

University of
Southern Indiana

FALL 2018

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions



**ROLE
MODELS**

Letter from the Dean



Each semester, the University conducts thorough end-of-course evaluations. These evaluations are designed to be completely anonymous, and the feedback—both positive and negative—can be used to improve teaching and course design and delivery.

The survey covers all aspects of the College of Nursing and Health Professions' curriculum: distance education, labs, lectures and clinical experience. As a whole, scores within the College continue to be strong, which indicates our faculty's strong commitment to students and to excellence in teaching. An outstanding faculty member not only imparts knowledge in the classroom setting, but also is aware of individuals' academic strengths and weaknesses, demonstrates respect

and trust, and is a beacon for their students' future success in their chosen professions.

Inside this issue of *Synapse* are role models from within the College. You'll read examples of inspiring and outstanding student leadership, alumni involvement and faculty mentorship. Presenting at national conferences, vigorous research projects, being awarded competitive grant funding, meeting with state legislators and forming new collaborations both within the University and our community are all ways that students and faculty leave their "comfort zones" to grow and inspire others to excel.

It's a busy and exciting time for students and faculty in our College. We can never lose sight that the students' education and preparing health care professionals for the future are our primary responsibilities.

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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Dean

Ann White

Vice President for Development

David Bower

Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Kindra Strupp

Director of University Communications

John Farless '98

Director of Alumni Relations and Volunteer USI

Janet Johnson M'05

Editor/Senior Writer

C. L. Stambush

Writer

Mary Scheller

Graphic Design

Amy Ubelhor

Photography

Elizabeth Courtney
LaVerne Jones '05

Address

University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47712

USI.edu/health

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University of Southern Indiana is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity institution.

LEADING THE WAY To Leadership

“WHERE ROLE MODELS ARE SHAPED” IS THE MESSAGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA’S CURRENT MARKETING CAMPAIGN. IT’S AN APT SLOGAN, GIVEN THAT USI AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS HAVE BEEN SHAPING ROLE MODELS SINCE 1965. OUR ROLE MODELS ARE FOUND ACROSS DISCIPLINES AMONG FACULTY, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ALIKE. WE’VE HIGHLIGHTED A FEW STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE AS THEY STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, SCHOLARSHIP, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP.



Making Legislative Change



When Sarah Shultz ’16 DNP took USI’s Healthcare Policy and Strategic Planning course, she discovered something that would lead to legislative changes to improve the care of newborns and mothers. While newborn screenings are performed on every newborn to identify conditions and diseases that are not otherwise immediately recognizable, they aren’t always performed in a timely manner, putting infants at risk.

“Though many of these diseases are rare, they can be life-threatening or result in lifelong impairment if not identified and treated early in life,” said Shultz. “Indiana tests for 47 conditions, including sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis and congenital heart disease. The timing of the testing (when the

newborn is between 24-48 hours of life) is important in identifying all possible conditions.”

While at USI, Shultz researched other state standards, professional organizations’ recommendations and best practice, and discovered that Indiana could improve infant health care by shortening the screening timeframe. “Most newborn screenings can be performed 24 hours after birth, but Indiana, we were waiting to do most the screenings 48 hours after birth,” she said.

Shultz shared her research and recommendation to reduce the timeline for screenings with Representative Heath VanNatter of Kokomo, Indiana. He proposed bill HEA 1287, to establish a new law changing the timeline for newborn

screenings to be reduced from at least 48 hours after birth to within 24 hours after birth. “It’s so exciting to think how learning and confidence about the research process can be integrated with input from those with practice experience for a significant change,” said Shultz. “The USI nursing curriculum is directly affecting health care in our state.”

Shultz is employed at St. Vincent Health in Indianapolis, Indiana, as director of end user experience with responsibility for clinical informatics for the St. Vincent health care system. She’s an adjunct instructor for clinical informatics at several universities in Indiana, including USI.

Since graduation, Shultz has published her DNP project work, “Optimizing Usability of the EMR to Meet and Measure Quality Initiatives,” in the Journal of Informatics Nursing (accepted for publication Fall 2017).

