



Student Amanda Butler practices clinical skills in the college's sonography lab with faculty member Claudine Fairchild playing the role of patient.

First campus-based class in sonography begins

The first students in the campus-based bachelor's degree program concentrating in sonography began study in January and are progressing toward graduation in May 2007.

Dr. Cary Hanni, a surgeon with Evansville Surgical Associates and an advocate for the degree program, said he expects graduates to impact the quality of health care in a wide area.

Hanni, who specializes in vascular surgery, said studies show that the ability of the ultrasound technologist has a major impact on decisions about treatment options for patients.

"A person with this training is integral to the operation of an agency, an institution, or a group like ours," Hanni said. "We require sophisticated diagnostic testing."

See *Sonography*, page 5

Student demand, employer needs lead to new major in food and nutrition

A new baccalaureate degree program in food and nutrition is preparing graduates for careers in dietetics, nutrition and wellness, and food-service management.

Dr. Julie McCullough, associate professor of nutrition and program director of food and nutrition, said 35 students are enrolled for fall in an introductory course for the new degree program, approved in April by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education.

Students are hearing guest speakers representing a variety of employers, including Novartis, Sodexo, the Warrick County School Corporation, Purdue Extension, Coca Cola, and Mead Johnson. A new laboratory in the Health Professions Center is being

equipped to give students opportunities to apply food science knowledge and sensory evaluation.

The new degree program responds to requests from students and prospective students for a major in food and nutrition and to a survey of area employers that indicated a need for graduates with expertise in these areas. In addition, the USI President's Task Force on Workforce Development reported in 2000 an increasing demand by regional employers for individ-

uals prepared for jobs as food-service managers.

USI faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Professions developed the program in consultation with an advisory committee that included dietitians, wellness consultants, and food-service managers representing area food and pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, the Vanderburgh County Health Department, and other companies and organizations involved in the food and nutrition fields.

Diana Simpson, director of the Nursing Division for the Vanderburgh County Health Department, served on

See *Food and nutrition*, page 2



Linda Markiewicz, center, area dietitian for Sodexo, Inc., spoke to students about career opportunities with the food and facilities management firm. With her are USI student Travis Barrett and Dr. Julie McCullough, program director for food and nutrition. Sodexo, the provider of dining services on the USI campus, has more than 120,000 employees in North America.

Dean's Notes

Energetic new leadership shaping college's future

On July 1, the School of Nursing and Health Professions officially became the College of Nursing and Health Professions. This name change reflects the growth in programs, enrollment, and college personnel. The college designation occurs on the tenth anniversary of 1995 college advancements including the move to the Health Professions Center, the establishment of a graduate nursing program, and the first distance education college course offering. During the ensuing years, many changes have occurred in programs and personnel. The addition of excellent new faculty and dynamic new leadership in our college makes this year no exception.



Williams

Dr. Barbara Williams brings new leadership to Occupational Therapy and successfully led the preparation for the program's accreditation site visit review in September. Although the official accreditation decision will not be received until December, the comments of the site visitors indicate a positive accreditation program outcome. In addition to the good work on the accreditation review preparation, the occupational therapy program faculty have undertaken new collaborative projects with the occupational therapy assistant faculty and community area occupational therapists to move a good program to an even higher level of achievement and leadership.



Matacale

The dental assisting program gained new leadership when **Dr. Ralph Matacale** accepted the position of director. Dr. Matacale also serves as president of the Southwestern Indi-

ana Dental Society. He is utilizing his two leadership roles to bring new learning opportunities for dental assisting students and to provide service to the dental community.



Valadares

Dr. Kevin Valadares, new director of the health services and health administration programs, has been busy recruiting faculty and responding to enrollment increases. A review of the health services undergraduate curriculum and preparation for seeking accreditation candidacy status for the graduate health administration program are under way.



McCullough

The fourth new program director is **Dr. Julie McCullough**. Although this is the first semester of enrollment in the new food and nutrition major, Dr. McCullough has been developing the program for several years and now is engaged in the design of the nutrition lab. This new baccalaureate program is off to a great start, emphasizing instruction excellence and service to the community.

The new faculty are introduced on page 6 of this issue. Although their practice disciplines and academic preparation differ, each brings clinical practice expertise, commitment, and excitement to their new roles. These faculty and the new program directors introduced here will be major contributors to the future of our college.



