. Stallings-Welden DNP, RN, CNS** is the Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. She has worked at Deaconess since September of 1979. A former cardiac and ICU department manager, she received three nursing degrees from USI: BSN in 1994; MSN in 2001; and DNP in 2014.

Lois said the first person to inspire her was an "old Army nurse," Miss McGill, who was the director of nursing at Clinton County Hospital in Frankfort, Indiana. At the time, Lois was 16 and attending a church-affiliated high school away from her home in rural Indiana. Determined to not burden her family with extra expenses, she applied for a job at the local hospital, only to be told that they would not hire her because of her young age. Undeterred, Lois made several attempts to contact the director of nursing, even bringing in a letter of reference from the dean at her high school. She explained:

*When I took the letter to her, she became very annoyed, slapped her hand on the desk, and in utter frustration yelled, "Ok, I'll hire you, but I will personally train you." As I looked at the end of her long, long finger, I was shaking inside, but my heart leaped with joy. I pressed on, asking, "When can I start?" She refocused and retained her normal cold and starchy composure as she began looking for a start date. Thus, launched my employment in health care!*

*The second person who inspired me was **Martha Wallace**, nursing director at Deaconess Hospital. I had previously worked as a nurse aide in labor and delivery after graduating from Frankfort Wesleyan College. When I interviewed with Martha for a position at Deaconess in 1979, she asked why I wasn't in nursing school. I explained that I was married, had four children under the age of 9, and that my husband did not have steady work. She again asked, "So, why aren't you in school?" Her attitude sparked a little bit of irritation, but, being the competitive person that I am, it sparked an inspiration to get started.*

*Over the years, there have been many great nurses, physicians, friends and family who have been supportive, including **Joan Fedor-Bassemeier**, my nursing director when I was manager of the Cardiac ICU, and **Linda White**, my CNO. Also, **Ethel Taylor** was such an encourager and advisor when I was a new manager.*



## **Nursing Alums!**

Send us your reflections for the next issue of the Nursing Alumni Newsletter!

[dmworman@usi.edu](mailto:dmworman@usi.edu)

# 73 Inducted into USI's Sigma Theta Tau

The College of Nursing and Health Professions' chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International — Omicron Psi — inducted 73 new members this spring during an inaugural dinner/induction event at Carter Hall. Members included 22 BSN students, 40 MSN students, nine doctoral students and two community leaders.



Sigma Theta Tau is an international nursing honor society of students, faculty and community leaders dedicated to nursing scholarship and global health. New inductees joined other members at this year's celebration in March for a night of fellowship. **Katie DeFries, '03, '04 BSN**, spoke about her experiences with healthcare in Africa.

The dinner and ceremony were planned by **Dr. Mikel Hand**, president; **Jordan Morrison '14**, vice president; **Rebecca Denoncour '15**, **Pam Thomas** and **Dr. Beth Bonham**.



Above, new members of Omicron Psi chapter who attended the spring induction ceremony. At right, nursing student Brooke Gress and her parents are flanked by Dr. Mikel Hand and Dr. Ann White.



## Nursing Grads cont.

### **Cathy Murphy - Continued from page 1**

Cathy said her mother first inspired her to be a nurse:

*My mom wanted to attend college to study nursing, but because her father died when she was 7, she was not financially able. I earned an associate in nursing degree from Vincennes University in 1980 and started working as a charge nurse in the Coronary Care Unit at Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville. As soon as I heard that USI was offering a nursing program, I wanted to enroll to complete a bachelor's in nursing.*

*As for others who have influenced me ... I have been inspired by Dr. Nadine Coudret. She was and is a role model in the community for her work in academia & health care. Melissa Vanderveer was also a strong role model, especially related to nursing research. I am thankful for the wonderful career opportunities to grow personally and mentor nursing leaders for the future of health care.*



### **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, June 6, 2015**

USI Alumni Party on the Quad  
*Live music, pig roast and refreshments!*

**Friday, June 12, 2015**

Indianapolis Chapter Cookout 2015

**Friday, August 7, 2015**

Indianapolis Scholarship Golf Scramble 2015  
*Proceeds benefit Greater Indianapolis Alumni Scholarships*

**Friday, September 18, 2015**

USI Alumni Golf Scramble 2015

[Click here for more details!](#)



# Worman Receives Teaching Award

**Dawn M. Worman**, instructor in Nursing, was selected for the **2015 Melissa Faye and John M. Lawrence Baccalaureate Faculty Teaching Award**. The award is selected by the senior class and given to a member of the undergraduate faculty who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education.

