

University of
Southern Indiana

WINTER 2016

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions



**Evolving to meet
the needs of
the community**

Letter from the Dean



Earlier this year, I was recognized for reaching an important milestone: 25 years as an employee of the University of Southern Indiana. How did I get here?

It all started in 1990 when Dr. Nadine Coudret placed an ad in a nursing journal to recruit new faculty. My husband and I were living in West Virginia, so the idea of moving to a place between my family in Iowa and his family in West Virginia appealed to us. At the time, I was working as a nurse administrator in a hospital, so it was a bit of a jump for me when I was hired as a university instructor in nursing. I thought it was just a temporary assignment—five years, tops, and then I'd move on to something else. Was I wrong!

Teaching and being a part of this University has definitely had an effect on me, and it's the reason I've stayed and moved up the ranks to my current role as dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Each year brings changes, and as you can see in this issue of *Synapse*, things are continuing to evolve as we focus more on technology in the classroom, health informatics and new ways to deliver degree programs, including online and accelerated options.

The current trend is to focus on interprofessional education and practice. Inside this issue are examples of how our students work in health care teams at area hospitals and health clinics, gaining valuable experience and impacting patient care. My hope for the future of the College of Nursing and Health Professions is that we continue to incorporate innovative teaching and learning strategies both in the classroom and out in the community.

When I was a nursing student, I had no idea that I would ever teach, much less lead a college. I've been fortunate to work with a wonderful group of faculty and staff who are committed to excellence in learning. Plus, every day I'm inspired by our students who work hard to meet the high expectations of our programs.

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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CONTENTS

Changing the Course of Patients' Wellbeing	2
Tragedy Inspires Passion for Nursing	3
From Grocery to Gerontology	5
Grant Funding Improves Health Care Delivery in Rural and Underserved Areas	7
Game Deepens Core Competencies	10
Faculty and Staff News	13
Alumni News	16

CHANGING THE COURSE OF PATIENTS' WELLBEING

It's a dilemma all too common in health care today. A patient with several health issues—such as type 2 diabetes and an amputation—is unable to work. They live alone in their own home, but are away from their family, so there's no one to regularly check in on them or monitor their medications. These patients often fall through the cracks; and, if left unattended, their health will begin to deteriorate, resulting in an emergency situation or hospital re-admission. But, with the intervention of a team of students from three different College of Nursing and Health Professions' departments and students from the College of Liberal Arts' Social Work department, working together, these patients' lives can be greatly improved.

Dr. Jennifer Evans, one of the USI faculty coaches for the USI Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Model, said cases of patients with type 2 diabetes are one of many situations USI students encounter during their clinical experiences. The students recently met one such patient in a local health clinic, and later at his home to conduct a health assessment.

"During the home visit, our clinic's nurse practitioner and undergraduate nursing students took his vitals, and found he was very hypertensive," said Evans. "In addition," she said, "they determined he was taking the wrong dose of insulin—which was prescribed after a recent hospitalization. This could be why his diabetes was not well controlled."

While the nursing students were waiting for his blood pressure to come down, the dietetic students evaluated the food he had available and discussed with him some better choices to help manage his high blood pressure and diabetes. Next, an occupational therapy assistant student discussed with the patient the importance of inspecting



(Left to right) Henrietta and Larry Happe work with nursing student Brandon Penning at USI's Community Health Center at Glenwood Leadership Academy in spring 2016.

his feet daily, and designed a special mirror for monitoring an ulcer developing on the bottom of his foot, as well as bathroom safety techniques. Afterwards, students from each discipline communicated their findings to the clinic nurse practitioner, who scheduled him for a follow-up visit in the clinic and instructed him on the correct amount of insulin to take.

The social worker students were part of the team as well. "They spoke with the patient about public transportation, as this was a limiting factor for him. He was working on getting a disability van, but had not been able to do that," Evans said. "They talked with him about how he was handling being away from his family—his support system—and his overall emotional wellbeing."

Evans said this clinical experience allowed the students to see first-hand how a team of professionals could work collaboratively toward the common goal of improving a patient's health and wellbeing. "The students were confident after reporting their findings to the nurse that they had a direct impact on his care and had deterred him from experiencing further complications," she said. "They felt like they had truly made a difference." The visit most likely changed the course of this patient's wellbeing. He was very hypertensive and may have ended up hospitalized if he didn't see a primary care provider to evaluate his medications."

Collaborative Initiative Earns Prestigious Nexus Award

In their classes, College of Nursing and Health Professions students often discuss textbook case scenarios and the myriad ways different health care disciplines can work together to impact patient care. Now, as part of a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, students from different majors (Nursing, Dietetics, Social Work and Occupational Therapy Assistant) are collaborating outside of the classroom to care for real patients as part of an initiative, titled USI Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Model, that began in 2014.

"The goal is to teach students from different disciplines how to practice collaboratively as effective members of health care teams, while improving health care delivery," said Dr. Ryan Butler, project coordinator/data manager. "Upon completion of each semester, we found our students showed significant improvements in communication, leadership, roles and responsibilities, coordination of care and decision making."

