

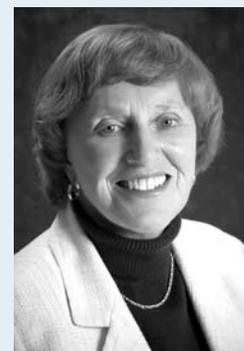
Dean Nadine Coudret appointed interim provost

USI President **H. Ray Hoops** announced the appointment of **Dr. Nadine Coudret** as interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Indiana, effective July 1. Coudret will serve as interim provost for the 2009-10 academic year, returning to the post as dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions at the end of her service to Academic Affairs.

The vacancy occurred because of the appointment of current Provost **Linda L. M. Bennett** as the University's third president, effective July 1.

"Dr. Coudret's experience will provide consistent and strong leadership while the campus conducts a national search for a new provost during 2009-10," Hoops said in a written statement. "Dr. Coudret has established a record of innovative leadership as a respected leader on campus and in the Evansville community."

Coudret joined USI in 1988. She is a member of the Indiana Nursing Workforce Development Coalition and chairman of the Ohio Valley Institutional Review Board. She consults on program evaluation and curriculum and serves on the national accreditation Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Her research interests include nursing education, faculty workload, and lifestyle and health practices, among others. Her work is published in a variety of professional journals, and she has presented on a variety of health topics at professional conferences.



Coudret

Kevin Valadares named Distinguished Professor

Dr. Kevin J. Valadares, associate professor of health services/administration, is the 2009 recipient of the Integra Distinguished Professor Award recognizing significant achievement in teaching, leadership, and service.



Valadares

A faculty member since 2001, Valadares is program director of the undergraduate program in health services and the Master of Science in Health Administration program.

His highly interactive teaching style and commitment to advising are well known on campus. He has been a leader in using technology to enhance student learning activities in classes he teaches on campus as well as online. He was instrumental in working with the technology team to implement the

See Valadares, page 2

College's students demonstrate excellence in achievement in all aspects of campus life

Throughout the University students from the College of Nursing and Health Professions demonstrate excellence and achievement while combining a demanding academic program with involvement in campus life. In the sections that follow, we tell you about just a few of the students whose accomplishments have been recognized this semester. *(Also, see the story on page 7 about Semise Harrison-Gary, a graduate student who has been nationally recognized.)*

Priscilla Walker, Trustees Award

Priscilla Walker, a senior majoring in food and nutrition, is the recipient of the 2009 Trustees Distinguished Merit award, the highest honor presented to a University student during Honors Week.

The recipient of a USI Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine award, Walker plans to pursue a career as a physician. She will enroll in the fall at Indiana

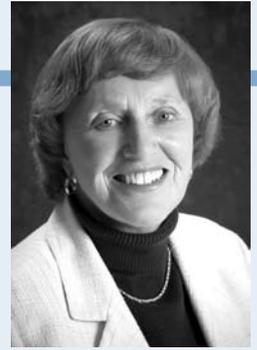
University School of Medicine. Walker looks forward to using her knowledge of food and nutrition to benefit patients whose conditions can be helped or managed with a healthy diet. Last summer she participated in a medical mission trip to Kenya, where she worked with HIV/AIDS patients.

Walker is a resident assistant in USI housing and works part-time teaching youngsters about healthy eating through the Professor Popcorn program of the Vanderburgh County Extension Office. She is a member of the Food and Nutrition Student Organization and the USI chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She has earned a 3.8 grade-point average overall. She is from Indianapolis.

The Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, which includes a \$1,000

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Dean's Notes



Dr. Nadine Coudret

Collegial commitment to excellence is University-wide

As the 2008-09 academic year comes to a close, we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and faculty. It has been a year of growth and achievement. The students highlighted in this newsletter are representative of the excellence of our students in all the arenas in which they participate. Health care will be better because of these graduates, for they will bring commitment, caring expertise, and leadership to make the changes needed in our healthcare delivery system.

The faculty, likewise, have many achievements as outlined in the newsletter. The University's selection of **Dr. Kevin Valadares** as the distinguished professor is celebrated by college students and faculty. Effective teaching is tops on our college's value-system pole, and Dr. Valadares is known for his teaching excellence as well as his successful service and scholarship work. Faculty in each of our programs are dedicated to helping their students learn and grow both personally and professionally.

As I write this, I find myself wanting to tell you about each of our faculty and staff but even if space allowed, their specialness as it relates to professionalism and

commitment to students could not be adequately conveyed. Within the college's 32 study areas and 12 degree programs, collegial support and caring serves as a model for students and makes being a part of this college very special.

