

University of  
Southern Indiana

SPRING 2015

# Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions

## *Alumni through the Decades*



1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

## Letter from the Dean



**T**here certainly has been a great deal of “buzz” around the USI campus regarding our University’s 50th anniversary. This milestone year causes us to look back and reflect on how far we have come, but also to look ahead.

Fifty years ago, there was no College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP). In 1965, Indiana State University–Evansville (ISUE) held its very first classes at the Centennial School location, but there were no health professions offerings at that time. The first Dental Auxiliary Education programs were established in 1970 on our current campus, with Dr. Gordon Kelley as the first director of the Division of Allied Health. He oversaw the development of the Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting and Dental Laboratory Technology

programs, followed by Radiologic Technology, Health Services and Respiratory Therapy.

Things really started moving in 1985 when ISUE became the University of Southern Indiana. Soon after, the Commission for Higher Education approved a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at USI. In 1988, Dr. Nadine Coudret became dean of this College and the first nursing classes were offered. Her primary goals were to grow the new Nursing Program and nurture the established programs that were quickly gaining a stellar reputation for excellence throughout the Tri-state.

Since those early days, many changes have occurred. The Health Professions Center is now the hub of learning, with state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and equipment that we continuously update. Through the years, we’ve kept pace by adding new healthcare programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, offering students more career opportunities, degree options, clinical placements and opportunities for advancement.

I’m proud to report that in the past 50 years, USI has awarded more than 9,500 healthcare degrees, and surveys show that the majority of our health professions graduates remain in Indiana to work at hospitals, doctors’ offices, clinics and other health-related settings.

Our future is promising. We are continually exploring other opportunities in education, continuing education and service to the community. The new CNHP mission says it all: “Advancing health and wellness through visionary leadership, dynamic learning and strategic partnerships.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ann White  
Dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions

# Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions

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### On the cover

*(Left to right) Patricia Campbell '74, Dental Hygiene; Anthony Goodwin '89, radiologic science; Robin Lannert '83, '90 Dental Hygiene, Health Services; Roli Asthana '05, Master of Health Administration; Zhuang "Sheila" Santacana '12, Nursing*

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# Alumni Reflect on USI and Career Paths

In the spirit of USI's 50th anniversary, we asked a health professions alum from each decade to walk down memory lane. Like so many graduates through the years, the degrees they earned at USI (formerly ISUE) shaped their lives and gave them the direction needed to find their niches in the world.

## 1970s

For the past 20 years, Patricia “Pat” Campbell has worked part-time as a dental hygienist in a clinic that serves patients with HIV/AIDS, so she is well aware of the safety precautions necessary to prevent infection—guidelines that were not the norm when she was a student at Indiana State University—Evansville in the early 1970s. “There have been many changes in the dental hygiene profession over the past 40 years, but I think the biggest change has been in the area of infection control and the emerging diseases that we must deal with.”

Campbell graduated from ISUE in 1974 and is a professor and director of the dental hygiene graduate program at Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas.

The Evansville native said her interest in dental hygiene began when she worked as a dental assistant after graduating from North High School. “Originally, I planned to attend [another college], but when ISUE started a dental hygiene program, I knew this was where I wanted to go,” she said. “I enrolled and was accepted in the second class of the dental hygiene program.”



