

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions



Letter from the Dean



We are surviving another semester during a global pandemic! Because of the coronavirus, it has been an unpredictable and sometimes bumpy ride. A heartfelt thank you to everyone in the College of Nursing and Health Professions for all you have done to keep things on course. Since the onset of COVID-19 over a year ago, we have been disciplined, creative and flexible. It is so impressive how all have worked together to help our students meet their required learning outcomes.

Against all odds, our clinical fieldwork and internship partners at various healthcare settings have been successful in creating meaningful experiences for our students at a time when everyone questioned if this could be accomplished safely. Some of these shining stars are featured in this issue. Please know that we greatly appreciate all you have done to support students and faculty.

This issue also features other stories of perseverance, including telehealth initiatives in our College and student involvement in the community. Things definitely looked a bit different, from the online meetings and classes to social distancing, but USI students, faculty and staff masked up, showed up and did an amazing job.

From the start, the health and safety of our campus community has been a top priority, and several people from the College of Nursing and Health Professions are serving on the Presidential Task Force monitoring the virus and working on strategies to mitigate risks during this pandemic. Hear, in their own words, the precautions and recommendations they helped put in place for our campus to stay safe.

These are uncertain times, but one thing that is certain is our students' resilience and the "never give up" attitude of our faculty and staff.

Thank you,

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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On the cover | Cover design created by USI Nursing Faculty, Fall 2020

The University of Southern Indiana is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS STEPS UP DURING PANDEMIC

Several members of the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) serving on the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 monitor the coronavirus and work on strategies to mitigate risks on USI's campus during this pandemic. Their work, after the shutdown in March 2020, successfully and safely allowed students and employees to return to campus in a modified format without major spread of infection within the campus community. A few CNHP representatives on the task force shared their insights and thoughts about the pandemic.



Julie St. Clair, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing

Since my background is in public health nursing, I was excited to be serving on the Task Force. I hoped that my experience and perspective would be useful in the process of providing a safe and healthy environment for students and our workforce as we

navigated through the pandemic in shutdown and as we reopened.

I think we have done an excellent job in communicating among ourselves and for advising safe protocols for the USI community. I am proud to be part of the group that strives to do what is best for the common good, that believes in implementing evidence-based practices for safety and shows respect for each other.



Dr. Tracy Kinner, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing

I am happy to be able to offer my clinical knowledge as a practicing nurse practitioner in the urgent care setting to the USI community. I feel the Operations/Logistics Committee focuses on how to keep the USI family safe and how to implement the

necessary safety measures to protect the USI family from COVID.

As a family nurse practitioner with a background in primary care and emergency room, with a current practice environment of urgent care, I have practical clinical experience which helps inform the committee about what health issues, concerns and treatments I see when patients first present and are ill with COVID.



Dr. Swateja Nimkar, Associate Professor of Health Services

I was a part of two subcommittees that focused on the safe return to campus and Fall instructional options. The main goal was to strike the right balance between continuing to offer quality education and a low-risk campus environment.

This task was especially interesting because of my public health background and that I could use it to benefit the USI community during these unprecedented times.



Joy Cook, Associate Professor and Chair of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

I was part of the academic affairs team that helped draft recommendations for the steering committee regarding most aspects dealing with academics on campus: the University schedule and timing of when classes would start and end, how the

Summer courses would look (online, hybrid).

I think the committee's work was invaluable because we were able to provide research evidence about what happened on our own campus during Spring 2020 and used that information to make informed decisions about Fall 2020. We were also able to gather data on what other institutions in Indiana, the United States and internationally were doing for returning to campus.

The plan to reopen campus came together with representatives from different areas across campus collaborating to make sure the needs of the campus as a whole community would be met.

PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE

Operations/Logistics Committee:

Julie St. Clair, Dr. Tracy Kinner

Academic Affairs Committee:

Joy Cook, Dr. Katie Ehlman,
Dr. Swateja Nimkar and
Dr. Ann White

Safety Team:

Julie St. Clair

Resource Personnel:

Yvonne Beavin,
Dr. Julie McCullough and
Dr. Erin Reynolds

ND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Students Provide USI Administration with COVID-19 Insights

All USI students have had to adapt to new ways of learning during the coronavirus pandemic, but a very unique project occurred in Dr. Steve Gruenewald's Healthcare Quality junior/senior class during the Fall 2020 Semester. The students were asked to examine USI's handling of the pandemic and offer suggestions for moving forward.

"I wanted to make sure that the students were well prepared and presented their assessment in a professional and concise manner."

"In a typical semester, students present their assessment of a healthcare organization's policy, program or procedure to evaluate the quality. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic causing major adjustments and changes in the USI community, the opportunity to conduct an assessment with real-world application presented itself," said Gruenewald. "The students studied the COVID-19 response on

the USI campus and were able to present their findings to USI administration at the end of the semester. This assignment gave students the opportunity to collaborate across disciplines to develop a presentation that would benefit the entire USI community today and in the future."

The students represented a variety of majors, including Health Services, Psychology and Radiologic and Imaging Sciences, according to Gruenewald.

The students chose the slogan: "USI ... We're Still Here!" In their Zoom presentation on December 4 to USI administrators, they said:

- USI faculty should continue to be empathetic to student challenges during this pandemic.
- The campus could have more common areas open with controlled access.
- The face covering mandate should continue to be enforced.
- Library hours could be adjusted to be more accommodating to students' schedules.
- Sodexo "Munch Money" should be rolled over until the pandemic is declared "over."
- A link for the COVID-19 information on the myUSI app would improve communication of safety protocols.