Teaching students to use this type of unique team-based approach to patient care resulted in USI receiving the first-ever Nexus Award from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (NCIPE). The award recognizes interprofessional approaches that connect higher education and health care with goals to transform care delivery, improve health outcomes and decrease costs. According to the NCIPE, USI distinguished itself by engaging multiple professional disciplines in urban and rural underserved practice environments to foster better access to health care in Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois.

Interprofessional team members include USI nursing and health profession students, USI social work students, faculty clinical coaches, practice professionals at the USI Community Health Centers and Veterans Administration Medical Center Community-Based Outpatient Centers. The work provides teams of students, under guidance of faculty and clinicians, opportunities for culturally sensitive learning experiences. Students participate in the continuum of primary care, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, surveillance, health communications and disease management.

TRAGEDY INSPIRES PASSION FOR NURSING

Shelby Sonnega's life took a dramatic turn when her mother was diagnosed with a terminal illness, but the path they traveled together during her illness led to Sonnega's interest in a nursing career. "The nurses inspired me," said the senior nursing major from Martinsville, Indiana. "I just wanted to be able to impact people's lives like they touched mine."



Her passion led her to Ghana, Africa, in May, where she worked at a medical clinic and developed a wound-dressing program at a local primary school. "Children work on the farm prior to school in the mornings and many of them have large, infected wounds from hoe and machete injuries," said Sonnega, who was there as a volunteer with International Volunteer HQ. "Most people couldn't afford the cleaning or bandage products for the wounds or there was a lack of knowledge on how to take care of wounds." Sonnega helped teach basic hygiene, such as hand washing and malaria prevention, and administered vaccinations at the school.

"I learned so much. The biggest obstacle I encountered was how to work with limited supplies yet a high demand," Sonnega said. "I learned to make the best out of not much. Also, when providing education to the

community, I had to find ways they could continue [doing what I taught them] even after I left or when the supply runs out."

Lack of supplies wasn't the only challenge Sonnega faced. "In America, we can look up medications, diseases, skin rashes, etc. so easily," she said. "In my village there was no Internet, so I would have to travel three to four hours to be able to access any online information. Another problem is minimal access to clean water. People bathe, drink and do laundry in the local river. I was able to buy pure water for myself to drink, but for many of the locals, this isn't an option due to the cost."

Despite the hurdles, Sonnega plans to return to Africa to continue her work. "I loved it so much, and the people appreciate any help, so I am returning for the entire Christmas break," she said. "I'm currently in the process of joining the Peace Corps of America; my goal is to travel back to Africa and work in a HIV/AIDS clinic [after graduation]."

In addition, Sonnega was elected to serve on the 2016-17 board for the Indiana Association of Nursing Students. She sits on the Nomination and Election committees and also is helping plan the yearly state convention for nursing students.



TEAMING NURSING AND DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS IMPROVES PATIENT OUTCOMES

USI nursing and dental hygiene students have been working side-by-side on the Dedication Education Units (DEU) at both Deaconess and St. Mary's hospitals in Evansville, conducting oral assessments, providing oral care and oral health education for acute care patients on the DEUs.

Grouped into pairs, the nursing students provide a patient report to the dental hygiene students that includes admitting diagnosis, all of the patient's current medications and any special accommodations that will need to be taken into account while providing

care. Together, the nursing and dental hygiene students develop a patient-centered oral health care plan that includes individualized patient considerations,

such as medications that produce oral side effects, lab values that indicate an increased risk of gum bleeding, and current medical treatments that can impact oral health, such as chemotherapy.

Next, the students perform an oral health assessment on the patient, provide daily oral care and review with the patients oral health care recommendations. When necessary, medical consults are requested and the patient is given a referral for oral care needs to be addressed upon hospital discharge.

The presence of dental hygiene students and faculty on the units has enhanced nursing practice and improved patient outcomes. Due to this collaborative educational approach, students and medical staff have diagnosed xerostomia, oral fungal and bacterial infections, and have helped to educate patients and staff on the importance of routine oral cancer screenings. This partnership has resulted in the DEUs stocking different evidence-based oral care products.



Collaboration Provides Win/Win Research Opportunity

USI's Master of Health Administration 4+1 students in Dr. Erin Reynolds' epidemiology class have had a lot on their minds lately, including adolescent injuries, immigrant health needs and the impact of sexually transmitted diseases on local pregnant women.

However, they're not just talking about these public health topics in the classroom. Instead, they're working with representatives from the Vanderburgh County Health Department to research each of these areas with

the hope their projects will be implemented to collect data, create awareness and possibly secure grant funding for solutions.

Reynolds said her class project with Dr. Ken Spear, chief medical officer, and other local health officials is one of many collaborations USI has with the Vanderburgh County Health Department. "Our students get to network and work one-on-one with professionals in the health care field, and they gain experience designing proposals which could be used for grants," she said. "Plus, they learn how to work as a member of a team, which is valuable for whatever health care career they pursue."