Dr. Nadine Coudret

Food and nutrition

Continued from page 1

the committee. She said that her department has found a shortage of individuals qualified as registered dietitians in Southwestern Indiana. The health department employs registered dietitians to provide nutrition education and related services in its WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) program.

The USI food and nutrition program offers three specialty tracks: dietetics, nutrition and wellness, and food-service management. Students

will complete 50 hours of the University Core Curriculum, 29 hours of core food and nutrition courses, 35 to 38 hours of courses specific to the specialty area, and eight to 15 hours of electives.

At present, to become a registered dietitian a student must complete a minimum of a bachelor's degree with course work approved/accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association, a supervised practice program, and pass a national exam. Currently, ADA is reviewing the status of dietetics education and may increase the educational requirements to meet future practice needs.

McCullough said that internship opportunities will be available for students in all three specialty tracks and especially are encouraged for students in food-service management. Individuals interested in establishing internships for food and nutrition students at their company or organization may contact McCullough at 812/461-5213 or jmccullo@usi.edu.

Articulation agreements with area community colleges have been developed to facilitate the matriculation of associate degree graduates into the baccalaureate program.

Lesa Cagle, assistant professor of nutrition, also instructs in the new program.

Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Senior citizens clinic

Senior citizens had a special reason to smile in the Dental Hygiene Clinic during October. For the second year, the dental hygiene program sponsored Senior Citizens Month with complimentary services available to senior clients. The clinic schedule was especially busy throughout the month as senior clients took advantage of the free services.

Improving client experience

The lights are down low and new age music is playing in the background. It must be Thursday evening in the Dental Hygiene Clinic.

Mara Beth Womack, instructor in dental assisting/hygiene, is conducting research into how to make the clinic atmosphere more relaxing and comfortable for clients. The clinic has eight daytime sessions and four evening sessions each week. During the Thursday evening sessions, Womack has introduced one environmental change at a time, starting with music therapy. Next, she incorporated music along with soft recessed lighting rather than the usual bright fluorescent lights. She also will introduce aromatherapy. After each clinic session, clients complete a satisfaction survey. Some have described their Thursday evening session with the music and soft lighting as "peaceful." Womack's research is part of her work toward completion of a Master of Science in Education degree at USI.

Food and Nutrition

35 students enrolled

The new bachelor's degree program in food and nutrition has enrolled 35 students in an introductory course. See story page 1.

Health Services

New ethics course

Dr. Kevin Valadares, assistant professor of health services/health administration and program director for health services, was a participant in a faculty summer institute titled "Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Genetics" at Dartmouth College. Based on his involvement in the institute coupled with a \$20,000 grant from the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System/Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education (IHETS/IPSE), he is designing a new online course called Ethics, Genetics, Biotechnology, and Society.

Nursing

Accelerated program

The first eight students in the accelerated nursing program will graduate in December with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The program offers a 16-month accelerated track for individuals who already have a bachelor's degree in another field. The first graduates will be eligible for the RN licensure exam in January. Nine students started this fall in the second class of accelerated BSN students.

Nursing Alumni Society

The USI Nursing Alumni Society held its annual dinner on October 18 in Carter Hall with a presentation on the past, present, and future of the College of Nursing and Health Professions by **Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the college, and **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing.

The alumni society also unveiled its Web site—<http://health.usi.edu/stdorgns/nashome.htm>—providing up-to-date information on nursing alumni activities.

Victoria Pigott '95 M.S.N. '01, special projects director for the college, said the organization continues to raise money for its scholarship fund. An annual award is planned. A minimum \$25 donation to the USI Founda-

tion designated for the Nursing Alumni Scholarship also qualifies graduates as members of the USI Alumni Association. For additional information, visit www.usi.edu/alumni. The organization's first Nursing Alumni Scholarship was presented on Honors Day in March to a senior nursing student, **Cassandra Bartelt**.

The Nursing Alumni Society dinner is held annually in October.

Occupational Therapy

Accreditation visit

A site visit for accreditation of the master's program in occupational therapy was conducted in September. Team members were complimentary of the program following their visit and will submit a written report. The accrediting body is the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Miriam Soots: national officer in student organization

Occupational therapy graduate student **Miriam Soots** is helping to plan the national meeting of the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, which will be held April 25-26 in Charlotte, N.C. Soots was elected secretary of the ASD steering committee last spring.