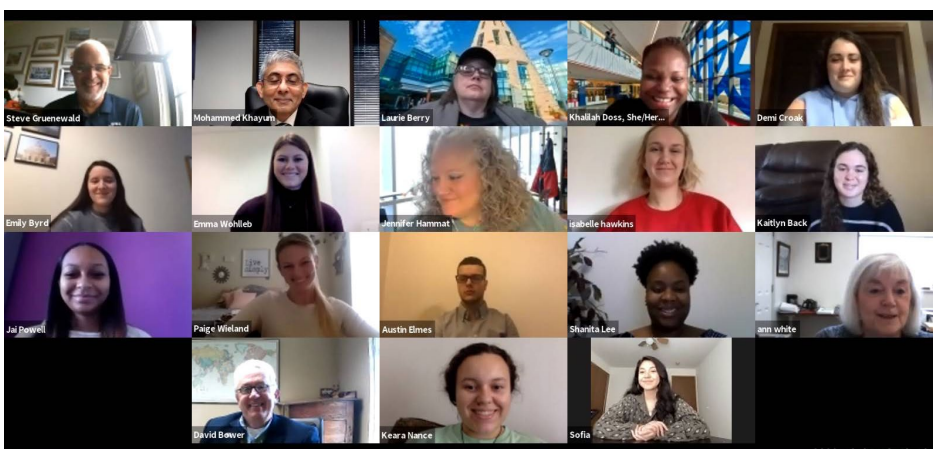
Presenting to the USI administration on Zoom posed some challenges to the students, according to Gruenewald. To help the students be more comfortable with a Zoom presentation, he invited a former news anchor to provide tips on remaining calm when presenting before a virtual audience.

After several practice presentations and critiques of individual performance, the time came to deliver the presentations. "Presenting is our primary form of communication in healthcare," said Gruenewald. "I wanted to make sure that the students were well prepared and presented their assessment in a professional and concise manner."

USI administrators in attendance included Dr. Mohammed Khayum, Provost; Dr. Jennifer Hammat, Dean of Students; Laurie Berry, Assistant Dean of Students; David Bower, Vice President for Development; Dr. Khaliah Doss, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Dr. Ann White, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

USI President Ronald Rochon was not able to attend the Zoom presentation because of a schedule conflict, so he met with the students separately, a week later. "Members of the class heard President Rochon's appreciation for the dedication they showed to the USI community in this time of great uncertainty by providing this information to the USI administration and COVID-19 Task Force," said Gruenewald.

Gruenewald said the student-lead project is an example of innovative curriculum adaptation. "Maintaining the status quo with the directed assessment of an external healthcare organization could have been done, but the students saw the opportunity to use the knowledge of quality assessment gained through class lecture and discussion to benefit the USI community," he said.



Dr. Gruenewald's students present to USI administrators on Zoom.

THANK YOU

to Clinical Fieldwork and Internship Partners

The College of Nursing and Health Professions is indebted to all of the clinical fieldwork and internship partners at various healthcare settings who have gone above and beyond to create meaningful experiences for our students during the pandemic. Here are a few examples of how our educational partners have stepped up during this very uncertain time.



Diagnostic Medical Sonography

“For me, the two people who come to mind are clinical instructors, Patti Meyer (from Deaconess) and Lindsey Mehringer (Ascension St. Vincent),” said Samantha Callis, Instructor and Clinical Coordinator for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. “They have come through for our program providing additional student placements and being extremely flexible with last minute placements/scheduling. They have been under so much stress, and this would be an incredible thank you to them! It’s been amazing to see how they have worked together from two different health systems as a team for our students. This is no different than usual, but they have really come through in the ninth inning for our Summer and Fall clinical rotations when I had students that needed a different site literally overnight.”

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

“We have the following preceptors that worked with us to keep our students in clinical this semester: Makenzie Jones M’20 and Mikaela Archuleta ‘15 from Deaconess Midtown; Chris Prifogle from Deaconess Gateway; Doris Allen from Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper; and Amanda Griswold M’20 from Ascension St. Vincent Evansville,” said Heather Schmuck, Clinical Associate Professor and Clinical Coordinator for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. “We are so appreciative of the countless hours spent on meetings, checking paperwork, responding to emails and working through schedules to strategically align students with rotations to meet educational requirements. It sometimes took some thinking ‘outside the box,’ but their experience and attention to detail made it possible for students to have a successful and valuable clinical experience. We couldn’t do what we do without them.”

Occupational Therapy

“Jeanene Goebel and Deidre Scheu at the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Kim Armstrong at St. Paul’s Church and Maghan Bretz at Ascension St. Vincent Evansville have gone above and beyond,” said Dr. Jessica Mason, Assistant Professor and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator of Occupational Therapy. “All four ladies have supported our program significantly since March by taking extra students when sites have needed to cancel and allowing students to spend extra time at the sites to ensure the students completed their mandatory fieldwork weeks and hours.”

Nursing

Mary Moll, Director of Medical Surgical Nursing at Ascension St. Vincent Evansville, says she has been a clinical preceptor for USI Nursing students for her entire career, which is over 40 years. She worked with Dr. Ann White when she was clinical faculty on the Postoperative Surgical Unit at then St. Mary’s. She enjoys the energy, enthusiasm and “future hope” that students bring to the hospital environment at Ascension St. Vincent and the nursing profession as a whole.

“I am always inspired and impressed by what the students, who will be future nurses, are capable of and what they will bring to nursing,” she said. “The collaboration and interactions between faculty, students and preceptors make us all better.”

She said staffing and trying to ensure the hospital’s nursing teams are supported at the level needed to meet patient care needs has been very challenging during the pandemic. “Early on, it was also the pace and number of changes that we needed to implement and respond to,” she said.

The Rise of Telehealth at USI

With the coronavirus pandemic, telehealth has certainly been front and center. For certain areas of our healthcare system, telehealth is faster, safer, less expensive and often more effective, which benefits both providers and patients in the long run.

Two federal grant projects within the College of Nursing and Health Professions were able to secure additional funding for telehealth initiatives through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“The flexibility provided by telehealth allowed compromised patients to maintain their psychiatric appointments, leading them to receive the help they so desperately sought when they were very reticent to venture into public places.”