It was with this reflection that I agreed to serve as interim provost and vice president in the coming year. The recent successful search process that led to the appointment of **Dr. Linda Bennett** as our new University president demonstrated the same collegial commitment to excellence that I value in our college.

It will be my privilege to join Dr. Bennett and support her vision of community engagement, enrollment growth, and academic excellence for USI. I look forward to working with the deans, chairs, program directors, and faculty in each of our colleges to support their commitment to teaching excellence and the professional growth of faculty and staff.

Valadares

Continued from page 1

use of podcasting for the college. He also was the leading advocate for the redesign of two classrooms in the Health Professions Center to facilitate collaborative learning and for the use of tablet computers to support more dynamic faculty-student learning interaction.

Valadares employs service-learning activities in his teaching. A recent study was commissioned by Evansville

Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel to assess the cost effectiveness and quality of the Evansville area ambulance service. The study provided the city with important information and students with research, public policy, and presentation experience.

Since joining USI, Valadares has authored or co-authored 10 peer review articles and has an additional 10 articles under review or in process. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Health Administration Ethics*.

Valadares shares his expertise in ethics and health administration with

community organizations. He earned a doctorate in healthcare ethics from St. Louis University in 2003.

The recipient of the Integra Distinguished Professor Award is chosen by colleagues on the USI faculty. As Distinguished Professor, Valadares will receive a grant from Integra Bank, select a student to receive a scholarship in his name next year, deliver the Distinguished Professor lecture during the next academic year, and deliver the address at the fall Commencement in December 2009.

Nursing pass rate ranks high in state, nation

All programs demonstrate excellence on registry exams

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program completed the national licensing exam in 2008 with results that give the University of Southern Indiana program high standing in the state and nation.

A report from the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) showed that 97 percent of

USI students completing the exam in 2008 passed on the first attempt. The pass rate was the second highest of the 49 nursing programs in the state. The average pass rate was 83 percent.

The 97 percent pass rate also puts the USI program in the top 10 percent of programs nationwide. There are 1,599 nursing schools in the United States.

College of Nursing and Health Professions' students in other disciplines that require graduates to pass a registry examination continue to excel in their respective examinations and demonstrate high pass rates for 2008.

Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Dental hygiene graduates

The first group of students to complete the revised baccalaureate curriculum will graduate from the dental hygiene program in May.

Merit Badge University

Dental assisting students volunteered recently to help with an all-day Boy Scout Merit Badge University. Visiting the dental materials and radiology labs, the scouts learned to make radiographs, take impressions (of their fingers), and pour impressions to make models. The dental assisting students also provided information about oral health. Student volunteers included **Ashbie Bennett**,



Kaylie Creek helps a Boy Scout pour a study model.

Kaylie Creek, Jennifer Hodges, DeAndra Magdaleno, Adrienne Nicholson, Courtney Turner, and Amber Wildt.

Food and Nutrition

Nutrition data on menus

Students in community nutrition are studying how the availability of nutrition data and health information affects the food choices made by restaurant customers.

The students worked with **Todd French**, owner of T. Anthony's Restaurant in Mount Vernon, Indiana. They analyzed the nutritional value of menu items and made it available to customers. They also provided diners with health information related to conditions such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Students analyzed sales during a test period to determine whether customers selected healthier options from the menu.

Dr. Julie McCullough, program director, received a grant from the UnitedHealth HEROES service-learning grant program to support the study.

Health Services

Yoga for older adults

The new Health Services Research Group is conducting an eight-week yoga therapy program for older adults with funds from a Major as Home

grant sponsored by the USI Office of Academic Affairs.

Certified instructors will teach yoga to participants from Willow Park Retirement Residence and the Kennedy and Buckner apartments. **Dr. Brandon Eggleston**, instructor in health services, said the project also will involve students providing computer instruction to participants. The goal of the program is to assess how the activities affect quality of life. Before starting the project, the 25 students in the research group attended two research retreats that included sensitivity training related to issues faced by older adults.

The Health Services Research Group fosters collaboration between students and faculty and helps students build job skills.

Nursing

Pre-nursing students

Pre-nursing students have a better idea of what it means to study nursing and a closer connection to the nursing program with the addition of a series of events this semester funded by a Major as Home grant to build community.

Typically, students apply to the nursing program in the fall of the sophomore year and, if accepted, begin nursing courses in the spring. The grant for the nursing program

See **Program Notes**, page 4

Bigham fellowship will fund oral-history study by gerontology students

Dr. Mary Catherine Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology, will direct an oral-history project called Preservation through the Generations that will record and promote the history of Southern Indiana. She is the recipient of the Darrel Bigham Historic Southern Indiana Faculty Engagement Fellowship for 2009.

