

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions

dedication

continuing education

patients

RESEARCH

thrive

DEGREES

WELL
NESS

OUTCOMES



College of Nursing and
Health Professions

internships

practice

ACHIEVEMENTS

clinicals

INNOVATIVE

experience

graduation

LEADERSHIP

technology

SUCCESS

Letter from the Dean



Over the past half a century, the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions has experienced incredible growth and success. We have added many new professional programs since those early days when our name was “Division of Allied Health,” all to meet the growing needs of the healthcare workforce, not only in this region, but throughout Indiana and the world.

During the University of Southern Indiana’s 50th anniversary year, there’s been ample time to look back and reflect upon the previous five decades, but it’s also important to look forward and assess what’s going on today. How is the College of Nursing and Health Professions evolving to better serve students interested in working in the ever-changing world of healthcare?

Inside this issue is a sampling of what we’ve been up to lately. We have several academic programs that have added new options for students pursuing degrees, including a new bachelor’s degree for Respiratory Therapy and accelerated degree programs for Nursing and Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Our Master of Health Administration program has expanded to offer a “4+1” option for undergraduates to begin work on a master’s degree while simultaneously completing a bachelor’s degree. Our Health Services program has grown to include a student internship program to give more students an opportunity to gain real-world experience before graduation. And this fall, our Nursing program held an historic event – USI’s first-ever White Coat Ceremony – to stress the importance of professionalism and patient-centered care to junior nursing students before they began their clinicals.

These programs would not be possible without the investment of faculty, staff and community partners who work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide students with the best education possible. Two of those dedicated faculty are featured in this issue. They started out as ISUE classmates and now, together, have 50-plus years experience as colleagues in our Dental Hygiene program. Additionally, there are stories about an inspiring mentor for students, a generous donor who responded to our ongoing need to update equipment in our Clinical Simulation Center and more.

It’s been a fun and exciting anniversary year for USI. With all the progress in the College of Nursing and Health Professions lately, the future is very bright for our next 50 years.

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

Synapse magazine is published by the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing and Health Professions.

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FROM STUDENTS TO

Fifty Years of Teaching

It's no exaggeration to say that Rhonda Gerst and Jennifer Bartek know USI's Dental Hygiene Clinic inside and out. The two faculty members helped design the space as part of a class project over 30 years ago while students at Indiana State University-Evansville (ISUE). Little did they know that one day their class project would serve as the basis for the clinic's blueprints during construction of the Health Professions Building in 1994, or that they would be long-time colleagues and friends, working side-by-side in the clinic, teaching new generations of dental hygienists and dental assistants.

Bartek and Gerst first met when enrolled in ISUE's Dental Hygiene program where they earned their associate degrees in 1984. A year later, they were among the first four students to earn a bachelor's degree in education and dental hygiene from the newly-independent University of Southern Indiana. Four years after graduating, they were asked to return to their alma mater as dental hygiene adjunct clinic faculty.

"Back then, we were only five years older than the students, and now we are older than their parents," Gerst said. Twenty-seven years later, the duo have not only educated scores of dental hygiene students but they've improved the lives of generations of dental clinic patients, who often return with their children for dental cleanings.

For the first 15 years of their careers at USI, both women taught part-time in the Dental Hygiene Clinic as adjunct faculty,



(Left to right) Rhonda Gerst and Jennifer Bartek review a patient's chart in the USI Dental Hygiene Clinic with senior students Paige Ernst and Cindy Edlin.

balancing this with work as dental hygienists in local dental offices and raising children. In January 2004, Bartek joined the College of Nursing and Health Professions' faculty full-time, while Gerst remained an adjunct instructor.

