

# Nursing Alumni News



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## USI Nursing Alumni Newsletter

**College of Nursing and Health Professions**

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## First ever White Coat Ceremony held



The University of Southern Indiana’s Nursing program is one of 60 schools of nursing nationwide selected to receive funding support through the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to host a White Coat Ceremony. This ceremony, which emphasizes the importance of providing compassionate care, officially welcomed and initiated 132 junior nursing students on September 25 in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center.

“The white coat is symbolic of the practicing professional. Although White Coat Ceremonies have been conducted by medical schools for more than 20 years, this is only the second year that nursing programs across the country have held this event,” said **Dr. Ann White**, dean of the USI College of Nursing and

Health Professions. “This is an historic event for USI since it is the first-ever White Coat Ceremony for nursing students on this campus. We held this ceremony at the beginning of our academic year, prior to the students entering their first clinical course, to reinforce the importance of providing patient-centered care.”

During the White Coat Ceremony, which typically consists of the recitation of an oath and the cloaking of each student in a white coat, students were given a specially-designed pin that serves as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to providing high quality care.

USI invited three nurse executives to speak who represent area acute care institutions that support students in their clinical rotations: **Tonya Heim**, vice president Patient Services and chief nursing officer at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper;

**Cherona J. Hajewski**, vice president and chief nursing officer at Deaconess Health System; and **Darcy Ellison**, senior vice president, Clinical Operations, and chief nursing officer at St. Mary’s Health.



*White Coat Ceremony speakers were, from left, Tonya Heim, Cherona Hajewski and Darcy Ellison.*

# Congratulations



## Hospitals honor USI nursing alumni, current students

### At Deaconess Hospital

Graduates and current students of the USI Nursing Program honored at Deaconess Hospital with yearly nursing awards are:

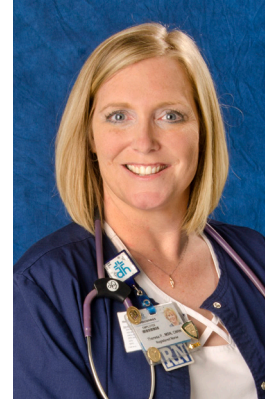
- Advancement of the Profession Nurse of the Year:  
**Claire Stevenson, RN '09**
- Leadership Nurse of the Year:  
**Theresa Price, RN '96, M'13**



USI undergraduate nursing students who have received Deaconess Nursing Scholarships are **Kimberly "Sheyenne" Martin, Hayley Offutt** and **Rachel Hopkinson**.



Claire Stevenson '09

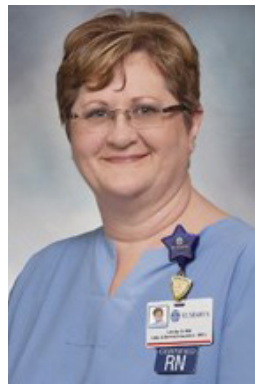


Theresa Price M'13

### At St. Mary's Medical Center

USI Nursing Program graduates and current students were honored at the St. Mary's Medical Center annual Nurse's Day Dinner Celebration are:

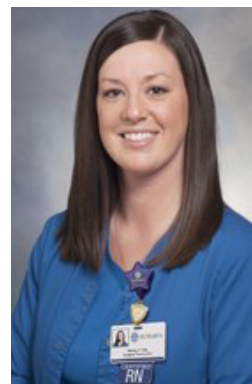
- New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvement Nursing Excellence Award: **Linda Baxter, RN-C** (current student in USI Bachelor of Science in Nursing program)
- Structural Empowerment Nursing Excellence Award: **Jordan York, RN '08**
- Transformational Leadership Award: **Betsy Tenbarga, RN '08**
- Administrator of Nursing: **Brian Marvell, RN '07**



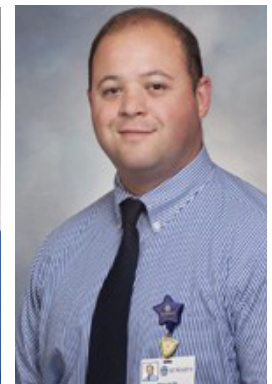
Linda Baxter



Jordan York '08



Betsy Tenbarga '08



Brian Marvell '07



USI undergraduate nursing students awarded Nursing Auxiliary Scholarships from St. Mary's Medical Center are **Dorothy Schucker, Kristy Brackett, Lauren Martin** and **Taylor Hoffman**.