Spear feels it is a win/win situation. "As we work to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accrediting Board (PHAB), these academic relationships are invaluable. Not only do we have the opportunity to teach, we also learn from these interactions," he said. "Our hope is to be designated an Academic Health Department due to these

relationships. Research and real data are necessary to approach the goal of easily accessible preventive health measures. We are fortunate to have so many students seeking to work with us."

This is the second year Reynolds has



Dr. Erin Reynold (left) meets with students.

taken her MHA 4+1 class to the Vanderburgh County Health Department. This year's class of 10 students has been split into three groups who toured the Health Department and listened to presentations before

each group chose a topic based on the department's current needs.

Students researching injury prevention will focus on the areas where most adolescents are injured: texting while driving, ATV accidents and guns. Another group is investigating the local population of Marshall Islands immigrants and the cultural differences which are often barriers to health care. The third group is studying sexually transmitted diseases and the issues these diseases cause during pregnancy, such as this area's high infant mortality rate.

"By the end of the semester, the students will present their 10-page proposals, including the logistics for collecting data, to the Vanderburgh County Health Department," said Reynolds. "The idea is that they take their proposals a step further and actually implement a project to collect data that could be useful for securing grant funding or creating awareness of a public health issue."

USI's Master of Health Administration 4+1 program allows current USI undergraduate students of any discipline the opportunity to earn both the bachelor's degree and the MHA degree in five years.

ENHANCING LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Imagine a classroom where students are encouraged to write on the walls, rearrange the furniture and use smart phones. There's no front or back to the room—instead, the professor walks around constantly between students' seats, using a tablet to project photos and graphics onto a white wall. The white wall has been transformed into a giant touchscreen, and students are invited to come forward and draw directly on it with their fingertips. The room's WiFi is boosted to ensure students have Internet access for their electronic devices to research interesting ideas and best practices in the subject area, and share their findings with the class via smart TVs and interactive projectors.

This "smart room" is not in the future, but is a new reality in USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions. Over the past year, the college has retrofitted six of its classrooms. Dr. Kevin Valadares, associate professor of Health Services, said the first "smart room" he helped design in the Health Professions Center replaced a large room with a curtain divider, 64 traditional desks and a whiteboard on the back wall that hadn't been used since the building opened in 1994. The college used a donation from Dr. Victor V. Schriefer, Jr. to transform the room into "The Schriefer

Interactive Classroom." It's now one of the most sought after areas for not only classes, but also meetings and workshops, because of the ease in configuring furniture and technology, including the flexibility to use health care apps and video conferencing.

"Traditional classrooms are typically designed for passive learning. Students sit in desks—in straight rows facing the front—taking notes during a lecture or watching a PowerPoint," Valadares said. "Our smart rooms allow students to be engaged, be creative and brainstorm in the classroom. It's the same philosophy that works in elementary school: students learn better when they can move and are comfortable. We are discovering this works with college students, too."

The most noticeable change in the new, interactive rooms is the furniture. Seating is both mobile and flexible, unlike traditional classroom school desks. Tables and chairs



Dr. Victor Schriefer, Jr., erases part of the USI logo projected on the white wall on a visit to the interactive classroom named in his honor.

roll easily, and some styles have built in drink holders, hooks for portable whiteboards, and a place to stash books and backpacks.

The College is now implementing this concept in various other areas throughout the building, including labs for diagnostic medical sonography, radiologic and imaging sciences, respiratory therapy and occupational therapy.

FROM GROCERY TO GERONTOLOGY

When Paul Fletcher '16 first began his studies at the University of Southern Indiana, he was unsure of what career to pursue. There were a few starts and stops along the way for this non-traditional student. Fletcher was 36 years old and working in grocery store management when he decided to register for a course taught by Dr. Katie Ehlman, associate professor of gerontology.

"When I started at USI, I didn't know what I wanted to do, but after I took this gerontology class, I just knew this was something that spoke to me," he said. "I've always been drawn to the older population, and I was interested in learning more. After a few more classes, I was sold."

Fletcher graduated from USI with a bachelor's degree in health services with a specialization in gerontology. He has been accepted into the USI Occupational Therapy (OT) Program, and after graduate school, plans to work in long-term care as an Occupational Therapist.

Ehlman said Fletcher is "easily in the top one percent of students" she has encountered at USI. "He has been an outstanding student with a near perfect GPA," she said. "It has been a real pleasure for me to watch him take the jump from his grocery position to working in

long-term care while in school. He has a true passion for enhancing quality of life for elders."

During the Fall 2014 semester, Fletcher wrote a 10-page literature review for one of his gerontology courses on the topic life enrichment for long-term care residents. Going beyond the class requirements, he continued to work on his paper in order to submit it for a national student paper award sponsored by Sigma Phi Omega (SPO), the National Gerontology Honor Society. Not only was his paper accepted for presentation at the National Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) meeting in Long Beach, California, in early March 2016, but he was selected as the winner of the 2016 SPO President's Paper Award.

"It was an honor to have the opportunity to present my literature review at the AGHE conference in Long Beach," said Fletcher. "This was my first presentation at a conference, and it was a truly wonderful learning experience."

