

# A second career in nursing only 16 months away

## Accelerated program offers new pathway to becoming a nurse, combats shortage

**Mike Beamer** wants to become an acute care nurse practitioner, but before he can reach that goal, which requires a master's degree, he needs to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. A respiratory therapist, he has put himself on the fast track to becoming a nurse by enrolling this semester in the School of Nursing and Health Professions' new second-degree accelerated BSN program.

He can complete a bachelor's degree in nursing in 16 months instead of the usual four years.

The accelerated program is for students who already have a bachelor's degree in another field. **Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing, said the school developed this program to give non-nurses an efficient and effective method to change careers.

White said, "In our admission and recruitment processes, we identified a group of people who had degrees, which meant they had completed all

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.



**Darin Cornwell, a registered nurse in an intensive-care step-down unit at St. Mary's Medical Center, discusses clinical experiences with USI students in the second-degree accelerated nursing program. From left in the foreground are Sandra Hall, Cornwell, Jennifer Gamache, and Nancy McDonald.**

Elizabeth Courtney

*"Area hospitals have been supportive of this program and are anticipating the new graduates."*

**Dr. Ann White**  
Assistant Dean for nursing

Beamer already has earned two degrees from USI—an associate degree in respiratory therapy in 1991 and a bachelor's in psychology in 1992. He looks at nursing as a new challenge.

"As a nurse, you take care of the whole patient," he said. "Respiratory therapy is focused on one system. I've met that challenge and am ready for another one."

Another one of the first 10 students in the accelerated program is **Cynthia Jameson-Hayes**, who has worked in the past as an engineer at Bristol-Myers Squibb and as a business systems analyst at American General Finance. Her first degree was in biology.

See **Second degree**, page 2

# Dean's Notes

## Growing in numbers and in academic excellence

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 spotlight the opportunities and advantages of health-care careers. High school and returning adult students have become aware of the growing workforce shortages and increasing need for a well-prepared health-care workforce. This increased awareness and understanding have resulted in a record number 1,646 students in our school.

An example of the academic excellence of nursing and health professions students is the 1100+ average SAT scores of entering nursing students. In addition to making a commitment to academic excellence, students in our school are assuming leadership roles in their student professional organizations on campus and at higher levels. USI nursing student Malea Wolfe was elected to serve as president of the Indiana Association of Nursing Students.

Growth in enrollment presents challenges to the school, particularly in the area of faculty recruitment. The school currently is recruiting faculty in the fields of nursing, imaging sciences, and health administration.

Additional faculty will be needed in the next several years because of retirements and continued enrollment growth. I invite you to join our efforts to bring committed expert practitioners to our classrooms. I also want to acknowledge and thank area health-care providers who collaboratively contribute to



*Dr. Nadine Coudret*

the clinical teaching of our students.

Maintaining and building the excellence of our programs require that we continue to provide an appropriate number of committed academically prepared and

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*“Your help in recruiting faculty to teach these bright, motivated future health-care leaders is needed and appreciated.”*

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clinically experienced faculty to teach the growing number of nursing and health professions students in our school. Your help in recruiting faculty to teach these bright, motivated future health-care leaders is needed and appreciated.

## Second degree

*Continued from page 1*

Having cared for both her mother and her father during illnesses, she believes she could bring special skills and knowledge to nursing.

“One of the areas that I would be interested in would be hospice work or work with the elderly,” she said. “Going through what we did with my mother and later



*Elizabeth Courtney*

*Jeri Burger, right, instructor in nursing, advises Jennifer Loehr during a clinical experience.*

my dad, I have a real insight into what the families are going through.”

Jameson-Hayes also is fascinated with surgery.

Both she and Beamer mentioned that job outlook after completing the new program will be good because so many places—hospitals, schools, medical emergency centers, doctors’ offices—employ nurses.

Jameson-Hayes said, “In nursing, there’s always something new to learn. There are always new ways to comfort patients or help them get through whatever they’re experiencing at the time.”

While most students in the first class of the accelerated second-degree program have science-related backgrounds, others earned their first undergraduate degree in theatre, liberal arts, or business.

For more information, go to <http://health.usi.edu>.

# 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.

**Visit our home page!**  
<http://health.usi.edu>

## 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 supporting students returning to school to complete an advanced degree is an increase of \$20,000 from the previous year's award.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing, said, "I believe we received the substantial increase because we use all the money to support our students and because we have a high percentage of graduates who are employed in underserved areas."

