

non-nursing courses. With our current program, these students would require an additional four years to obtain a BSN degree because we have nursing courses in every year of our curriculum. The accelerated program gives these individuals a new option.”

Students in the new program immediately concentrate on the nursing curriculum. They complete the same courses as students in the traditional program.

White said the program also responds to a national and regional shortage of nurses. The local shortage is especially apparent at the end of each year, a traditional time for changing jobs or relocating. Often, few nurses are available to fill vacancies until a new class graduates in May. Students in the accelerated program will graduate in December, making them available to take slots at a crucial time for staffing. Students in the class which began this semester will complete the program in December 2005.

“Area hospitals have been supportive of this program and are anticipating the new graduates,” White said.

Fall 2004 will be remembered as the year that the University of Southern Indiana joined the ranks of universities whose enrollments exceed 10,000 students. The significance of this growth is paralleled in importance by the increased academic quality and geographic diversity of students. I am pleased to report that University-wide increases in enrollment and academic quality are mirrored in the students of the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

In combination with the marketplace, many efforts at the school, state, and national level have combined to

Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Dental Ethics course

More than 120 dental hygienists, dental assistants, dentists, students, and faculty participated September 11 in a continuing education course at USI entitled "Dental Ethics." Sponsored by the dental hygiene program, the course was designed to meet the Indiana requirement for dental hygienists and dentists to complete an ethics course for license renewal.

National exam

All graduates of the Class of 2004 successfully completed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination in April.

Clinical rotation

Junior dental hygiene students are participating in a clinical rotation at Deaconess Family Practice in Evansville. Students provide oral health education and oral screenings for clients. When dental hygiene treatment is indicated, they schedule care at the USI Dental Clinic, located on the first floor of the Health Professions Center.

Health Services

Record enrollment

A record 205 students are enrolled in the undergraduate health services program for fall semester.

MHA class

The second annual residency symposium and hooding ceremony for students who will complete a master's degree in health administration will be held December 2 in Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center.

Nursing

Assistant dean

Dr. Ann White, professor of nursing, has been named assistant dean for nursing with responsibility for both undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. The appointment was effective July 1.

Undergraduate program

The Association of Nursing Students has planned a year of community events, including a diabetic walk and working with children at the USI Children's Center.

Grant for MSN program

The graduate nursing program has received a \$60,000 traineeship grant for 2004-05 from the Division of Nursing of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant sup

Faculty Notes

Jeri Burger, instructor in nursing, presented a research poster at a meeting of the the Midwest Nursing Research Society in St. Louis in March.

■
Judi Kuric, instructor in nursing, made two presentations in October at the annual meeting of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. The meeting was held in Atlanta. She presented research on “Development of an Integrated Case Management Curriculum,” a topic for which she and **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing, received a USI Faculty Research and Creative Work Award. Her second presentation was titled “Keys to Success: Integrating Sicker Patients and Rehab Concepts.”

Kuric and White also presented results of the case management research as a poster session for the annual conference of the Case Management Society of America in Nashville, Tennessee. As a result, two refereed nursing journals have requested manuscripts. The *Journal of Care Management* will publish research results, and the *Lippincott Case Management*

Journal has requested a manuscript on how the USI nursing curriculum was revised to address content on case management.

■
Dr. Martha Sparks, associate professor of nursing, has been awarded fellow status by the National Gerontological Nursing Association, an organization of nurses (educators, administrators, researchers, advance practitioners, and staff nurses) who specialize in the care of older adults. The honor recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to gerontological nursing and to the association and demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the care of older adults. Sparks was inducted in October at the NGNA annual conference in Las Vegas.

■
Julie St. Clair, instructor in nursing, made a poster presentation at the National Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Conference in Washington, D.C., with co-presenter Susan Bonhotal, coordinator of the Southwestern Indiana Regional Perinatal Advisory

Board. Their topic was “Impact at the Community Level: Improving Perinatal Health with Local Intervention.”

■
Mayola Rowser, grant project coordinator and instructor in nursing, made a presentation in May titled “Collaborative Efforts for the Provision of Health Care Services to an Incarcerated Population” at the 12th Annual National Primary Care for the Underserved Conference. The meeting was held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Rowser and **Patricia Ellison**, RN case manager, presented in August at the Indiana State Department of Health Unity Conference on the Nursing Practice Arrangement/Jail Grant.

In May, Ellison also presented a program on case management in correctional facilities to the nursing staff at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility near Terre Haute.

