



## School of Nursing and Health Professions

Carol Meese of Evansville had been looking for a graduate program that would enhance her skills while allowing her to continue to fulfill her responsibilities as director of strategic planning for St. Mary's Health Care Services. Abdul Alboloshi of Toronto sought the same thing — a graduate program that would develop his skills as a health-care administrator while he works full time as a health records administrator at Sunny Brook Health Science Centre in Toronto.

Both Meese and Alboloshi found the program they need. They are members of the first class of 14 students pursuing a Master of Health Administration degree through the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

The School of Nursing and Health Professions has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Nursing, to help prepare nursing students to care for patients in long-term care facilities.

The grant for \$24,923 includes clinical experiences for 10 students each semester at Regina Continuing Care Center in Evansville. Participants are seniors enrolled in either the nursing management course or a course on the nursing of chronically ill children and adults.

Dr. Martha B. Sparks, associate professor of nursing, said the goal of the program is to increase the number of registered nurses who accept positions in W\* nq181 0 0 173.28 26.13 442.41 cm/lm1 DoQQq1 i 0 792 612 -792 re0 792 mW n0 792.5 612 -792 reW n/Cs5 CS 0.16

The M.H.A. program is offered to meet an expressed need for health-care administrators with enhanced analytical and decision-making skills.

Most of the instruction is delivered on the Internet. Students will come to campus several times during the semester for Friday evening and Saturday sessions, a format that allows them to fit the graduate program into their professional lives.

Carol Hermes, program director of health services, said a customer-sensitive approach is one of the major goals of the new graduate program, along with intellectual

True to our University's mission, the number-one focus of the School of Nursing and Health Professions during the past year has been the education of health-care professionals to meet regional workforce needs. We have done this by adding new degree programs (sonography, Master of Health Administration, and Master of Occupational Therapy) and by offering Internet certificate and continuing education programs at the national level for practicing health-care professionals.

Our success in teaching scientific understanding, technical competence, and excellence in professional practice is reflected in our graduates' superior performance on national registry examinations and high employer satisfaction.

Another important goal of our programs is teaching our students compassionate caring. A simple but useful definition of compassionate caring is "the art of treating patients and families as we would wish to be treated." During the past several months, a number of individuals in the community have taken time to report that new USI nursing and health professions graduates have shown caring in a way that has distinguished them from other new graduates. These reports are the inspiration that move a dean and faculty to work even harder to be sure that the value of caring is incorporated in all our programs. The faculty, staff, and students' inclusion of compassionate caring in their practice is an important contribution to the quality of health care.

Consistent with the goal of caring and respect for the individuality of patients, the school is providing opportu-

nities to increase our students' awareness and experience with the global community. Nursing students and I accompanied a Deaconess Hospital team to the interior of Jamaica and gave care to more than 300 Jamaican inpatient and clinic patients.

In addition, graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program presented papers along with faculty at the International Council of Nursing in Denmark this summer. Finally, using Harlaxton College (owned and operated by the University of Evansville) as a study center, 15 students in undergraduate nursing, health services, and graduate nursing spent two weeks of the summer in England learning about the British system of health care.

Global learning activities planned for this year include student-faculty trips to Jamaica and an expanded summer learning trip to England. Cooperative planning with USI's Office of International Programs and Services will provide additional global learning opportunities in the coming year.

During this year we will continue to develop our on-campus, cyberspace, and international educational programs to meet the increased health-care workforce needs. Program development and the continued emphasis on preparing competent caring practitioners will occur because of the outstanding teaching team of school faculty, staff, and clinical preceptors who are committed to teaching excellence and student learning.

# Program Notes

## Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

### **Orientation**

Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society and junior students in the dental hygiene program sponsored a picnic during orientation to welcome new students into the program. Twenty-four students are enrolled in the sophomore class, 23 students return in the junior class, and 11 students are returning to complete the bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education.

### **National exam — 100%**

All students in the Class of 2001 successfully completed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination.

### **Annual meeting**

Amber Bernard, junior dental hygiene student, represented the University of Southern Indiana as a student delegate at the Indiana Dental Hygienists' Association Annual Session in Indianapolis in May.