Forty-eight percent of the school's 2003 MSN graduates are employed in areas that have a shortage of health-care professionals.

### **100 percent pass**

The MSN program had a 100 percent pass rate for 2003 graduates who sat for their respective advanced practice nursing certification exams.

## Occupational Therapy

### **OTA news**

Six students in the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program

attended the American Occupational Therapy National Conference in Minneapolis in May.

In the fall, the OTA program welcomed 30 new and returning students.

Fifteen OTA students are completing internships in such varied spots as Hawaii and West Virginia. Most will complete these experiences in December or January.

Students joined with St. Mary's rehabilitation services to offer a program on backpack awareness at Holy Rosary School on September 22, National School Backpack Awareness Day. USI students taught children the proper way to load and wear backpacks.

### **Taekwondo demonstration**

The Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) recently heard a program on the benefits of taekwondo for children with disabilities, especially cerebral palsy. **Emilie Thompson**, one of the taekwondo students participat-

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**Members of the Student Occupational Therapy Association heard Gary Morris of the Morris Dynamics Martial Arts Training Center in Evansville explain how movement patterns can be helpful to individuals with disabilities. Assisting him in the demonstration are taekwondo students Emilie, left, and Kaitlin Thompson.**

# 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 children from USI's Children's Center. During the summer, the children

gathered tomatoes and cabbage and enjoyed scents from herbs and flowers in the sensory portion of the garden. A wind chime was hung to add the sense of hearing to the other four senses (taste, smell, touch, and sight) represented by plants in the garden.

## Radiologic Technology

### Sonography concentration

A new area of concentration—diagnostic medical sonography—has been added to the School of Nursing and Health Professions' program in the radiologic and imaging sciences. **Claudine Fairchild '01** is program coordinator.

Clinical space is available for

10 students. The first students in the sonography program will begin in the spring semester.

Fairchild said, "We have had ultrasound classes for radiologic technologists since 1999, but many students are interested in studying sonography and completing a bachelor's degree without going through the radiologic technology program. The demand for qualified, registered sonographers is high throughout the nation."

Graduates in the sonography area of concentration will be eligible and prepared to take the ARDMS (American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography) boards in the areas of general physics, abdomen, obstetrics and gynecology, and vascular.

Also called ultrasound, sonogra-

*Continued on next page*

## Ralph Matacale treats troops in Iraq

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



**Ralph Matacale was stationed at Baghdad International Airport.**



**A tent lined with cots served as holdover space for patients receiving treatment from EMEDS in Baghdad.**

Force dentist in central Iraq. He was stationed with the 447h AEG/EMEDS (Air Expeditionary Group/ Expeditionary Medical Squadron) at Baghdad International Airport.

"For me it was a once in a lifetime opportunity," he said. "It's not often a Guard dentist needs to do that. I was the right dentist with the right training when the need arose.

"I provided care for coalition forces, all the American uniformed services, Department of Defense people, and DoD contractors. I was filling a gap and received last-minute orders."

Matacale's familiarity with sterile technique meant he was called upon in times of crisis to help with chest tubes and arterial lines as well as diagnostic peritoneal lavage.

"With only 30 people to tend seven-eight-nine-10 critically injured, even a dentist pitches in," he said.

After completing his dental residency in 1987, Matacale served in the Air Force for seven years before joining the Kentucky Air National Guard.

He arrived in Iraq March 9 and returned home in June.

## 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.



**O'Nan**

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's Medical Center in Evansville.

**Natalie Powell '98**, dental assisting, was married December 6 to John Tritle. They live in Bedford, Indiana. Natalie is a dental assistant for Dr. Kyle Taylor at Bloomington Pediatric Dentistry.

**Danielle Hargis-Scott '00**, occupational therapy, and her husband Sanford Scott Jr. are the parents of a son, Sanford E. (Trae) Scott III, born March 23. They live in Terre Haute, Indiana, where Danielle is occupational therapist for the Covered Bridge Special Education District.

**Julie Davis Vittori '02**, nursing; '91, psychology; has been awarded board certification as a psychiatric mental health nurse by the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC).

*Continued from previous page*

phy is the science of using sound waves to create a diagnostic image.

## Respiratory Therapy

### Service activities

The new respiratory care class of 12 students has joined the 15 students in the second-year class to participate in the Respiratory Care Club. In addition to the traditional activity to prepare for the Region II conference, the club is planning a service project.