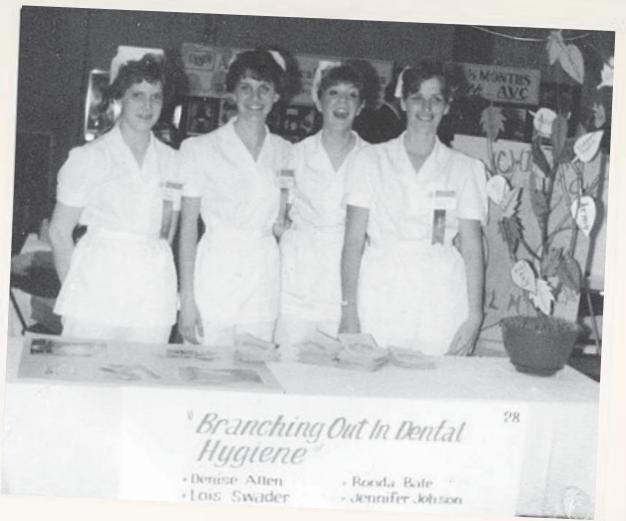
Over the years Gerst and Bartek have witnessed considerable growth within the clinic. The original dental clinic was one large room (painted powder blue), with two rows of six chairs and two sinks, housed in the Science Center.

"When the four of us in the class of 1985 decided to complete our education degree,

one of our big projects was to provide ideas for a modern dental clinic that would be a part of the new Health Professions Center," Bartek said. "I can remember wishing for a room designated for viewing and learning about dental radiographs. The four of us also thought a bathroom for our patients would be a good idea. Some other ideas included a separate administrative office, a modern color scheme and more equipment so students wouldn't have to wait for their turn. We dreamed of counter space for our paperwork and a private room for addressing patient concerns and health issues."

FACULTY:

Experience



(Left to right) Rhonda Gerst and Jennifer Bartek with ISUE classmates Lois Swader and Denise Allen

Today, their wishes have come true. The clinic is a bright wide-open space with individual operatories, complete with personal storage space and sink for each student clinician to provide services to the clinic's patients. There is a separate office area, which overlooks a waiting room with a TV and a variety of magazines. Because patient records are in a software program, counter space is no longer a priority, and they do not need a separate room to view X-rays, as radiographs are now digital.

Beyond the clinic's physical changes—designed to reflect professional practices—students themselves look different. “We don't wear all white and caps anymore. That's a big contrast to our scrubs today,” Gerst said.

There are other visible changes in terms of patient privacy. “The dental clinic today has a wall that separates the waiting room and office area from where the patient care area is,” Gerst said. “I think the new design helps to protect patient privacy, as opposed to the area where Jennifer and I learned to be hygienists.”

Today, students have far more access to faculty outside the classroom. Technology and going paperless have changed the way they interact—both clinically and didactically. Blackboard (web-based educational program), email and phone text messages are the new norm.

Bartek and Gerst work as a cohesive team to cover 23 concepts in 14 weeks for each new dental hygiene class. It's not unusual for them to complete each other's sentences, and they often come to the same

conclusions on how to present the material so their students have the best opportunity to learn, practice and gain competency in the clinic before they start seeing patients.

“We've gotten very good at managing time without talking about it,” Gerst said. “Some days when teaching, we can just feel that something is not going well with the students, and we know it's time to slow down or review a concept or skill.”

Bartek and Gerst saw the class size double when the dental hygiene and dental assisting programs moved to the Health Professions Center in 1995, and they have witnessed many other firsts through the years, including that USI was first in the state to offer an entry-level bachelor's degree in dental hygiene in 2007.

Each year, Bartek and Gerst reflect on how much the profession has changed, sharing this history from time to time with their students. “From new products to evidence-based research or technology trends, it can be fun to compare old with new,” Gerst said.

The duo are often asked how students and technology have changed, but they think there's more to it than that, noting faculty have to change with the times too.

“I believe the responsibility of a good educator is not to constantly remind ourselves that they've changed, but that we have changed, too,” Bartek said. “We need to decide how we are going to meet them halfway, guiding the process of each of the students to become the best health professionals they can be.”



(Left to right) Rhonda Gerst and Jennifer Bartek

INTO THE FUTURE



Respiratory Therapy Program adds Bachelor of Science degree

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the transition of USI's two-year Associate of Science in Respiratory Therapy (ASRT) degree program to a four-year Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy (BSRT) degree program, effective in the fall of 2016.

"This is an historic move for USI," said Wes Phy, program chair. "Our program has served the community well for many years, but we will now be evolving into a much more advanced program that will move our profession into the next generation. USI will be one of only four programs in the state of Indiana to offer respiratory therapy as a bachelor's degree."