Patricia “Pat” Campbell

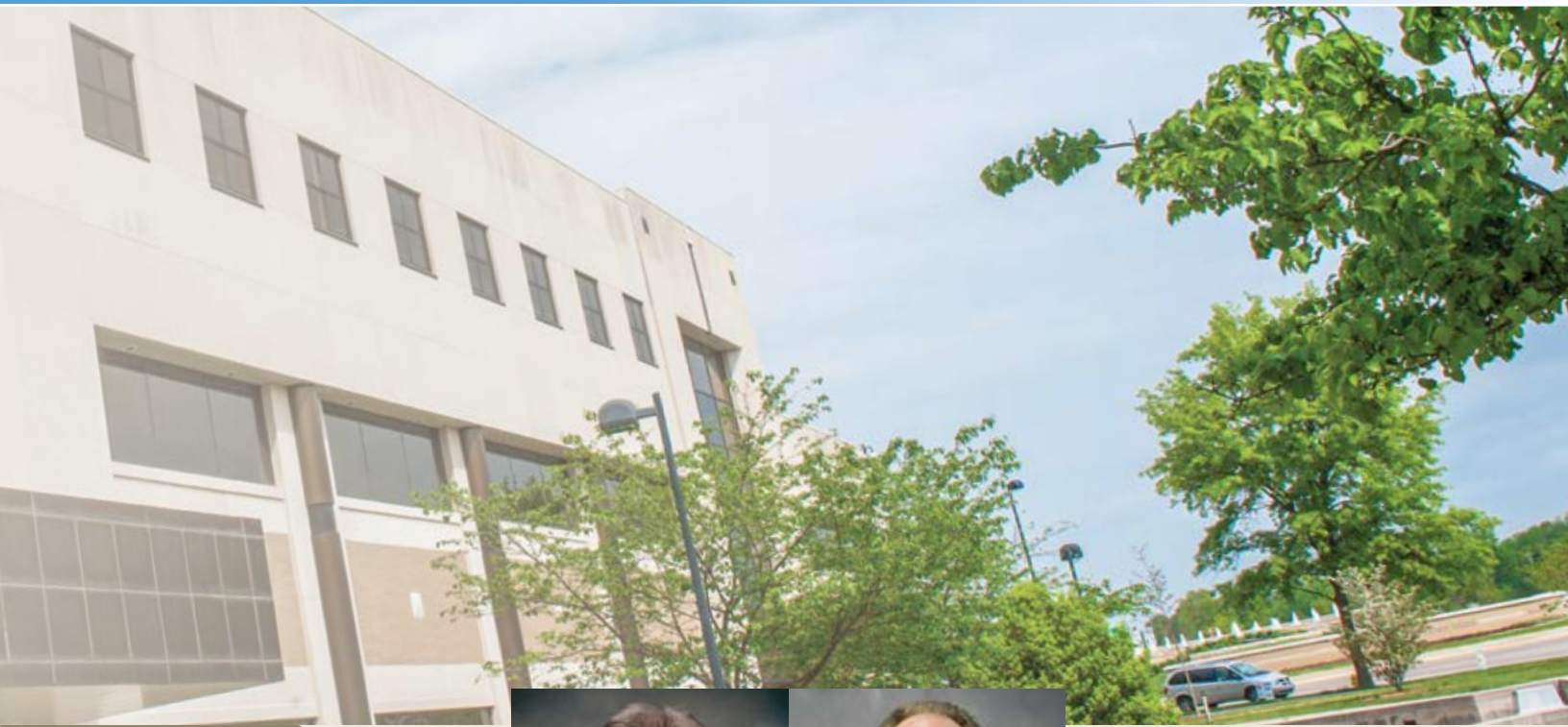
In addition to her dental hygiene degree, Campbell received a bachelor's in health services in 1982. In 1987, she moved to Virginia Beach for the Master in Dental Hygiene Education program at Old Dominion, earning that degree in 1989. From there, she moved to Dallas to accept a position at Baylor College of Dentistry. She was initially hired as coordinator of the dental hygiene clinic, a post she held until 2008, when she was named director of the dental hygiene graduate program. She also teaches two courses in the undergraduate dental hygiene program and is an instructor in the clinic.

In addition, Campbell has conducted research in a variety of areas related to dental hygiene. Years ago, she worked on a grant to develop outcomes assessment, program evaluation and the first

competencies for the dental hygienist. She also has written several textbook chapters and journal articles regarding patient assessment and case studies.

Campbell loved her time at ISUE, as a student and after graduation when she taught part-time on the dental hygiene clinical faculty before moving to Virginia. She still keeps in touch with members of “The Gang” from USI who were her fellow students and colleagues, including Deborah Carl Wolf '73 and Phyllis Maddox '74. She said, “Although I no longer have any close relatives in Evansville, I still go back to visit friends as often as I can.”

Continuing to work as a dental hygienist keeps Campbell grounded with what is going on in the world outside academia and gives her more credibility with her students. “When I went to dental hygiene school, we wore polyester dresses, white hose, nurses' shoes and that cute nurses' hat,” she said. Hygienists now have more patient care responsibilities, such as administering local anesthesia. It's a different world today, and Campbell is doing all she can to prepare her students to be successful in it, just like her professors did for her.

