### University of Southern Indiana

Vol. 17, No. 1 Fall 2007



### College of Nursing and Health Professions

## USI Board of Trustees approves new program: Doctor of Nursing Practice

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has approved a new graduate program in nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

The proposal will be submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE). Pending approval, the first courses could be implemented in fall 2008.

The DNP program offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions will serve Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) graduates who are currently practicing as nurse educators, nurse practitioners, or nurse administrators. The DNP is an alternative to research-focused doctorates in nursing and is comparable to practice doctorates in pharmacy and physical therapy.

The program will require a total of 78 graduate nursing credit hours. MSN graduates from USI typically have earned 39-43 of the required graduate credit hours.

**Dr. Ann H. White,** assistant dean for nursing, said, "We will recognize a maximum of 42 credit hours from a student's MSN program, and the individual would then have another 36 credit hours to complete."

Throughout the course of the doctoral program, each student will work on a capstone project that will culminate in a scholarly presentation or manuscript.

**Dr. Nadine Coudret,** dean of the College of Nursing and Health

See DNP, page 6

### Clinical Simulation Center helps prepare students to deliver safe care in hospital



Kathy Phillips (in white coat) supervises occupational therapy students practicing skills in the Clinical Simulation Center.

With the development of the Clinical Simulation Center in the Health Professions Center, the College of Nursing and Health Professions is ahead of the curve in utilizing human patient simulation as a teaching tool to prepare health care professionals to deliver safe and effective care.

Completed during the summer, the new center offers a state-of-the-art educational environment. It provides computer-driven, physiologically responding human patient simulators and other technology that allows students to practice skills without feeling they are going to harm a patient.

Kathy Phillips, coordinator of the Clinical Simulation Center, said mastery of skills in a safe environment gives students in nursing and health professions more confidence when they go to a hospital or other clinical setting.

Resources include four SimMan® human patient simulators, a SimBaby®, a virtual IV arm, an intravenous infusion

pump, and an intravenous syringe. Wall units provide oxygen, suction, and compressed air. Interactive monitors and other upgraded technology also are provided. The center includes a nursing station where students can simulate providing information to a physician or calling a physician for patient orders.

"It looks just like a hospital," Phillips said.

Eighty-nine junior nursing students who are now completing clinical rotations observed faculty demonstrations, practiced their skills, and demonstrated mastery of skills in the Clinical Simulation Center at the beginning of fall semester. The intensive four weeks of study gives students the knowledge base they need for hospital nursing. Nursing skills include oral care, bath and bed making, insertion of nasal gastric tube, sterile gloving, insertion and

See **Simulation**, page 2

### **Dean's Notes**

### College is home to new Southwest Indiana AHEC

During the past year I have been privileged to work with a group of area health care and education leaders to bring a regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to southwestern Indiana.

Representatives from area hospitals, the Vanderburgh County School Corporation, Echo Clinic, Ivy Tech Community College, University of Evansville, Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine-Evansville, the Vanderburgh County Medical Society, Welborn Baptist Foundation, and other individuals have met in an effort to establish a regional AHEC in southwestern Indiana.

There are more than 180 AHECs in 46 states. An AHEC is a network of regional "centers" that are coordinated through a central program office. The Indiana AHEC central program office is housed in the IU School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine.

The mission and goals of the Indiana AHEC follow. **Mission** 

Improve the supply, distribution, generalist-specialist balance, and quality of health care professionals and support personnel through collaborative community and academic partnerships.

#### Goals

- Improve the distribution of health care professionals in underserved areas of Indiana.
- Improve the diversity of the health care workforce in Indiana.
- Improve the quality of health care professions education in Indiana.

There are currently five Indiana regional centers: Northwest with 19 counties, Southeast/South Central with 24 counties; Northeast with 19 counties, Metropolitan Indianapolis/Central with nine counties, and West Central with 21 counties.

The 21 counties in the West Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (WCI-AHEC)



Dr. Nadine Coudret

include Clay, Daviess, Dubois, Fountain, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Perry, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Spencer, Sullivan, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren, and Warrick. Most services provided by the WCI-AHEC have been focused on the Terre Haute service area.

Ten counties (Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick) will be shifted from the West Central Indiana AHEC to the new Southwest Indiana AHEC (SWI-AHEC).

