Service learning pairs BSN students with community partners

Gale Hoehn: Projects are a service, not just an assignment

As a service learning project, nursing student Jessica Bowman developed a program last semester to help the staff at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) in Columbus, Indiana, take better care of patients with high cholesterol.

This semester she is tackling diabetes.

Gale Hoehn, instructor in nursing, said the service learning concept is a community-campus partnership that offers unique learning opportunities for students in a real-world setting while helping a community organization, often with limited resources, improve the services it offers.

“It is not just an assignment,” Hoehn said, “it’s a service.”

Bowman completed her project, which she dubbed Operation Cholesterol, in the fall for a course on the nursing of chronically ill children and adults.

VIM is a clinic that provides access to health care for the medically underserved. Bowman created a program that included developing a registry of all VIM patients on cholesterol-lowering medicines, modifying an existing flowsheet to track the dates of their cholesterol checks, and developing a system to remind patients when they need to be checked again. She also created an educational handout for patients and an audit system for patient charts to ensure that appropriate intervention is taken by staff.

Lucina Kessler of VIM was Bowman’s preceptor for Operation Cholesterol. “It was very valuable because so much of our time is spent reacting,” she said. “We don’t often have time to implement program changes. I had been wanting to do this but didn’t have time. Here comes a student who needs a service project. It fit our needs perfectly.”

Dr. Roberta Hoebeke, assistant professor of nursing, said that Kessler was so impressed with the service learning project concept that she asked the nursing faculty to “send her students any time.” The students executing these projects are Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who are already licensed nurses.

Other students completed projects last semester with Deaconess Diabetes Center, Deaconess Neuro Care Center, St. Mary’s Medical Center, all in Evansville; St. Vincent’s Hospital and the Heart Center of Indiana, both in Indianapolis; Jasper Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana; Perry County Memorial Hospital in Tell City, Indiana; Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky; and Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This semester several students in Hoehn’s class on the nursing of chronically ill children and adults are involved with projects that address initiatives outlined by the “5 Million Lives Campaign,” a program designed to reduce medical harm in U.S. hospitals.

Bowman, a nurse at Columbus Regional Hospital, is completing a service learning project this semester for a course on community health nursing.

See Service learning, page 2
The job description of a dean includes a number of responsibilities but none as important as assuring that students have an education that prepares them with essential knowledge and skills. While this is true of deans in every discipline, the important role that nursing and health professions graduates have in the lives of patients makes this an even more critical outcome.

In previous columns, I have shared my pride in the dedication and excellence of our college faculty. This and prior newsletters have reported on college faculty teaching creativity, scholarship, and service activities. Less recognized but extremely important to our education mission are the adjunct and volunteer faculty who regularly share their expertise with students. I want to briefly highlight a few of these individuals. In future Synapse issues, we will feature other health-care professionals who generously contribute their time to help prepare our graduates to be excellent practitioners.

Nurse practitioner students spend many hours in classroom study, but their clinical practice expertise would not develop without the physicians and nurse practitioners who share their expertise and serve as preceptors for students. Dr. Terence Alvey, DPM, of Tri-State Orthopaedics is an excellent example of physicians and nurse practitioners who are making a difference in the education of our students. Dr. Alvey recently hosted third-year family nurse practitioner students at his office. He arranged for patients to be present so he could demonstrate diagnostic and treatment procedures for conditions commonly seen by family nurse practitioners. In addition to Dr. Alvey, physical therapist C.J. Barnard and other Tri-State Orthopaedics’ staff members assisted in demonstrating foot-care treatment. The diagnostic and treatment procedures were filmed by Mike Fetscher, our college broadcast director, so distance-education nurse practitioner students could view them and to make them available as a reference for students’ use in their clinical practice.

Dental assisting and dental hygiene students are appreciative and sing the praises of Dr. Mark Wohlford, DDS. Dr. Wohlford provides lectures on dental emergencies and opportunities for students to observe dental surgery. Dr. Wohlford’s expertise as a practitioner is well established, but students suggest that his teaching also is deserving of plaudits.