In and Out of the Classroom

Going out of her way is routine for Dr. Jennifer Williams, an assistant professor in the Master of Health Administration (MHA) Program, as is taking a special interest in student learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. Her professional experiences—expanding more than two decades working in health care, market access and hiring prospective employees—led her to see that there were two key aspects missing in the portfolios of many applicants: substance and experience, something she set out to ensure wasn't the case for her USI students by partnering them with community agencies.

For instance, during the 2017-2018 academic year students in the MHA program worked with the Indiana Region Southern Chapter of the American Red Cross for a service-learning project to increase marketing and competitive strategies within the organization. The goal was to give guidance in furthering the mission and

vision of the American Red Cross through the donation of service learning time.

The students involved with the project worked on three potential areas tied to the Red Cross' strategic plan: increasing the Net Promoters Score, which is the industry standard for measuring the willingness of individuals to recommend an organization as a place to volunteer, constructing a way to increase the visibility of recruitment efforts in Gibson and Knox Counties, and developing a plan to motivate volunteers to track their volunteer hours.

MHA students compiled a complete dossier for the Red Cross that includes marketing and competitive strategies, analysis of the competitive environment using market research, advertising and public relations data. This type of service learning opportunity for students allows them to learn through direct experience and find a connection between their academic studies and the world at large.



A Little Information Leads to Community Impact

Jaelyn Smith was in search of career opportunities. As a senior, she'd started taking courses in the Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM) program in Fall 2017, after completing the necessary pre-HIIM coursework, she was eager for opportunities in her new field but needed guidance. She asked Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson, chair of HIIM, about internships or part-time job opportunities in the field of health informatics. "Before I knew it, Dr. Wilson sent me information and the link to apply for an AmeriCorps service project," said Smith.

That information led her to secure an AmeriCorps position with United Against Opioids, working with the Vanderburgh County Health Department in conjunction with the United Way of Southwestern Indiana and the mayor of Evansville's task force



Dr. Jennifer M. Williams (back row, fifth from left) and USI Master of Health Administration students

against substance abuse. Gathering and compiling data related to the opioid crisis in Vanderburgh County, she's created an asset map to serve as an opioid resource guide in the community.

"AmeriCorps requires me to manage and analyze a lot of data, which directly links to health informatics and information management," Smith said. "Being in USI's program, I have developed many skills when it comes to the best way to collect data, analyze it and report it in a simple way. I have learned how to communicate in the professional world, which has been critical in this service."

Dr. Kenneth Spear, health officer at the Vanderburgh County Health Department, said, "[Jaelyn's] a godsend. She's doing a great job with the data. She's professional and presents the data in a concise manner."

Smith recognizes the role her mentors at USI have played in helping her achieve her goals and wants to do the same for others. She advises her peers who are seeking to transition into the emerging field of health informatics to act. "Don't wait. In my short few months serving with AmeriCorps and United Way of Southwestern Indiana, I have been approached by individuals across many disciplines sharing with me how important this data collection is and how excited they were for this service project," she said. "There are so many ways you can get involved in health informatics and transitioning into the USI Health Informatics and Information Management program was the best decision I ever made."

Smith is the first recipient of the Gabriela, Brian and Michael Wilson Health Informatics and Information Management Scholarship at the University of Southern Indiana. Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson, chair of Health Informatics and Information Management at USI, and her family established the scholarship to assist students who show a commitment to the health informatics and information management profession through education, work or volunteer and community activities.



Leading by Example

Breaking records is something many students and alumni from the College of Nursing and Health Professions are familiar with, and Rebecca Lucas '17, '18 MHA, is the most recent to blaze a trail. She's the first USI student to pass the national and state nursing home licensure exams before graduating, a positive example for those following in her footsteps.

While finishing her undergraduate degree in health services, Lucas was selected as the first recipient of the new Trilogy USI Administrator-in-Training (AIT) Residency Program scholarship, and the first student in the state of Indiana to begin the AIT residency as an undergraduate student. She completed the program at Trilogy Health Services' RiverOaks Health Campus in Princeton, Indiana.