In addition, USI's Respiratory Therapy program will also offer a degree-completion program (AS degree to BS degree), which will allow current registered respiratory therapists with a two-year associate degree to complete course requirements for the BSRT from USI entirely through distance education.

Informatics and Wellness Students Collaborate to Assess Campus Health

Many experts have described the boom of information technology (IT) in healthcare as the next "consumer revolution" because it changes the way we manage our health. Over the past 20 years, emerging technologies allow both patients and healthcare providers access to a variety of information and services, whether it's the entire electronic health record, recent lab results or a reminder of the next doctor visit.

Students enrolled in USI's Structure and Theory of Worksite Wellness and Health Informatics courses gained real-world experience with health IT by using fully digitized technology to conduct health-needs assessments during the annual fall Student and Employee Wellness Fair at USI.

This is the second year that Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson, assistant professor of Health Services, used this learning experience with her health informatics students. This year, she partnered with Dr. Erin Reynolds, assistant professor of Health Services, to teach students how technology can help capture data, calculate body mass index and interpret results to make USI a healthier campus.

"The students from both classes met to build a needs assessment survey from scratch," Reynolds said. "The demographic questions asked participants for age, gender and work status (student or employee). They had to do a little more work to decide what type of questions to ask to determine overall wellness using five categories: nutrition, exercise, stress/mental health, substance abuse and prenatal health."

The informatics and wellness students worked together to create the needs assessment questions and collect the data. This provided the opportunity to work interprofessionally, simulating their future professional careers.

During the Wellness Fair, students used tablets to conduct a short survey, then collected the blood pressure and weight of each person. The health informatics students analyzed the data collected, and the Structure and Theory of Worksite Wellness students used the information to write a proposal on how USI could improve worksite wellness.



Students get their blood pressure measured at the Student and Employee Wellness Fair.

RE: INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS



(Left to right) Donor Vic Schriefer and nursing students Shay Seibert, Christopher Berry and Emily Jackson

SimJunior Joins Family

Often, the biggest gifts come in small packages. That's the case for a recent donation to the College of Nursing and Health Profession. Vic Schriefer, a long-time supporter of the College and University, recently donated funds to purchase a child-size simulator to teach USI students about pediatric emergencies.

"Little Vic will give our students the opportunity to work with a realistic pediatric simulator in order to focus on the specific needs of sick children in a safe, monitored setting," said Christine Thompson, coordinator of the Clinical Simulation Center. "It will allow them to gain not only competence, but confidence when working with pediatric patients."

Little Vic is a SimJunior, designed to represent a 6-year-old boy that exhibits a wide range of conditions, from a healthy, talking child to an unresponsive, critical patient with no vital signs. This simulator is controlled via Bluetooth technology by an instructor, challenging students to think critically and adjust their care plans accordingly.

Schriefer's donation also covered the cost of a new Ventriloscope to the Clinical Simulation Center. A Ventriloscope is a modified stethoscope that reproduces real patient sounds. "With the Ventriloscope, we can control the sounds that the student hears through the stethoscope during the exam," Thompson said. The sounds were digitally recorded from real patients to simulate what it is like to examine a patient with a heart murmur, atrial fibrillation, tachycardia or a number of other conditions.

"Research shows a correlation between simulation training and increased confidence in students practicing in the clinical settings," said Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "We're grateful for Mr. Schriefer's support of our Clinical Simulation Center so we can continue to offer our students more realistic simulations as they prepare for their clinical experiences."

MHA 4 + 1 = Success for Undergraduate Students

Why stop at four years when you can get a master's degree with just one more? That's the thinking of 14 students who this fall enrolled in the new Master of Health Administration (MHA) 4+1 Program. Under the direction of Dr. Kevin Valadares, associate professor of Health Administration, students interested in an advanced degree in Health Administration can begin this coursework while simultaneously completing their undergraduate degree.

"The 4+1 option is a pathway for bright, driven, current undergraduate USI students from any discipline to obtain both a bachelor's degree and a MHA degree in five

years," Valadares said. "This new program prepares persons new to healthcare to successfully meet advanced challenges in a variety of healthcare fields."