USI GWEP

The USI Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is utilizing a CARES grant in the amount of \$90,625 to integrate telehealth technology into the academic curriculum and to bridge the medical and social care provided to older adults in southwestern Indiana.

Dr. Katie Ehlman, GWEP Director and Professor of Gerontology, said the CARES funding has provided two types of telehealth kits (one for on-demand medical visits and the other for remote patient monitoring) for academic programs at USI, University of Evansville and the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center’s Scholars Program. The kits, widely used in the region with

GWEP’s partner, Deaconess Health System, will allow for a more hands-on opportunity for students to use this technology, which is now a very critical component of healthcare delivery in the age of COVID-19.

The USI GWEP also collaborated with the Indiana Rural Health Association’s Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center (UMTRC) to help USI’s academic programs integrate telehealth. The UMTRC is one of the 14 federally funded Telehealth Resource Centers under the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, which is part of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. As part of the USI GWEP’s CARES grant, Becky Sanders and her team at UMTRC provided consultative services in the form of discipline-specific training and curriculum to USI faculty.

In addition to enhancing Deaconess Clinic’s existing remote patient monitoring program, the CARES Act funding is supporting a pilot telehealth program with the two Area Agencies on Aging, distributing telehealth technologies to elders without traditional access to their primary care physicians.

Primary Care Grant

Another HRSA-funded grant in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, the Primary Care Grant, received \$78,571 in CARES funding to provide training and equipment for rural primary care offices in telehealth.

Dr. Tracy Kinner, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing and one of the primary investigators, said the Primary Care Grant team is developing clinical simulations regarding telehealth in the primary care setting.

“It is important for nursing students to learn about telehealth because it allows healthcare to be delivered without physical and geographical barriers,” said Kinner. “Especially

during this pandemic, patients who may be high risk for COVID can still obtain healthcare without having to be in a healthcare facility where they could be exposed to COVID. Furthermore, nurses can focus on patient care and meet a person where he or she is, increasing the convenience to the patient.”

Kinner said the CARES Act funding purchased telehealth equipment for the health clinics at Glenwood, Lodge and Cedar Hall schools so the students and clinic patients can be seen remotely. She credited Alli Flowers and Brandy Sitzman at Deaconess who were instrumental in getting the telehealth equipment installed and running at those clinics.

Kinner is also helping develop a plan to purchase equipment for USI campus apartments and residence halls to monitor students who are isolating because of COVID-19.

Psychiatric Mental Health

Telehealth has become a necessary part of students completing clinical hours during the pandemic. Dr. Kathy Riedford, Associate Professor of Nursing, has worked with a number of sites to use telehealth with her Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students to accomplish their clinical goals.



“A great number of students, particularly those in behavioral health specialties, participated in telehealth client visits with preceptors during 2020 clinical experiences. For most of these students, it was a novel experience and innovative way to reach anguished and paranoid clients.”

Two of Reidford’s students had these comments:

“The flexibility provided by telehealth allowed compromised patients to maintain their psychiatric appointments, leading them to receive the help they so desperately sought when they were very reticent to venture into public places.”

“Telehealth visits have been invaluable during this pandemic, especially for clients with conditions that greatly predispose them to COVID-19, as they allow these clients to receive much needed treatment from the safety of home. The wait time for services is

lessened significantly, and patients are more satisfied with care provision.”

Students studying dietetics collaborated with dental hygiene students on the use of Healthie, a practice management and telehealth platform. Beth Young, Instructor in Food and Nutrition, provided a one-hour training on the telehealth/virtual care aspects of Healthie for students in Dr. Julie McCullough’s upper-level nutrition Medical Nutrition Therapy course and Emily Holt’s Clinical Application of Periodontology course. The telehealth component was added to the class activity to allow for more social distancing in the Dental Hygiene Clinic and also educate students on the use of this technology.

“One group used the Healthie app to have a dental hygiene student who was in quarantine present during the appointment,” said Holt. “That was a nice way to implement

the software and allow the student to have input on the patient’s educational goals for the day.”

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Pandemic doesn’t stop Food and Nutrition Students

Bayleigh Wessel ‘20 and Jenifer Hartman ‘22 were among a group of USI Food and Nutrition students volunteering their time to plan, prep and deliver nutritious snacks each week for 25 students

in the after-school program at Patchwork Central, a non-profit near downtown Evansville.

While serving local youth, they’re learning to develop and prepare recipes, stick to a budget and navigate food allergies and perishability restrictions. Amy Doninger, Senior Administrative Assistant for the Food and Nutrition Program, assists by doing the grocery shopping.

“It’s one of the few community types of projects that we were able to organize for our students ... with 95% of the work happening here on campus,” said Beth Young, Instructor in Food and Nutrition, who oversees the project.

The USI Food and Nutrition Student Organization (FNSO) also provides meals at the Ronald McDonald House each semester. The students held a pie

fundraiser before the Thanksgiving holiday in which they raised around \$500.

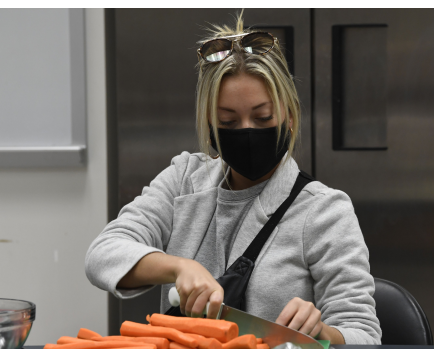
“We sold a total of 80 pies and they were a variety of pecan, pumpkin and apple,” said Casey Hand, FNSO president. “We volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House each semester, preparing a meal for the residents and this requires FNSO to purchase the ingredients out of our account. Members of FNSO had expressed that they were interested in providing these residents with a meal more than once a semester, so we plan to use some of the funds we raised to provide the Ronald McDonald House with more meals.”