# USI implements accelerated nursing program

Due to students' growing interests in healthcare careers and the demand for nurses by area employers, the College of Nursing and Health Professions has added an accelerated Bachelor of Science Nursing program that will benefit both.

"Our average GPA for nursing admission each year is typically around a 3.6," said **Dr. Connie Swenty**, chair of undergraduate Nursing. "We have well-qualified students who are turned away from nursing because we could only take 110 students in the traditional program. We contacted our clinical agencies and found that they would work with us to accommodate 20 additional students. So we were able to add additional students by using this accelerated concept."

The early graduation also means USI nursing grads can enter the workforce sooner, which is a bonus for area employers.

"A few years ago, area healthcare providers gave the College of Nursing and Health Professions some valuable feedback, explaining their need to have more nurses enter the workforce, especially with a December graduation date," said Swenty. "Our new accelerated nursing program is in response to this need, and we are pleased to collaborate with area healthcare providers to help increase the number of nursing graduates."

Swenty said the new program is four continuous semesters—fall, spring, summer, fall—with an additional

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**– Dr. Connie Swenty**

one to two hours each semester and a December graduation date. Traditional students complete five semesters and do not have summer courses. Twenty-two students started this past August and will graduate in December 2016. A second cohort of 20 accelerated nursing students has been accepted for admission in fall 2016 semester.

"Basically, on August 1, we choose 130 nursing students who meet the criteria for our program," said Swenty. "Students are chosen for the traditional or accelerated programs based on the best match for the student and the Nursing Program."



*Members of the first cohort in USI's accelerated undergraduate nursing program plan to graduate in December 2016.*

# Faculty Achievements



**Dawn M. Worman**, instructor in nursing, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Indiana League for Nursing at the board of directors meeting June 15 in Indianapolis. Worman is currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at USI.



**Dr. Mary Rock** was selected by Indiana Governor Mike Pence to serve on the Indiana State Board of Nursing. She is serving a four-year term which began July 1, 2015.



**Dr. C. Elizabeth (Beth) Bonham** has been promoted to associate professor of nursing and received tenure at USI. Her clinical expertise as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist focuses on mental health issues of children and adolescents.

**Dr. Roberta Hoebeke**, professor of nursing, was named the 2015 Alumni Service Award winner for the Michigan State University College of Nursing. She accepted this award October 2 at the college's annual scholarship and award ceremony.

Roberta teaches full-time in the family nurse practitioner MSN and the DNP programs at USI and also practices part-time as a family nurse practitioner.



Since 2009, Hoebeke has written grants and partnered with the Hospitality and Outreach to Latin Americans (HOLA) group to facilitate efforts to improve the health, education, and welfare of Hispanics in the Evansville community.

## ILN receives national nursing award

**Susan Seibert** accepted the "Excellence in Innovation" award on behalf of the Indiana League for Nursing at the National League for Nursing Education Summit in Las Vegas in October.

Susan is a member of the board of directors and chair of the program committee which received the national recognition. There were two national awards for constituent leagues awarded during the conference. The Indiana League for Nursing received the award for innovative programming, namely their biannual Dinner and Discussions.



*Above, left, Susan Seibert holds the Indiana League for Nursing's award from the National League for Nursing.*

"It was an honor for my committee to receive notice on the national level," said Susan. "Indiana has some incredible nurse educators. The ILN promotes collaboration among the many nursing programs to share expertise, resources and ideas."