Fletcher also was recognized for his dedication to learning and excellent work ethic in 2015, when he was awarded one of the competitive USI Adult Learning Scholarships.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Making Music with SWIRCA Seniors



After nursing students finished their clinical at SWIRCA & More (a nonprofit agency that enhances opportunities for area seniors to live independently), the nursing students and SWIRCA seniors formed a kazoo band.

Cooking Up Peak Performances

Inspired by an article she read in a professional journal, Beth Young, instructor in the Food and Nutrition program, enlisted the help of three of the College of Nursing and Health Professions' dietetic majors and the USI Athletics Department to create a cookbook that provides USI's athletes with a credible source of sports nutrition information. Young said the article, about a Division I college creating a nutritional program for their athletes, pointed out that freshman and sophomore athletes don't know how to shop or prepare meals so they often choose to eat fast foods which negatively impacts their performances. That Division I college created cooking classes led by food and nutrition students to help their student athletes. "I decided we could take it a step further," she said. Now, USI's collaborative team has not only created a cookbook that provides sports

nutrition information for USI's student athletes, but they've developed a recruitment tool and community outreach product.

The book educates student athletes on cooking basics and sports nutrition, such as food safety and meal planning, as well as tips on travel nutrition. The recipes, submitted by athletes, coaches and dietetic students, are easy to follow and coded to indicate if they meet pre-, post- or during workout nutritional needs, or if they're simply a fan favorite.

"We collected recipes from our student athletes, nutrition students and coaches,"



Young said. "My interns then worked with me to provide the nutritional analysis of each recipe."

The project was funded by both a student Endeavor! grant and faculty Majors at Home grant that paid for printing and distributed the cookbook to every USI athlete, as well as to high school athletic departments within Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. "The cookbook not only provides them with sound nutrition information," Young said, "but it's a recruitment effort to get some of the area athletes to come to the University and be part of our program."

Grant Funding Improves Health Care Delivery in Rural and Underserved Areas

The University of Southern Indiana's College of Nursing and Health Professions has been awarded more than \$2 million in competitive federal funding that will ultimately improve health care delivery in rural and underserved areas, especially in the area of mental health services.

USI received two new grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: a \$1.7 million grant to implement the Primary Care/Mental Health Integrated (PCMH) Model and a \$350,000 grant to fund a traineeship program for USI students pursuing advanced degrees in nursing focusing on primary care.

The \$1.7 million grant will be implemented over three years, and is one of only 18 such grants awarded in the United States during this grant cycle. It will be used to integrate primary care and mental health services in southwestern Indiana, southeastern Illinois and northern Kentucky.

"The timing couldn't be better, because the same week we learned of this grant, it was announced that behavioral/mental health was identified by the 2016

Community Health Needs Assessment as one of four priority areas in both Vanderburgh and Warrick counties," said Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "It will take collaboration in our community to move the needle on mental health outcomes, so USI is pleased to contribute to this initiative."

The project will address the critical need for high-quality, integrated primary care/mental health practitioners in the region. "This model will incorporate graduate-level nurse practitioner students, graduate-level social work students and a registered pharmacist working in interprofessional practice teams," White said. "Team members will collaborate within the model through interventions and preventive care planning in various care settings, with the goal of increasing the number of primary care sites that provide mental health care onsite or by referral."

An additional HRSA grant will fund the USI Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program, which will assist up to 60 students in their final year of the Masters of Science in Nursing and Post-Masters Certificate programs to graduate

on time with less debt by providing scholarships for tuition, fees and books. "This program will target three nurse practitioner specialties: Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner," said Dr. Mellisa Hall, chair of USI's graduate nursing programs. "Priority will be given to diverse students who plan to work in rural and underserved areas, because the goal of this traineeship program is to increase the number of advanced practice nurses for these communities." She said, by providing financial support to these students, they can better concentrate on their studies and complete the required clinical hours for on-time degree completion.

HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health and achieving health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative programs. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable.

MAIA

Aging Conference's New Name Broadens Scope

The Mid-America Institute on Aging (MAIA) conference has a new name, one that better reflects the scope of the event. Co-sponsored by SWIRCA & More, the conference was officially renamed the Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness this year, its ninth year. "From the start, we wanted the MAIA conference to be upbeat . . . to focus on aging in an optimistic way with an appeal to people of all ages," said Dr. Katie Ehlman, director of the USI Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness. "Over the years, we have offered a variety of concurrent session topics, but the ones that always seem to be the most popular have to do with wellness, such as nutrition, holistic medicine and exercise, so we decided to have the conference name reflect this."

This year's conference included Dr. Michael Greger, best-selling author of *How Not to Die: Discover the Foods Scientifically Proven*

Prevent and Reverse Disease, opened the conference with a presentation explaining the role diet and other lifestyle interventions have on quality of life as people age. Additionally, journalist Greg O'Brien talked about being diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2009 at age 59; Linda Briggs spoke on advance care planning; and The Fun Conspiracy, two certified life coaches, reminded the MAIA audience that it's important to be creative and play every day.

Teepa Snow is returning to USI in 2017 to lead a MAIA pre-conference workshop on August 9 for direct care providers who work with people living with dementia. More information at www.USI.edu/maia.

