

College of Nursing and Health Professions

New Doctor of Nursing Practice program begins in fall

The initial class of 20 students in the University of Southern Indiana's first doctoral program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice, will begin study in the fall. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education approved the new academic program in December to be implemented by the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Students must have completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree to be eligible for enrollment. The program will serve MSN graduates who practice currently as nurses in a clinical setting,

education, or administration. The DNP is an alternative to research-focused doctorates in nursing and is comparable to practice doctorates in pharmacy and physical therapy.

The program is designed to be completed in five semesters of full-time study or eight semesters of part-time study. It will use a "hybrid" method of course delivery with on-campus education intensives combined with distance education delivery. Each semester will include a two- to three-day intensive dedicated to class

time, presentations, student projects, and meeting with faculty on the capstone project.

All students in the program will complete an evidence-based capstone project that demonstrates identification and resolution of a practice problem.

For additional information visit health.usi.edu or contact **Dr. Ann H. White**, assistant dean of nursing, at awhite@usi.edu or 812/465-1173.

Generous donors provide equipment to prepare students for patient care

Hospitals in the region continue to partner with the College of Nursing and Health Professions to help prepare students to deliver the best possible patient care from day one in the clinical environment. Recent gifts provide enhanced technology for the college's laboratories.

Bloomington Hospital in Bloomington, Indiana, has provided two Doppler ultrasound machines. Gibson General Hospital in Princeton, Indiana, has given obstetric delivery beds and technology that will enhance the laboratory experience for students learning about women and newborn's health care conditions.

USI graduate **Brooke Yocom Humphrey '07**, a sonographer in the vascular lab at Bloomington Hospital, was instrumental in the gift of the two Mini-Lab 3000 machines manufactured by Parks Medical Electronics, Inc. Humphrey suggested to her supervisor, **Mary Sarpa**, that the Parks machines be donated to USI when the hospital purchased new equipment.

Amy Wilson, USI instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, said sonography students previously shared one non-imaging lab machine on campus and held most laboratory classes involving lower extremity arterial Doppler studies off campus.

"This new equipment enables us to teach the Doppler exams on campus," she said. "The machines

allow students to visualize arterial Doppler waveforms and other data on a computer monitor and transfer the information to a printer for reviewing. Students are able to practice and master sonographic examinations on each other and laboratory volunteers before entering the clinical environment."

Wilson said a campus sonography laboratory equipped as well as USI's is uncommon.

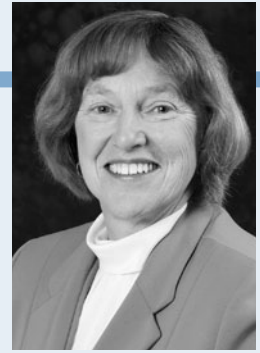
"Practicing in lab prepares the students for real-life clinical experiences," she said.

Kathy Phillips, coordinator of the college's Clinical Simulation Center, said that in addition to the two obstetric beds, Gibson General Hospital has provided an infant warmer, four See *Technology*, page 2



Sarah Kuhlenschmidt performs an arterial Doppler exam on the foot of Sarah Bulloch.

Dean's Notes



Dr. Nadine Coudret

Health care and the presidential election

The speeches and debates that are accompanying the selection of the Democratic and Republican 2008 presidential and vice presidential nominees have focused on a number of important issues. The war in Iraq, homeland security, immigration, the economy, and health care have been the topics of numerous speeches and debates.

Interesting and not surprising, these issues are complex and interdependent. The money that has been expended to fight the war in Iraq has significantly impacted the economy and the resources available for health care. The call for new immigration laws to safeguard homeland security and to offset the impact that illegal immigrants have on our economy and health care is frequently included in the speeches of the candidates.

While each of these issues is important, the proposals to reform health care are of particular relevance to all of us. Our selection of a president and members of Congress will be better accomplished if we understand the need for health-care reform and the differences in the candidates' proposals. While the remaining space limits an in-depth discussion, the following information may be helpful in assessing the candidates' health-care reform proposals.

A few basic facts about our health-care system follow:

- America lags behind other industrialized countries on a number of frequently used measures of good health care including life expectancy and infant mortality. (Life expectancy in the United States is 77.5 years in contrast to life expectancy in European countries of 79.5 plus years. The United States' infant mortality rate is 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in comparison to an infant mortality rate of five or less in European countries.)

- Forty-three million Americans do not have health insurance. This means that health-care preventive measures are not accessed by most of these 43 million individuals. The cost of acute care for these uninsured is paid by taxpayers and by the insured with higher premiums.