"Our community is a better place because of Rebecca's commitment to the care of elders," said Dr. Katie Ehlman, USI associate professor of gerontology. "It's been an honor and a pleasure to work with her over the last five years, and she is truly a role model for other students interested in working with older adults."

After graduating from the master of health administration program in Spring 2018, Lucas was first employed as the administrator of Trilogy's River Pointe Health Campus in Evansville. She recently was named executive director of the Villages at Oak Ridge, Trilogy's campus in Washington, Indiana.

"I learn something new every single day and absolutely love it," she said. "I am so grateful for all of the opportunities USI has given me."



Empowering Future Nurses with Scholarships



USI's nursing alumni know the meaning of the phrase, "It takes a village," and have been building support for future alumni in the form of a USI Nursing Alumni Scholarship Endowment that has now reached the level required for the annual scholarship to be distributed in perpetuity.

"Nurses are looked to for advice while in their official role and even when not 'working.' We often joke that nurses are never off duty," said Dr. Jennifer Evans, assistant professor of nursing. "I believe that as a nurse, I have a responsibility to be a role model and lead by example. I also feel strongly about giving back and supporting the next generation of nurses. Fortunately, I am not alone in this belief, which is why we now have the endowed USI Nursing Alumni Society Scholarship."

Each year, the nursing alumni society awards a scholarship to a deserving USI undergraduate nursing student. The scholarship represents the collective efforts of many USI nursing alumni to support current nursing students, which demonstrates professional caring behaviors outside of a nurse's formal practice role.

"Nursing alumni came together in recent years to make this a reality," said Taylor Gogel, annual giving officer in the USI Foundation. "Because of their support,

this endowment will continue to impact students within the USI Nursing Program."

The 2017-18 USI Nursing Alumni Society Scholarship recipient was senior Janiese Dash (above). Funds provided by this scholarship are helping her complete her bachelor's degree in nursing at USI.

"Janiese is a very dedicated nursing student. She is kind and compassionate and represents the core values of the nursing profession," said Lynne Melchior, instructor in nursing. "Many times, the patients she cares for think she is 'their nurse for the day,' not realizing she is a student nurse. What I notice about Janiese, whether in class or in the clinical setting, is that she is very engaged and truly wants to learn to provide excellent nursing care. She also has the ability to adapt quickly to any clinical setting or situation."

In addition to the annual scholarship, the USI Nursing Alumni Society recognizes a USI nursing graduate who has made outstanding achievements in a career or public service with the USI Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award. Anyone donating a minimum of \$25 to the USI Nursing Alumni Scholarship will become an active member of the USI Nursing Alumni Society and also a role model for USI nursing students. More information is at usi.edu/nursingsociety.



RECENT LEGISLATION PROMPTS NEW PROGRAMS

The Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning in the USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions has created two new online independent study opportunities for continuing education in response to new legislation passed by both the Indiana House and Senate, which took effect July 1, 2018.

Changes to the Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) and Health Care Consent Laws highlight significant changes that have been made to the POST and the new law creating a hierarchy of consent for health care.

"The POST form is an advance care planning tool designed for patients with serious illness," said Dr. M. Jane Swartz, director of the Center for Lifelong Learning. "It is vital that health professionals are aware of modifications to Indiana law that directly impact patients and practice. Our new program will cover these changes. Registration information will be available soon on our website."

USI's Opioid Abuse/Prescribing program, beginning January 1, 2019, is a new independent study module that meets new requirements for continuing education related to opioid prescribing and opioid abuse. The Indiana House and Senate's new ruling requires continuing education every two years for practitioners with a controlled substance registration.

USI's independent study programs are available at any time. The participant chooses when to start and finish. For more information, call toll free 1-877-874-4584 or 812-461-5217, email usi1nhpcert@usi.edu or visit usi.edu/health and click the "Certificate Programs" tab.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

PRIMARY CARE/MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATED CARE GRANT ARTICLE

The University of Southern Indiana is well into its second year of a three-year federal grant to integrate primary care and mental health services in rural and underserved clinics in southwestern Indiana. USI received \$1.7 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop and implement an Interprofessional Primary Care/Mental Health Integrated Care training model over three years.