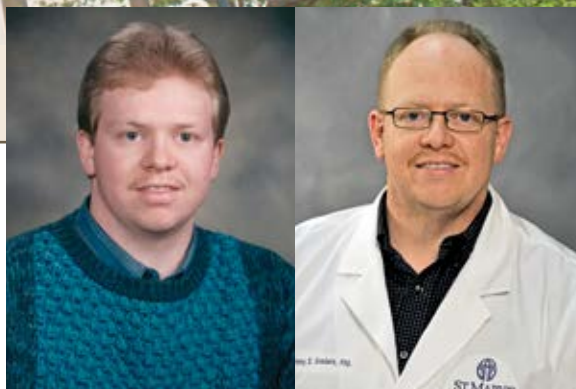


## 1980s

Anthony “Tony” Goodwin ’89 is proud to say he was a member of the first freshman class of the newly independent University of Southern Indiana. “It is interesting that my original college acceptance letter was on ISUE letterhead, and over the summer of 1985, the USI name emerged. There were fewer buildings back in 1985, yet the faculty and learning experience was excellent.”

Goodwin attended Central High School in Evansville and says his love for science started in grade school, and stayed with him at USI. While at USI, two biology professors—Dr. James Bandoli and the late Dr. Jack Marr—greatly influenced his decision to pursue a degree in radiologic science.

After graduating from USI, Goodwin took his degree and recent licensure from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists to Texas where he worked as a diagnostic radiologic technologist and continued his education at East Texas State University. He worked in Texas for



*Anthony “Tony” Goodwin*

three years, adding computed tomography and supervisor experience to his resume. But 16 years later, Goodwin moved back to Evansville to work for Quest Healthcare, a national radiology imaging company, where he eventually became vice president. “Along the way, I entered graduate school at Florida International University, where I obtained my master’s and doctorate in allied health science radiology,” he said.

Goodwin began working at St. Mary’s Medical Center in 2007, and now is the Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) administrator. “Being able to utilize the resources and technology available at St. Mary’s to successfully complete my dissertation was truly a blessing,”

he said. Working with two other analysts, Goodwin and his team manage all radiology-produced imaging in the digital information system for the St. Mary’s health network that consists of several hospitals, imaging centers, urgent care facilities and physician practices.

As a way of giving back to the University, Goodwin returns every semester to offer guest lectures to students seeking health professions as a potential career, and for the past 12 years, he has been a judge in the annual USI Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair for students in grades K-12.

Looking back on the history of USI, Goodwin said he is grateful for his education. “I take great pride in my profession and in all the abilities it offers me to connect with people,” he said. “Credit is due to the early beginnings at USI and the excellent opportunities it forged.”



## 1990s

For someone who grew up less than a mile from USI, Robin (Goen) Lannert '83, '90 has managed to put many miles between where she began her dental education and where she is currently working as a missionary in the Central American country of Belize. But, no matter how far she may roam, her thoughts are never far from her college days.

Lannert, a lifelong West Sider, enrolled at ISUE after graduating from Reitz High School in 1979. "I actually grew up on McDowell Road, so I truly watched the campus grow," she said.

After Lannert graduated from ISUE with an associate degree in Dental Hygiene, she spent the next several years working as a dental hygienist while continuing her education at USI. Juggling work, marriage and the birth of her two sons, she received a bachelor's degree in health services in 1990.

"Back in the early '80s, USI was still a very small university," Lannert said. "The



*Robin (Goen) Lannert*

dental hygiene class I was in consisted of only nine girls. Due to the size, we were able to really get to know one another, as well as our instructors."

Lannert spent the majority of her career working for dentists in Evansville until she and Dennis, her husband of 31 years, became full-time missionaries in Belize with Global Outreach, where they've lived since September 2014.

"We had gone on several short-term mission trips since 2006, including Myanmar, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica. Most of these trips I had been able to serve using my dental hygiene skills, but we had not considered long-term missions,"

said Lannert. They are now in Belize where they focus on discipleship, micro-loans for the poor to raise them up economically, and help facilitate a fully functioning dental clinic.

In January 2015, Global Outreach built the dental clinic in Belize. "A healthy mouth helps provide patients not only with much needed physical healing,

but also with an emotional boost," Lannert said. "The clinic is extremely nice, with eight dental chairs, and provides dental care to people who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Many of the patients have never had their teeth cleaned nor understand the importance of maintaining a healthy mouth. When they leave the clinic, they are typically grinning from ear to ear. They are so thrilled and very grateful."