- Health-care cost as a percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in America is 15 percent. This percentage is substantially higher than other western industrialized countries including Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

- The current overhead cost for private health-care insurance companies in the United States is significantly higher than that of U.S. government-run health-care plans.

- Reductions in reimbursement levels for health-care providers are being proposed by both government and private health-care insurance companies while provider costs are increasing.

The Democrats' health-care reform proposal is referred to as a "play-or-pay plan" with the ultimate goal of having health-care coverage for all Americans. Clinton's plan is for universal health care while Obama's plan would ensure coverage for all children but would initially leave a potential 15 million adults without coverage.

The Republicans' candidate, McCain, focuses more on a voluntary approach of providing incentives for businesses and tax credits for individuals to buy their own insurance. Under this plan, it is projected that a large number of individuals would continue to be uninsured.

None of the proposals provides a perfect solution to the health-care challenges, particularly with the need for cost containment. An online site that provides a more detailed comparison of the candidates' plans is www.health08.org/sidebyside.cfm.

I urge you to study each candidate's position on health-care reform. Doing so will increase the likelihood that the president and the congressional members who are elected in the fall will address the changes in health care that are needed.

Technology

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infant cribs, a neonatal and maternal monitor, and an audio meter to simulate checks on infant hearing. Gibson General Hospital made the gift to USI after

closing its obstetrics unit. **Kathy Holl**, director of patient care services at the hospital, coordinated the gift with **Gale Hoehn**, USI instructor in nursing.

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has established an obstetrics and newborn clinical laboratory area in the lower level of the Health

Professions Center. Phillips said the college expects to add a computerized birthing simulator to the obstetrics lab.

The Clinical Simulation Center already has four adult human patient simulators and an infant simulator.

Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Community Dental Clinic

Students in the dental hygiene program participate in a clinical rotation at the new Vanderburgh County Health Department Community Dental Clinic.

Dr. Ralph Matacale, the clinic dentist and a former faculty member for USI dental programs, works with USI dental hygiene faculty to identify clients with the greatest need for treatment.

The experience provides students with the opportunity to work with clients who have advanced periodontal treatment needs. It also enables students to become more aware of the extent of oral health care needs in the community and contribute to their reduction.

Food and Nutrition

L.I.F.E.

Food and nutrition student **Kristina Walker** and nursing students **Amy Smith** and **Kristina Harris** are conducting a six-week research study on exercise, food, and stress management at Corpus Christi School in Evansville. The L.I.F.E. (Learning to Integrate Food and Exercise) program teaches fourth- and fifth-grade girls about the food guide pyramid, portion control, and appropriate height and weight. Each session includes a healthy snack and exercise such as soccer or yoga. A grant from USI's RISC undergraduate research program supports the study.

Health Services

Applied Research Grant

Dr. Kevin Valadares, associate professor of health services/administration and program director for health services/

administration, is one of two University of Southern Indiana faculty members to receive the inaugural Applied Research Grants sponsored by the USI Center for Applied Research. Valadares will use the award for summer 2008 to study whether generational differences among physicians affect their loyalty to health-care organizations and cause disparity in the quality of care provided.

Valadares said recent trends indicate that younger physicians (under 45 years of age) view "quality of life" as essential and are willing to risk career advancement to achieve a high degree of life satisfaction. Previous generations of physicians tended to place their professional obligations ahead of their personal lives.

An understanding of generational differences may help organizations recruit and maintain a stable physician base, thus leading to a higher quality of care provided to the community.

Ethel Elkins MHA '06, adjunct instructor in health services, and **Beth Polin** of DePauw University are co-investigators of the study. They will survey approximately 1,600 physicians affiliated with more than 10 hospitals in the Tri-State. The conclusions will be provided to all organizations in a summary form. In addition, each organization will receive its own results.

The grant provides a \$4,000 stipend. The USI Center for Applied Research was established in 2006 to help the University work more closely with area businesses and organizations.



Valadares

Literature vs. actual practice

Students in a class in medical/surgical nursing had an opportunity recently to compare actual practice with what current literature says about a topic. They contacted hospitals in Indiana and Kentucky to ask about protective isolation related to neutropenia (a disorder that makes the body vulnerable to bacterial and fungal infections) in cancer patients.

Constance Swenty, instructor in nursing, said the group project demonstrated to students the value and application of evidence-based research in a clinical setting. The students' poster was accepted by a research committee at Deaconess Hospital for presentation at the hospital's Research Day conference.



Nursing students James Wheeler, Kevi Baumgartner, and Emily Scheller present research findings at a conference at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Nursing On sabbatical

Dr. Barbara A. Davis, professor of nursing, is re-examining the psychometric properties of the Davis Consumer Emergency Care Satisfaction Scale during a sabbatical this semester.