Club members will participate during fall semester in six health fairs performing pulmonary function screening and informing fair participants about the hazards of smoking and environmental pollution.

### High-tech equipment

A state-of-the-art ventilator has been purchased to enhance the preparation of students in the respiratory care program. The unit provides lab experiences that simulate clinical critical-care situations.

### Thank you, donors!

Through the USI Foundation, many friends and alumni make programs possible which could not be funded without private support.

**If you are interested in contributing to an individual program or activity in the school, please call 812/465-1151.**

# 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-

### Nursing Alumni Society

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

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.

The site also includes the nursing "alumni update" information which is gathered each October and printed for the annual meeting of the Nursing Alumni Society. The listing includes contact information, degree and year of graduation, advanced degrees, employment information, professional achievements, hobbies or interests, favorite memories from their time as students, and other information which graduates want to share. Alumni can

continue to submit or update this information at any time to Pigott at [vpigott@usi.edu](mailto: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.

*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](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](mailto:dgutley@usi.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your student record name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree/Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Your news \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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 Korbelak**, 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.



*Honored for leadership were, from left, Linda E. White, Christina M. Ryan, Sheila Clark, Nadine Coudret, and Kathleen Korbelak.*

## Graduate student Elsa Boger helps improve patient care with information technology

**Elsa Boger**, a graduate student in nursing management and leadership, was part of a multidisciplinary team that developed award-winning information technology processes at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana.

Hospital caregivers get up-to-date information on patient status and can respond promptly, thanks to a sophisticated information technology system. Boger is a nurse involved in clinical applications systems at the hospital. Good Samaritan recently won the McKesson Information Solutions' 2004 VIP Award for excellence in using health-care information technology.

The award, one of six in North America, included a \$10,000 contribution to the hospital foundation.

## MSN student Susan Nesbitt awarded IONE scholarship

**Susan Nesbitt**, a student in the Master of Science in Nursing program, has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives. Nesbitt is from Vincennes, Indiana.

## Summer 2005 Study Abroad

with faculty from the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions

### Harlaxton College\*

Grantham, England  
June 19-July 3, 2005

### Class schedule

- HP498 Current Concepts in the Health Professions
- HP690 Special Topics in the Health Professions
- N467 Undergraduate Nursing and Health Care Issues
- N614 Graduate Nursing and Health Care Issues

### Contact Julie St. Clair

Instructor in nursing  
jstclair@usi.edu or 812/465-1169

\*Owned and operated by the University of Evansville



### Remembering 2004 Summer Study Abroad

**Deborah Carl**, program director for dental hygiene, and **Phyllis Maddox**, assistant professor of dental hygiene, led 14 students and five guests to England in June 2004. (Above left) The group from the School of Nursing and Health Professions took time to see sights while studying the National Health System of the United Kingdom. **Amanda Helfrich '04**, left, and **Elya**



**McHenry**, both dental hygiene majors, are nearly blown away by the antics of a street mime in York. (Above right) Maddox plays the patient in the old Guys Operating Theatre in London as a guide explains how amputation was done in the operating rooms of yesteryear.

# Check your calendar

## 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

**Basic Parish Nurse Education Program** (residential),

September 21-25

### Customized programs

For programs tailored to meet the specific needs of your organization, contact [Peggy Graul](#), Coordinator of Continuing Education, School of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, [pgraul@usi.edu](mailto:pgraul@usi.edu) or 812/465-1161

## Certificate Programs

(Internet-delivered instruction)

**Anticoagulation Billing**, three weeks, begins March 28, May 16, September 12

**Anticoagulation Therapy Management**, six weeks, begins January 10, March 14, May 9, July 11

**Case Management**, six weeks, begins January 17, April 18

**Chronic Heart Failure**, five weeks, begins January 24, May 2

**Complementary and Alternative Health Care**, six weeks, begins February 7, May 9

**Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness**, 10 weeks, begins January 17

**Lipid Management**, six weeks, begins January 31, April 25

**Pain Management**, six weeks, begins May 10, January 24, April 25

**Basic Parish Nursing**, eight weeks, begins February 7, May 16

**Registration information:** <http://health.usi.edu/> or 812/465-1148

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A publication of the  
**School of Nursing and  
Health Professions**

University of Southern Indiana

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