During the coming year the SWI-AHEC will be housed in the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions. A needs assessment and the development of a 10-county organizational structure will occur with anticipation of funding from local, state, and federal sources.

The SWI-AHEC will be an important addition to our college's efforts to provide a highly skilled critical thinking diverse workforce to meet the health needs of southwestern Indiana communities. Our college is pleased to be a partner in this effort.

Additional information about Indiana AHECs is available at www.ahec.iupui.edu/ahecabout.asp.

### **Simulation**

Continued from page 1

anchoring of a catheter, wound care, ostomy care, and tracheostomy care with proper application of oxygen.

USI nursing faculty members have developed teaching scenarios for the center that simulate actual clinical situations. The programmed scenarios may include other health professions including occupational therapist, respiratory therapist, dental hygienist, and physician, thus teaching multidisciplinary collaboration.
Following participation in a scenario,

students review a video that was taped as they completed the scenario and go through a debriefing.

**Dr. Nadine Coudret,** dean of the College of Nursing and Health Profession, said the center is a model for the delivery of clinical education for health-care professionals. It will attract top students. Faculty are providing consultation to hospitals and nursing programs that are implementing simulation learning in their institutions.

In June **Tracy Kinner**, instructor in nursing, and Phillips attended the seventh National Conference on Nursing Skills Laboratories in San Antonio. The conference was sponsored by the

International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning.

In October the college sponsored an education conference on clinical simulation learning with **Sharon Decker**, director of clinical simulation at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, as keynote speaker. The meeting attracted professionals from Louisville, Kentucky; Champaign, Illinois; and Indianapolis, as well as from the Tri-State.

A recently upgraded skills lab on the lower level of the Health Professions Center also provides students an opportunity to practice clinical skills.

### **Program Notes**

## Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

#### Graduate success

All 24 students in the dental hygiene Class of 2007 successfully completed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination in March and the Northeast Regional Board clinical examination in May.

#### Clinical rotations

Twenty students are enrolled in the first-year class of the dental hygiene program. The 23 second-year students are participating in a clinical rotation with Deaconess Family Practice. They also are collaborating with nursing students to provide oral health care and education to patients in the oncology unit at Deaconess Hospital. This is the ninth semester for the oncology rotation.

### **Bringing smiles to Africa**



Barbara Johnston 07, dental assisting, recently participated in a month-long mission trip to Malawi and Kenya through the Rafiki Foundation, a Christian organization. She provided dental hygiene treatment to more than 90 children and 70 adolescents and adults. Johnston said, "One lady at the orphanage was heard saying after I had given her dental hygiene treatment, 'I used to never want to smile or laugh, but now my teeth are so beautiful and I want to smile and laugh."



### Carla Alldredge

**Dr. Carla Alldredge '01** has joined the dental assisting program as a clinical faculty member. A 2005 graduate of the University of Louisville School of

Dentistry, she provides dental care to patients and works with dental assisting students one afternoon a week in the dental clinic in the Health Professions Center. She also supervises the dental hygiene clinic on Tuesday nights. Alldredge earned a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education.

"I saw how much dentistry could help people and decided that I wanted to be able to provide a wider variety of procedures," she said.

Alldredge recently opened her own practice, Alldredge Dental Care in Newburgh, Indiana. Melanie Meyers '07 is a dental assistant in her office.

Dr. Carla Alldredge, right, administers local anesthetic to the patient, Melanie Meyers. Assisting is Jennifer Miles while Kim Hite, left, program director for dental hygiene, and student Jennifer Koehl observe.

### **Food and Nutrition**

### Graduates, students at work

Graduates and students in the food and nutrition program are putting their knowledge to work. Tonya Aeschliman '07 and seniors Allison Schmahl and Shelley Frazier are employed at Mead Johnson in Evansville. Lindsay Hall and Britney Sweares work at Deaconess Family Practice and with the AmeriCorps public health education program conducting basic nutrition education and program planning. Kristina Walker provides nutrition education to youth in grades 1-6 through the Professor Popcorn program sponsored by the Vanderburgh County Extension Office.

### **Health Services**

#### Graduate news

Jeanne Melton '04 is an instructor in health services at USI. She is pursuing a doctorate in health administration at Central Michigan University. Michael Madden '05 is an assistant administrator at Fairchild Medical Center in Yreka, California. Cindy Moore '07 is program chair for the medical assisting program at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

### **Nursing**

#### **IONE** scholarship

Catherine Boarman '00, a graduate student in the nursing management and leadership specialty has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives (IONE). Boarman is one of five recipients statewide.