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Program Notes

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Davis developed the instrument to measure patient satisfaction with nurse behaviors in the emergency department. In her current work she is using data from researchers in Korea, Australia, and the United States. Her sabbatical time has included travel to Australia and New Zealand.

Davis also is examining outcomes regarding the success of RN-MSN students in graduate research classes offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Occupational Therapy

Clinical experience

Thirty occupational therapy students are performing Level II clinical experiences in several states, including Texas, Maryland, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Connect with Southern Indiana

Dr. Barbara Williams, program director for occupational therapy, is a member of the 2008 class of Connect with Southern Indiana. Sponsored by the USI Office of Extended Services, the program offers a class of 24 individuals from nine counties opportunities to develop critical thinking skills and practice active citizenship. Members work in groups to develop projects that address community needs.

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Leadership Academy

Claudine Fairchild '01 M '05, assistant professor of radiologic and imaging services, attended a four-day Leadership Academy sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists in January. The program accepts 20 to 30 applicants nationwide each year to prepare individuals for leadership in local and national professional organizations. The 2008 program was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Amy Wilson, front row right, was in Washington with colleagues from throughout the nation to support legislation affecting medical imaging and radiation therapy.

C.A.R.E. bill

Amy Wilson, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, and other members of the government relations committee of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, met with a lobbying firm and congressional aides in February to urge passage of the C.A.R.E. bill—Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in radiation therapy. The bill is expected to reduce the cost and patient inconvenience of repeat exams, improve the ability of physicians to make accurate diagnoses, and encourage new quality standards in sonograms paid for by non-federal programs. The bill establishes credentialing and educational quality control standards for sonographers.

Self studies for accreditation

A self study of the diagnostic medical sonography program is complete in preparation for initial accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. A site visit by the accrediting agency will be scheduled for the summer.

A self study of the radiologic technology program is in progress

for re-accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. That study will be completed in August with a site visit to follow.

Respiratory Therapy

Community outreach

Respiratory therapy students participated in the Asthma Day Camp at Delaware School in March.

They also have participated in five health fairs, performing pulmonary function screening and oxygen saturation analysis. The students informed participants of the hazards of smoking and suggested cessation and intervention options. Two additional health fairs were scheduled for late spring at PPG Industries and the Vanderburgh County Safe House.

Special opportunities

Respiratory therapy students recently heard special speakers, completed life-support training, and learned about job opportunities.

Michele Clouse of Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities in Owensboro, Kentucky, discussed speaking valves. **Dr. Robert Pope**, medical director at St. Mary's Sleep Disorders Center in Evansville, presented information on sleep medicine.

All second-year students completed Advanced Cardiac Life Support training and certification at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes.

A representative from Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis presented information about employment opportunities at Riley, Methodist, and University hospitals.

Celebrating the profession

Anthony Schmitt, assistant professor of respiratory therapy, arranged for Evansville **Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel** to sign a proclamation recognizing the celebration of National Respiratory Care Week in October. Schmitt also organized a continuing education dinner/lecture featuring **Dr. Robert Lombard**, an Evansville pulmonologist.

Faculty Notes

Dr. Katherine Riedford, assistant professor of nursing, is one of 11 University of Southern Indiana faculty members to receive a 2008 Excellence Through Engagement Summer Research Fellowship. Her project is titled "College Students' Perceptions of Need for Mental Health Service and Access to Care." The fellowship is funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

Dr. Roberta Hoebeke, assistant professor of nursing, made an oral presentation in April titled "Attitudes and Beliefs of Low-Income Women about Breastfeeding" at the 34th annual meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jennifer Bartek, instructor in dental hygiene, and **Emily Holt**, assistant professor of dental assisting/hygiene, have been selected to serve as

consultant members to the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners. They will participate as evaluating examiners in dental hygiene clinical licensure examinations throughout the Midwest. They attended an examiner orientation and calibration program in Washington, D.C., in January.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing, wrote the chapter "Using Samples to Provide Evidence" in the book *Evidence-Based Practice for Nurses* by Nola Schmidt and Janet Brown. The book was published this year.

Constance Swenty, instructor in nursing, has received a grant from the USI chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International to support research on using simulations in the study of nursing. She will use the same assessment tool that was employed in a national simulation

study conducted by the National League for Nursing and Laerdal Medical to assess the laboratory simulation at the University of Southern Indiana as an effective teaching method. Her study will investigate simulation design, educational practices, and student satisfaction and self-confidence in learning.