Students begin the MHA 4 + 1 option in the fall semester of their senior year. They will not be classified as having graduate student status until they complete their undergraduate degree, normally following the spring semester of their senior year.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions continues to offer the traditional online MHA program for healthcare professionals who have already earned an undergraduate degree. "Our online MHA option prepares working healthcare

practitioners for advancement in their chosen field or in other health-related specialties, plus we offer a health informatics specialty," Valadares said.

"MHA students enrolled in these options are required to attend three intensive meetings on the USI campus, but the majority of the 39-credit hour programs are completed online over the course of six semesters."



INTO THE FUTURE



New Nursing Program Benefits Students and Area Employers

Due to students' growing interests in healthcare careers and the demand for nurses by area employers, the College of Nursing and Health Professions has added an accelerated Bachelor in Science Nursing program that will benefit both.

"Our average GPA for nursing admission each year is typically around 3.6," said Dr. Connie Swenty, chair of undergraduate Nursing. "We have well-qualified students who are turned away from nursing because we could only take 110 students in the traditional program. We contacted our clinical agencies and found that they would work with us to accommodate 20 additional students. So we were able to add additional students by using this accelerated concept."

The early graduation also means USI nursing grads can enter the workforce sooner, which is a benefit to area employers.

"A few years ago, area healthcare providers gave the College of Nursing and Health Professions some valuable feedback, explaining their need to have more nurses enter the workforce, especially with a December graduation date," said Swenty. "Our new accelerated nursing program is a response to this need, and we are pleased to collaborate with area healthcare providers to help increase the number of nursing graduates."

Swenty said the new program is four continuous semesters—fall, spring, summer, fall—with an additional one to two hours each semester and a December graduation date. Traditional students complete five semesters and do not have summer courses. Twenty-two students started this past August and will graduate in December 2016. A second cohort of 20 accelerated nursing students has been accepted for admission in fall 2016 semester.

"Basically, on August 1 we choose 130 nursing students who meet the criteria for our program," said Swenty. "Students are chosen for the traditional or accelerated programs based on the best match for the student and the Nursing program."

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Introduces Three-year Degree

The demand for people with degrees in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) is thriving, listed as the 12th hottest career by U.S. News' list of "Best Jobs of 2015." Because of increased interest in this field, USI's DMS program rolled out an accelerated healthcare degree, allowing students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in DMS in three years instead of four. It's an opportunity that will appeal to high school students enrolled in USI's College Achievement Program (CAP).

"The three-year curriculum is a good option for highly motivated college freshmen who might already have 15-20 hours of college credit earned through Advanced Placement or dual credit programs," said Claudine Fairchild, chair of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program.

Sonographers work under the direction of a physician to perform sonographic examinations of many parts of the human body. There are three specialty areas: general, which includes abdominal, obstetrics and gynecologic sonography; vascular sonography; and cardiac sonography. USI is one of only 13 baccalaureate programs in the nation that are accredited in all three specialty areas, and the only one in Indiana; there are 215 accredited diploma, associate and baccalaureate DMS programs in the United States.

Accelerated degree students would apply during the fall freshman semester (versus fall sophomore semester in the four-year degree program), going through the same application as traditional students. USI has

a limited number of clinical sites, therefore it can accept only 10 students per cohort.

"It is a very competitive program," Fairchild said. "We usually have anywhere from 25 to 35 students vying for one of 10 spots."

The DMS program historically has a high retention rate once students begin their professional course work.

"By allowing a student to begin the DMS course work after only one semester as opposed to three, the focus can be on retention of the student, not only at USI but after graduation because of the good job outlook," Fairchild said. "In the state of Indiana, there are many open positions for sonographers, especially in the Evansville area."

Students Thrive in Expanding Internship Program

Because learning and doing go hand-in-hand, faculty in the Health Services program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions have worked diligently to expand internship opportunities for students, providing them with a bridge between the academic setting and the work world.

In recent years, the Health Services program has required an internship course for junior and senior students specializing in gerontology, health administration, long-term care administration, public health and worksite wellness, and health promotion.