She is one of 28 College of Nursing and Health Professions students who recently began master's studies in USI's occupational therapy program. **Dr. Barbara Williams**, acting program director of occupational therapy, said all students are expected to complete requirements for the



Soots

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Program Notes

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master's degree in May. They will be the college's first graduates in the master's program.

Soots serves on the ASD steering committee with seven other students representing occupational therapy programs at Washington University, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Mercer College, University of Indianapolis, Ithaca College, and the University of New Mexico.

Her assignment for the national meeting is to assemble a panel of students who will talk about fieldwork experiences. She also is working on a fieldwork survival guide that will be posted on the organization's Web site.

"It will help prepare students for fieldwork and give them an opportunity to reflect on their fieldwork once they have done it," she said.

Soots is from Fountain City, Indiana. She became interested in a career in occupational therapy after working in a nursing home.

As part of her USI preparation for a career in occupational therapy, she completed a fieldwork experience at an outpatient community-based mental health facility in Frederick, Maryland. "I love the people and the creativity that population allows you when applying occupational therapy to their lives," she said.

She worked with the mental health patients to improve their skills in cooking, grocery shopping, social interaction, communications, and other daily activities.

Soots also completed a field experience in a rehabilitation unit at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville where she assisted patients recovering from strokes and other neurological disorders.

Soots represented USI for the first time at the Assembly of Student Delegates in Minneapolis in 2004, a meeting that brought to her attention the importance of political action. She attended the 2005 ASD meeting in Long Beach, California, and participated in a conference planning meeting in July in Bethesda, Maryland. She said that **Dr. Carolyn Barum**, AOTA president, is interested in the impact of students on the profession and works closely with the steering committee and delegates.

Radiologic Technology

Sonography concentration

The first students are enrolled in a campus-based bachelor's degree program concentrating in sonography. See story page 1.

Respiratory Therapy

15 graduates

Fifteen students completing the respiratory therapy program in August were recognized in a special ceremony attended by friends, family, and faculty from the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

The program has eight second-year and 14 first-year students in class and clinical experiences.

Health fairs

Respiratory therapy students are slated to participate in at least six health fairs during fall semester. Under the supervision of **Tony Schmitt**, instructor in respiratory therapy, the students provide screenings to assess lung health. They also supply information on smoking cessation, second-hand smoking, and lung disease.

Thank you, donors! *You make things possible*

The faculty, staff, and students express appreciation for gifts designated to the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Through the USI Foundation, many friends and alumni make programs possible which could not be funded without private support.

If you are interested in contributing to an individual program or activity in the school, please call 812/465-1151.

Alumni news

Christy Kellett Podewils '99, nursing, and **Daniel Podewils '96**, engineering technology, announce the birth of their son, Blake Allen, December 1, 2004. Christy is employed in the labor and delivery department at St. Mary's Medical Center. Daniel is associated with ADCO Corporation in Evansville.

Summer Aulich '00, health services, has been named an assistant professor in the medical assistant program at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville. She is pursuing a master's in health administration at USI.

Dianna Holtsclaw '04, M.S.N., was named 2005 Distinguished Alumnus by Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington. Holtsclaw began teaching part-time in the Ivy Tech licensed practical nurse program in 1994 and has been a full-time faculty member since 2000. The award was presented in April.

Lori Bledsoe '05, health services, is an admission representative at MedTech College in Indianapolis.

Michael Madden '05, M.H.A., was promoted to director of health information management at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Gretchen Winders '05, health services, has accepted a position with Gibson General Hospital in Princeton, Indiana. She works at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana as an early symptom intervention specialist.

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, IN 47712-3593 or e-mail dgutley@usi.edu.

Faculty Notes

Dr. Roberta Hoebeke, assistant professor of nursing, serves as a manuscript reviewer for the *Journal of Applied Nursing Research*. She is a family nurse practitioner one day a week at Family Medicine Associates North in Evansville.

Dr. Barbara Davis, professor of nursing, collaborating with others, has three manuscripts forthcoming in professional journals: "Implication of early age of sexual activity onset in incarcerated women," *Journal of Correctional Health Care*; "Patients' perspectives on choosing the emergency department for non-urgent medical care: a qualitative study exploring one reason for overcrowding," *Journal of Emergency Nursing*; and "Evaluating instruments for quality: testing convergent validity of the CECSS," *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. CECSS is the Consumer Emergency Care Satisfaction Scale. Davis also collaborated on articles in recent editions of the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing* and the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. In addition, she served as a CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) accreditation consultant for Walden University's MSN program.