Students will conduct oral-history interviews with family and friends over the age of 75 with special emphasis on life in the early 20th century. The interviews will be digitally recorded, transcribed, and archived in the Rice Library. **Tom Lonnberg**, curator of history for the Evansville Museum of Arts,



Ehlman

Science, and History, anticipates including oral histories from the project into a long-term exhibit that will examine Evansville in the era of the 1920s through World War II.

As a doctoral student, Ehlman collaborated with two fellow students to study how participating in an oral-history project can change the interviewer's attitude toward older adults. The research was published in the March 31, 2009, issue of the *Journal of Aging, Humanities and the Arts*.

The Bigham award provides a \$4,000 grant to support scholarly work in the areas of consulting, research, service learning, or creation of workshops/institutes by USI faculty.

Program Notes

Continued from page 3

provides money for the following new activities:

Peer tutoring. Junior and senior nursing students offer tutoring for pre-nursing students in prerequisite biology and chemistry courses.

Association of Nursing Students dinner. Pre-nursing students were invited to a luncheon hosted by the USI Association of Nursing Students.

Get-to-know nursing. A panel discussion featured faculty members and alumni who practice in a variety of settings to help pre-nursing students recognize the discipline's breadth.

Ask-the-experts student panel. Juniors and seniors answered questions about time management, working part-time, and other issues.

Nursing mini-boot camp. In the clinical simulation center, pre-nursing students had instruction in taking blood pressure and other hands-on activities.

Honors students' reception. Pre-nursing students in the Honors

Program were invited to a reception with current Honors nursing students.

Occupational Therapy

SOTA recognized at national meeting

Eighteen occupational therapy students attended the Second Annual Student Conclave sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) in Chicago in November. More than 650 students from 49 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico gathered for the event.

Leaders of the conclave gave public recognition to USI's Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) for its contribution to the American Occupational Therapy Political Action Committee (AOTPAC). USI SOTA members issued a challenge to student organizations across the country to match their gift.

The political action committee represents the profession on issues related to health care reform, Medicare, the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act, funding for research and education, and other matters that affect the practice of occupational therapy.

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Registry exam

The 10 students in the 2009 class of the diagnostic sonography program completed the Sonographic Physics and Instrumentation portion of the registry exam in the fall.

Respiratory Therapy

Professional activities

Respiratory care students and faculty recently attended the 13th annual Clinical Respiratory Care Seminar at St. Mary's Medical Center.

A representative from Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis has presented information about employment opportunities at Riley, Methodist, and University hospitals to respiratory therapy students.

Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness

STELLAR group plans activities for older adults at four locations

The STELLAR student organization is expanding its outreach.

STELLAR (Students and Elderly Linking Around Relationships), a student group which began in the Department of Social Work in 2005, now includes a multidisciplinary group of students from health services, occupational therapy, occupational therapy assisting, radiologic technology, and social work. About 30 new members bring the group's active membership to 40 students with an interest in aging and wellness.

Dr. Mary Catherine Ehlman, director of the College of Nursing and Health Professions' Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, said STELLAR members plan activities for residents at Evansville State Hospital, Seton Residence, Solarbron Pointe

Retirement Community, and Pinehaven Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Recent events include a birthday party at Seton Residence and a Poetry Café at Solarbron. The Solarbron event had a talent-show atmosphere as students sang, read poetry, and played musical instruments. One student performed a song in American Sign Language for the enjoyment of all participants, including a deaf resident. A Solarbron resident shared his poetry.

Future plans include a movie night at USI and other campus visits.

A Major as Home grant from the USI Office of Academic Affairs provides funding for the expanded outreach. The grant program is designed to build community.

Coudret, Ehlman present bladder scanner study at state conference

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and **Dr. Mary Catherine Ehlman**, presented a paper at the recent Long Term Care Leadership Conference sponsored by the Indiana Department of Health in Indianapolis. They presented USI's study on using bladder ultrasound scanners in nursing homes.

Led by the Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, the study is ongoing at four sites in Southern Indiana.

Faculty Notes

Constance Swenty, instructor in nursing, received a first-place award in the category for doctoral students for her poster presentation at the recent 18th Annual Nursing Research Conference hosted by Mayo Clinic's Division of Nursing Research in Rochester, Minnesota. Her poster was titled "An educational program to reduce the incidence of MRSA in a county correctional facility." Swenty is a student in the first class of the College of Nursing and Health Professions' Doctor of Nursing Practice program.



Swenty received a first-place award at a Mayo Clinic research conference.