"I started at USI in January of 2009. That spring, I worked with about nine interns," said Kathy Weinzapfel, career coordinator at USI's Office of Career Services and Internships. "At that time, faculty were setting up individual experiences for interested students. Faculty realized how valuable these community experiences were but they simply didn't have time to teach courses and manage interns. Over the last four years we have fine-tuned the internship program to include over 100 intern experiences a year, with nearly 80 community partners in multiple states."

"Over the last four years we have fine-tuned the internship program to include over 100 intern experiences a year, with nearly 80 community partners in multiple states."

***— Kathy Weinzapfel,
Career Coordinator at USI***

"This is an opportunity for students to apply the theories and skill sets learned in the classroom to the real world of healthcare," said Dr. Ethel Elkins, assistant professor of Health Services.

"One of our Health Administration students recently did an internship at Perry County Hospital in Tell City. They were moving to their brand new facility, and this USI student was literally in step with the hospital's executive team, attending critical planning meetings on policy setting and security," Elkins said. "Our intern's major project was to meet with the security company and all department managers to determine who should have access to various departments and where the security points should be installed. It was a great experience for him. We have countless other stories of how health services internship opportunities have opened doors and led to rewarding careers in healthcare."

Weinzapfel said that Health Services curriculum also is evolving at the request of employers. For example, there will be a full semester course, Professionalism in Healthcare, which will be offered for the first time in spring 2016. "This professional development course has been created with input from the employers," said Weinzapfel. "We have surveyed internship preceptors for about six semesters to glean an understanding of the necessary skills and knowledge expected of the interns. The Health Services internship program is truly a University and community partnership."

About Health Services

The Bachelor of Science in Health Services program is consistently listed as one of the top majors USI students choose, according to the Office of Planning, Research and Assessment, with 374 declared majors at the beginning of the fall 2015 semester.

The Health Services degree is designed to provide educational opportunities for students interested in healthcare careers that do not require specialized clinical preparation. Also, this major is frequently chosen by individuals who have completed a health professions clinical program but wish to increase their knowledge and skills to effectively respond to the rapidly changing needs of the American healthcare delivery system.

Graduates of USI's Health Services program have been hired by WebMD, ProRehab, Trilogy, American Senior Communities, Spectrum Health, SWIRCA & More, Orthopaedic Associates, Home Instead Senior Care, Pollux Systems and many more employers, said Kathy Weinzapfel, career coordinator at USI's Office of Career Services and Internships.

"As students progress through the Health Services curriculum, they begin to learn more about the versatility of this degree, causing it to be so much more desirable to so many students, especially those who find themselves drawn to some form of healthcare," Weinzapfel said. "One employer said that the Health Services major's background in medical terminology and pharmacology—along with administration skills—made for a more comprehensive understanding of care and allowed the student to converse with medical personnel in their language. It was a peer-to-peer relationship."

MAIA

Rocks Attendance

with Blue Zones Speaker



Basil Thompson, 90-year-old Evansville resident, connected with keynote speaker Dan Buettner during the Mid-America Institute on Aging.

A packed house of 400-plus attendees at this summer's 8th Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging (MAIA) had the opportunity to hear one researcher's findings to the secret of a long and healthy life. *New York Times* best-selling author and *National Geographic* Fellow Dan Buettner traveled the world meeting centenarians who lived active lives with fewer diseases to discover their secrets of healthy longevity. Buettner said those living in the "Blue Zones" share common denominators, including a circle of friends, purposes in life, slow and steady activity, routine rest, spiritual practice, plant-based diets, moderate use of alcohol and strong family ties.

Teepa Snow returned to USI for the third straight year and presented a pre-conference workshop on dementia care for direct care providers from area long-term care settings. The two-day conference ended with another inspiring speaker, Eva Kor, a Holocaust survivor who spoke about how she emerged from her trauma-filled childhood to become a forgiveness advocate and champion of human rights.

The planning committee is already working on the curriculum for MAIA 2016, to be held August 11-12, 2016. For more information, visit USI.edu/MAIA.