The award is given by **John M. Lawrence '73**, a generous benefactor of the College of Nursing and Health Professions and its nursing programs.

Seniors who nominated Dawn said:

- *She is always willing to help with anything. She made everyone feel confident.*
- *She creates interesting lectures that are easy to grasp. She will always go back and explain concepts that we do not understand.*
- *She is so helpful and such a good teacher. She explains things so well and makes sure you understand.*
- *She is the type of nurse I would like to imitate. She*

*has a great attitude and is always encouraging to do our best. She is willing to do what she can to help us.*

- *Awesome nurse and awesome teacher.*



*Becky Scheller, assistant to John M. Lawrence '73, Dawn Worman, instructor in Nursing, and Ginny Bryant, USI Foundation.*

# Rankings of USI's Nursing programs

## Top 5% in nation for licensure scores

USI's undergraduate nursing program, which had 83 graduates in 2014, had a 99 percent pass rate on the first attempt, which puts USI in the top 5 percent in the nation in terms of nursing licensure scores, according to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Currently, there are 1,904 nursing programs in colleges and universities across the United States.

"Our programs continue to demonstrate excellence in preparing our graduates to be licensed and enter the workforce," said **Dr. Ann White**, dean. "Our dedicated faculty and program chairs strive to create a learning environment that offers our students the classroom instruction and clinical experiences to be successful.

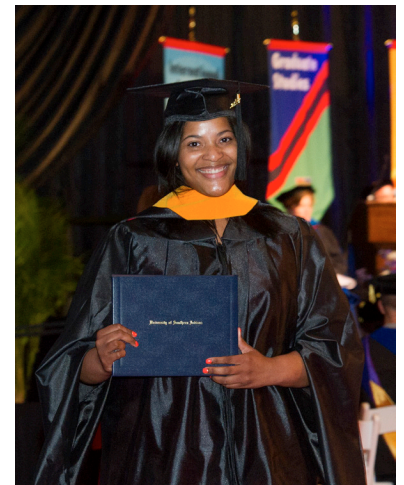
## Graduate Nursing program ranked nationally

*U.S. News and World Reports* has ranked the College of Nursing and Health Professions Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program 78th in the country. — climbing 48 spots from the previous year's ranking. The MSN program

strives to prepare nurses at an advanced practice level, who demonstrate professional leadership and foster a research climate in the practice of nursing.

U.S. News ranked schools based on five general categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology and admissions selectivity.

On January 7, 2015, MSN program was ranked 36th in the nation by *U.S. News and World Reports* as part of its Best Online Programs rankings.



*Samone Glenn '09 BS, '10 BSN, '13 MSN*

# Nursing and Ministry Meet at Patchwork Central

**John Rich '12 BSN** has combined his love of nursing with a call to be a Christian minister with a new Health Ministry at Patchwork Central, a faith-based neighborhood outreach organization in an Evansville inner city neighborhood.

John's goal is to provide healing to both the body and spirit by being both a nurse as well as a minister at Patchwork. The program offers a holistic approach to health and wellness for individuals and the community, providing classes, health screenings, support groups, healing rituals, health care advocacy, a small resource library and personalized health/spiritual consulting.

John hopes to help create communities of healing where neighbors will become health care providers for each other by sharing recipes, exercising together, giving emotional support and helping each other navigate health care systems.

*Learn more about Patchwork Central.*



**John Rich '12 BSN**

## DeFries is Distinguished Alumna

**Katie DeFries** is the 2014 recipient of the USI Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award. Each year, the USI Nursing Alumni Society presents this award to recognize a graduate who has made outstanding achievements in a career or public service.

When DeFries received the award in the Fall of 2014, she was employed as a neonatal intensive care nurse at Deaconess Women's Hospital. Since then, she has accepted a new position as neonatal nurse practitioner at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana.