■
Robert Hooper, program director for respiratory therapy, completed a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at USI in May.

Program Notes

Continued from page 3

ing in the program, said she enjoys being able to compete and earn an award. “It gives me a sport and something to talk about with my friends,” she said.

SOTA plans to pursue fund-raising activities to establish a scholarship for a student in the occupational therapy assistant program.

Adopt-a-spot

The adopt-a-spot garden area sponsored by OTA students in front of the Wright Administration Building has received praise from the Keep Evansville Beautiful program. Several vegetables were introduced into the garden this year with the assistance of chil

Dr. Ralph Matacale, assistant professor of dental programs, is back in the classroom after serving three months of active duty as the only Air

Cathy O’Nan joins faculty

Cathy L. O’Nan has joined the faculty of the School of Nursing and Health Professions as instructor in nursing. She earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Murray State University and a master’s in nursing with a focus on adult education from the University of Evansville.

Prior to joining USI, she was employed for more than 20 years at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, Kentucky, working as a staff nurse in the medical-surgical area and as a clinical nurse specialist in community health.

Alumni news

Diane M. Murphy ‘97, occupational therapy, and her husband Brian are the parents of a daughter, Kendall Marie, born April 13. Diane is senior staff occupational therapist at St. Mary’
a

Nursing Alumni Society establishes Web site

Experienced nurses to mentor new graduates online

Nursing alumni have new online access to information about each other and about activities of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. They also can offer advice to the school's newest graduates in nursing.

Victoria K. Pigott, special projects coordinator for the school, said the Web site for the Nursing Alumni Soci-

ety was launched in October. It includes information about conferences, workshops, and continuing education opportunities that may be of interest to nursing graduates as well as links to USI news and events.

continue to submit or update this information at any time to Pigott at vpigott@usi.edu.

“The site offers a way to bring nursing alumni together and offer services as well an opportunity to stay connected to the school,” Pigott said. Plans for the site also include development of an online mentoring program for just-graduated nurses. Experienced nurses will be invited to impart stories about their first jobs or professional experience as nurses.

“We want new nurses to understand that they are not alone if they feel a lack of confidence,” Pigott said. “Seasoned nurses will share experiences they had when they first graduated and tell how things turned out.”

Scholarship established

The Nursing Alumni Society has established a scholarship program. Plans are to award at least one \$250 scholarship to a nursing student, either graduate or undergraduate, at the school's Honors Day in March. See the Nursing Alumni Society Web site for information about scholarship criteria or about contributing to the fund.

Nursing Alumni Society

<http://health.usi.edu/stdorgns/nashome.htm>

*Ninth Annual
Nursing and Health
Professions*

Research and Health-Care Issues Conference

April 13



Designed to explore how research can be utilized to improve patient care

Keynote speaker

Rebecca P. Winsett, a principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health study to examine health outcomes in organ-transplant recipients, has worked with transplant recipients for the past 25 years at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. She holds a B.S.N. from the University of Evansville and M.S.N. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee - Memphis.

http://health.usi.edu/cont_ed/conferences.htm

Calling all Alumni

We welcome comments from our alumni and friends regarding accomplishments, career activities, and special events in your personal life (marriage and births).

Return form to
School of Nursing and Health Professions
University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, IN 47712-3593
or e-mail dgutley@usi.edu

Name _____ Your student record name _____

Degree/Year of graduation _____ Major _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Current Position _____ Employer _____

Your news _____

News

Nurse executives honored by IONE for leadership

Five nurse executives were recognized for their leadership in Southern Indiana at a conference of the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives (IONE).

The honorees were **Linda E. White**, president and CEO, Deaconess Hospital; **Christina M. Ryan**, chief executive officer of the Women's Hospital; **Sheila Clark**, St. Joseph's Hospital in Huntingburg; **Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions; and **Kathleen Korbela**k, president of St. Mary's Medical Center.

Held in April at USI, the conference was sponsored by the IONE Southwest Region and USI School of Nursing and Health Professions along with local and area health-care agencies and hospitals.

Graduate student Elsa Boger helps improve patient care

Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences

Heart of Cardiovascular Nursing Conference, March 10

Physics for Healing Touch and More, March 11-12

Second Annual Nursing Leadership Conference, April 7

Ninth Annual Research and Health-Care Issues

Conference, April 13

Eleventh Annual Case Management Conference, May 12

Seventh Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Conference,

May 13

Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries, May 20-21