Dedication Earns Radiology Clinical Instructor Mentor of the Year

Doris Allen, M.S. R.T. (R) (M), a hospital-supported clinical instructor for students enrolled in the USI Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Program, was named USI's "Mentor of the Year" as a result of her long dedication to students and their careers.

"Doris has long been viewed as a mentor and a professional of the highest quality by students and clinical instructors," said Dr. Ann White, dean of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions. "Her level of knowledge and expertise related to the field of radiology is a tremendous asset to our program. She promotes qualities of professionalism, compassion and honesty while holding students accountable for their actions."

Allen, educator and compliance officer for radiology at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana, is deeply invested in advancing USI's Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program. She participates in a number of committees that influence the future of USI's program, including monthly clinical faculty meetings, program admission

committee, program advisory committee and the program assessment committee.

"Through participation on these various committees, Doris impacts policy development and regulation throughout our program and provides suggestions and opportunities for improvement on an ongoing basis," White said. Allen also provides opportunities for students interested in the field of radiology to tour and job-shadow at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center and provides in-depth information to these students.

"As Doris has been affiliated with USI longer than any of our other current clinical instructors, she has had the chance to impact hundreds of students," said Heather Schmuck, clinical assistant professor of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. "Many students from our program continue to work alongside Doris as professional technologists. She continues to advise students and technologists about the profession and their careers, and I'm certain she will continue to demonstrate her dedication to the University of Southern Indiana for years to come."



(Left to right) Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, president of USI, and Doris Allen



Junior nursing student Alissa Kozlecar and classmates recite the White Coat Ceremony Oath, pledging to provide the highest quality patient care with caring and compassion. The candles are a nursing tradition connecting them to Florence Nightingale, who was known as the “Lady with the Lamp.”

First Nursing White Coat Ceremony

The University of Southern Indiana’s Nursing program is one of 60 schools of nursing nationwide selected to host a White Coat Ceremony. This ceremony, which emphasizes the importance of providing compassionate care, was funded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation (APGF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The event officially welcomed and initiated 132 junior nursing students this fall at USI.

“The white coat is symbolic of the practicing professional. Although White Coat Ceremonies have been conducted by medical schools for more than 20 years, this is only the second year that nursing programs across the country have held this event,” said Dr. Ann White, dean of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions. “This is an historic event for USI since it is the first-ever White Coat Ceremony for nursing students on this campus. We held this ceremony at the beginning of our academic year, prior to the students entering their first clinical course, to reinforce the importance of providing patient-centered care.”

During the White Coat Ceremony, which typically consists of the recitation of an oath and the cloaking of each student in a white coat, students were given a specially designed pin that serves as a visual reminder of their oath and commitment to providing high quality care. USI invited nursing executives from area hospitals—Deaconess Health System, St. Mary’s Health System and Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center—to speak on the importance of acute care.

“We are blessed to have excellent facilities in this region that exemplify the values of humanistic, compassionate patient care and improve patient outcomes,” said White. “Our students learn from the staff who model the role of the professional nurse. Without the support of our local hospitals, we could not graduate nurses who value and embed care in their work.”

Veterans' Mental Health Focus of Workshop

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in collaboration with the University of Southern Indiana and Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center, sponsored a Mental Health Summit and Workshop for both veterans and health professionals this summer to support the mental health needs of veterans and their families.

“Most military veterans and their dependents utilize at least some healthcare services outside of the Veterans

Administration, so it is critically important that the VA and community providers collaborate,” said Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center at USI. “Our goal is to provide veteran-centered, recovery-oriented care, especially in the area of mental health.”

The Mental Health Summit included a resource fair for veterans at the USI location, along with presentations by veterans on mental health recovery, women’s

recovery, and employment and education. A workshop for health professionals and veterans addressed issues of addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder and families.

This event also was simulcast via live stream at two locations: Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana, and Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

ACHIEVEMENTS Achievements Achievements

Faculty News



Cook



Schmuck

Joy Cook and **Heather Schmuck**, clinical assistant professors of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, each received Advancing Your Profession: Education and Professional Growth Grants from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Additionally, Schmuck was recognized by the Indiana Society

of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT) with the 2015 Outstanding Technologist Award, and also earned USI's 2015 College of Nursing and Health Professions Excellence in Teaching Award.