### USI Nursing Grads:

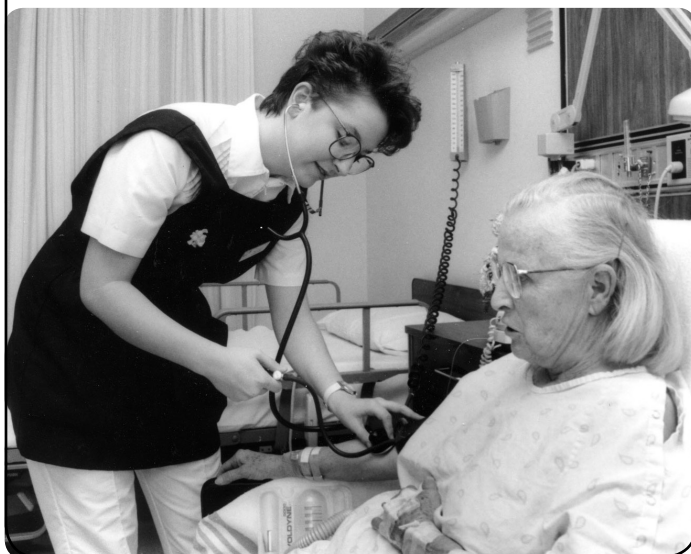
Do you have a USI memory or photo to share?

Email

[jkmorrison12@gmail.com](mailto:jkmorrison12@gmail.com)

or

[justinblinn@hotmail.com](mailto:justinblinn@hotmail.com)



# From the USI Nursing Alumni Society Presidents

Hello USI Nursing Alumni! We wanted to happily introduce ourselves as the new co-presidents of the USI Nursing Alumni Society.



**Justin Blinn** – I am honored to say that I have received two different degrees from USI. After completing my baseball career and graduating in spring of 2011 with a Bachelors of Science in Health Administration, I joined the USI nursing family in the spring of 2012. Like Jordan, I graduated with my BSN in the spring of 2014 and have been employed at Deaconess Main Campus unit 4800 in the Surgical Trauma Cardiovascular ICU. I was the USI Student Body Representative to St. Mary's Clinical Practice Council for two years while studying at USI. Since joining the Deaconess family I've been involved in several hospital wide initiatives, unit based council, training students, helped in educating multiple employees on CLABSI Buster campaign.

**Jordan Morrison** – I am also pleased to say that I am an alumna of the prestigious USI Nursing Program. Like Justin, I graduated with my BSN in the spring of 2014, and was proud to represent the College of Nursing and Health Professions as the first recipient of the President's Medal within the College. I, like Justin, am happily employed at Deaconess Main Campus at the Unit 4800 Surgical Trauma Cardiovascular ICU. I was fortunate enough to work at St. Mary's Medical Center while I was in college, so I have been able to have contact with both of the fine medical institutions in Evansville. At Deaconess, I am involved in several councils and task forces including the Research and Evidence Based Practice Council, the CAUTI Prevention Task Force, the EPIC User Champion Task Force, and I am a co-chair of the Unit 4800 Unit Based Council. Along with my role in the USI Nursing Alumni Association, I currently serve as vice-president of the Omicron Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at USI.



Overall, we just wanted everyone to introduce ourselves to all of you as the new co-presidents of our well-established USI Nursing Alumni Society. In beginning our new roles, our greatest hope is that you, as USI Nursing Alumni, will allow us to stay informed of the great accomplishments you are achieving in your professional careers. We know that the graduates of the USI Nursing Program do great things on a daily basis, but it becomes difficult for us to be knowledgeable of these endeavors without your help. We encourage you to stay in contact with us and keep us updated on your successes by sending this information to [justinblinn@hotmail.com](mailto:justinblinn@hotmail.com) or [jkmorrison12@gmail.com](mailto:jkmorrison12@gmail.com). As co-presidents, we hope to outreach and receive vast involvement and newfound active members. Along with outgoing president Dawn Worman, we would like to cordially invite you to participate in our events and become involved with the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

**USI Nursing  
Alums!**



**We want to hear from you:**

Send us your news for the next issue of the  
*USI Nursing Alumni Newsletter*

Email

[jkmorrison12@gmail.com](mailto:jkmorrison12@gmail.com)

or

[justinblinn@hotmail.com](mailto:justinblinn@hotmail.com)

# USI Nursing Alumni Society Scholarship Recipient

**Courtnee Bratton-Spottswood** is the 2015 recipient of the USI Nursing Alumni Society Scholarship.

She is a junior nursing student from Dayton, Indiana.