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### **Program Notes**

Continued from page 3

She maintains a 4.0 grade-point average in the graduate nursing program while working full time as executive director of the St. Mary's Surgicare/ Ambulatory Care Center in Evansville. She holds an RN license in the State of Indiana and has CNOR (certified nurse operating room) certification. Boarman lives in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

This is the fifth consecutive year for a USI graduate nursing student to receive an IONE scholarship.

### **Occupational Therapy**

#### B.S./M.S.O.T. students

The 30 students who began the occupational therapy program in fall semester will be the first cohort to progress through the combined undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Students must complete both degrees (B.S./M.S.O.T.) to be eligible to take the national certification examination.

Thirty occupational therapy students completed their first fieldwork assignments last summer at clinical sites in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Students worked for 12 weeks under the supervision of a practicing occupational therapist.

#### ACOTE site visit

A two-person team from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) completed a three-day site visit for re-accreditation of the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program in September. ACOTE will make the accreditation status decision in its December meeting.

Thirty new students began the OTA program in fall semester, and 26 second-year students are completing clinical training.

### Radiologic and **Imaging Sciences**

New equipment

Two additional ultrasound machines were purchased recently for the sonography program. Students now have four machines available for practice as they develop their sonography knowledge and skills.

### **Respiratory Therapy**

25 years

Robert W. Hooper was recognized

on Founder's Day in September for 25 years with the University. He is program director for the respiratory therapy program.



Hooper

### New graduates

Thirteen students completing the respiratory therapy program were honored with a ceremony and reception in August. Hannah Anderson Hatfield received the Essa P. Goebel Award for academic achievement and Brittaney Lynch received the Essa P. Goebel award for leadership and professionalism.

#### Club activities

The new respiratory care class of 14 students has joined students in the second-year class to participate in the Respiratory Care Club. During National Respiratory Care Week in October club members prepared a display case in the Health Professions Center and attended a one-day seminar at St. Mary's Medical Center. They will participate this semester in at least six health fairs performing pulmonary function screening and informing fair attendees about the hazards of smoking and environmental pollution.

#### ISRC Literary Award

John King, a second year respiratory care student, received an Indiana Society for Respiratory Care Literary Award at the ISRC Fall Seminar in September. He was recognized for his paper titled "Dietary Needs of the COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) Patient," one of 25 papers reviewed by a panel of one physician and two registered therapists.

### Lisa Gish named Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Lisa Gish '00 B.S.N. '04 M.H.A. is the 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award presented by the USI Nursing Alumni Society. She is executive director of the nonprofit association Tri-State Business Group on Health (TSBGH), a coalition of employers concerned with health-care costs and quality.





Gish

Gale Hoehn, USI instructor in nursing, said, "Lisa not only believes in adequate health care for all but has made it her life's mission. She is a person who usually stays under the 'radar' but gets work done efficiently and effectively."

Gish was recognized with the award for her work in the establishment of the Tri-State Case Manager's Network. She was charter treasurer and is a past president of the group. Prior to joining TSBGH in 1998, Gish was manager of quality, utilization, and case management for Anthem

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Evansville.

The award was presented in October at the annual meeting of the USI Nursing Alumni Society. Keynote speaker for the event was Elizabeth "Betty" J. Brown '92 M.B.A. '04, vice president of quality and performance improvement for TriHealth in Cincinnati, Ohio. Brown also was Alumna-in-Residence for the day, making a presentation to faculty and students on the topic, "It's Apparent. Health Care is Transparent."

Brown joined TriHealth in July. She was previously vice president of strategic physician integration at St. Mary's Health System in Evansville. Brown was the 2005 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award.

### **Faculty Notes**

**Deborah Carl,** program director for the dental hygiene program, is president of the Ohio Valley Dental Hygienists' Association for 2007-08. Emily Holt, assistant professor of dental hygiene, is president elect. Holt recently attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology in Washington, D.C.

Julie St. Clair, instructor in nursing, was selected to make an oral presentation titled "Improving Public Health through Service Learning: A Collaborative Model of Health Care for an Incarcerated Population" at the Indiana Public Health Association's Spring Conference. The meeting was held in May at Indiana University.