Cathy O'Nan, instructor in nursing, worked during the summer as a staff nurse with the medical surgical

unit at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, Kentucky, and as a staff nurse for an area urologist.

Colleen Walsh, instructor in nursing, presented a paper entitled "Traction and Nursing Care," at Rom Industries in Batesville, Indiana. Recent or forthcoming publications include "Musculoskeletal Tumors" for *Core Curriculum for Orthopaedic Nurses* (5th edition), "Musculoskeletal Trauma" in *Trauma Nursing: From Resuscitation through Rehabilitation*, and an article on multiple organ dysfunction syndrome in *Orthopaedic Nursing*.

Dr. Judi Kuric, instructor in nursing, served as nurse practitioner in a neurosurgery practice office and in an anticoagulation clinic during the summer. She presented information about nurse practitioners to the Deaconess Family Practice residents in September.

Maria Shirey, adjunct instructor in nursing, is president of the southwest district of the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives. **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing, is secretary and will begin a term as president in January.

A manuscript "Active Engagement in Health Services Administration Surveys Courses through Problem-Based

Learning" by **Dr. Kevin Valadares**, assistant professor of health services/administration, has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Health Administration Education*. Valadares and **Roli Lall**, a student in the graduate program in health administration, recently consulted on a strategic analysis project for St. Mary's Health System in Evansville.

Dr. Martha Sparks, associate professor of nursing, spoke recently on "Caring for Patients with Alzheimer's Disease in the Inpatient and Community Settings" at the Third Annual Neuroscience Conference, sponsored by the American Heart Association, Deaconess Hospital, HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital, Indiana Organ Procurement Organization, and the Greater Evansville Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Rohn Butterfield, instructor in health services, has written the online instructor's manual for *Essentials of Health Services*, a textbook for students of health-care management.

Victoria Pigott, special projects director, collaborated during the summer in the design of a research project with the Joslin Diabetes Center at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Sonography

Continued from page 1

In addition to abdominal and OB/Gyn imaging, the concentration offered by the radiologic and imaging sciences program of the College of Nursing and Health Professions offers instruction in diagnostic vascular sonography and to echocardiography (sonography of the heart), which programs at some universities do not include.

Upon completion of the program, the 10 students in USI's charter class will be eligible to take the national registry examination admin-

istered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonographers.

Amy Wilson, instructor in radiologic imaging science, said the program responds to area need.

"Health-care providers in this area have a hard time finding experienced, educated, and board-certified sonographers," she said.

The college's sonography lab includes four ultrasound machines, including one donated by Evansville Surgical Associates. The Koch Foundation also has provided financial support to the program. Students complete clinical experiences at

sites in Evansville; Henderson and Owensboro, Kentucky; and Harrisburg, Illinois. Application deadline for the program is October 1.

In addition to Wilson, **Claudine Fairchild** is the sonography program coordinator.

The college will continue to offer its online bachelor's degree program for practicing sonographers. Working sonographers choose from two tracks—diagnostic vascular technology or diagnostic medical sonography. They receive Internet-delivered instruction and complete clinical experiences at their work site.

College announces appointments

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has announced the following appointments:

• **Mary Catherine (Katie) Ehlman**, instructor in health services, has been associated with the University since 2001 when she was named project coordinator for the Worksite Link to Wellness program. Ehlman earned a bachelor's degree at Quincy University, a master's degree in social work at St. Louis University, and a master's in business administration at Webster University. She is pursuing a doctorate in health-related sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University.

• **Joy McBride**, instructor in radiologic technology and imaging sciences, is a *magna cum laude* USI graduate with bachelor's degrees in radiologic and imaging sciences and health services. For the past 10 years, she has worked at Deaconess Hospital in diagnostic radiology, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging. She has advanced registry in computed tomography and is a member of the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and Pinnacle, a national honor society for nontraditional students.

• **Kathryn Miller**, admissions and advising coordinator, was formerly the assistant director of student life at the University of Evansville. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and marketing from Western Kentucky University and will complete a master's

degree in health services at UE in December.

• **Dr. Katherine Riedford**, assistant professor of nursing, has been an adjunct faculty member in nursing for 11 years. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Evansville and completed a doctorate in nursing science at Indiana University. She has worked in psychiatric nursing.