DeFries obtained two nursing degrees from USI: She received her associate of science in nursing in 2003 and her bachelor of science in nursing in 2004. In 2008, she earned a Master of Science degree as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

In 2010, DeFries took her nursing expertise overseas by working as a missionary in Kenya, Africa, for three years with AfricaHope, a ministry of Mission Systems International, based in Fort



*Dawn Worman, Katie DeFries, Linda Evinger*

Myers, Florida. Her work in Africa was focused on holistic health to impact principles of disease prevention and healthy living, including improving access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene and diet.

"I have many fond memories of my time at USI, and I am so thankful for the amazing professors and clinical instructors I had there that gave me a great foundation from which to start my career," said DeFries, a native of New Harmony. "I am proud to say I'm a nursing alumna of USI, and this award means so much to me!"



## Join the Nursing Alumni Society

Each year, the Nursing Alumni Society awards a scholarship to a deserving USI undergraduate nursing student. Please help fund this scholarship in the years to come by joining the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

Anyone who donates a minimum of \$25 to the Nursing Alumni Scholarship will become an active member of the USI Nursing Alumni Society, so join today!

**Join Now!**



## Current Student News



Cheryl Viau

**Cheryl Viau**, graduate nursing student, received the Sea Star award from her commanding officer at the Naval Hospital in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, California. The award was given as recognition of her work as a patient safety advocate in the emergency department when she intervened on behalf of a pregnant patient who was prescribed an improper medication by an outside prescriber. Viau plans to graduate from USI with her Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2016.

**Della Hughes Carter** has been awarded Michigan State Della Hughes Carter, student in USI's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, has received a professional development award from Michigan State University College of Nursing. This award supports her current research project: "A Nurse Practitioner-Led Interprofessional Provider Education Intervention to Improve Diabetic Kidney Disease Screening in an Under-insured Population." Carter is conducting her study at CareFree Medical Clinic, which provides primary care to under-insured and low-income patients in the Greater Lansing area.



Indiana Association of Nursing Students



*The following students were elected to the Indiana Association of Nursing Students State Board for the 2015-2016 term: Kathryn Chavez, Treasurer and Uyenvy (Vee) Mai, Membership Director. USI had 64 of the nearly 300 student attendees at the IANS annual state convention, which was held January 24, 2015 in Indianapolis. During the conference, the USI team won the NCLEX challenge.*



# Congrats to USI's Newest Nursing Alumni!



Dr. Marilyn Ostendorf captured a group shot following the senior nursing luncheon April 29, 2015.

## Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

### 2015 Certificate Programs

(online continuing education)

- Anticoag. Therapy, seven weeks, May 18, July 27, Oct. 12
- Case Management, six weeks, August 17
- Clinical Simulation, four weeks, Sept. 7
- Diabetes Management, eight weeks, Aug. 10
- Health Informatics, seven weeks, Aug. 10
- Health Prom. & Worksite Wellness, six weeks, Sept. 14
- Heart Failure, five weeks, Sept. 21
- Hypertension Management, five weeks, July 27
- Lipid Management, seven weeks, Sept. 7
- Oncology Management, eight weeks, August 17
- Pain Management, six weeks, August 3
- Parish/Faith Community Nursing, four weeks, Sept. 14
- Stroke Management, six weeks, Sept. 14
- Wound Management, six weeks, Sept. 21

### Conferences and Workshops

- May 13-15** - Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS)
- August 13 & 14** - Mid-America Institute on Aging
- September 25** - Pharm. Update for Adv. Practice Nurses
- October 17 & 18** - Healing Touch Workshops
- October 21** - Nursing and Health Professions Educators
- October 28** - PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference

**PRE-CONFERENCE**



with **TEEPA SNOW**  
Dementia Care and Training Specialist

**Wednesday, August 12**  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Workshop for Direct Care Providers

Eighth Annual  
**Mid-America INSTITUTE**  
**MAIA on Aging**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA **SWIRCA** & MORE

**August 13 and 14, 2015**  
at University of Southern Indiana  
Call 1-800-467-8600 or visit [USI.edu/maia](http://USI.edu/maia)

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