“The 2016 Community Needs Assessment identified mental health as a key priority for Vanderburgh and Warrick counties,” said Dr. Kathy Riedford, associate professor of nursing, who is overseeing the grant as director. “Our project is addressing the critical need for high-quality, integrated primary care/mental health practitioners in the region.”

Grant teams—consisting of students in both the USI Nurse Practitioner Program and Master of Social Work Program, along with clinical nurse and social work faculty and a registered pharmacist—have been working at USI’s Community Health Center located at Glenwood Leadership Academy in Evansville, Tulip Tree Family Health Center in Fort Branch and Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare in Boonville and Mt. Vernon.

Project manager for the grant, Dr. Elizabeth Kalb, said the teams will partner with ECHO Housing to provide onsite care at Garvin Lofts, a new development for the chronically homeless in Evansville. “Our teams work to develop and implement integrated care plans to address behavioral and physical health needs for patients to improve their quality of life.”

In addition to impacting patient care, the interprofessional education experience has a positive effect on students. “I had an excellent experience participating in the grant project,” said Samantha Hudson, a nurse practitioner student. “It was truly a learning experience to look at the needs of our clients through another professional’s perspective.”

Erin Taylor, a master of social work student who worked in Southwestern’s Boonville office in Spring 2018, said, “Interprofessional collaboration is an important piece in providing client-centered care to the whole individual. This type of treatment benefits both the client and the professionals. I learned much about the basics of biological care, such as terminology and medication use, and how it impacts the other aspects of the client’s health. You not only learn vital classroom information, but you also are able to directly practice and become comfortable in your role as a future social worker or other profession.”

DENTAL AND RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Amanda Reddington, Amy Egli and Heather Schmuck co-authored a manuscript, “Understanding Interprofessional Education Perceptions of Dental Assisting and Radiologic Technology Students Through a Live Patient Experience,” that was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* in May 2018. Reddington and Egli are clinical assistant professors in Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs, and Schmuck is a clinical assistant professor in the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Program.

Their students worked in groups to perform clinical histories, take vital signs and perform check-offs for imaging in the USI Dental Hygiene Clinic. The students said they appreciated working with a real patient, learning the differences in how the methods the two professions use to evaluate images and differences in the prescribing process for images.

USI DENTAL HYGIENE AND OT STUDENTS TEAM UP



Dental Hygiene and Occupational Therapy students piloted an experiential interprofessional education event late last year and repeated it during the Spring 2018 semester. Partnering with the local Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging organization (SWIRCA & More), older adults were recruited to participate in free screenings on USI’s campus.

Teams of students completed professional assessments to determine oral health and upper body strength and flexibility. Following the assessment, they collaborated to develop individualized treatment plans to improve activities of daily living, including oral health care home regimens, providing education and home oral health care aids modified by the students to meet clients’ needs.

Following the event, both students and clients surveyed reported high satisfaction with the outcomes. Faculty who helped students coordinate the screenings were Lorinda Coan, associate professor of Dental Hygiene and Dr. Mary Kay Arvin, clinical assistant professor of Occupational Therapy and chair of the Occupational Therapy program.

The project was recently reported on the American Dental Education Association website.

BUILDING THE INTERPROFESSIONAL TEAM 2019 CONFERENCE

Strengthening the Health Care Team Conference is a new all-day conference scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in the University Center (Carter Hall) at USI.

“The aim of the conference is looking at the importance of teamwork of those within the health care field in order to improve patient outcomes,” said Dr. M. Jane Swartz, director of the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at USI.

Health care teams will learn strategies to improve interprofessional teamwork, communication and collaboration. The interprofessional planning committee includes members from the medical, nursing, social work and radiology professions, representing USI, University of Evansville, Ivy Tech Community College, Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, St. Vincent Evansville and Deaconess Health System.