Lannert is unsure how long "Team Lannert" will remain in Belize. "We have been blessed, and we have all we need plus more."

## 2000s

Roli Asthana '05 worked in information technology (IT) for many years before she decided to begin the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program at USI. She said what she learned during the program has helped her in her current job as Senior SAP (Systems, Applications & Products) Supply Chain Solution Analyst at Mead Johnson Nutrition, where she has been employed for nearly nine years.

"My MHA degree has given me a keen awareness of the healthcare industry and



*Roli Asthana*

its challenges and complexity," she said. "It gave me the confidence that it is possible to learn a new skill set and acquire knowledge to be successful in any environment."

A native of New Delhi, India, Asthana came to the United States to attend graduate school at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. After receiving a master's degree in linguistics, she pursued a computer science degree at Lansing College in Lansing, Michigan, in 1995.

Asthana admits the path to her current career kind of happened by accident. "Someone in one of my computer science classes at Lansing College referred me to an IT consulting firm that was hiring," she said.

After I earned my degree, I decided to interview at this firm, and ended up switching from computer science to IT. This was good timing, as it was when the IT industry was booming in the middle to late 1990s.”

At Mead Johnson, Asthana provides project management and IT technical

support for current and new supply chain initiatives. While this sounds daunting to some, she likes the challenge of working in IT. “I find the problem-solving aspect fun, and finding a business solution using IT as a tool is very satisfying,” she said.

“Dr. Kevin Valadares did an excellent job of keeping the MHA program relevant,

practical and meaningful,” she said. “He gave us real problems to work on by engaging and collaborating with local healthcare organizations for service projects as well as internships. His efforts and program design made the MHA program a great learning experience.”

## 2010s

When your heart is set on taking care of patients, you will find a way, even if the path takes you all the way from China to Indiana. That’s the case for Zhuang “Sheila” Santacana. Not too many people know that this caring nurse at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Evansville was first a practicing physician in Shanghai, the largest city in China.

“My father always said, ‘Everyone needs to see a doctor sometime,’ so I completed medical school in China and became an OB/GYN in 1992,” Santacana said. She worked in labor and delivery there for several years delivering babies until her career aspirations were put on hold when she and her husband, Tony, moved to the United States.

“We were married in 2004 and settled in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he worked as a chemical engineer for Pfizer. The first year or so in the United States was very challenging,” she said. “Differences in culture, environment, the language and the way of thinking brought me stresses, surprises, disappointments, but also happiness. There were many changes, compromises and sacrifices along the way.”

Perhaps the biggest adjustment for Santacana was not being able to practice



Zhuang “Sheila” Santacana

medicine in the United States, as is the case for most immigrant physicians, because of differences in the two countries’ medical licensing requirements.

In 2008, they moved to Evansville when her husband accepted a position at Mead Johnson Nutrition. It was at this time that Santacana’s love of patient care drew her back to school, this time to pursue a bachelor’s degree in nursing at USI.

She graduated *magna cum laude* in 2012, and immediately started working as a registered nurse on 6 West, St. Mary’s Renal and Diabetic Unit, which also is a Dedicated Education Unit for the USI Nursing Program. She also is a Clinical Teaching Partner who educates and mentors USI students during clinical rotations on 6 West. “Working as an RN at St. Mary’s is very rewarding. Our 6 West team is like a family,” she said. “I have learned a lot in my three years

working there. It is very important to take care of the whole person and the family, making our customers feel comfortable.”

Patient education is a major part of working in diabetes and renal care, Santacana said. “Proper diet and exercise —combined with the right medications and treatments at the right time—really improve patients’ health outcomes. It is wonderful to see people getting better after we provide care for them.”

Santacana is not finished with her own education. She currently is enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program at USI, with the goal of being a family nurse practitioner. “USI has been a very supportive environment for me to study and improve my skills,” she said.

Even though she and her husband have traveled and lived in numerous places around the world, they feel fortunate to be in Evansville. “It is a wonderful place to live and work, and most of all to be able to improve our knowledge through the educational opportunities we have found here at USI.”