Colleen Walsh, instructor in nursing, has written seven chapters for the 2008 edition of the book *Practice Guidelines for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners* by T. W. Barkley and C. M. Meyers. Her chapters covered musculoskeletal disorders and other types of cancers. In 2007, she wrote a chapter on musculoskeletal oncology for the sixth edition of the textbook *Core Curriculum for Orthopaedic Nurses* published by the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses.

Help strengthen the College of Nursing and Health Professions

Your gift to the College of Nursing and Health Professions helps strengthen its programs and provides support for its students and faculty.

Apply my gift in the following way.
(You may choose more than one.)

- College of Nursing and Health Professions (where the need is greatest)
- Dental Assisting/Dental Hygiene programs
- Food and Nutrition program
- Nursing programs
- Health Services/ Administration programs
- Occupational Therapy programs
- Radiologic and Imaging Sciences program
- Respiratory Therapy program
- Nursing Alumni Scholarship
- Other (Please specify _____)

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A contribution of \$25 or more to any USI Foundation fund makes graduates "active" members of the USI Alumni Association.

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visit www.usi.edu/giving

Electronic exchange of patient information close

State and regional leaders in health care gathered at the University of Southern Indiana in January for the announcement of a \$1.3 million Medicaid Transformation grant to develop a health information exchange within the Evansville area.

The exchange will allow local doctors to access information about a patient's medical history electronically. Patients will no longer need to repeat or supply that history when seeking new treatment. The health information exchange is designed to improve the quality of care, reduce costs, and improve health outcomes.

Deaconess Health System, St. Mary's Health System, the Vanderburgh County Health Department, and Welborn Clinic will participate in the project. The pilot project will be implemented through the Indiana Health Information Exchange.

Dr. Susan J. Ellspermann, director of USI's Center for Applied Research; **Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions, and **Lisa Gish**, '00, M '04, executive director of the Tri-State Business Group on Health co-facilitated the grant effort with the Indiana Health Information Exchange. The idea of a health information

exchange where information could be shared securely, on demand, and with extreme accuracy emerged as a priority in 2006 when the three began discussions with area health care, community, and government leaders about area health care initiatives.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration announced the \$1.3 million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.



Community and health-care leaders gathered at USI for announcement of the health information exchange. From left (front row) are Dr. Susan J. Ellspermann, USI; Linda White, Deaconess Health System; Dr. Nadine Coudret, USI; Dr. Donald Lurye, Welborn Clinic; Gary Heck, Vanderburgh County Health Department; and Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel; and (back row) Dr. Marc Overhage, Indiana Health Information Exchange; Timothy Flesch, St. Mary's Health System; and Dr. Jeffrey Wells, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

Alumni news

Natalie M. Wessel '06, radiologic technology, died November 18 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She was employed at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Megan Baehl '07, nursing, is a registered nurse at the Women's Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana. Her family is the 2008 Ambassador Family for the Evansville area March of Dimes.

Calling all alumni

Submit news along with your degree and year of graduation, major, address, phone number, current position, and employer to College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712, or e-mail dgutley@usi.edu.

Jennifer Craig named new program development specialist for proposed Area Health Education Center

Jennifer Craig '01 has been named program development specialist for the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which is proposed to open later this year. The Southwest Indiana AHEC is currently in a planning and implementation stage and is housed in the University of Southern Indiana's College of Nursing and Health Professions.



Craig

Craig majored in health services and dental hygiene at USI and will complete a master's degree in public health from East Tennessee State University this semester. She was a research assistant for the Tennessee Coordinated School Health Program Evaluation Team in 2006 and co-authored the Tennessee Youth Risk Behavior Survey 1999-2005. She has practiced dental hygiene in Indianapolis and Evansville. Prior to joining USI, she was employed by Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

A regional information and planning meeting for the Southwest Indiana AHEC was held in April at Oakland City University. The meeting gave community and health-care leaders an opportunity to provide input about the needs of their community and learn what the center can do for them.

The Southwest AHEC will be the sixth regional center in Indiana with the shift of 10 counties from the West Central AHEC. A steering committee was formed in late 2007 to support and promote the development of the Southwest AHEC. The goals of the program are to improve the distribution and diversity of health-care professionals and to improve the quality of health-care professions education in Indiana. More information is available at health.usi.edu/swiahec/.

Aging conference coming in August

The College of Nursing and Health Professions will co-sponsor the first annual Mid-America Aging Conference in August in partnership with the Southwest Indiana Regional Council on Aging. The conference will be held August 13–14 in Carter Hall at USI.

Marie Palladino certified as informatics nurse

Marie D. Palladino, admission and advising coordinator for the College of Nursing and Health Professions, has been certified as an informatics nurse by the American Nurse Credentialing Center.