A third example of an outstanding health-care provider who goes the extra mile for our students is Lee Ann Blue. Lee Ann was vice president for nursing at Deaconess Hospital until December ‘06 and is now chief nurse and vice president of patient services at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis. Lee Ann’s support for our nursing program was manifested in many ways but none as directly as her teaching of a nursing management course to senior nursing students. The sharing of the lived experiences of a nurse administrator provides students with learning that will enhance their leadership and management skills.

There are a number of other dental and health-care professionals in the region and throughout the nation who are contributing to preparing our graduates. Most of these busy and recognized expert professionals do so without compensation. We thank each of them and hope that they know what a difference their teaching and sharing of expertise are making in our efforts to prepare health-care professionals for coming generations.

Service learning

Continued from page 1

For this project her primary goal is to develop a strategy to educate VIM patients with diabetes about their disease. She also is formulating a proposal for all VIM patients with diabetes to come to the clinic on a certain night of the month to pick up their medication and have the recommended monthly check of feet and eyes by a clinical nurse specialist.

Julie St. Clair, instructor in nursing, said eight students from two different nursing courses assisted with projects for the Asthma Camp held at Evansville’s Delaware School during late March.

She said the service learning concept gives students a feel for real issues such as homelessness and poverty.

“We hope this experience will inspire them to take this forward in their careers and do some volunteer work,” she said.

Judi Kuric, instructor in nursing, also teaches the course on chronically ill children and adults.
Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Early defibrillation

The dental hygiene clinic has acquired an automated external defibrillator (AED) to make defibrillation immediately available in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Jennifer Bartek, instructor in dental hygiene, said the device is authorized for use by emergency response personnel trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED. A number of individuals who work in the Health Professions Center are qualified to use this piece of equipment.

NERB Clinical Examination Site

In 2006, Indiana joined the North East Regional Board (NERB) of Dental Examiners which administers clinical examinations for licensure of dentists and dental hygienists. The USI Dental Hygiene Clinic has been accepted as a clinical examination testing site for dental hygiene. The first testing dates at USI are scheduled for May 15-16. Indiana is the 16th state in the NERB consortium and the first state to join in more than 30 years.

SEAL INDIANA

Junior dental hygiene students have partnered with SEAL INDIANA, a statewide mobile dental program that provides preventive oral health services for children who do not have adequate access to dental care.

When SEAL INDIANA's 40-foot mobile clinic visited three elementary schools in Washington, Indiana, in March, USI students provided sealants and oral health education.

A joint program of the Indiana University School of Dentistry and the State Department of Health, SEAL INDIANA has provided more than 2,000 sealants since its inception in 2003.

Gale Hoehn named USI Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Gale Hoehn, instructor in nursing, is the 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award for the University of Southern Indiana. She was recognized in the fall at the annual meeting of the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

In presenting the award, Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, lauded Hoehn's leadership in teaching oncology and end-of-life nursing content and her service as a mentor and advisor to nursing students, particularly those who have needed additional assistance to prepare for the national licensing exam. Coudret also expressed appreciation for Hoehn's participation and leadership in establishing the USI Nursing Alumni Association.

With the aging of baby boomers and the population in general, Hoehn said that incorporating content about end-of-life issues into the nursing curriculum is important. "Many students have not thought about it," she said. "They go into nursing to save lives and are uncomfortable with end-of-life issues. You have to think about your own values before you can help patients. Then you need to put aside your own ideas and think about what the patient wants. Many times patients know how far they want to go with their illness. They may be in the hospital because their families think that's where they should be. Many patients would much rather be at home and surrounded by family."

Hoehn earned associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing from USI and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Evansville. She joined the USI faculty in 1999.

Food and Nutrition

New student organization

The Food and Nutrition Student Organization was established in spring semester.

Dr. Julie L. McCullough, program director for food and nutrition, said members want to offer nutrition education and other service to the community and raise awareness of nutrition issues. They volunteered for the Multicultural Center's International Food Expo in February and developed an exhibit for a display case in the Health Professions Center for National Nutrition Month in March.