An article titled "Inpatient care of persons with Alzheimer's disease" by **Dr. Martha Sparks,** professor of nursing, has been accepted for publication in *Critical Care Nursing Quarterly.* 

Amy L. Wilson, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, has been selected from a group of 100 nominees to serve on the government relations committee of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, a national organization. She will serve a two-year term on the eight-member committee.

Faculty members Jennifer Bartek, Deborah Carl, Kimberly Hite, Emily Holt, Phyllis Maddox, and Mara Beth Womack attended the annual session of the Indiana Dental Hygienists' Association in November. Katie Bechner, president of the USI Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA), was a student delegate and presented a report on USI SADHA activities. Faculty members also attended a meeting of the Indiana Dental Hygiene Educators Association.

Claudine Fairchild, assistant professor in radiologic and imaging sciences, recently served as a member of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists House of Delegates at the ASRT Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Robert Hooper, program director for the respiratory therapy program, and Anthony W. Schmitt, assistant professor of respiratory therapy, attended a two-day seminar sponsored by the Indiana Society for Respiratory Care in Indianapolis during September. The theme of the seminar was "Pulmonopoly."

**Lesa Cagle,** assistant professor of nutrition, recently was re-elected to the American Dietetic Association's House of Delegates as an Indiana delegate.

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#### DNP

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Professions, explained that through a survey, the college learned of the high level of interest and support for the establishment of a clinical nursing practice doctorate. The 2007 President's Task Force on Workforce and Economic Development supported the need for clinical nursing and other health-related programs. The doctorate will support the education, social, and economic growth of southern Indiana by providing expert nurse clinicians, educators, and administrators. The program is offered at 45 universities nationally and at Purdue University in Indiana.

The program will be offered through a hybrid approach to course delivery using online learning technology with on-campus intensives.

Coudret said, "The current graduate nursing program has had great success in delivery of course content through the use of advanced instructional technology. Employer evaluations and graduates' success in passing the national certification exam are indicators of that success."

The DNP program would begin with 20 students. It will be available to both full-time and part-time students. Students seeking admission to the program must have completed an M.S.N. degree to be eligible to enroll.

The curriculum will build on the current MSN program and include courses on advanced scientific principles for nursing practice, organizational and system leadership, informatics, cultural competence, health care policy, and evidence-based practice.

For additional information, contact Dr. Ann White at awhite@usi.edu or 812/465-1173.

### 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 e-mail dgutley@usi.edu.

#### **News**

### **Lecture Hall, classroom named to honor Lawrences**

A lecture hall and a collaborative classroom in the Health Professions Center have been named to honor the memory of **Melissa Faye Lawrence**, a nursing

student who was killed in an automobile accident, and recognize her husband **John M. Lawrence '73**, who has provided generous gifts to support students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

The Lawrence Lecture Hall on the first floor of the center and the Lawrence Interactive Classroom on the second floor were dedicated in October. USI President H. Ray Hoops and the University vice presidents attended the dedication.

Melissa Faye Lawrence was a student of **Dr. Nadine** 



USI President H. Ray Hoops, left, and Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, gathered with University administrators, nursing and health professions faculty, and students for the dedication of a lecture hall and interactive classroom recognizing John Lawrence, right, and his late wife Melissa Faye Lawrence.

**Coudret,** dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, before Coudret joined USI. John Lawrence, a USI accounting graduate, established the Melissa Faye Lawrence Endowed Nursing Scholarship, the largest scholarship award in the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

### Sherri Mathis, Melissa Warthen join faculty

The College of Nursing and Health Professions welcomed two new faculty members for fall semester.

• Sherri Mathis

'04 is an instructor in the occupational therapy assisting program. Mathis was an occupational therapy assistant from 1999 until 2004 when she completed a bachelor's degree in



**Mathis** 

occupational therapy at USI. She has previous experience working in school systems in southern Illinois, in nursing homes, and as a provider for children from birth to age 3.

• Melissa Warthen, instructor of nursing, was most recently associated with the emergency room at St. Vincent Carmel Hospital in Carmel, Indiana. She has taught previously at Emory University School of Nursing,

where she won the first Undergraduate Teacher Scholar Award, and at Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis. She has held research and marketing positions at a pharmaceutical company and has



Warthen

served as a traveling nurse. Warthen holds a B.S.N. from Northern Illinois University and an M.S.N. in education, administration, and ethics from Loyola University. Her clinical career has been spent primarily in critical care and emergency department nursing.