Dr. Roberta E. Hoebeke, associate professor of nursing, is the author of two articles published recently in nursing journals. "The red eye: A systematic approach to diagnosis" appeared in the October 2008 issue of the *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. Her manuscript "Teaching prescriptive authority through active learning" was published in the

March 2009 issue of *Journal of Nursing Education*.

In addition, Hoebeke will have an article in a special topics publication available later this year from Nova Science Publishers. Her manuscript "Efficacy of a Stage-Matched Physical Activity Message for Low-Income Women" has been accepted for the

book *Low Incomes: Social, Health, and Educational Impacts*. The article resulted from a study Hoebeke completed with support from a 2005 Excellence through Engagement Summer Research Fellowship funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Hoebeke also has presented research from this study at conferences sponsored by the Midwest Nursing Research Society and the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Jennifer Craig '01, director of the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) is a member of the 2009 class of Connect with Southern Indiana, a regional leadership program sponsored by USI Extended Services. The SWI-AHEC is hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Help strengthen the College of Nursing and Health Professions

Your gift to the College of Nursing and Health Professions helps strengthen its programs and provides support for its students and faculty.

Apply my gift in the following way.
(You may choose more than one.)

- College of Nursing and Health Professions (where the need is greatest)
- Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene programs
- Food and Nutrition program
- Nursing programs
- Health Services/Administration programs
- Occupational Therapy programs
- Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program
- Respiratory Therapy program
- Nursing Alumni Scholarship
- Other (Please specify _____)

Amount committed: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed
- Bill me in _____. (Specify month.)
- <https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving>
- Enclosed is my matching gift form
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Make your tax-deductible check payable to:

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Evansville, Indiana 47712

- Contact me about an estate gift.

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

To learn more,
visit www.usi.edu/giving

Alumni news

Michelle Flanagan Roberts '96, nursing, was the 2008 recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nurses at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis. She has been employed at the hospital for more than 12 years as a registered nurse/care manager in the medical/renal/oncology unit.

■
Sarah Claycomb '97, nursing, is owner/administrator of Specialty Home Health Care of Evansville. The business was named a Top 500 Agency in the 2008 HomeCare Elite compilation, a list of the most successful home care providers in the United States. The list is based on measures of quality of care, quality improvement, and financial performance. Claycomb is a member of the USI Nursing Advisory Council.

■
Heather Lents '08, nursing, received an award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership and Patient Advocacy at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis. She was nominated for her role in creating a policy and staff training program that helped reduce the rate of central line infections and the need for new intravenous sites. She also was cited for her positive attitude and willingness to help other staff members. Lents is a nurse on a surgical/inpatient psychiatric floor at the VA Medical Center.

Calling all alumni

Submit news along with your degree and year of graduation, major, address, phone number, current position, and employer to College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712, or email dgutley@usi.edu.

Involvement

Continued from page 1

stipend, recognizes outstanding achievement not only in the student's major but also in the liberal arts and sciences that form the core curriculum of a college education. Selection is made by the Student Affairs Committee.

Nursing major Claire Robison, Homecoming queen

Claire Robison, a senior nursing major, is the 2009 Homecoming queen. The king is **Raul Ramirez**, a pre-medicine major from Oakland City, Indiana.



Robison

"The nursing faculty are very supportive," Robison said. "If I'm taking on something outside of nursing, they're always excited to hear about it."

Robison is a resident assistant. She has been active in AMIGOs, an orientation leadership program; Student Ambassadors; Colleges Against Cancer; Association of Nursing Students; Activities Programming Board; and Women's Choir. She chaired the Homecoming events in 2008. She has served as vice president of team development and event planning for Relay for Life. Last summer she participated in the college's travel/study program in England.

Robison began work as a student nurse at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in 2006 and is completing an internship in the hospital's medical-surgical unit this semester. After graduation, she plans to continue in critical care nursing or pediatrics. Her future plans include pursuing an advanced degree in nursing.

Robison is from Newburgh, Indiana. The Homecoming king and queen are chosen by student vote, scores from interviews by USI administrators, and individual academic records.

Award-winning cheerleaders King, Datzman

Dan King, nursing, and **Alicia Datzman**, health services, are members of the USI cheerleading team that recently placed fourth in the Small Coed Division II category at the College Cheerleading and Dance National Championship at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Florida.

King has found a balance between academics and athletics. He enjoys telling people that he uses his hands to tumble and do stunts and also to give medicine to patients and perform CPR.

"As cheerleaders, we have the opportunity to support our athletic programs, represent our school, and push ourselves to high levels of performance," he said.

Eight other students from the college are cheerleaders and five are on the dance team.

