Mayor Weinzapfel Proclaims Respiratory Care Week in Evansville

Tony Schmitt, Respiratory Care faculty, was a key figure in Evansville’s observation of National Respiratory Care Week, October 21-27. Mayor Jonathon Weinzapfel signed a proclamation declaring the city’s participation. As part of the week’s festivities, Tony planned a continuing education lecture and a dinner to honor Dr. Robert Lombard, an area pulmonologist. Dr. Lombard spoke about COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) to those attending the event.

Dr. Lombard has been a friend and mentor to Tony and to respiratory care students; he has provided many hours of service for USI program students.

In the photo at right are Ron Bacon, chapter representative for the Indiana Society for Respiratory Care, Tony Schmitt, Mayor Weinzapfel, and Mary Todd, a St. Mary’s respiratory therapist, local ISRC president.

Graduate nursing student wins national award

Cindy Ward, a nursing student pursuing a Master’s degree in clinical nurse specialist at USI, was recently honored by the research committee of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses (AMSN). She and a colleague presented a poster at the organization’s national convention; prizes were awarded for posters in research, leadership, management/education, and clinical practice. Her poster, “Comparison of the Job Satisfaction of Experienced Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nurses,” was chosen as the winner of the research category. Ms. Ward indicated that the work that she had completed for a course taught by Dr. Barbara Davis, nursing, provided the subject for her poster.

Cindy Ward and fellow students, Marsha Woodall, Sarah Shultz, and Heather Davis, along with Dr. Barbara Davis, had a manuscript published in the October 2007 issue of MEDSURG Nursing; it bears the same title as Cindy’s award winning poster.
Student news

On October 25, students from the College of Nursing and Health Professions participated in the University Employee-Student Health Fair, an annual autumn event. Nursing students provided lipid panels and blood pressure checks. Dental Hygiene Clinic students distributed toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Food and Nutrition program had a tabletop display offering various guides to healthy nutrition. A Worksite Wellness class performed health risk assessments and Respiratory Care performed pulmonary function assessments.

USI student recounts summer experiences at mayo clinic

Lisa Miller, a senior nursing student, was the subject of a Louisville Courier Journal about her participation in Mayo Clinic’s Nursing Summer III/Employment Experience. Lisa and Audrey Raber, also a USI nursing student, were two of 147 participants in the 10 week program in Rochester MN.

Besides honing her basic clinical skills, Lisa observed surgeries in five areas: ears, nose, and throat, oral surgery, plastic surgery, ophthalmology, and urology. She also spent time caring for post-surgical wounds.

Although she was offered employment upon graduation with Mayo Clinic, Lisa is considering continuing her education here at USI in Nursing Practice.

The excellent nursing care provided by Lauren Pineda and other nursing students was the subject of a thank you note from a Deaconess Hospital patient. She commented that the USI nursing program was a “wonderful program” and that the “nursing students are caring, compassionate and considerate”. She also complimented nursing instructor, Karen Parker on her work.

Graduate nursing student recipient of two scholarships

Semise R. Harrison-Gray, graduate nursing student, is the recipient of scholarships from two organizations, The National Black Nurses’ Association and the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurses’ Association. Congratulations, Semise.
FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Lisa Gish, ’00 BSN and “04 MHA, was honored as this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award at the USI Nursing Alumni Society’s annual dinner in October.
Lisa is the executive director of an area nonprofit association, Tri-State Business Group on Health, a coalition of employers addressing health care costs and quality.
Congratulations, Lisa.

Simbaby® Training
Nursing and Health Professions faculty had an opportunity to work with Bob Kimberling, service representative for Laerdal, in a workshop about SimBaby®, the newest edition to the Clinical Simulation Center.

Dr. Davis Awarded Grant
Dr. Barbara Davis, Professor of Nursing, was awarded a research grant of $1000 from the Omicron Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International to support her sabbatical research entitled: Reliability and Validity of the Consumer Emergency Care Satisfaction Scale: A Re-examination.
Dr. Davis has recently been appointment to the review panel for Nursing Education Perspectives, the official publication of the National League for Nursing.

NEW GRANDCHILD
Elizabeth Erin Kurdes, born on September 1, is the first grandchild of Kathy Phillips, clinical labs coordinator. Kathy reports that she cries more than SimBaby® and she has no computer to disconnect.

Nursing and Health Professions Distance Education Touted
Photos featuring staffer, Mike Fetscher, coordinator of instructional broadcast, and students in the CNHP were featured in a story about the virtual classroom at USI appeared in the October 30 edition of the Evansville Courier & Press.
The College of Nursing and Health Professions is a leader in distance education. Since 2001 the number of course enrollments has doubled in size.
Videotape is a thing of the past for distance students; DVDs have replaced them. The trend now is toward the internet. USI uses both synchronous and asynchronous models of webcasting classes. The synchronous model means that the broadcast is live and students may interact with faculty and other students during the class time. The asynchronous model is pre-recorded and allows students to view the video at any time.

.....the secret of being happy is doing things for other people.
—Dick Gregory, comedian and civil rights activist

Reception for Nursing Honors Students
Gale Hoehn, member of the honors committee, hosted a reception for Honors Program students in Undergraduate Nursing on November 6. Dr. Linda Bennett, University Provost, was a special guest.
“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.