Deborah Carl Wolf



*“Though each of the instructors went out of their way to inspire us to be the best we could be, to respect our profession, and to strive to represent it well, Deborah Carl Wolf certainly was—and continues to be—the primary inspiration to me.”*

*– Robin Lannert '83, '90*

## 40-Year Journey: From Student to Program Chair

Deborah Carl Wolf's journey to earning the title "The Queen of Dental Hygiene" started with visits to her brother's dental practice when she was a little girl. During those trips, the recently retired chair of USI's Dental Hygiene Program found her brother's hygienist's work fascinating. "I thought she had the best job in the world," she said. "I saw the way she cared for her patients. I wanted to grow up and help people just like that."

The desire didn't fade, and after graduating high school Wolf '73 enrolled in USI's (then Indiana State University—Evansville [ISUE]) Dental Hygiene Program—one of the first healthcare programs offered on this campus—earning an associate's degree in science. Soon after, she began teaching in the program as an adjunct instructor while working as a dental hygienist for a local dentist and continuing her education at ISUE. Within a couple of years, she received her bachelor's degree in dental hygiene and two years

later was named director of the Dental Hygiene Program.

The goal of continuing education stayed with Wolf, and in 1985 she received a master's degree in education from Indiana State University, earning her a promotion to assistant professor of dental hygiene as she directed the program. She continued teaching students and shaping the program over the years, eventually moving into the role of assistant dean of College of Nursing and Health Professions in 2010.

Wolf has seen many changes to the Dental Hygiene Program in terms of size, curriculum, facilities and study-abroad opportunities. USI was the first in the state to offer an entry-level bachelor's degree program in dental hygiene in 2007. Now, 40 years later, Wolf holds the distinction of helping educate nearly every person who passed through the program. That amounts to more than 1,750 students, with countless hours of teaching, mentoring, research, curriculum planning, accreditation

site visits, facility upgrades, grant writing, advising and administrative duties.

Looking back on her career, Wolf says one of the things she is most proud of is how the Dental Hygiene Program at USI has evolved to meet the needs of the dental profession. "We expanded to accept more students, because of the demand for more hygienists throughout the Tri-state area," she said. "Plus, our curriculum and equipment has changed over the years to keep pace with the scientific body of knowledge and new technology."

While Wolf has enjoyed teaching and being an administrator at USI, she missed the relationships formed with patients when working as a dental hygienist. "I always liked being able to take care of my own patients and having responsibility for direct patient care," she said. "After I started teaching, the level of responsibility shifted to being responsible for students' education, which has its own set of rewards. I'm looking forward to this next chapter."



### Third homeless symposium draws crowd

Several graduates of the University of Southern Indiana returned to their *alma mater* to bring awareness of the plight of homelessness to current students. Over 300 USI students attended the third annual Symposium on Homelessness in February in Carter Hall on the USI campus.

Julie St. Clair, clinical assistant professor of nursing, said USI's event grew from *Destination Home*, an effort begun in 2004 to end homelessness in Vanderburgh County. "Unfortunately, homelessness is a way of life for many in our community," she said. "We wanted to do something here at USI to not only raise awareness, but also give these students—many who are getting ready to graduate—an awareness of the needs of this group of people they most likely will encounter in their careers as teachers, doctors, health professions and social workers."

Senior-level students from a number of programs attended the event—Social Work, Teacher Education, College of Nursing and

Health Professions and Criminal Justice—in addition to several students from the Indiana University School of Medicine—Evansville Campus.

This year's keynote speaker was Ken Scheller, program director at Aurora, an agency that works to prevent and end homelessness in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. Scheller earned his master's degree in social work from USI in 2006. He shared his unique experience of working with the homeless in New York City in the early 1990s, and challenged students to reach beyond what they are studying.

This year's symposium featured several other USI social work graduates, including Kimron Reising, executive director at United Caring Services. Reising provided an update on Evansville's first homeless medical respite program, which received the 2015 Division Project Award at Leadership Evansville's 20th annual Celebration of Leadership in March. St. Clair, Reising and others with



ties to USI were part of a core group that worked for two years to establish this pilot program, which provides six beds and case management for homeless men who need a place to recover from medical procedures.

The USI Homeless Symposium is sponsored by the Provost's office, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education—Teacher Education, the College of Liberal Arts—Social Work, Outreach and Engagement—Service Learning, and the IU School of Medicine—Evansville Campus.

### U.S. News ranks USI MSN program

*U.S. News and World Reports* has ranked the College of Nursing and Health Professions Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program 78th in the

country—climbing 48 spots from the previous year's ranking—and its online MSN program as 36th in the nation.