Hand said to her knowledge, this is the first year FNSO has done a Thanksgiving pie fundraiser. “The idea came about because some semesters, we do take-home meals for faculty and staff during finals week, and usually have a successful fundraiser with that,” she said. “Since we wouldn’t be on campus for finals week, we needed to come up with something similar that could take place before we left for Thanksgiving break. We thought we might sell around 30 pies, so we were shocked and ecstatic to have such success selling 80 pies. A lot of planning, time and effort was put into getting the ingredients and actually making the pies. There were over 20 volunteer hours logged total, with multiple people volunteering across a three-day time span.”

Because the FNSO plans to use the money raised during the fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House, the student organization was nominated for a Leadership Everyone award and recognized at the 26th annual “Celebration of Leadership,” which was held virtually on March 18. Hand said that being nominated for this award is “the pat on the back I think everyone needs after the hard work put in during a unique semester.”



Students prepare pies for the fundraiser.



Bayleigh Wessel ‘20 chops carrots.

Occupational Therapy and Engineering students team up to make adaptable tricycle

Joyriding down a school hallway could easily result in detention.

But when the “open road” of Scott Elementary beckoned this fall, it was Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) physical therapist Jean Neidig who encouraged a hesitant second grader to take a test drive.

Because of mobility issues, 8-year-old Charleigh Garrett can’t pedal a traditional bike. She can—and did—however, zip past classrooms on a highly customized set of wheels designed and developed by USI students.

“She was excited,” says Neidig. “She was surprised how fast it went, I think.”

The idea

In the summer of 2019, USI occupational therapy (OT) students Kate Duty ’20 and Taylor VanCleave ’20 happily agreed to help with a relay race at EVSC’s annual Special Olympics Unified Champions Game Day—a field day for students with special needs.

They soon realized Dr. Karen Dishman, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, didn’t want them to volunteer; as part of her class, she expected them to *create* a race activity students could enjoy, regardless of their physical challenges.

VanCleave suggested an adapted hand cycle bike that would allow students who couldn’t walk or run to ride, powering the wheels with their hands instead of feet. But with limited resources and construction



Charleigh Garrett zips by on her hand cycle bike.



(Left to right) USI Spring 2020 graduates Logan James, Trevor Yoder, Alessandro Trujillo, Taylor VanCleave and Kate Duty pose with Charleigh Garrett, a second-grader at Scott Elementary School in Evansville. Charleigh has been practicing riding the adaptive tricycle the graduates designed and developed during their senior year at USI.

skills, they needed to simplify. The back and harness they eventually added to a scooter board, allowing students to be safely pushed on a track, wasn’t fancy. But it was fun. And an upgrade was on the way.

Going high tech

Every engineering student at USI completes a senior design project. As Logan James ’20, Trevor Yoder ’20 and Alessandro Trujillo ’20 discussed ideas, Duty and VanCleave’s adaptive bicycle/tricycle, shared with them during class, rose to the top of their list.

“We had originally thought of doing a project for [a large company], but then we thought this would be more of a longer lasting impact project . . . And a more meaningful project,” said Yoder.

“It impacted kids . . . and it was also kind of open to how we wanted to do it and design it,” added James.

After brainstorming concepts, they ordered a tricycle frame and prepared to adjust it to meet the OT students’ specifications, making it functional and safe.

Personal impact

Time and distance limitations prevented Trujillo, James and Yoder from adding everything they’d initially planned to the project; for example, they’d hoped to install a swivel seat making it easier for children to transition from their wheelchairs to the tricycle. “Maybe in the future, another engineering group will try to upgrade the version we created,” said Trujillo.

For now though, their version is doing exactly what they hoped: making an impact.

“It’s really awesome that our small idea grew so much,” said Duty.

“It’s just unbelievable,” Dishman said. “Seeing this actually happen is a dream come true for me. This is why I got into the profession.”

For more than a year—from concept and completion to action and opportunity—it’s been a ride. A joyride.

“It’s phenomenal,” added Neidig. “There will always be someone who will benefit from it.”

Dietetics Student Receives University-Wide Scholarship



Casey Hand

Prior student loans almost kept **Casey Hand** from enrolling at USI. So, when the senior dietetics major learned she was selected to receive the prestigious Bill Sands Communication Award, she was beyond thrilled.

“My previous school loan debt was something that almost stopped me from pursuing my dream of becoming a registered dietitian nutritionist. Receiving a scholarship for any amount to help fund my education means so much to me now,” said Hand,

a non-traditional student. “Receiving a scholarship helps alleviate a tremendous amount of stress and equips me to be able to borrow less money in the long run.”

The University-wide scholarship was established by USI faculty members – the late William and Helen Sands – in memory of their son, Bill, who died in a car accident in 1998.

Hand attended Indiana University after high school, majoring in psychology. “After a year, I decided to switch majors and ended up going to culinary arts school in Indianapolis,” she said. “Food has always been a big and important part of my life, and after attending culinary school, I started to become very interested in my own personal health and how food played a huge role in it.”

Upon graduation in Spring 2021, Hand will complete a supervised internship—she also plans to work on a master’s degree, simultaneously.

Hand, who is 31, said when she enrolled at USI she wasn’t looking for the “traditional college experience” because of her age. She credits faculty members in the Food and Nutrition Program for encouraging her to volunteer and get involved in leadership positions on campus. “They care about my future and push me to excel and be the best student I can be, so that I am adequately prepared to be competitive in the dietetic supervised internship process,” she said.

Hand is currently the president of the Food and Nutrition Student Organization in which she helps organize volunteer opportunities at the Tri-State Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House and various health fairs.

She has been on the Dean’s List every semester while at USI and is also a member of USI’s Honors Program which requires she complete additional projects each semester.