Students Engaged in Advocacy while Participating in Fieldwork Experience

Two students in USI's Occupational Therapy Program witnessed political advocacy in action while working at a Louisiana health care facility during the recent election season. During the Fall 2016 semester, Megan Welder and Kyle Courtney were placed at The Fontana Center in Lafayette, Louisiana, as part of the Level 1A fieldwork experience required for their master's degree. The pair was invited to an event in Louisiana, where they met Dr. Charles Boustany, who was running for the U.S. Senate seat in that state.

Both students were able to network with Boustany and others at the event, including Paul Fontana owner of The Fontana Center,

who presented Boustany with a contribution from AOTPAC. AOTPAC is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan, unincorporated committee of members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Its purpose is to further the legislative aims of the association by influencing or attempting to influence the selection, nomination, election or appointment of individuals to federal public office, and of any occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, or occupational therapy student member of AOTA seeking election to public office at any level.



(Left to right) Madeline Lenker, OT student from Creighton University, Paul Fontana, Representative Charles Boustany, Danielle Keyser, president of the Louisiana OT Association, and Kyle Courtney and Megan Welder, both OT students at USI.

Learning Extends into New County



USI extended its reach into Dubois County in January 2016 when 11 leaders from Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana, formed a new distance-learning cohort in the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program.

"This has been an exciting pilot program to take the MHA program on the road to Jasper," said Dr. Kevin Valadares, chair of Health Administration in the College of Nursing in Health Professions. "The program is primarily delivered online with seven-week courses. USI faculty go to Jasper at the beginning and end of each course for two-hour meetings with the cohort. All course content is tailored and applied through examples at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center."

Valadares said the MHA's Jasper cohort is made up of hospital directors and managers—both clinical and non-clinical. The cohort will graduate in December 2017.

Train the Trainers Dementia Pilot Program



The University of Southern Indiana's Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness has received a \$75,000 grant from the Indiana State Department of Health to fund dementia care training for nursing home staff members in southwest Indiana. The 18-month program will follow Teepa Snow's Positive Approach™ to Care (PAC) training model, with a purpose to improve the quality of life among people living with dementia.

Housed in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, the USI Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness has been under the direction of Dr. Katie Ehlman, associate professor of gerontology, since its inception in 2008. She said the PAC training teaches area caregivers how to "live in relationship with a changing brain."

"Teepa's training goes beyond the facts about dementia and focuses on skill building, coaching and training," she said. "Her relational approach and hands-on skill techniques offer the interpersonal skills needed to improve quality of life for everyone involved."

Snow, an occupational therapist from North Carolina, has been a presenter during the annual Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness at USI for the past three years.

"This pilot effort is one of the first of its kind across the nation and will serve as a model for other university-to-community translations," said Snow. "Using this grant provided by the state of Indiana, we will collaborate with teams from local facilities to transfer the awareness, knowledge and skill needed to transform the culture of dementia care. This program, along with all the other efforts in progress, has the potential to make Evansville and the surrounding areas one of America's first dementia competent areas for support and care of those who live with the condition, their families and those who serve them."

Snow's unique model is a "train-the-trainer" program. In the 12-month period following the PAC training at USI, a PAC-certified "coach" and "trainer" from each participating nursing home will conduct a series of in-services for other staff members on a variety of topics related to dementia, including right and left brain, normal and not normal aging, positive approach, changing habits, challenging behaviors and caring for the caregiver.

Teepa Snow's PAC program included two full days of instruction at USI on August 18 and 19, 2016, workshop lesson plans,

and three hours of telephone support and training review from Snow's staff after the training. Prior to the two-day onsite training, participants were required to complete eight hours of online video education and testing. USI will offer ongoing support and resources to help trainers and coaches work with staff in their respective nursing homes.

"Funding for this program trains 24 expert dementia trainers and coaches, two from 12 participating nursing homes," said Ehlman. "Through this train-the-trainer model, 360 nursing home staff members will go through the training series, potentially impacting 1,000 nursing home residents in southwest Indiana."

For more information about the PAC training or other programs related to the needs of elders, contact Katie Ehlman at 812-228-5123 or email mehlman@usi.edu.

HRSA is the primary federal agency for improving health and achieving health equity through access to quality services, a skilled health workforce and innovative programs. HRSA's programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically vulnerable.

Game Deepens Core Competencies



USI students play Core Comp Stomp, a board game to learn more about interprofessional teamwork.

Preparing health professions students to work collaboratively in interprofessional teams is challenging when integrating across disciplines and curricula, but recent efforts by USI faculty have garnered two awards in this area. The Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) recognized USI during its annual conference at Grand Valley State University in September 2016.

MIPERC's Outstanding Demonstration Model Award was awarded to Dr. Connie Swenty, Dr. Ryan Butler, Dr. Jennifer Evans, Dr. Gina Schaar (all Nursing faculty) and Jody Delp (Respiratory Therapy faculty) for their work with an interprofessional care model involving interdisciplinary student teams that interact with patients selected from the USI Community Health Care Clinics and the Veterans Administration Clinic. The faculty members are part of USI's Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) Team.