### **Professional presentation**

Two graduates of the Class of 2001, Kimberly Freeman and Kimberly Hite, presented a scientific table clinic titled, "Radiation Induced Xerostomia" at the annual session of the American Dental Hygienists' Association in June in Nashville, Tennessee. They developed the table clinic as students in the dental hygiene program.

### **Clinical service**

Junior dental hygiene students are continuing their clinical service to the community by providing treatment to clients at Impact Ministries Dental Clinic.

## Health Services

### **Nutrition minor**

A minor in nutrition is now available through the health services program. Three of the five required courses are offered this semester. These courses are principles and applications in

nutrition, nutrition for fitness and sport, and dietary supplements and herb use in nutrition. Two additional courses—nutrition through the life cycle and community nutrition—will be offered in the spring. Along with these five courses, a chemistry or biology class is required.

The minor, open to all students, regardless of major, offers an opportunity to explore an area of growing importance to health care. Contact Dr. Julie McCullough, assistant professor of nutrition, or other health services faculty for information.

## Nursing

### **Preceptor recognition; Pain management**

Clinical teaching associates and preceptors were recognized by the nursing program during a conference held September 6 in Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center.

Clinical teaching assistants and preceptors are staff nurses, nurse managers, nurse practitioners, and physicians who provide clinical learning opportunities for USI nursing students. Faculty hosted a luncheon in their honor during the conference.

Titled "Pain: the Fifth Vital Sign," the conference program was designed to prepare nursing students to understand and manage pain. The content provided an overview of ethical and clinical issues. Featured speakers were Jeannine M. Brant, a pain consultant and oncology clinical nurse specialist with St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center in Billings, Montana, and Patrick J. Coyne, clinical nurse for palliative care and pain management at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals/Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. They addressed pharmacologic, nonpharmacologic, and innovative treatments.

The pain management program was sponsored by Purdue Pharma and supported by the Nancy Day Farmer

Pain Management Endowment Fund, which has provided funds for pain management education and research since the School of Nursing and Health Professions was established.

## Occupational Therapy

### **Graduate program**

Classes in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program may begin as soon as spring semester. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the curriculum at its March 9 meeting.

## Radiologic Technology

### **Eight-year accreditation**

Faculty of the radiologic technology program recently were notified that the program has been awarded the maximum eight-year accreditation period by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. The next review by the on-site visitation team will be in winter 2009.

### **Annual meeting**

The third-year students in the radiologic technology program attended the annual meeting of the Indiana Society in Radiologic Technology October 4-5 in Warsaw, Indiana.

## Respiratory Therapy

### **Academic competition**

Respiratory therapy students Renita Able, Sonoma Clampit, Angela Helming, and Nick Schapker finished second in an academic competition at the Region II Respiratory Care Conference in Covington, Kentucky, in April.

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# Faculty Notes

**Deborah L. Carl**, program director of dental hygiene, attended the National Dental Hygiene Program Directors' Conference in Dana Point, California, in June. She was co-chair of the conference and will serve as chair of the 2002 conference in Cancun, Mexico.



**Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Profession, and several faculty members participated in the International Congress of Nursing in Copenhagen, Denmark in June. **Dr. Judy Halstead**, director of instructional services and resources and associate professor of nursing, and **Victoria Kelley**, special projects director, presented a paper entitled, "Sexual Health Education and Behaviors of Incarcerated Women." **Dr. Gayle M. Roux**, assistant professor of nursing, and **Mary S. Rutherford**, instructor of nursing, presented, "Health Beliefs and Practices in Rural El Salvador."



**Gale Hoehn**, instructor in nursing, attended a course sponsored by the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). The intense three-day program designed specifically for bac-

calaureate and associate-degree nursing faculty was held in June in Cleveland, Ohio. ELNEC is a comprehensive three-and-half year national project to improve end-of-life care by nurses. Nursing faculty who participate are committed to integrating end-of-life care into the nursing curriculum at their schools.



As a member of a national committee for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, **Dr. Sheila K. Melander**, professor of nursing, participated in rewriting scope and practice materials for the critical care clinical nurse specialist. This year the committee will review the document describing the scope and practice of the acute care nurse practitioner.



**Dr. Aimee J. Luebben**, program director of occupational therapy, was elected secretary of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) in March. During the three-year leadership commitment, she will serve on the executive board and will be a voting member of the representative assembly, the legislative body that sets policy for the profession.