After she graduates in 2017, she hopes to work in an ICU setting or cardiovascular-focused unit.



## 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!**



## Upcoming Events

**Reflections of Italy: June 15, 2016 through June 24, 2016**

Revel in the magic of Italy on this 10-day tour that explores the cities of Rome, Florence, Siena, Venice, Assisi, Perugia and Milan.



**Info Sessions at 6 p.m. on November 11 at EVV Airport & December 1 at USI**



**Alumni, friends, and families are invited to enjoy USI Day at the Colts**

Colts vs Buccaneers at Lucas Oil Stadium  
Sunday, November 29 - Game Time 1 p.m.

For ticket information, email [alumni@usi.edu](mailto:alumni@usi.edu) or call 812-464-1924.

### Lighting a Tradition

November 23 at 7 p.m.

*Join us for the Christmas Lighting of the Quad!*



USI graduate **Kimberly J. Harper** was recently in the news, speaking about the looming nursing shortage and the fact that nursing is at the top of Indiana Department of Workforce Development's list of "Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs." Learn more at the Inside Indiana Business website. Kim has a 1987 Health Services degree and a 2013 Nursing degree from USI.



## Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

### 2016 Certificate Programs (online continuing education)

**Anticoag. Therapy**, six weeks, January 11, March 14, May 16, July 25, October 10

**Case Management**, six weeks, March 28, August 15

**Clinical Simulation**, four weeks, February 15, September 5

**Diabetes Management**, eight weeks, February 8, August 8

**Health Informatics**, seven weeks, February 1, August 8

**Health Promotion & Worksite Wellness**, six weeks, January 18, September 12

**Heart Failure**, five weeks, January 11, September 9

**Hypertension Management**, five weeks, February 15, July 25

**Lipid Management**, seven weeks, January 25, September 5

**Oncology Management**, eight weeks, March 14, August 15

**Pain Management**, six weeks, January 18, August 1

**Parish/Faith Community Nursing**, four weeks, March 21, September 12

**Wound Management**, six weeks, February 1, September 19

### 2016 Conferences and Workshops

**January 27** - 3rd Annual Health Informatics Tri-State Summit

**March 7-11** - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training

**March 10** - Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing Conference

**March 12 & 13** - Healing Touch Workshops

**April 6** - 13th Annual Nursing Leadership

**April 13** - 20th Annual Research and Healthcare Issues Conference

**May 4** - 22nd Annual Midwest Care Coordination Conference

**May 6** - 18th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium

**May 18-20** - 33rd Annual Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS)

**August 10-12** - 10th Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging

**September 30** - 13th Pharmacology Update for Adv. Practice Nurses

**October 1** - Dental Ethics and Legal Issues

**October 15-16** - Healing Touch Workshops

**October 19** - 21st Annual Nursing and Health Profess. Educator Conference

**October 26** - PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference

**Jean Hunt** graduated from USI in July of 2011 with a MSN in Education. She received a post-graduate certificate as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in July 2015 and recently passed the board exam.

Jean presented a poster at the Indiana Center for Nursing's Indiana Nursing Summit on October 2 which detailed her CNS student project and also the work she was involved with as a clinical educator for the ICUs at Deaconess Health System. The objectives of the poster, entitled "CLABSI Busters," included the identification of morbidity/mortality and costs associated with a central line associated bloodstream infection and a description of the initiatives implemented at both campuses of the hospital to decrease the incidence of central line associated bloodstream infections.

She recently was hired to teach in the undergraduate Nursing program at USI.

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**Amber Wheeler** was recently asked to work as a medic on the Honor Flight of Southern Indiana. Sixty-eight veterans, most from World War II, and their guardians were able to fly for free to see the national World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

They also toured the city and went to the Lincoln Memorial and other sites, and were able to view the changing of guards at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Spending the day with these men that served our country was one of the most amazing things I have ever experienced," she said.

Amber has the following degrees from USI: BS 2006, ASN 2007, BSN 2008 and MSN 2011.