MIPERC also named Dr. Mary Kay Arvin and Heather Schmuck recipients of the 2016 Outstanding Faculty Award for their board game, Core Comp Stomp, which teaches students to work together as an interprofessional team.

Dr. Arvin, clinical assistant professor and chair of the USI Occupational Therapy Assistant program, and Schmuck, clinical assistant professor

of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, piloted the board game, Core Comp Stomp, in early 2016. Their game expands on a previous game they developed, IPE Challenge, and it incorporates all four of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) core competency domains (Roles & Responsibilities, Values & Ethics, Interprofessional Communication and Teams & Teamwork).

The objective of Core Comp Stomp is for health professions students to learn the IPEC core competencies in collaborative, interesting ways. The use of reference materials is encouraged, which further supports knowledge acquisition and engagement. Students are better prepared to work in team-based care when they understand these core competencies.

The game was used this fall in the College of Nursing and Health Professions' first-year experience course and with teams working on an NEPQR grant project.

Dr. Arvin and Schmuck also are members of the College's IPE committee, and they have both been trained in TeamSTEPS®. Their engaging board game demonstrates their passion for interprofessional collaborative practice and education, as well as student learning.



From left, Dr. Gina Schaar, Dr. Connie Swenty, Dr. Jennifer Evans, Jody Delp and Dr. Ryan Butler proudly display the NEPQR team's award from MIPERC.

Interprofessional Project Nets Winning Website



Students from the College of Nursing and Health Professions at the University of Southern Indiana were major contributors to an award-winning project at the intercollegiate annual Information Systems Project and Case Competition, held in April at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. This interprofessional project, which involved students from USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions, Romain College of Business and College of Liberal Arts, led to the development of a health promotion simulation web tool for home-based caregivers.

The USI team received two awards: first runner-up in project presentation and second runner-up in case solution. There were 13 teams from six universities participating. Over the course of the semester, the students worked collaboratively to design the "Care4Me" website application.

Students studying computer science and computer information systems developed the technology used in implementing the application. Graphic design students completed the overall design of visuals used on the website. Occupational therapy and health services students assumed the role of health care consultants and consumers, providing input on content relating to home-based caregiving.

Each year, college students from across Indiana are invited to present and showcase their information system



Army Provides Experiential Learning for Students

USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions and Veteran Military and Family Resource Center collaborated to bring a new type of experiential learning to USI students and community health care providers.

The U.S. Army Medical Department from Fort Knox, Kentucky, set up Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelters, (D.R.A.S.H.), by placing mobile surgical tents on the Health Professions Center lawn where students could tour, meet with Army personnel and ask in-depth questions in their field of study.

This hands-on experience gave students valuable knowledge from

soldiers that perform in their areas of occupational specialty. "This is a unique opportunity for our underclassmen to experience their intended occupation, to determine if this is the field they want to pursue, or to experience other fields that might be a better fit," said Joel Matherly, manager of the Veteran Military and Family Resource Center. "Students often ask about scholarships to pay for medical school through the military. This event opened up opportunities for USI students to compete for scholarships through the U.S. Army Medical Command."

projects, as well as participate in a live case analysis at the Information Systems Project and Case Competition.

Health services students involved with the "Care4Me" project were Eduardo Peixoto and Carlos Caballero; occupational therapy students were Kyle Courtney, Caitlin Churchill, Christian Ely, Michelle Erdman, Katherine Wagner and Jordan Schutz.

Mentors included Dr. Swateja Nimkar, assistant professor of health services, and Dr. Tom Litney, assistant professor of occupational therapy and other USI faculty from the Romain College of Business and College of Liberal Arts.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Faculty and Staff News



Mary Ann Allen was hired as a coordinator for the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning.



Rohn Butterfield, instructor, retired after teaching Master of Health Administration and Health Services courses for 18 years.



Amy (Schneider) Egli, instructor in Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene, earned her Master of Health Administration degree.



G. Michael Barton was hired as a contract instructor for the Master of Health Administration program.



Dr. Charlotte Connerton earned her doctorate degree in education with a focus on ethical leadership and was promoted to assistant professor of Nursing.



Claudine Fairchild was promoted to clinical associate professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.



Angela Bledsoe was hired as an administrative assistant for the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning.



Joy Cook was promoted to clinical associate professor of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences.



Joy Fein was promoted to senior administrative assistant of Health Services.



Dr. Ryan Butler, grant project coordinator/data manager, was hired as an assistant professor of Nursing.



Jody Delp earned her master's degree and was promoted to clinical assistant professor of Respiratory Therapy.



Mike Fetscher, coordinator of instructional broadcast, received his FAA Part 107 Certification to operate small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS). This will allow him to

support the University with promotional footage, building inspections, roof inspections, and area surveying.

Faculty and Staff News



Peggy Graul, coordinator of continuing education, retired after 20 years of service at USL.



Dr. Thomas Litney, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, was recently selected as commander of the 305th Minimal Care Detachment with the Army Reserves in Joplin, Missouri, during an official change of command ceremony



Wes Phy, chair of Respiratory Therapy, earned his master's degree and was promoted to clinical assistant professor.