Nursing informatics is the integration of computer and information science into nursing-

practice settings to enhance client care and the profession. Palladino is among fewer than 750 nurses nationwide who have earned the certification.

Research recognized at national conference

Cindy Ward, an MSN student in the clinical nurse specialist track, received a first-place award in the research category for a poster presented at the 16th annual convention of the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses. The convention was held in October in Las Vegas.

Her poster, titled “Comparison of the Job Satisfaction of Experienced Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nurses,” was based on work she and fellow student **Sarah Shultz** completed for a master’s level course

in research taught by **Dr. Barbara A. Davis**, professor of nursing. Davis, Ward, and Shultz, along with **Heather Davis and Marsha Woodall ’07**, are authors of an article on the same topic that appeared in the October 2007 issue of *MedSurg Nursing*.

College gains space

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has gained additional space in the Health Professions Center for its growing academic programs and services with expansion into space formerly occupied by the Department of Social Work. The renovation on the second floor provides 11 faculty offices and an administrative work area.

Graduate ranks Army as good place to practice occupational therapy

A trip to Walter Reed Army Medical Center cinched a career decision for **Lt. Zachary Lawrence**, who completed a master’s degree in occupational therapy in 2007.

“The things that they were doing with multiple amputees were just remarkable. They had them outside playing football with artificial legs,” Lawrence said. The trip to the hospital in Washington, D.C., was a recruitment opportunity provided by the Army.

Lawrence began his Army commitment in June 2007 by completing a nine-week Officer Basic Course in San Antonio, Texas. He is now an occupational therapist at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC) at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

EAMC serves 20,000 people including soldiers, dependents, retirees, and civilian workers. The occupational therapy clinic employs four occupational therapists and four occupational therapy assistants.

Lawrence said occupational therapists in the Army can do more with their skills than civilian therapists.

“In the civilian sector, more than likely the OT is working under an orthopaedic surgeon, but in the Army, it’s totally different. In most cases, the soldier/patient will come to the occupational therapy clinic before seeing an orthopaedic surgeon. Then the surgeon is relying on what the therapist diagnoses (which we are trained to do),” he said.

Lawrence will return to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for a two-week course that provides additional training in treatment and splinting, diagnosing orthopaedic

injuries, identifying when a patient needs X-rays, and prescribing medications.

“Yes, in the Army, occupational therapists can prescribe a few medications and order X-rays and magnetic resonance imaging,” he said.

Most occupational therapy cases at EAMC are related to orthopaedic needs. Lawrence said amputees, burn patients, and individuals with brain injuries are treated primarily at larger facilities such as Walter Reed or Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. The EAMC clinic sees many cases of carpal tunnel, cubital tunnel, trigger finger, tendon lacerations, and tennis/golfer elbow.

The EAMC occupational therapy clinic also works with other departments at the medical center to coordinate a stress management program for soldiers in Advanced Individual Training. Lawrence will serve as coordinator of that program.

“The main reason I chose to join the Army was the experience I will obtain,” Lawrence said. “The technology the Army uses with wounded soldiers is unbelievable. I will have to admit though that the pay is not too bad either.”

Lawrence is a graduate of South Spencer High School in Rockport, Indiana, and now calls Evansville home.



Lawrence

Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences

14th Annual Case Management Conference, May 15
10th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, May 16
1st Annual Mid-America Aging Conference, August 13–14
Dental Ethics, September 13
Basic Parish/Faith Community Nurse Education Program,
September 24–28
**5th Annual Pharmacology Update for Advanced Practice
Nurses**, October 3
**13th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator
Conference**, October 22
Healing Touch Workshops, October 25–26
PEP Rally: A Perinatal Conference, October 29–30
Breast Cancer Symposium, November 21

Customized programs: For programs tailored to meet the specific needs of your organization, contact Peggy Graul, coordinator of Continuing Education, College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, pgraul@usi.edu or 812/465-1161.

Certificate Programs (Internet-delivered instruction)

Alzheimer's Disease Management, six weeks, begins
September 22
Anticoagulation Billing, three weeks, begins
September 22
Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks,
begins April 28, June 23, August 25, and October 20
Case Management, six weeks, begins September 8
Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins September 29
Complementary and Alternative Health Care, six
weeks, begins September 15
Diabetes Management, six weeks, begins August 18
Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, 10 weeks,
begins September 15
Lipid Management, six weeks, begins September 15
Pain Management, six weeks, begins September 8
Basic Parish Nursing, six weeks, begins September 22

Registration information: health.usi.edu or 812/465-1148



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