• **Dr. Mayola Rowser**, assistant professor of nursing, recently was awarded a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, where she also is pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing. Rowser is certified as a psychiatric family nurse practitioner. She was recognized by the UTHSC office of University Relations and the Black Student Association in April for academic excellence and community service. A graduate of USI bachelor's and master's degree programs in nursing, she joined the College of Nursing and Health Professions in 2001 as project coordinator for the nursing practice arrangement with Vanderburgh County correctional facilities.

• **Dr. Otis Stanley**, instructor in health services, earned a bachelor's



Ehlman



McBride



Miller



Riedford



Rowser



Stanley



Titzer



Wheeler

degree at Sangamon State University, master's and doctoral degrees in public health at Tulane University, and a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine at the University of Illinois at Champaign. He became associated with USI as an adjunct faculty member in 1997 after retiring from the U.S. Army as a colonel and chief of medical training for the Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

• **Jennifer Titzer**, instructor in radiologic technology and imaging sciences, earned an associate degree in radiologic technology at USI in 1992 and completed a bachelor's degree in health services and an associate degree in nursing, both at USI, in 2000. She is working toward a master's in nursing in the college's nurse educator track. Titzer worked at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville from 1992-2000 as a special procedures and diagnostic radiologic technologist and from 2000-04 as a registered nurse and radiologic technologist in the cardiac catheterization laboratory. In 2004-05, she was associated with The Heart Group in the cardiac cath and peripheral vascular labs. Titzer is a member of the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. She is a Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (RCIS).

• **Elizabeth Wheeler**, instructor in the occupational therapy assistant program, is a licensed occupational therapist. She engages in private practice in southern Illinois. Wheeler completed a bachelor's degree in 1984 at Eastern Kentucky University.

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

Sponsored by USI College of Nursing and Health Professions
with support from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives Southwest Region

News

Certificate program available on Alzheimer's management

An Internet-delivered certificate program called Alzheimer's Disease Management will be offered for the first time in January. The interactive Internet program is a six-week continuing education program for nurses, social workers, and other health-care professionals.

Dr. Martha Sparks, associate professor of nursing, received a \$18,212 grant from the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System/Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education (IHETS/IPSE) to develop the program. A fellow of the national Gerontological Nursing Program, she presented a paper on issues pertaining to successful aging

last summer at an Oxford Round Table at Oxford University.

Summer study/travel planned in England

Students will learn about the health-care system in England through a study/travel opportunity offered June 17-July 2. **Renée Dugger**, instructor in nursing, will lead the trip.

The class schedule includes the following courses: Professional Nursing and Health Care Issues, Current Concepts in Health Professions, and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing. The study will include visits to Lincoln Castle, Lincoln Asylum, and Lincoln Cathedral in Lincoln, England; Pilgrim Hospital in Boston, England; a day trip to Cambridge, England; St. Edmunds Nursing Home in Grantham, England;

and a tour of the Old Operating Room Theatre at Guy's Hospital in London. Students may travel independently over the long weekend between the two weeks of study.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions group will be based at Harlaxton College, owned and operated by the University of Evansville, in Grantham, England.

Students to provide service in Jamaica

Students participating in a week-long trip to Annotto Bay, Jamaica, in February will work under supervision at a community clinic and receive credit for the Transcultural Health Care course. The trip is co-sponsored by Deaconess Hospital. For information contact **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing.

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Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences – 2006

Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing, March 9
Healing Touch Level I, March 11 and 12
3rd Annual Nursing Leadership Conference, April 5
featuring Tim Porter-O'Grady, keynote speaker
10th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Research and Health Care Issues Conference, April 12
12th Annual Case Management Conference, May 11
8th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 12
Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries, May 19-20
11th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference, October 18

Certificate Programs

(Internet-delivered instruction)

Alzheimer's Disease Management, six weeks begins January 23, April 17, and August 21

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.

Anticoagulation Billing, three weeks, begins February 27 and September 25
Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks, begins January 9, March 6, May 1, and June 26
Case Management, six weeks, begins January 16 and April 17
Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins January 23 and April 3
Complementary and Alternative Health Care, six weeks, begins February 13 and September 11
Diabetes Management, six weeks, begins January 16 and April 3
Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, 10 weeks, begins January 16
Lipid Management, six weeks, January 30 and April 24
Pain Management, six weeks, begins January 23 and April 10
Basic Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins January 23 and April 3

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A publication of the
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