Luebben made presentations in April and June at professional meetings in Reno, Nevada, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In the spring she was named the Integra Bank 2001 Distinguished Professor for the University of Southern Indiana. She received a grant from Integra Bank, will select a student to receive a scholarship in her name, and will deliver the Distinguished Professor lecture during the academic year.



**M. Sammie Rutherford**, instructor in nursing, and **Dr. Melissa Vandever**, program director of graduate nursing, provide volunteer clinical services and health-care education at Patchwork Central in downtown Evansville.



**Dr. Martha Sparks**, associate professor of nursing, published an article titled, "Assessment and Management of Alzheimer's Disease" in the summer 2001 issue of *Topics In Advanced Practice Nursing*. In addition, she recently facilitated a workshop on managing Alzheimer's disease for the continuing education program of the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions.

## Program Notes

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The USI team competed against seven other teams representing programs from Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

### Recognition

Renita Able, Sonoma Clampit, Angela Helming, Nick Schapker, and Jamie Yarber were honored August 17 at a graduation reception following the completion of their final clinical internship. Internship sites included Evansville, Jasper, and Indianapolis, Indiana, and Austin, Texas.

### Club officers

Officers of the 2001-02 Respiratory Care Club are Chris Bowlin, Misty Hoke, Melissa Fetter, and Shawn Merkel.

tions. Students in the program apply knowledge about chronic illness, document assessment of older adults, collaborate with family members and others in planning care, evaluate the effectiveness of care, incorporate knowledge of regulations and reimbursement requirements, and manage and delegate care to unlicensed personnel. In assessing residents, students are becoming familiar with the Minimum Data Set, the federally required assessment tool for long-term care.

Sparks said the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population is

the group 85 years and older. She is coordinating the grant for the School of Nursing and Health Professions along with Dr. Ann White, program director of nursing; Judi L. Kuric, instructor in nursing and health professions; and the staff at Regina.

Sparks said that this partnership between the school and a health-care business allows the students to apply knowledge to the clinical setting, resulting in better prepared graduates who will promote quality care.

The grant is for the 2001-02



# School announces seven faculty appointments

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

- **Claudine Bentley** is instructor of radiographic and imaging sciences and coordinator of the new sonography program. She earned a degree in sonography from West Kentucky Technical and Vocational College and degrees in radiologic technology and health services from the University of Southern Indiana. Bentley has practiced at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville and at Ferrell Hospital in Eldorado, Illinois. She was previously an adjunct faculty member for the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

- **Dr. Barbara A. Davis**, associate professor of nursing, previously worked as an associate professor and professor of nursing at Marshall University and as an assistant professor of nursing at Murray State University. Prior to her academic career, she worked in emergency and critical care nursing. She holds a B.S.N. and



*Johnson*



*McCleary*

# News

## Summer study program available in England

The School of Nursing and Health Professions will offer undergraduate and graduate courses at Harlaxton College in England.

Tentative dates for the summer study program are June 16-30. While abroad, students will visit health-care facilities in England and learn about the British health-care system. Opportunities to tour England and surrounding countries will be available.

Carol Hermes, program director for health services, and Dr. Ann White, program director for undergraduate nursing will teach the courses.

The school's first courses abroad were taught at the Harlaxton campus last summer. Theresa Marcotte, a graduate nursing student, said, "It was an extremely valuable experience. It has helped my practice and enhanced my knowledge to see how other countries offer health care."

In addition to Marcotte, students in the 2001 summer program were Veda Ball, Gina Burnett, Carrie Gwaltney, Sara Hamilton, Emily Holscher, Victoria Kelley, Carrie Koch, Nichole Oster, Lois Stallings,

Stefanie Torzewski, and Kim Westbrook. They were accompanied by Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions; Dr. Judith A. Halstead, director of instructional services and resources; and Dr. Gayle Roux, assistant professor of nursing.

In addition to attending classes on the history and politics of the United Kingdom, the group made trips to places of interest, including the Nightingale Museum, St. Thomas' and Guy's Hospitals (London), Nottingham City Center, the Queens Medical Centre, and Cambridge University.

Owned and operated by the University of Evansville, Harlaxton College is located north of London in the town of Grantham.

## Special events planned for theme housing

Thirty-nine students who have declared a nursing or health professions major are living oth a

## Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

### Workshops and Conferences

Healing Touch Level IIA,