Dr. Richard Hobbs, assistant professor of Occupational Therapy, was named interim chair of the Occupational Therapy program for the spring 2017 semester.

held on May 22, 2016. He was recently promoted to the rank of major and has 17 years of combined Army active duty and reserve service.



Dr. Julie McCullough, chair of Food and Nutrition, was named assistant dean for Health Professions.



Dr. Mary Rock was promoted to clinical associate professor of Nursing.



Dr. Elizabeth Kalb was hired as a project coordinator for the Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) grant.



Julie Morgan was hired as an instructor in the Respiratory Therapy program.



Dr. Gina Schaar, assistant professor of Nursing, was named chair of the Undergraduate Nursing program.



Dr. Janet Kilbane was named assistant professor emerita of Occupational Therapy. After a sabbatical during the spring 2017 semester, she will retire with 22 years of service.



Katherine Peak, instructor in Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, was elected to the position of vice-president for the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT)

during the group's annual conference in October 2016.



Heather Schmuck, clinical assistant professor of Radiologic and Imaging sciences, was accepted the position of president of the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists for 2016-2017 during the

group's annual conference in October 2016.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

Faculty and Staff News



Dr. Susan Seibert, clinical assistant professor of Nursing, earned her doctor of nursing practice degree.



Dr. Serah Theuri was promoted to associate professor of Food and Nutrition and received tenure.



Dr. Phonesia Wells was hired as an assistant professor of Health Services.



Dr. M. Jane Swartz was named director of the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning.



Beth Thompson was named director of Instructional Resources and Simulation.



Amy Wilson was promoted to clinical associate professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.



Dr. Connie Swenty, assistant professor of Nursing, was named director of Nursing.



Cathy Wellmeier was hired as a senior administrative assistant in the USI Dental Hygiene Clinic.



Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson was promoted to associate professor of Health Services/Health Administration and received tenure.

Student News



Claire Ford, a senior food and nutrition major with a concentration in dietetics, was recognized as the 2015 Student Volunteer of the Year at USI's Volunteer Recognition Dinner in August. While the Dietetics Program encourages volunteer work, Ford goes above and beyond to seek out her own opportunities throughout the community. "Claire actively seeks out ways to be involved in a variety of populations and roles," said Beth Young, instructor in food and nutrition. "She has a natural passion for volunteer and community work."

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Ford has left her mark on the Evansville community. "She is a strong role model to the youth in the Tri-state area and as an ambassador for USI," said Young. With a passion aimed at advocating for food and nutrition, especially among children, Ford volunteers for the Food and Nutrition Student Organization, the Evansville WIC Clinic, Interprofessional Health Education for Veteran Affairs and serves as the activities director and president of College Mentor for Kids.



USI student **Brittney Ulanowski**, a Radiologic and Imaging Sciences major, won first place for her exhibit, "Radiation in Space," during the annual conference for the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT) in October. Brittney also completed her term as a student intern and elected to join the Advertising Committee for the ISRT. Another Radiologic and Imaging Sciences student, **Stephanie Robles**, began her term as a student intern and was appointed chair of the Nominations Committee.



Nicole Schmitt of Evansville received the Patrick E. Doyle Memorial Scholarship from the Indiana Society for Respiratory Care. There were approximately 25 applicants from around the state. She will graduate from USI in August of 2017 with a degree in Respiratory Therapy.



USI Nursing student **Katie Upton** received the Spirit of the Eagle Award from the USI Student Government Association during the spring honors banquet. The Jasper, Indiana native graduated April 30, 2016, with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. The award recognizes Upton's many contributions to the campus during her time at USI. She piloted a tutoring program for undergraduate nursing and also served in the program as a tutor. She also participated in other activities such as USI Association of Nursing Students, Newman Catholic

Community, AMIGO orientation staff, Welcome Week Leader, Activities Programming Board, Emerging Leaders mentoring program, nursing class representative and Student Housing Association.

ALUMNI HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NURSING PROFESSION



USI Nursing Alumni Society co-presidents Jordan Morrison and Justin Blinn with award recipients Angela Stroud of Deaconess Hospital, and Lilly Cassel

Two nursing alumni have received the 2016 USI Distinguished Nursing Award from the USI Nursing Alumni Association for their outstanding leadership roles and contribution to the nursing profession. They were honored for helping launch a new clinical education model, the Dedicated Education Unit (DEU). “These two distinguished alumni modeled authentic, transformational leadership through partnering with their *alma mater* to improve patient care on their units and provide optimal clinical education environments for USI students,” said Jordan Morrison, co-president of the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

Recipients of the 2016 USI Distinguished Nursing Award are **Angela Stroud** of Deaconess Hospital, Evansville, and **Lilly Cassel** of St. Mary’s Medical Center, Evansville.

Angela Stroud ’12 M’16, a licensed registered nurse since 1989, is department manager of Deaconess’ Oncology Pulmonary Care Center, Outpatient Infusion Center, Chancellor Center Infusion Center and Downtown Clinic Infusion Center.