This conference is a continuation of a Team STEPPS/ IPIEC Competencies Training held June 2018, at USI with participants from USI, Ivy Tech Community College and the University of Evansville.

“I proposed the idea of this training because it aligned with our Health Resources and Services Administration care grant,” said Dr. Elizabeth Kalb, grant project manager. “One purpose of our grant project is to provide interprofessional education and training for faculty. The June program highlighted the many positive things the College of Nursing and Health Professions at USI is doing in interprofessional education and practice. The upcoming conference in May 2019 will be another opportunity for us collaborate and share information and ideas with area partners.”



Carotid Ultrasound Screenings at MAIA

Even though carotid artery screening is a simple, painless and non-invasive exam, it is something many people may put off due to the financial cost or because they are not aware of the risks for carotid artery disease.

Amy Wilson, clinical associate professor and chair of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program, and Kathy Peak, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, had the foresight to see that this screening could be a benefit to attendees of the Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness (MAIA). In 2015, they approached conference planners, saying they were willing to organize the screenings onsite at the conference. That first year, the response from attendees was overwhelming, and 84 individuals were screened in two days.

For the past three years, they have repeated the screenings at MAIA, using sonography students in the process to provide them valuable educational experience. The time and effort does not go unnoticed. “It takes a lot of planning to bring two large ultrasound machines to the conference center, manage all of the appointment times, and also prepare a report form for each patient to take to their family physician for interpretation and follow-up, but Kathy and Amy do it with such expertise and professionalism that it is a very positive experience for all,” said Mary Ann Allen, coordinator of continuing education in the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning. “They are providing a much-needed free service for the community, while also creating awareness of conditions or habits that could lead to carotid artery disease.”

Simulation Center

Two new human patient simulators, and software for use during course instruction and for student skills practice in the Clinical Simulation Center, have been purchased for the College of Nursing and Health Professions with funding assistance from the USI Foundation.

“These new simulators will help students from all of our disciplines learn about patient-centered care in a safe environment and how to work as part of a health care team,” said Beth Thompson, director of Instructional Resources and Simulation for the College of Nursing and Health Professions. “The funding supports not only the simulators but the accompanying hardware and software for faculty to capture and relay the live simulations so that other students can observe.”

The Clinical Simulation Center is designed to have the appearance and feel of a real hospital. “It is a safe environment in which students may practice skills and gain experience before entering the clinical setting where they will encounter real patients,” said Thompson. “The new simulators provide an even more realistic environment.”

New Employees



Dr. Steve Gruenewald joined the College this summer as an assistant professor and chair of the Health Services Program. Previously, he was an instructor of applied health sciences at Indiana State University.

Gruenewald's area of expertise is health issues pertaining to military veterans, and he also has civilian experience in community health promotion and suicide prevention with a focus on the holistic approach to overall wellness.

Gruenewald received his doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University and a master of science in athletic training from Indiana State University.

He worked as an athletic trainer for 11 years and spent seven years on active duty with the U.S. Army, where he was part of the task force that developed the Army's Warrior Transition Unit for the care and management of injured soldiers. He completed two tours to Iraq and one tour to Hawaii, before retiring from the Army Reserve after 31 years of service.



Dr. Morris Bitzer
assistant professor of dental hygiene and dental assisting in the USI Dental Hygiene Clinic



Dr. Lori Phillips
assistant professor of nursing



Shawna Haywood
instructor of nursing



Samantha Sawyer
clinical coordinator and instructor of diagnostic medical sonography



Krista Kercher
clinical coordinator for Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center



Theresa White-Grimm
receptionist and administrative assistant for the Respiratory Therapy Program

Lisa Riley Medical assistant at Glenwood Community Health Center



USI OUTSTANDING ADVISOR AWARD

Each year, the Faculty Senate's committee, Faculty Awards for Service, Teaching and Research is charged with selecting up to five recipients of the USI Outstanding Advisor Award. Nominations may come from students or colleagues, with each nominee given the opportunity to submit a packet of materials. Criteria for the award include strong interpersonal skills; availability to students they advise; a caring, helpful attitude; and careful monitoring of student progress toward academic and career goals.