USI Food and Nutrition Joins Fight Against Food Insecurity

The USI Food and Nutrition program is involved with a federal grant to support local farmers and healthy food choices. Evansville, Indiana, is one of 16 cities in the nation to receive assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“The U.S. EPA has delivered its final edit on the **Local Foods, Local Places** plan that will serve as a working document for the City of Evansville to provide more economic opportunities to farmers, increase access to healthier, local foods and to revitalize neighborhoods,” said Christine Prior of the Evansville Department of Metropolitan Development. “Action items are already underway, and the plan will be more widely disseminated after the first of the year to prospective partners to encourage broader participation in the initiatives.”

Dr. Julie McCullough, Chair of the Food Work Group of the Promise Zone, indicates “the food work group will be working with the steering committee to implement parts of the action plan in year 2021. It was great to work with many community members in Evansville on this action plan.”

Nearly all communities selected include Opportunity Zones. The **Local Foods, Local Places** program is a federal initiative that helps communities reinvest in existing neighborhoods and improve quality of life through the sustainable development of their local food economy.

According to a press release from the EPA, Evansville plans to create a multi-use food center to address food insecurity and provide resources for local food entrepreneurs.



Dental Hygiene students volunteer at the Tri-State Food Bank

In February 2021, 23 USI Dental Hygiene students volunteered at the Tri-State Food Bank as part of their research of the impact of homelessness on oral public health. Lorie Coan, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, and Mandy Reddington, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, supervised two groups as they explored the meaning of food insecurity and learned that as a result of COVID-19, community needs are greater now than ever before. The students sorted multiple barrels of food items for distribution to local area shelters and prepared meal boxes for older adults and food bags for school children.



Students sort multiple barrels of food items for distribution to local area shelters.

USI Hosts On-Campus Vaccine Clinic



Shawna Haywood, Nursing Instructor, prepares to give USI Math major, and a student worker in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, Lauren Mygatt her first COVID-19 vaccine shot.

It was mostly quiet in the Screaming Eagles Arena on the morning of Tuesday, April 6, much as it had been for the last year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Slowly but surely, however, crews from USI Creative and Print Services, IT and the College of Nursing and Health Professions began to filter in, putting together signs, setting up waiting areas and prepping for the USI Vaccination Clinic that would take place Wednesday, April 7 through Friday, April 9. The doors opened for students, employees and community family members to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in an effort to vaccinate as many students as possible and

send them home safe after the Spring Semester.

Creative and Print Services didn't miss a beat, providing 123 pieces of signage for the clinic. This included floor and sidewalk graphics, directional signage inside and outside the arena, a large banner at the roundabout, the large window cling location graphic on the arena window, vaccine stations and registration table numbers, designated rooms signs and instructional signage.

Creative and Print Services also printed 2,000 vaccination forms and 2,500 "I've been vaccinated" stickers in the days leading up to the clinic. Crews were placing signage throughout the day Tuesday, April 6 and the morning of Wednesday, April 7 to help guide volunteers, students and employees.

As the time to open the clinic drew closer, students from the USI Nursing Program gathered the morning of April 7 to go over vaccination procedures. During the three days of the clinic, 76 nursing students administered vaccines to their fellow students as well as University employees. Each day, at least four faculty members of

the nursing program were onsite supervising the vaccinations and assisting in the preparation of the vaccine.

The morning of April 7, University officials, volunteers, students and employees, along with news media from the Tri-state gathered at Screaming Eagles Arena to kick off the Vaccination Clinic. University President Dr. Ronald Rochon and Dr. Ann White, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, spoke on the importance of the clinic in keeping our community safe.

Over the three day vaccination clinic, a total of 1,420 individuals received their first doses of the Pfizer vaccine.

The second round of vaccinations will be available on campus from April 28 to April 30.

"This highly successful effort was a magnificent example of the entire University coming together to work for a specific goal to benefit the common good. Students, faculty, staff, community volunteers — all shoulder-to-shoulder, walking together, facing forward."

David Bower, Vice President for Development.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

New Employees



Dr. Ashley Carter
*Assistant Professor of
Nursing*



Karla Diekemper
*GWEP Gerontology
Faculty*



Stephanie Herron
*Academic Practice
Partnership
Coordinator and
Instructor in Nursing*



Dr. Lisa Fournier
*GWEP Project
Coordinator*



Lori Kelley
*Instructor in
Radiologic and
Imaging Sciences*



Nickole Lynn
*Senior Administrative
Assistant for
Occupational
Therapy*



Mary Phillips
*Instructor in
Respiratory Therapy*



Lacy Pippin
*Academic Practice
Partner Coordinator
and Instructor in
Nursing*



Dr. Amy Thornton
*Contract Assistant
Professor of Nursing*

PARTNERSHIPS

Hershel B. Whitney Leadership Gift Funds New Nursing Scholarships

The University of Southern Indiana Foundation has received a \$2 million leadership gift from the estate of the late Hershel B. Whitney for nursing scholarships.

The Hershel B. Whitney Nursing Scholarship Endowment will honor the life and legacy of Whitney while providing scholarships for University of Southern Indiana undergraduate students who have been accepted into the Nursing Program. The Nursing Program at USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions has a tradition of academic excellence. Since 2018, USI Bachelor of Science in Nursing cohorts have achieved a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam, issued by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, exceeding the national average pass rate of 86% to 88%. Since 2018, more than 83% of graduates have chosen to remain in Indiana to provide care.

"We continue to be grateful for the generosity of Mr. Whitney. Now, more than ever, we recognize the invaluable care provided by nursing professionals in our community, our country and around the world," said Ronald Rochon, USI President. "This gift will provide financial assistance to USI students who have met the high standards required for entry into our Nursing Program. These scholarships will be meaningful to the individuals who have made the thoughtful decision to dedicate their lives to the nursing profession and care of others."