"I'm pleased that the quality of our graduate nursing program has been recognized by this organization," said Dr. Ann White, dean of USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions. "This recognition acknowledges the expertise and dedication of our nursing faculty and the quality of our exceptional students."

The MSN program, offered by USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions, strives to prepare nurses at an advanced practice level, who demonstrate professional leadership and foster a research climate in the practice of nursing.

*U.S. News* ranked schools based on five general categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology, and admissions selectivity.



Samone Glenn '09 BS, '10 BSN, '13 MSN

### Sigma Theta Tau inducts 73 new members

The College of Nursing and Health Professions' chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International—Omicron Psi—inducted



73 new members this spring. Sigma Theta Tau is an international honor society of students, faculty and community leaders dedicated to nursing scholarship and global health. New inductees joined other members at this year's celebration in March for a night of fellowship. Katie DeFries, '03, '04 BSN, spoke about her experiences with healthcare in Africa.

# Grant promotes interprofessional education

USI faculty members met with representatives from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education in February to help implement a three-year,

\$1.2 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Through the HRSA grant, the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions has

become a Nexus Innovations Incubator via a partnership with the National Center, which is located at the University of Minnesota.

Currently, there are 11 states that house incubator sites to establish interprofessional education (IPE) teams to collaborate with community health professionals.

“The University of Minnesota was awarded a HRSA grant to coordinate the efforts of all incubator sites across the U.S. and develop interprofessional care teams at each site,” said Dr. Connie Swenty, chair of USI’s undergraduate Nursing Program and primary investigator for the HRSA grant at USI. “Literature validates that patient outcomes improve and patient safety increases when healthcare professionals collaborate as teams to render care.”

Swenty said the USI student teams will work in two areas: with U.S. military veterans at area VA clinics, and residents of the Glenwood neighborhood, location of one of USI’s nurse-managed community health centers.

The grant will increase the number and quality of interprofessional educational clinical experiences for students in a variety of USI programs, including nursing, respiratory therapy, food and nutrition and social work.



(Left to right) Dr. Ann White, dean, College of Nursing and Health Professions; Dr. Connie Swenty, assistant professor of nursing; Dr. Frank Cerra, MD, senior advisor, Nexus Innovations Incubator; Amy Jarabek, project coordinator, Nexus Innovations Incubator Network. Back row: Dr. Gina Schaar, assistant professor of nursing; Vicki Ellis, VA nurse; Ryan Butler, project coordinator/data manager, College of Nursing and Health Professions; Sara Rohde, project manager, Nexus Innovations Incubator.

Sara Schamber, '15 Dietetics Major, wanted to raise awareness concerning food issues among her peers on campus and within the profession, so she created a campus vegetable garden she called Southern Roots and published an article (“Southern Roots: Growing Vegetable Dreams on a College Campus”) in the national Hunger & Environmental Nutrition Newsletter last fall. The article explained the process that led her to develop the Southern Roots student organization at USI. The organization has 15 registered members that participate in various activities, including planting and harvesting the produce garden, attending local herb gardening classes and volunteering at Seton Harvest, a local non-profit, community-supported-agriculture farm.





## Veterans provided with free dental cleanings



USI's Dental Hygiene students provided free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for military veterans on select days in February and March while Dental Hygiene faculty supervised.

This service, sponsored by Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center

(SWI-AHEC), met a real need in the community, according to Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center at USI. "Dental hygiene treatments, as well as most other dental services, are not covered as a benefit unless they are 100 percent service connected,"

he said. "We worked with community partners to spread the word to veterans who might be interested."

"It is a way to honor those who have served in the military, while also offering an opportunity for our students to gain some understanding of the needs of veterans," said Kimberly Parsons, interim chair of Dental Hygiene and chair of Dental Assisting.

USI's Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation and by the United States Department of Education.

Southwest Indiana AHEC began as a regional center in 2008, and is hosted by the University of Southern Indiana in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. SWI-AHEC is part of a national network with a mission to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities.

## OT students present accessibility solutions for city parks

A community service learning project conducted by graduate occupational therapy students emphasized their role as OT leaders, researchers and educators within the community. The students worked together to select a community organization and from that worked to identify needs within the population that the organization serves. The overall community experience is to facilitate increased awareness of the vast services that occupational therapists can provide within a community.

