New Faces in the College of Nursing & Health Professions

Fall semesters always bring new faces to the college campus and our college is no different. Four new faculty and three new staff members have joined the College of Nursing and Health Professions. We welcome Dr. Brandon Eggleston, Ethel Elkins, Mary Jane Swartz, Janet Rennels, Dennis Siepierski, and Kristina Walker.

Brandon Eggleston has recently earned his doctorate from the Department of Applied Health Science in the School of Health, Physical Education & Recreation at Indiana University Bloomington where he was awarded the Chancellor's Fellowship. His areas of research/experience include the following: Yoga & Integrative Medicine, Quality of Life/Mental Health, College, Health, HIV/AIDS, and Compulsive Behavior. Brandon minored in Biostatistics and is available as a statistical consultant. Personal interests include yoga, personal fitness/sports, cooking, and working with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Ethel Elkins is a licensed clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist, and a mental health counselor and teaching for the Health Services program. She has a master’s degree from the University of Evansville in secondary education and community counseling and a master’s degree in health administration from the University of Southern Indiana. She has been married to her husband, David, for 33 years; they are the parents of Anne, an environmental scientist in Jacksonville, Florida, and of Sarah, a senior elementary education student here at USI.

Elizabeth Keeley Hargis, an Owensboro, Kentucky native, is an instructor in Nursing here at USI. She completed a master’s degree in nursing from Vanderbilt University and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing practice through the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She and her husband, Scott, are very busily attending to Madigan Keeley, their two year old daughter. Keeley’s office is located in HP 2139.

Mary Jane Swartz, is sharing her expertise with Nursing and Certificate Programs. Jane received her master’s degree from the University of Evansville and is certified in medical-surgical nursing. She was nursing faculty at Ivy Tech Community College for a number of years, has served manager of Gateway Deaconess Hospital, and currently teaches advanced cardiac life support at Deaconess Hospital. She is locally involved with the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and is a board member of the American Diabetes Association. She’s married, has three children, and one beautiful granddaughter.
DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS’ SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

USI’s senior class of Dental Hygiene students recently completed a service learning project in Henderson, Kentucky, at the Women’s Addiction Recovery Manor; they performed oral cancer screenings and risk factor education for The Women’s Addiction Recovery Manor’s (WARM) 101 clients. Emily Holt and MaraBeth Womack, dental programs faculty, organized the event, and Phyllis Maddox, faculty, accompanied the class. Funding for the project was secured from a grant provided by the Southwest Indiana Oral Health Foundation to cover the costs of screening kits and supplies.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The student chapter of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association held its first meeting of the academic year on September 30 under the direction of Jennifer Bartek, faculty for dental programs. Discussing fundraisers and philanthropic ideas and assigning committee chairpersons were the highlights of the meeting. Officers for this year include President Ronnie Hoffman, President-elect Katie Salm, Secretary Leann Newby, Historian Mandy Lee, and Treasurer Robin Balczo.

RESPIRATORY CARE STUDENTS & HEALTH FAIRS

CNHP second year Respiratory Care students will be offering a battery of pulmonary exams at eight church, school and industrial health fairs this semester. First year students, along with Tony Schmitt, faculty, manned a very busy table at the University Wellness Fair on October 1 assisting fairgoers with pulmonary exams.

FOOD & NUTRITION STUDENTS MEET

At the first meeting of the academic year, Food and Nutrition students elected Lindsey Van-Doornik secretary for their organization. The group discussed upcoming group activities. The FNSO sponsored a booth at the Potter’s Wheel Health Fair and will be participating in the Diabetes Walk on October 11 at Roberts Stadium.
Janet Rennels is new faculty for Food and Nutrition. A native of Edwards County, Illinois, she graduated with a master’s degree in 1992 and sat for the Registry Exam for Dieticians. She has served as a consultant in the private sector and most recently worked for St. Mary’s Medical Center in their outreach programs. She has also been an adjunct nutrition professor at the University of Evansville. Janet has two adult children, one is a student and the other is a hair stylist. She enjoys the company of her 15 year old standard poodle while she’s working in her garden.

Kristina Walker, new Admissions and Advising Coordinator in Nursing and Health Professions, is a recent graduate of USI’s Food and Nutrition program. You can find her in HP 2060. Before coming to USI, she was “Professor Popcorn’s” assistant, teaching nutrition and exercise to elementary children in all Evansville schools through Vanderburgh County’s Cooperative Extension Office. She is married to Brian; they are the parents of an athletically talented 13 year old son, Tyler.

Dennis Siepierski comes to USI as instructional and Internet services coordinator. He earned a master’s degree in instructional design/technology from the University of South Florida; he most recently was the technology coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Barb Davis, nursing faculty has had two abstracts accepted for presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Baltimore in February 2009. Their titles are “The Consume Emergency Care Satisfaction Scale: A re-Evaluation” and “Comparison of Graduate Research Grades between Students With and Without an Undergraduate Research Course.”

Dr. Mellisa Hall, nursing faculty, will be presenting a paper entitled “Adaptation of CIPP Model to Clinical Education of Undergraduate Nursing Students” at the annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning that will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on October 17.

Mary Killian, assistant for the Dental Clinic, and Jackie Spainhour, assistant for Food and Nutrition and Occupational Therapy Assistant, represent our college on the Staff Council. They have been instrumental in helping to restock “Archie’s Closet,” an emergency food and supply facility for students in need.

Congratulations, Nursing Class of 2010!

Last week, the 2010 Nursing Class completed a four week intensive course in patient care, Nursing 357. Gale Hoehn, one the nursing instructors and photographer, reports that everyone passed—a big hurray!!!
Get out and get moving

10/19  MEMORY WALK, USI. Support Alzheimer Disease Research., 812/475-1012 or www.alz.org

10/25  STOMP OUT PARKINSON DISEASE AWARENESS WALK, The Communities of Solarbron, 10 a.m., 812/424-2887.

10/25  WALK IN THE PAST AND CATHEDRAL LABYRINTH AND SACRED GARDEN MOONLIGHT WALK, New Harmony Antheneum, 6 p.m., 800/231-2168.

10/27-31  ACTIVE AGING WEEK AT SOLARBRON POINTE, The Communities of Solarbron, 812/985-0055 or www.solarbron.org

Jennifer Craig, executive director for SWIAHEC, completed the Half Marathon sponsored by the YMCA, on Sunday, October 12. Nursing administrative assistant, Berta Wyngaarden, and student workers supplied water and treats for runners.

October Birthdays

Debbie Kinney 10/4
Renee Dugger 10/5
Roberta Wyngaarden 10/6
Barbara Davis 10/8
Francesca Ball 10/9
Brad Bridgewater 10/16
Nadine Coudret 10/23
Carol Evans 10/23

LEARNING CARING COMMUNITY

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Report news, updates, birth announcements, and obituaries to Diane Utley at 465-1181 or dgutley@usi.edu.

This newsletter and prior newsletter issues can be read on the website of the CNHP at http://health.usi.edu

“INPUT FOR EXCELLENCE” offers students and staff an opportunity to make suggestions, offer praise, etc. “INPUT FOR EXCELLENCE” boxes are located in the School Community Lounge HP 0110, the Charles Day Learning Resource Center, and the Reception Desk in HP 2068. Use this handy tear-off to share your thoughts with us or email your comments to dgutley@usi.edu