In 2018, there were three faculty members from the College who received this award:

DR. ROBERTA HOEBEKE
professor of nursing

MARY ROCK, JD
clinical associate professor of nursing
and

DR. GABRIELA MUSTATA WILSON
associate professor of health informatics and chair of health informatics and information management

Faculty Achievements



Dr. Mary Kay Arvin, clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy, was named chair of the Occupational Therapy Program.



Sarah Heath, academic advisor in the College of Nursing and Health Professions Advising Center, received her Master of Business Administration degree.



Wes Phy, chair of the Respiratory Therapy Program, serves on two committees for the Kentucky Society for Respiratory Care: Government Affairs and Education.



Lorinda Coan was promoted to associate professor of dental hygiene.



Jessica Mason, earned her doctoral degree and was promoted to assistant professor of occupational therapy. She also was named fieldwork coordinator for the Occupational Therapy Program.



Ekta Rathee '18, instructor in nursing, received her Doctor of Nursing degree from USI.



Joy Cook, clinical associate professor of radiologic and imaging sciences, was named interim chair of the program.



Ruth Metzger, grant writer and coordinator of interprofessional education, received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Walden University.



Dr. Martin Reed, chair of the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Program, will retire with emeritus honors after his sabbatical ends in December, 2018.



Amy Egli was promoted to clinical assistant professor of dental hygiene and dental assisting.



Katherine Peak, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, is the recipient of the College of Nursing and Health Professions' Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for 2017-2018.



Heather Schmuck, clinical assistant professor of radiologic and imaging sciences, was named interim clinical coordinator for the program.

Faculty Achievements



Dr. Kevin Valadares was promoted to professor of health services.



Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions at the University of Southern Indiana, was elected to the Collegiate Nursing Education Board of Commissioners, representing chief nursing administrators from across the United States.



Dr. Colleen Walsh, contract clinical assistant professor of nursing, serves on the advisory board of the American College of Perioperative Medicine which is involved in the enhanced recovery after surgery model of care.



Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson, associate professor of health informatics and chair of the Health Informatics and Information Management Program, is a fellow and president of the Indiana Chapter of Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS).



Dr. Jennifer Williams, assistant professor of health services and administration, was appointed to the Journal of Health Administration Education Reviewer Panel by the Leadership Development Committee of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. She served as chair and moderator for the Regulatory Compliance Congress in Washington, D.C., and presented information on misbranding and solutions to remaining compliant.

Dr. Jennifer Williams, assistant professor of health services and administration, was appointed to the Journal of Health Administration Education Reviewer Panel by the



1 and 2 mentorships at the STAR Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Dr. Jessica Wood was promoted to assistant professor of occupational therapy assistant and received the College of Nursing and Health Profession's Faculty Development Award. She completed levels

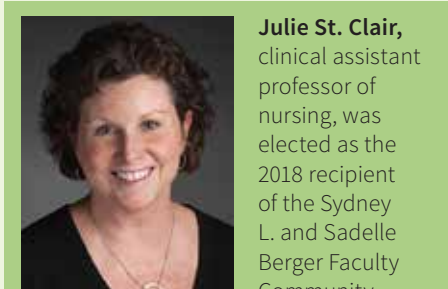


Dr. Dawn Worman was promoted to assistant professor of nursing.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Dr. Julie McCullough, chair of the Food and Nutrition Program, was named **2018 Outstanding Dietitian of the Year** by the Indiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



Julie St. Clair, clinical assistant professor of nursing, was elected as the 2018 recipient of the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community

Service Award. This award recognizes a USI faculty member for distinguished service to groups, agencies and institutions external to the University.

St. Clair has been a member of the USI undergraduate nursing program since 1990. Her prior experience was in public health nursing, having served as director of nursing for the Vanderburgh County Health Department. She continues to create awareness of public health issues and advocates for improved health for the homeless and other vulnerable populations in the Evansville community.