Dr. Ann White, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, commented, "Our nursing students continuously take on rigorous academic coursework and clinical hours required of the Nursing Program. The Hershel B. Whitney Nursing Scholarships

will help ease the financial challenges of recipients as they work to become outstanding healthcare providers. We are immensely appreciative of Mr. Whitney's investment in our students, faculty and program."

Whitney resided in Indianapolis and was employed with Eli Lilly and Company until his retirement. Following his death in 2015, the Hershel B. Whitney Charitable Trust selected the University of Southern Indiana to make a positive impact on programs that enhance the care and support of the population. In 2018, the Hershel B. Whitney Professorship in Gerontology and the Hershel B. Whitney Occupational Therapy Endowment were established at USI with a [leadership gift from the trust.](#)

Heart to Heart Foundation Assists Students Interested in Hospice Care

The University of Southern Indiana is one of five institutions nationwide to receive funding from Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation to create a scholarship endowment. Taylor Gogel '13 M'19, Assistant Director of Development with the USI Foundation, said the Heart to Heart Hospice Scholarship will be awarded to University of Southern Indiana students based upon academic ability, with preference given to students pursuing a career in hospice care and/or advance care planning.

"The dying process is often overlooked during the healthcare education experience, and we are honored to help teach these students about allowing people to reach the end of their life's journey with peace, dignity, compassion, hope and comfort."

For the past two years, Amy Pierce, Instructor in Nursing, has partnered with

Heart to Heart Hospice in Evansville and Jasper as part of her course—Caring for Adults Across the Lifespan. "Heart to Heart takes two senior nursing students each week for clinical rotation," said Pierce. "The students are paired with an RN and rotate between the Evansville and Jasper locations, completing hospice visits with patients in their homes and in long-term care facilities. This clinical rotation has enhanced my students' learning on end-of-life care."

Pierce said that during the Fall 2020 semester, Jacquelyn Fehd, Registered Nurse and Executive Director of Heart to Heart Hospice of Southwest Indiana, participated in Zoom discussions with her class, discussing hospice and answering students' questions.

"We enjoy working closely with USI nursing students to help them understand the important gift of hospice," said Fehd. "The dying process is often overlooked during the healthcare education experience, and we are honored to help teach these students about allowing people to reach the

end of their life's journey with peace, dignity, compassion, hope and comfort."

David A. Bower, Vice President for Development and President of USI Foundation, expressed gratitude for the "generosity and investment" of the Heart to Heart Hospice Foundation.

"Together, we can continue to innovate in end-of-life care and planning and afford our students the opportunity to become experts and leaders within the field," he said.

An endowment is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding that provides for continuous support to any University program or scholarship. The gift made to establish the endowment is permanently restricted and is invested in accordance with the USI Foundation's spending policies, currently 4.25%. The USI Foundation encourages a minimum endowment of \$25,000 (\$1,000 annual distribution).

Visit the USI Foundation website at USI.edu/giving, call 812-464-1918 or email giving@usi.edu for more information on how to set up a perpetual endowment at the University of Southern Indiana.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Faculty and Staff Achievements



Dr. Jeri Burger, Associate Professor of Nursing, was the featured presenter for the USI College of Liberal Arts' first virtual Global Salon presentation on October 15, 2020. Her presentation provided information about healthcare in Kenya and explored various factors that affect health in this Sub-Saharan country. Burger traveled to Kenya in March 2020, and the trip provided opportunities to meet healthcare providers and tour some

healthcare facilities. Through travel experiences and interaction with people in varied settings in Nairobi and rural areas, she learned about factors and conditions that influence health.



Ryan Butler earned both Board Certified Advanced Holistic Nurse (AHN-BC), and Board Certified Health and Wellness Nurse Coach (HWNC-BC) certifications.

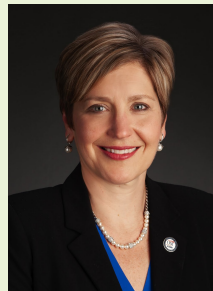


Lorinda Coan, Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene, has been selected to participate in the 2021 NEXUS Innovative Challenge, an annual project supported through the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education. The goal of the National Center Nexus is to bridge the gap between health professions education and healthcare delivery in the United States. Coan has been put into a team with others from across the

country in differing specialties to identify a challenge, an opportunity, or ongoing project that requires new thinking.



Joy Cook, Associate Professor and Chair of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences received tenure.



Jennifer Evans, Associate Professor of Nursing, earned the Board Certified Health and Wellness Nurse Coach (HWNC-BC) certification.



Dr. Swateja Nimkar, Assistant Professor of Health Services, promoted to Associate Professor and received tenure.



Dr. Susan A. Seibert, Instructor in Nursing, was appointed to serve as a member of the National League for Nursing's Constituent League Leadership Committee for a two-year term, ending September 2022. The National League for Nursing is a national organization for nurse educators, offering professional development, teaching resources, research grants, testing services and public policy initiatives to its 40,000 individual and 1,200

institutional members. Members are from nursing education programs across higher education and healthcare.



Amy Wilson, Chair and Clinical Associate Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, was elected to the board of directors for the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS), the largest society of sonographers and sonography students in the world. Wilson was one of three chosen in an international election process to fill open seats on the six-person board. Her term will be for two years. Wilson gave two webinar presentations during the 2020 SDMS Annual Conference – Virtual Edition in September.



Jessica K. Wood, OTD, OTR/L, BCP, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, has earned specialty practice recognition as a Board Certified Specialist in Pediatrics by the American Occupational Therapy Association. She is currently the only occupational therapist in Indiana with this specialty, which demonstrates her ongoing professional development and desire to improve outcomes for pediatric populations.

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS TEACHING AWARDS

Each year, the College of Nursing and Health Professions presents Excellence in Teaching Awards to shine a spotlight on faculty members who contribute significantly to students in the College.