All American, All-GLVC varsity athletes

Approximately 30 students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions are varsity athletes. Outstanding performers include **Mary Ballinger**, food and nutrition, and **Allison Shafer**, nursing, both three-time All Americans in cross country and track; and freshman **Meghan Kempf**, soccer, third team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference.



Walker



Dan King holds fellow cheerleader Andrea Fields aloft at DisneyWorld.



Bosse High School students learn about health careers

Dr. H. Dan Adams, retired cardiovascular surgeon, explains the heart and its functions to a Bosse High School student in the PROMISE program. Funded by the Indiana state departments of health and education, the program helps students learn about healthcare careers. The after-school program includes 10 sessions over a five-month period. The Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC), hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Professions, provides the program for Bosse students.

Employer features Lodge in national marketing

Katie Lodge '06 M.S.O.T.'07, an occupational therapist in Ocala, Florida, stars in a recruiting video and national advertising for her employer, Peoplefirst Rehabilitation.

Lodge joined Peoplefirst in 2007. She is one of nine employees showcased in a recruiting video (available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GJeBU0n3ok). She is the sole employee appearing in a full-page advertisement in the November 3, 2008, issue of *OT Practice*. Lodge works at Kindred Hospital Ocala.



MSN student earns national recognition

Semise Harrison-Gary came to Evansville for the first time in late summer 2005 with her mother, four children, two dogs, and a cat — all in a Dodge Grand Caravan. Back home in New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina made living conditions unbearable.

This spring Harrison-Gary will complete a Master of Science in Nursing degree in the family nurse practitioner track. She has received national recognition from two minority nursing associations.

In New Orleans, Harrison-Gary was a patient care coordinator for the advanced heart failure clinic in the heart transplant department at Ochsner Clinic Foundation. She also has experience as a parish nurse.

Her connection to USI began with a phone conversation. Representatives of Governor Mitch Daniels' office called her regularly in the first weeks following evacuation. Already a registered nurse with an associate degree, she indicated an interest in advancing her education. The governor's office put her in touch with **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing.

Harrison-Gary enrolled in the RN-MSN program in January 2006. At the same time she took a job as a cardiology staff nurse at The Heart Hospital at Deaconess Gateway Hospital. She completed a bachelor's degree in

nursing in 2007. She is a member of USI's Omicron Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, a nursing honor society. Upon graduation from the master's program, she wants to work in primary care as a family nurse practitioner with the underserved and uninsured.

Recently, Harrison-Gary and classmate **Sheila Jensen** presented an educational program on cardiovascular disease prevention for women at C.K. Newsome Community Center in partnership with the Vanderburgh County Minority Health Coalition. Harrison-Gary serves on the coalition board.

On the path to a graduate degree, Harrison-Gary has received scholarships from national nursing organizations. In 2006 and 2007, she was awarded scholarships from the National Black Nurses Association (NBNA). In 2007, she was selected to represent NBNA in the Aetna Scholars/National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations (NCEMNA) program. Its goal is to increase the number of ethnic minority nurses and focus their attention on eliminating health disparities. This year Harrison-Gary received another honor. The Aetna Scholars/NCEMNA program selected her as one of 10 scholars for a mentoring program. Her mentor is **Dr. Hilda Richards**, a past NBNA president. Harrison-Gary recently attended the NCEMNA annual meeting in Albuquerque.

In March, Harrison-Gary was recognized in the Phenomenal Women of USI program sponsored by the USI Multicultural Center, Old National Bank, and the Evansville Chapter of the American Association of University Women. She was honored in the graduate student category.



Harrison-Gary

Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences

15th Annual Case Management Conference, May 14
11th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium,
May 15
Second Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging,
August 12-13

Visit health.usi.edu/cont_ed/conferences.php
for information on additional program offerings.

Customized programs: For programs tailored to meet the specific needs of your organization, contact Peggy Graul, coordinator of Continuing Education, College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, pgraul@usi.edu or 812/465-1161.

Certificate Programs (Internet-delivered instruction)

Alzheimer's Disease Management, six weeks, begins
October 5
Anticoagulation Billing, three weeks, begins
September 21
Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks,
begins May 25, July 27, and October 12
Case Management, six weeks, begins August 31
Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins
September 28
Diabetes Management, six weeks, begins August 17
Lipid Management, six weeks, begins September 14
Oncology Management, eight weeks, fall date to be
announced
Pain Management, six weeks, begins September 7
Basic Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins September 21
Wound Management, six weeks, begins October 5

Registration information: health.usi.edu or 812/465-1148



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Dr. Nadine Coudret, Dean
For more information
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8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47712