One group focused on needs of accessibility within Evansville-area parks. The group worked closely with the Evansville Board of Parks Commissioners to identify accessibility concerns and provide recommendations and resources. They presented their findings

and recommendations with a formal presentation to the board in November.

"Evansville Board of Parks Commissioners provided much praise for the students' work and dedication to their community," said Dr. Tom Litney, assistant professor

of occupational therapy. "These type of projects not only provide a great educational experience for the students, but also a wonderful service to the community."



*(left to right) Shelby Bryant, Erin Hunsaker, Joanna Holsapple, Erica Harpe and members of the Evansville Board of Parks Commissioners*



# ACHIEVEMENTS Achievements Achievements

## Faculty News



**Jody Delp, '14**  
instructor in respiratory therapy, received her master's degree in secondary education from the University of Southern Indiana in December. Her

research topic involved interprofessional education in healthcare.



**Dr. Rick Hobbs,**  
assistant professor of occupational therapy, earned a Doctor of Health Science in Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Indianapolis.

His research topic involved the accessibility of religious organizations.



**Dr. Colleen Walsh,**  
contract assistant professor of nursing, has been appointed to serve on the work group for the development of clinical performance measures on Management of

Hip Fractures in the Elderly (MHFE), representing the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (NAON). She will begin her three-year term as president of the NAON during the national congress in Nashville, Tennessee, this spring. NAON membership consists of more than 6,000 RNs, LPNs, LVNs, student nurses and associate members from across the country and around the world who share an interest in musculoskeletal healthcare.



**Dr. Mikel Hand,**  
assistant professor of nursing, was elected to the CGEAN Leadership Succession Committee. CGEAN was established in 1970 as the Council on Graduate

Education for Administration in Nursing, a formal organization dedicated to collegial relationships and intellectual exchange among nurse educators whose focus was nursing administration at the graduate level. CGEAN has now evolved into an organization with over 200 members and an expanded focus on nursing administration and leadership education and research at both the graduate and undergraduate level.



**S. Beth Thompson,**  
director of the Charles E. Day Learning Resource Center in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, was elected to a two-year seat on the USI Administrative

Senate this past fall. The Administrative Senate serves as a formal communications link with the USI President to effectively present administrative staff interests and also consult on matters of policy affecting campus operations.

## New Hires



**Jayme Farley**  
*Family Nurse Practitioner*  
 USI Community Health Centers



**Kerri Geiser**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
 Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene



**Melissa Hobson**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
 Master of Health Administration  
 and Health Services



**Lora Weithman**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
 Respiratory Therapy

## Student News

**Della Hughes Carter**, student in USI's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, has received a professional development award from Michigan State University College of Nursing. This award supports her current research project: "A Nurse Practitioner-Led Interprofessional Provider Education Intervention to Improve Diabetic Kidney Disease Screening in an Under-insured Population." Carter is conducting her study at CareFree Medical Clinic, which provides primary care to under-insured and low-income patients in the Greater Lansing area.

The following USI undergraduate nursing students were elected to the Indiana Association of Nursing Students State Board for the 2015-2016 term: **Kathryn Chavez**, Treasurer, and **Uyenvy (Vee) Mai**, Membership Director. USI had 64 of the nearly 300 student attendees at the IANS annual state convention, held in January in Indianapolis. The USI team also won the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) challenge during the convention, according to Dr. Marilyn Ostendorf, clinical assistant professor of nursing.

**Cheryl Viau**, graduate nursing student, received the Sea Star award from her commanding officer at the Naval Hospital in Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino County, California. The award was given as recognition of her work as a patient safety advocate in the emergency department when she intervened on behalf of a pregnant patient who was prescribed an improper medication by an outside prescriber. Viau plans to graduate from USI with her Master of Science in Nursing degree in 2016.

# ALUMNI NEWS



**Katie DeFries '03 ASN, '04 BSN** is the 2014 recipient of the USI Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award. Each year, the USI Nursing Alumni Society presents this award to recognize a graduate who has made outstanding achievements in a career or public service. She was employed as a neonatal intensive care nurse at Deaconess Women's Hospital, but has accepted a new position as neonatal nurse practitioner at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 2008, she earned a master's degree as a neonatal nurse practitioner from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. In 2010, DeFries took her nursing expertise overseas working as a missionary in Kenya, Africa, for three years with AfricaHope, a ministry of Mission Systems International. Her work in Africa was focused on holistic health to impact principles of disease prevention and healthy living, including improving access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene and diet.