Sigma Honor Society



Fifty-nine baccalaureate nursing students were inducted in the Omicron Psi chapter of Sigma, the international nursing honor society, this spring at an event held in USI's Griffin Center. Music was provided by nursing alum Rachel Riedford '17, who was inducted into the chapter in 2017.

Student role models going to conferences



Three students in the Master of Health Administration (MHA) 4+1 Program modeled professionalism in their field by presenting at the 2018 Aging in America Conference, held in San Francisco, California, in March 2018. **Rebecca Lucas, Carly Andrews** and **Ru Jia** presented a 90-minute symposium, "Falls: Not Only a Nursing Home Concern" with Dr. Phoneshia Wells, assistant professor of health services. "Our presentation was an incredible experience, as were the sessions we attended," said Lucas. "While attending this conference, we were able to discuss aging with peers from across the country, and I can confidently say that USI is at the forefront in gerontology and aging."

Another MHA student, **Tiffani Weatherford**, presented her undergraduate Endeavor project at the Aging in America Conference. Her poster, "Respecting Intimacy in Long Term Care - Sex Isn't Just for the Young," was accepted for presentation at the gathering, which annually attracts over 3,000 attendees from across the nation and abroad.



Shari Bryant, a student in USI's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, has been selected as the recipient of an American Association of Nurse Practitioners Scholarship Award. The mission of the association is to empower all nurse practitioners to advance quality health care through practice, education, advocacy,

research and leadership. It supports nurse practitioners in their advancement with in the profession by offering grant and scholarship opportunities. Bryant is leading a DNP project to initiate a residency for new adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner graduates at St. Vincent in Evansville.

Nursing students win competitions

Tri-State nursing students and nurses from regional hospitals were put to the test during the annual Critical Care Challenge sponsored by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Greater Evansville Area, this Spring. Each team had one minute to answer a multiple-choice question about critical care, and the team with the most correct answers took home the trophy (and bragging rights). USI took first place in the student division, and a team from Deaconess Hospital with all USI nursing graduates except for one, took first among participating hospitals.



Deaconess team members who are USI grads are **Justin Blinn, Ariel Blinn, Sean Pedley, Tori Phillips, Christa Carrico, Kelsey Rusk, Kylie Heckert, Mark Ritter, Rachael Riedford** and **Claudia Williams**.

USI also competed in the NCLEX Challenge in Owensboro, Kentucky, sponsored by the Kentucky Nurses Association. USI took first place against the University of Louisville and schools from Owensboro, Madisonville, Hopkinsville and Henderson. (NCLEX stands for National Council Licensure Examination which is given by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to license nurses in the United States.) The NCLEX Challenge is a way to celebrate nursing and the critical thinking necessary to successfully take the NCLEX exam.

USI faculty advisor for the Critical Care Challenge and NCLEX teams is Dr. Marilyn Ostendorf, clinical assistant professor of nursing.

ALUMNI NEWS



Stephanie Knox MSN'11, DNP'17, dean of the School of Nursing at Ivy Tech Community College Madison/Lawrenceburg campuses, won the 2018 Ivy Tech Innovation Day challenge with her *Educate the Educator* nursing education plan. Innovation Day is a state-wide contest with a format similar to the popular TV show, *Shark Tank*.

She employed her USI research project as the basis for her entry. Her Ivy Tech campuses received \$25,000 for funding to implement her concept: a 32-hour online course for all new nurse faculty to take during their first semester.

Knox started working as an adjunct faculty in the nursing program at Ivy Tech in Madison in 2010 and became the Dean of Nursing for the Madison and Lawrenceburg campuses in 2013.

Hands-On Trauma Simulation

Captain Robert Greener, U.S. Army physician assistant, helps occupational therapy assistant student Brittany Johnson insert an airway on a special simulator designed for emergency medicine training. Greener conducted a variety of hands-on medical simulations this spring for USI students and faculty to demonstrate advanced medical care for trauma victims in austere conditions. Procedures included applying tourniquets, pressure bandages and splints, direct laryngeal intubation, tracheostomies, needle chest decompression, chest seals/tubes, treatment for shock and sternal interosseous access.