The 2019-2020 recipients of this award are:

- **Dr. Jennifer Evans**, Associate Professor of Nursing
- **Julie Morgan**, Director of Clinical Education and Assistant Professor of Respiratory Therapy
- **Dr. Dawn Worman**, Assistant Professor of Nursing



Dr. Jennifer Evans



Julie Morgan



Dr. Dawn Worman

Mike Fetscher, Otter for a Day

Mike Fetscher '95, Digital Media Coordinator for the College of Nursing and Health Professions, always dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player. After finishing a stellar career on the USI baseball team in 1995, he tried out for the Evansville Otters inaugural team, only to be the last one cut from the roster.

“To be that close to being able to say I was a professional baseball player—which was my dream from the time I could pick up a ball—was a hard pill to swallow,” he said. “Eventually I became an umpire in the Frontier League . . . but I often said I would rather be on the pitcher’s mound than behind the plate calling balls and strikes.”

Fetscher’s dream was finally realized 26 years later—for just one day. One of Fetscher’s friends, Ryan Reynolds, asked the Otters’ owner, Bill Bussing, if the team would offer Fetscher a one-day contract with all the legal paperwork, Otters jersey and his photo and rookie stats on the scoreboard. They waited until Fetscher’s birthday, January 6, to surprise him with this. “It may have been put on hold for 26 years, but I finally made it,” he joked, crediting his wife, children and even a few people at USI for keeping the Otters’ contract a secret from him for several months.

Before coming to USI in October 2005, Fetscher worked at Channel 14 in television production. For the College of Nursing and Health Professions, he coordinates the online recordings (Panopto and Zoom) as well as classroom lecture recordings. During the pandemic in Fall 2020, he handled almost 1,100 separate class recordings for the semester—sometimes up to 26 classes a day. When he is not in his office in the Health Professions Center, he runs the music and audio at the Screaming Eagles Arena for USI volleyball and basketball games, plus he has also freelanced for CBS Sports, Fox Sports, ESPN, Disney Channel, NBC Sports and DirtVision TV.

Fetscher played baseball at USI from 1992-95 and was inducted into the USI Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural class in 2007. He threw two no-hitters as a freshman (one a perfect game) and settled into the closer role as his career went along, finishing his tenure at USI ranked first in strike outs and saves. He also set the single game record for strikeouts in a game (14). The three-time All-American was member of USI’s NCAA II Tournament team in 1992, 1993 and 1994; the GLVC-title team in 1993; and the back-to-back 40-win seasons.



Fetscher signs his one-day contract with the Evansville Otters.

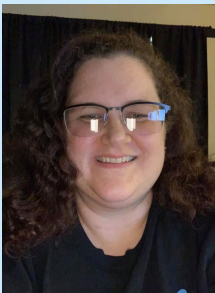
Fetscher stands on home plate at the field.

STUDENT NEWS

Verena Sink Bailey, a student in USI's Nursing Management and Leadership master's program, has received a \$3,000 scholarship from the Indiana Organization for Nursing Leadership. She received an associate degree in nursing from Ivy Tech Bloomington and continued her education at USI, where she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing in 2019. In June of 2020, Bailey took a position as a Clinical Advisor at IU Health Bloomington. In this role, her primary responsibility is to bridge the experience gap of new nurses into practice. Furthermore, serving as member of leadership, she also encourages nurses to further their education, advance their practice and supports more experienced nurses to obtain national certifications.

Pamela Hunt, current Doctor of Nursing Practice student, was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing's 2020 Class from Indiana.

ALUMNI NEWS



Rachel Ball '06 '07 was named American Senior Communities' Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant of the Year. She is employed at Riverview Village in Clarksville, Indiana. Ball received two degrees from USI: a bachelor's degree in health services in 2007 and an occupational therapy assistant degree in 2006. She is the daughter of Rebecca Ball, Senior Administrative Associate in USI Finance and Administration who formerly worked in the

College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Jennifer Embree D'11, received an Indiana State Nurses Association 2020 Pillar Award.

Kimberly McElroy-Jones, MHA '13 is Director of Community Partnerships for Community Health at Eskenazi Health, Indianapolis. She previously served as director of ministries at Eastern Star Church and as executive director and principal investigator for the Metropolitan Indianapolis Central Indiana Area Health Education Center.

Glenda L. Miller '74, says that when she completed the 10-month certificate program in Dental Assisting at Indiana State University – Evansville (ISUE), her plan was to work in a dental office. "But this amazing University had other plans for me," she said. "I will always appreciate and cherish my time at USI as a student and member of the faculty." After completing the Dental Assisting program in 1974, Miller taught at USI and also earned a bachelor's degree in allied health in 1988. From there, she moved to Florida, where she was a professor for several years at Florida State College at Jacksonville before retiring in 2018. In 2003, she received the Florida State College at Jacksonville's Outstanding Faculty Award and in 2004 she received the Sister Mary Claire Hughes Endowed Chair.



Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center announced the return of nurse practitioner **Allyson Mudd '09, M'18**, nursing, to Memorial Hospital's medical associate staff in Jasper, Indiana. She previously worked at Jasper Pediatrics, Grand Avenue Pediatrics in Washington, Indiana, the pediatric intensive care unit at Ascension St. Vincent in Evansville and Memorial Hospital's pediatric unit.

Jackline Ngalame M'18, has published two books since graduating as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She is the author of *A QuickStart Guide to Private Practice for Nurse Practitioners*, published October 2, 2020, and *Smart Rotation Clinical Journal*, published October 16, 2020. She has a doctoral degree in nursing and is certified as a family and psychiatric nurse practitioner.

Nursing Alumni Award Recipient



Anne Kiboi

Anne Kiboi '18, a registered nurse who chose to work at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City, is the 2020 recipient of the University of Southern Indiana Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award.