Both Cook and Schmuck were elected to new positions on the ISRT board of directors. Cook, immediate past president, is now a senior board member, and Schmuck was elected vice president of the board.



Kimberly M. Parsons, chair of Dental Assisting, has assumed the duties of chair for Dental Hygiene. She served as interim chair of Dental Hygiene following the retirement of Deborah Carl Wolf in Spring 2015.

She earned her dental hygiene degree from USI in 2001, and has been teaching in the program since 2009. She successfully defended her dissertation and will graduate in the fall of 2015 from Grand Canyon University with a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education Leadership.



Mary Rock, RN, JD, was selected by Indiana Governor Mike Pence to serve on the Indiana State Board of Nursing. Her four-year term began July 1, 2015. She is a clinical assistant professor of Nursing.



Dr. C. Elizabeth (Beth) Bonham, has been promoted to associate professor of Nursing and received tenure. Her clinical expertise as a psychiatric clinical nurse specialist

focuses on mental health issues of children and adolescents.



Dr. Roberta Hoebeke, professor of Nursing, was named the 2015 Alumni Service Award Winner for the Michigan State University College of Nursing for her work with those in need.

Faculty News



Dr. Serah Theuri, assistant professor of Food and Nutrition, gave a presentation titled "Addressing Chronic Disease Risk Factors Among Urban Low-income Adults," at the Euro Healthcare and Fitness Summit,

September 1-3, 2015, in Valencia, Spain.



Wes Phy, chair of Respiratory Therapy, received a master's degree in secondary education from USI. He has over 32 years of extensive experience in all areas of respiratory therapy, including education,

management, home care, pulmonary rehabilitation, cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary diagnostics, and adult and pediatric critical care.



Jennifer Bartek, clinical assistant professor of Dental Hygiene, is the 2015 recipient of the John M. Lawrence '73 Health Professions Faculty Member Award. She is in her 27th year of teaching in the College

of Nursing and Health Professions. The award is named in honor of John M. Lawrence '73, a generous benefactor of the College who also funds an annual award for nursing faculty.



Dawn M. Worman, instructor in Nursing, was selected by the 2015 senior nursing class to be the recipient of the 2015 Melissa Faye and John M. Lawrence Baccalaureate Faculty Teaching Award.

She also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Indiana League for Nursing. Worman is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at USI.



Sherry Dockery
Senior Administrative Assistant
Nursing



A. Jean Hunt
Instructor
Nursing



Lynne Melchior
Instructor
Nursing



Amanda Reddington
Clinical Assistant Professor
Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene

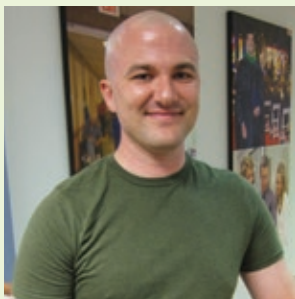


Dr. Angela Wooten
Assistant Professor
Nursing

ACHIEVEMENTS Achievements Achievements

Student News

HEALTH SERVICES STUDENTS GARNER AWARDS



Paul Fletcher, a Health Services major specializing in gerontology, received the USI Adult Learner Scholarship. This annual award recognizes adult learners' academic achievements and provides them with financial assistance while they complete an associate's or bachelor's degree. Fletcher's dedication to the field of

gerontology extends beyond the classroom.

He submitted one of his class research papers to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). It was accepted for presentation at AGHE's 42nd Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference in Long Beach, California, March 2016.

Fletcher plans to apply to USI's Occupational Therapy Program upon graduating with his undergraduate degree.



Batool Almania '15 of Saudi Arabia was named the 2015 Peace Ambassador by the USI Center for International Programs. The Peace Ambassador Award was created to recognize an outstanding international student whose actions and involvement in campus and community life have contributed to greater

cross-cultural awareness and to an increased understanding of the world, its peoples and traditions.

Almania, who earned a bachelor's degree in Health Services, was recognized for her academic excellence and for the impact she made on the community while serving as an intern at West River Health Campus, a continuing care retirement community. While completing her internship, her actions and words opened the doors of cultural exchange to over 250 staff members and residents at that facility.