**Elizabeth "Biz" Fisher '00 BS, '14 MHA** is the first Masters of Health Administration Health Informatics student from USI to receive a master's degree scholarship from Indiana Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. HIMSS is a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology.

Fisher, a native of Vincennes, Indiana, earned a bachelor's degree in biology from USI in 2000. She earned her MHA

degree in December 2014 and works as a clinical laboratory scientist at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.



**Cindy Moore '93 BS, '06 MHA** is the new dean of the Frank L. Hilton, M.D. Division of Health Sciences at Ivy Tech Community College Southwest. She earned two degrees from USI: a bachelor's degree in communications with an emphasis in interpersonal organizational and a master's degree in health administration.

Moore began her career at Ivy Tech Community College as an adjunct faculty member in 2006, teaching phlebotomy in the medical assisting program. In 2007,

she was hired as a full-time faculty member and chair for medical assisting. In 2010, she accepted the position of interim dean for the School of Health Sciences. During that time, she implemented a new Healthcare Support program for the Southwest region and became department chair for medical assisting and healthcare support.



**Lauren Perrey '12 BSN** has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Rising Star in Clinical Practice Award from the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN).

Perrey, of Indianapolis, is a registered nurse in a 33-bed Neuroscience Critical Care Unit at IU Health Methodist Hospital, a Comprehensive Stroke and Level 1 Trauma Center. In her job, Perrey cares for patients who have had strokes, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, brain

and spinal tumors, and vascular abnormalities such as aneurysms and arterial venous malformations.



**Kelly Schneider '07 MHA** has been named the fifth executive director of the Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. She joined the Easter Seals team in 1988 and is currently the center's vice president of operations. She will succeed Ray Raisor, who is retiring as CEO on May 31, 2015.

A native of Henderson, Kentucky, Schneider received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and psychology in 1986 from Kentucky Wesleyan College.

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**Eighth Annual**

# **Mid-America INSTITUTE MAIA on Aging**



**SWIRCA  
& More**

**August 13 and 14, 2015**

**University of Southern Indiana**

**Evansville, Indiana**

## **FEATURING:**



**DAN BUETTNER**

*National Geographic explorer and  
New York Times best-selling author*

## **OTHER KEYNOTES:**

**ZACHARY BENEDICT**

MKM architecture + design

**EVA KOR**

CANDLES Holocaust Museum  
and Education Center

**SANDY MARKWOOD**

National Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

**RETURNING BY POPULAR DEMAND  
for Preconference Workshop**

**Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA**

Dementia Care and Training Specialist



**For details, visit [USI.edu/maia](http://USI.edu/maia)**

## Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education



*Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, a renowned occupational therapist currently working as a dementia care/dementia education specialist, returns to the Mid-America Institute on Aging for the third year in a row. Teepa will be facilitating a pre-conference workshop August 12 especially for direct care providers.*

### 2015 Workshops and Conferences

- 21st Annual Case Management/Care Coordination Conference, May 7
- 17th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 8
- 32nd Annual Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS), May 13-15
- 8th Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging, August 13-14
- 12th Annual Pharmacology Update for Advanced Practice Nurses, September 25
- Healing Touch Workshop, October 17-18
- 20th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference, October 21
- PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference, October 28

### 2015 Certificate Programs (online continuing education)

- Anticoagulation Therapy, seven weeks, begins May 18, July 27, October 12
- Hypertension Management, five weeks, July 27
- Pain Management, six weeks, August 3
- Dental Programs
  - Coronal Polishing for Dental Assistants, August 10
  - Fluoride Application for Dental Assistants, August 10
- Diabetes Management, eight weeks, August 10
- Health Informatics, seven weeks, August 10
- Case Management, six weeks, August 17
- Oncology Management, eight weeks, August 17
- Clinical Simulation, four weeks, September 7
- Lipid Management, seven weeks, September 7
- Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, six weeks, September 14
- Parish/Faith Community Nursing, four weeks, September 14
- Stroke Management, six weeks, September 14
- Heart Failure, five weeks, September 21
- Wound Management, six weeks, September 21

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