“All of us have been affected by COVID-19 in some way; however, Anne showed up to answer a call in which she didn’t know what was on the other line,” wrote one of her award nominators. “She didn’t know the hospital, the area or what she would be walking into, but she packed a suitcase and took her skills with her ... she walked in those hospital doors and changed patients’ lives.”

Kiboi was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and moved to the United States when she was 5 years old. After graduating from USI with a degree in nursing, she moved back home to Indianapolis to work on the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at IU Health University Hospital.

In March 2020, she volunteered to work in IU Methodist’s COVID ICU, which led to a desire to do more for those fighting coronavirus, especially the most vulnerable in New York City. When she arrived at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in May 2020, she encountered personal protective equipment shortages, mental exhaustion and extreme patient conditions, but she responded with grit, compassion and selflessness—not only for her patients, but the entire nursing profession. “Every nurse has a role to play during this pandemic, and I felt mine was to work with COVID patients,” she said.

Kiboi was at the Brooklyn hospital for five weeks, before heading to California for another stint as a traveling nurse in the fight against COVID-19.

She said that the number of clinical hours and education she received at USI prepared her to work as a nurse on the of the coronavirus pandemic. Kiboi is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the National Society of Leadership and Success and Sigma Theta Tau International. As a student, she received the Sigma Theta Tau International Rising Star in Nursing Award and a USI Endeavor Award.

Each year, the USI Nursing Alumni Society recognizes a graduate who has made outstanding achievements in a career or public service. For more information about the USI Nursing Alumni Society, [visit the society’s webpage](#).

“She didn’t know the hospital, the area or what she would be walking into, but she packed a suitcase and took her skills with her... she walked in those hospital doors and changed patients’ lives.”

Tell Us Your Story!

A fulfilling journey, a life-changing experience, a successful outcome; those are the stories being written in the lives of USI alumni every day.

Share how USI has positively impacted your life!

Update Your Information

Use our online form to update your contact information and other data with USI Alumni Association.

GIVING

The College of Nursing and Health Professions' vision is a simple but powerful one: *Healthy communities for all*. Our mission is: *Advancing health and wellness through visionary leadership, dynamic learning and strategic partnerships*. Especially now in the time of COVID-19, your gift can impact deserving students and help them accomplish their higher education goals, develop skills and become exceptional health professionals.

[USI.edu/giving](https://www.usi.edu/giving)

Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning

2021 Conferences

- April 7, 18th Annual Nursing Leadership Conference**
- April 21, 25th Annual Research, Evidence-Based Practice and Performance Improvement in Healthcare Conference** (abstracts accepted)
- April 30, 23rd Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium**
- May 13, 27th Annual Midwest Care Coordination Conference**
- May 19 & 20, 38th Annual Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies**
- June 16, EKG Interpretation*
- June 22, 3rd Annual Strengthening the Healthcare Team**
- August 12 & 13, Mid-America Institute on Aging and Wellness (MAIA)**
- September 25, Trends in Oral Care**
- October 1, 18th Annual Pharmacology Update for Healthcare Professionals
- October 13, Focus on Healthcare (abstracts accepted)
- Advance Care Planning Conference**, TBD
- Suture Workshop, TBD

2021 Online Certificate Programs

- Anticoagulation Therapy Management, eight weeks, begins May 17, July 26, October 4
- Case Management, eight weeks, begins August 9
- Clinical Simulation, six weeks, begins September 13
- Diabetes, 10 weeks, begins August 2
- Faith Community Nursing, six weeks, begins September 13
- Heart Failure, seven weeks, begins September 20
- Hypertension Management, seven weeks, begins July 26
- Medical Coding, 16 weeks, begins July 5*

- Oncology Management 10 weeks, begins August 9
- Pain Management, eight weeks, begins August 2
- Wound Management, eight weeks, begins September 20

Online Independent Study Courses

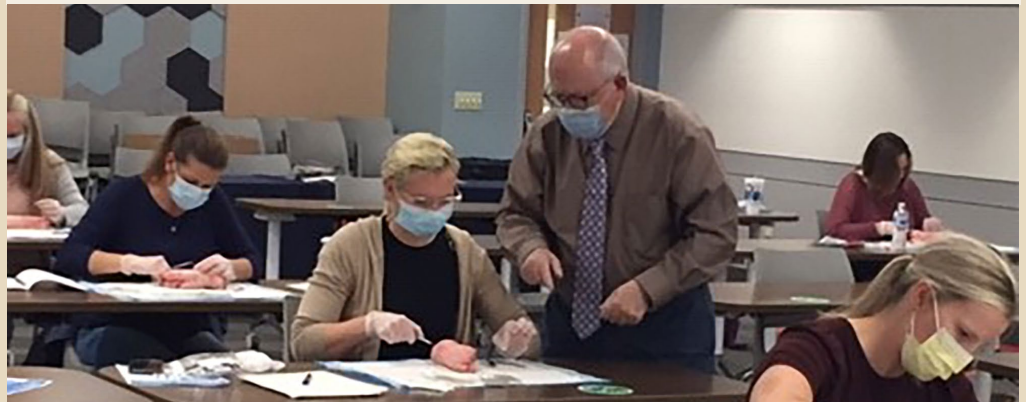
- Anticoagulation: Oral
- Anticoagulation: Patient Self-Testing
- Behavioral Health
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine Program (CAM)

- Limited Cardiac Catheterization Radiography Certification
- Lipid Management
- Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Sedation (dental)
- Opioid Program
- Pediatric Pain Management with Opioid and Opioid Alternatives
- Pediatric Type 1 Diabetes

*Denotes "Hybrid" conference and certificate programs (combination of online and face-to-face content). See website for specific online and live start dates.
**Conference will be presented in a virtual format

Registration and Program Information

Visit [USI.edu/health](https://www.usi.edu/health) or call:
812-461-5217



During a recent Suturing Workshop at USI, nurse practitioners refined their suturing skills with pigs' feet and guidance from Dr. Rick Crawford.