Lilly Cassel ’10 is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in nursing program and is director of St. Mary’s Medical Center’s Renal/Diabetic Department and Acute Dialysis Department.

Carol Peyton Bryant, DNP, RN, CNP, CCRN, is supervisor of advanced practitioners for the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology for Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Bryant said the Doctor of Nurse Practice degree she received at USI prepared her to help in developing the strategic plans for Mayo’s new cancer center with a proton beam, which opened in February 2016. Prior to accepting the position at Mayo in 2015, she served as Nurse Practitioner Director at St. Mary’s Medical Center, Evansville.

Dr. Gina Woody DNP’12, clinical associate professor of nursing at East Carolina University, was inducted into the East Carolina University Nursing Hall of Fame in April 2016. She is director for the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership,

which promotes leadership, research and service initiatives in the College of Nursing for students, faculty and nurse leaders.

Elise Schutt ’06 M’10 was featured on the “Fresh Faces” page in the August 2016 issue of *Evansville Business Journal*. She’s a family nurse practitioner and part owner of Plaza Park Family Practice, Evansville. She has served on the board of the Coalition of Advance Practice Nurses of Indiana, a group that lobbies for nurse practitioner rights.

Jennifer Huston ’00 M’06 was named chief nursing officer at Lake Wales Medical Center in Lake Wales, Florida. Prior to this position, Huston served as vice-president of nursing at Davies Community Hospital. During her career, she has worked at not-for-profit and

for-profit hospitals and health care systems, serving in roles that have included staff nurse, orthopedic coordinator and surgical services director.

Morgan Stasik ’16, a food and nutrition major with a concentration in dietetics, was selected Youth Service America as a YSA Everyday Young Hero, an award that recognizes young people who are actively engaged in serving their communities and acting as a role model to other potential change makers. At USI, the Greenwood, Indiana, native was involved in Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and the Food and Nutrition Student Organization, and also volunteered at the Evansville Christian Life Center’s food pantry. She currently works at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis as a dietary tech.

BY THE NUMBERS

90.4%

2016 graduates in clinical programs initially employed in Indiana

\$2.2M

in federal grant funding in 2016

1,898

undergraduate students enrolled fall 2016

497

graduate students enrolled fall 2016

Over **350,000**

clinical/clinic/internship hours completed by students each year

2,000+

patients on the CHNP Community Health Center roster

2,500

HCPS worldwide completed online live CE Programs in USI's Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning programs

3,000+

dental patients received care in USI's Dental Hygiene Clinic

All

clinical programs are above the national average on licensure, registry or certification exam pass rates

CURRENT STUDENT AND GRADUATE SUCCESS IS BUILT UPON THE EXPERTISE AND DEDICATION OF THE CNHP FACULTY AND STAFF.

Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning

2017 Conferences and Workshops

- March 6-10, SANE Training
- March 11-12, Healing Touch Workshops
- April 5, 14th Annual Nursing Leadership
- April 19, 21st Annual Research and Health Care Issues Conference
- May 5, 19th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium
- May 11, 23rd Annual Midwest Care Coordination Conference
- May 17-19, 34th Annual Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS)
- August 9-11, 10th Annual Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness
- September 21, Pulmonary Disease Awareness Symposium
- September 29, 14th Annual Pharmacology Update for Health Care Professionals
- September 30, New for Dental Hygienists—Trends in Oral Health Care
- October 4, Emergency Medicine Symposium
- October 12, 4th Annual Health Informatics Tri-State Summit
- October 18, 22nd Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference
- October 25-26, PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference
- November 16-17, Pulling it all Together: Pediatric Conference

2017 Certificate Programs (online continuing education)

- Anticoagulation Therapy Management, eight weeks, begins January 9, March 13, May 15, July 24, October 9
- Case Management, eight weeks, begins March 27, August 14
- Clinical Simulation, six weeks, begins February 13, September 4
- Diabetes, 10 weeks, begins February 6, August 7
- Faith Community Nursing, six weeks, begins March 20, September 11
- Health Informatics, nine weeks, begins January 30, August 7
- Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, eight weeks, begins January 16, September 11
- Heart Failure, seven weeks, begins January 9, September 18
- Hypertension Management, seven weeks, begins February 13, July 24
- Lipid Management, nine weeks, begins January 23, September 4
- Oncology Management, 10 weeks, begins March 13, August 14
- Pain Management, eight weeks, begins: January 16, July 31
- Wound Management, eight weeks, begins January 30, September 18
- Coronal Polishing for Dental Assistants
March 1 - access to online program
April 8 - onsite laboratory session
- Fluoride Application for Dental Assistants
March 1 - access to online program
April 8 - onsite laboratory session
- Local Anesthesia for the Dental Hygienist
January 3 - access to online program
February 17 from Noon to 5 pm CDT
February 18 from 8 am to 4:30 pm CDT
February 19 from 8 am to 3:30 pm CDT

Visit **health.usi.edu** for registration
and program information or call:

Workshops and Conferences

812-464-1989 or
800-467-8600

Certificate Programs

812-461-5217 or
877-874-4584