### **News**

#### Wires named patient care director

Jocelyn Wires '06 M.S.N. has joined Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as patient care director for labor and delivery/postpartum. Wires completed the nursing management and leadership track in the graduate nursing program. She joins MTMC after 29 years with St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

### Susan Ahmad receives Berger Award for service

Susan G. Ahmad, program director of the occupational therapy assisting program, is the 2007 recipient of the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award. She was recognized for her work with



Ahmad

occupational therapists at St. Mary's Rehabilitation Hospital and high school and elementary school-age children during National Back Pack Awareness Day. Ahmad also is a volunteer presenter of life skills training activities at Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility.

### Travel/study opportunity in England

Students and alumni have an opportunity to participate in a travel and study experience in England this summer. The experience will include opportunities to observe the British health-care system.

Faculty from the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions will lead the program. The study-abroad experience from June 1–14 will include a chance to travel independently during the weekend between the two weeks of classes. The program will be based at Harlaxton College, which is owned and operated by the University of Evansville. Contact **Dr. Jeri Burger**, assistant professor of nursing, for more information.

### Wanda Douglas named to ANCC board of directors

An after-hours conference call, a late-night meeting, or even a hearing before a legislative committee are the substance of a rewarding career for **Wanda L. Douglas**, who has spent many years as an advocate for the nursing profession and better health care. Her career encompasses nursing practice, administration, and education.

A University of Southern Indiana nursing faculty member since fall 2006, Douglas has been named to the board of directors of the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC). She chairs the organization's Commission on Accreditation for 2007–09.

ANCC, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, is responsible for the national oversight of many nursing activities including the Magnet Recognition Program for hospitals, continuing education for nurses, and certification in a nurse's area of expertise.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing for the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions, said Douglas' leadership role is important for nursing nationwide and reflects well on the USI nursing program.

"As an ANCC board member, Wanda is known for her expertise in these activities," White said. "This allows our nursing programs to be recognized as having a faculty member of that status. Equally important is the knowledge she brings to us, so that we provide accurate and current information to our students and area nurses."

Douglas recently traveled to Atlanta for a symposium on the Magnet program, which recognizes hospitals for excellence in nursing services and care.

"During periods of nursing shortages, it was noticed that some hospitals never had shortages," Douglas said.

"Researchers studied those hospitals. They learned that hospitals with strong nursing programs—where nurses have input and can advocate for patients—are successful in recruiting and retaining nurses."

Douglas also attended a recent ANCC meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss interdisciplinary continuing education for nursing, pharmacy, and medicine.

ANCC wants to recognize and promote inter-professional continuing education

inter-professional continuing education and streamline the accreditation process for providers of interdisciplinary programs.

Douglas served as executive director



**Douglas** 

of the Louisiana State Nurses Association from 1994-98 and as director of education for the Texas Nurses Association from 1998-2006. She often presented oral and written testimony on nursing issues before state legislative committees. In addition to nursing shortages, prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses and continuing nurse education were among the issues she addressed.

"The interesting thing about lobbying is that every legislator has some experience with nursing. Everybody has had a child, spouse, parent, or friend who has had nursing care. If nurses can tell their stories, legislators will listen. If it's for the good of the patient, they usually will support the legislation."

When Douglas joined USI, she returned to her Midwestern roots. She grew up in Carmi, Illinois. She teaches courses in nursing education and nursing management.

### **Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education**

### **Workshops and Conferences**

Pediatric Dental Continuing Education, February 9

Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing, March 13

Healing Touch Workshop, March 15-16

5th Annual Nursing Leadership Conference, March 19

12th Annual Research and Health Care Issues Conference, April 23

**14th Annual Case Management Conference,** May 15 10th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium,

May 16

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 March 16

Anticoagulation Billing, three weeks, begins February 25

**Anticoagulation Therapy Management,** six weeks, begins January 7, March 3, and April 28,

Case Management, six weeks, begins January 14 and April 14

Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins January 21 and March 31

Complementary and Alternative Health Care, six weeks, begins February 11

**Diabetes Management,** six weeks, begins January 14 and March 31

Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, 10 weeks, begins January 21

**Lipid Management,** six weeks, begins January 21 Pain Management, six weeks, begins January 28 and

Basic Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins March 10

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

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For more information

Dr. Nadine Coudret, Dean

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