Indiana Association of Nursing Students

Several students from USI were named to the 2018-19 board of directors of the Indiana Association of Nursing Students:

- McKenzie Owens, treasurer;
- Lukas Vessels, image of nursing ;
- Connor Waldkoetter, legislature;
- Kelsey Klusmeier, newsletter editor;
- and Jenny Webster, convention committee



Generations Connect

Stepping up to the podium to introduce Dr. Bill Thomas, an international authority on geriatric medicine and eldercare and keynote speaker at this year's Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness, gave USI junior Patricia Brenner a thrilling and unique connection to the past and present few people experience.

The podium had been constructed by her grandfather, something she discovered when she'd interviewed him for her oral history project. "My grandpa is a retired railroader who picked up woodworking in 1960 and began making repairs to furniture," she said, noting her grandfather stressed the importance of community service. "Both Dr. Thomas and my grandfather are centered around community-based work, so it was an incredible experience to represent them in front of such an amazing audience."

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INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

USI's Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning in the College of Nursing and Health Professions is one of only 64 health care and/or educational institutions nationwide to hold Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

“This new accreditation is a testament to the excellent interprofessional continuing education offerings and the hard work and expertise of the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning.”

Dr. Ann White, dean of USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions

“Joint Accreditation is the leader in interprofessional collaborative practice, so now that we are jointly accredited, we have the opportunity to provide medical, nursing, pharmacy and health profession continuing education for the health care team through a single, streamlined application process.”

Dr. M. Jane Swartz, director of USI's Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning

Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning

2019 Conferences and Workshops

- January 24, Pediatric Conference
- March 4, Respecting Choices First Steps*
- March 4-8, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Training*
- March 16-17, Healing Touch Workshop
- April 3, Nursing Leadership Conference
- April 10, Research and Health Issues Conference
- May 3, Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium
- May 8, Midwest Care Coordination Conference
- May 15-17, Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies (IADS)
- May 22, Strengthening the Health Care Team Conference
- August 7-9, Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness (MAIA)
- September 17, Respecting Choices First Steps*
- September 18, Advance Care Planning Conference
- September 27, Pharmacology Update for Health Professionals Conference
- September 28, Trends in Oral Care Conference
- October 16, Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference
- October 19-20, Healing Touch Workshop
- October 23, Health Informatics Tri-State Summit (HITS)

2019 Certificate Programs (online continuing education)

- Anticoagulation, eight weeks, begins January 7, March 11, May 13, July 22, October 7
- Case Management, eight weeks, begins March 25, June 3, August 12
- Clinical Simulation, six weeks, begins February 18, September 9
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine, eight weeks, begins March 11, September 9
- Coronal Polishing, begins March 4*
- Diabetes, 10 weeks, begins February 4, August 5
- Faith Community Nursing, six weeks, begins March 18, September 9
- Fluoride Application, begins March 4*
- Health Informatics, 10 weeks, begins January 28, August 5
- Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, eight weeks, begins January 7, September 9
- Heart Failure, seven weeks, begins January 14, September 16
- Hypertension, seven weeks, begins February 11, July 22
- Lipid Management, nine weeks, begins January 21, September 9
- Local Anesthesia, begins January 7*
- Medical Coding, 16 weeks, begins January 7, August 19*
- Oncology Management, 10 weeks, begins March 11, August 12
- Oncology Management, 10 weeks, begins March 11, August 12
- Opioid Abuse/Prescribing, independent study, begins January 1
- Pain Management, eight weeks, begins January 14, July 29
- Patient Self-testing Anticoagulation, independent study, begins January 1
- Wound Management, eight weeks, begins January 28, September 16



Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness exercise class

Registration and Program Information

Visit **USI.edu/health** or call:

Workshops and Conferences
 812-464-1989

Certificate Programs
 812-461-5217 or 877-874-4584

*Denotes “Hybrid” conference and certificate programs (combination of online and face-to-face content). See website for specific online and live start dates.