Laura Campbell and Reagan

Phelps, both senior nursing students, were selected to participate in the Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity (VALOR) Program through the Veterans Administration (VA). The program provides students the opportunity to develop their clinical skills during a residency at a VA healthcare facility. Campbell interned at the Robley Rex VA Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, on a cardiac telemetry step-down unit, and Phelps gained experience in the emergency room at the Marion VA Medical Center in Marion, Illinois.

MacKenzi Dorsam '15, Health Services major and a USI senior second baseman, was named to the Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-America first team for softball and also USI's Female Student-Athlete of the Year. She's the fourth player in program history and the first since 2012 to earn Academic All-America honors.

Austin Peckham, a junior majoring in Food and Nutrition with a Nutrition and Wellness concentration, has published an e-book, *The Modern Guide to Flexible Dieting*, available on Kindle. "The health and wellness field is saturated with quick fixes, fad diets and numerous other ways to get fit and stay

healthy," he said. "The problem is that almost all of them are not sustainable as a lifestyle. In my book, I explain in detail the steps you need to take to develop a healthy lifestyle through a concept known as Flexible Dieting."

Sarah Shultz, BSN '06, MSN '07, and **Natalie Wilzbacher**, BSN '08, were selected through a competitive state-wide process as 2015 recipients of the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives (IONE) scholarship, awarded to students pursuing advanced degrees in nursing leadership. **Shultz** is a student in USI's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, and **Wilzbacher** is pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) at USI.

Several students in the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program who attended the annual conference for the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT) were recognized for outstanding accomplishments. **Jordan Jones**, **Scott Luke** and **Regan Grieger** won first place in the ISRT quiz bowl (19 teams from across the state competed). In the student essay contest, **Regan Grieger** won first place, **Mariah Gatewood** won second place and **Jordan Jones** won third place. **Mariah Gatewood** also received second place in the student scientific exhibit competition.

The ARRT of Credentialing

Ensuring the College of Nursing and Health Professions students and area professionals have access to courses necessary for certification, the College has taken preemptive action to become a provider of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' (ARRT) new certification requirements effective January 2016. The additional 16 hours of structured education apply to computer tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

"We submitted three advanced Radiologic and Imaging courses for approval by ARRT to meet the qualifications to be included in this structured education," said Joy Cook, clinical assistant professor and clinical coordinator for USI's Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program. "The three

courses were already eligible for 48 continuing education credits, for a total of 144."

Cook said the 16 hours of structured education are only needed by those technologists seeking advanced certification. "Because our courses are now also approved for the structured education, it demonstrates USI's commitment to helping radiologic technologists expand their expertise and continue to advance in their practice," she said.

USI offers a bachelor's degree program for new students interested in studying radiologic technology in addition to a bachelor's degree completion program for those currently employed as radiologic technologists.

For more information, visit USI.edu/health/radiologic-and-imaging-sciences.



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- Healing Touch Workshops, March 12-13
- 13th Annual Nursing Leadership, April 6
- 20th Annual Research and Healthcare Issues Conference, April 13
- 22nd Annual Midwest Care Coordination Conference, May 4
- 18th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 6
- 33rd Annual Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS), May 18-20
- 10th Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging, August 10-12
- 13th Pharmacology Update for Advanced Practice Nurses, September 30
- Dental Ethics and Legal Issues, October 1
- Healing Touch Workshops, October 15-16
- 21st Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference, October 19
- PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference, October 26

2016 Certificate Programs (online continuing education)

- Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks, begins January 11, March 14, May 16, July 25, October 10
- Case Management, six weeks, March 28, August 15
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- Diabetes Management, eight weeks, February 8, August 8
- Health Informatics, seven weeks, February 1, August 8
- Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, six weeks, January 18, September 12
- Heart Failure, five weeks, January 11, September 19
- Hypertension Management, five weeks, February 15, July 25
- Lipid Management, seven weeks, January 25, September 5
- Oncology Management, eight weeks, March 14, August 15
- Pain Management, six weeks, January 18, August 1
- Parish/Faith Community Nursing, four weeks, March 21, September 12
- Wound Management, six weeks, February 1, September 19

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