Officers of the new campus organization are Gwinn Cody, president; Tonya Aeschliman, vice president; Whitney Nash, secretary; and Michael Gibbs, treasurer.

Begun in 2005, the food and nutrition program has 110 students pursuing a major or minor.

Health Services

Revised curriculum

A revised curriculum for the health services program will go into effect in the fall. Modifications include a new concentration in health administration and a revised concentration in public health. The program also includes concentrations in gerontology and health promotion and worksite wellness.

Graduate news

Scott Kordel '05 M.H.A., has been promoted to chief information officer at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Jo Ann Fenol '03, '06 M.H.A., has successfully completed the Indiana Health Facilitators Exam and has been promoted to executive director of Miller's Senior Living Community in Sullivan, Indiana.

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Program Notes
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Nursing

Two for Summer III at Mayo Clinic

Junior nursing students Lisa Miller and Audrey Raber have been accepted to participate in a summer internship at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Called Summer III, the learning experience gives participants the opportunity to expand their nursing skills and critical thinking while working alongside an RN clinical coach. Mayo Clinic accepts 150 students enrolled in BSN programs throughout the United States for the experience each summer.

Nursing students will have direct and indirect patient care. They will work in a team environment to provide patient care throughout the 10-week program. They may be assigned to inpatient units, operating rooms, or the cardiac catheterization lab.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing, said the revised USI nursing curriculum which went into effect in 2006 allows nursing students time between their third and fourth years to participate in programs such as Mayo’s.

Miller is from New Albany, Indiana. Raber is from Evansville.

Occupational Therapy

Internships in Japan, Ghana

Two graduate students in occupational therapy completed six-week internships this semester in international locations.

Kika Gallagher of Evansville returned to her home country of Japan to experience the Japanese perspective on occupational therapy. After graduating and practicing in the United States for a while, Gallagher hopes someday to return to Japan and provide the elderly population there with occupational therapy services.

Ashley Hopkins of Montezuma, Indiana, completed an internship in Ghana with Wheels for the World, an organization that collects used but reparable wheelchairs and sends them to correctional facilities throughout the United States for restoration by inmates. The wheelchairs in like-new condition are shipped to countries such as China, Cuba, Romania, Ghana, Thailand, and India where the cost of a wheelchair often exceeds a year’s salary. Individuals with the appropriate training, such as occupational therapists or students majoring in occupational therapy, travel to these countries to fit the wheelchairs to those in need.

Local service learning

Graduate students in occupational therapy also are performing service-learning activities in the Evansville area this semester. Students are working with Solarbron Pointe Retirement Community and SWIRCA (Southwest Indiana Regional Council on Aging) to address leisure activities and wellness for older adults. Other students are focusing on leisure activities with participants at the Vanderburgh County Correctional Facility and providing ergonomic training for employees. Students also are working with Jacob’s Village, a community for people with developmental and functional disabilities, to enhance the health and wellness of residents.

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

Jessica Elpers to enter physician assistant program

Jessica L. Elpers, a bachelor’s candidate in radiologic and imaging sciences, has been accepted to enter the physician assistant program at Saint Louis University in August. Elpers has earned a 4.0 grade-point average in her academic career at USI and has taken additional courses in chemistry and biology to be eligible for the physician assistant program.

Self study

The diagnostic medical sonography program, under the direction of Claudine Fairchild, has begun work on its self study for accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Respiratory Therapy

Seminar and health fairs

Twenty-three respiratory therapy students attended the 11th annual Clinical Respiratory Care Seminar in November at St. Mary’s Medical Center. The conference attracted respiratory therapists, many of whom were graduates of the USI program, from the surrounding area. Robert W. Hooper, program director for respiratory therapy, and Anthony Schmitt, clinical director, accompanied the students.

Respiratory therapy students have participated in eight Evansville-area health fairs, informing attendees of the hazards of smoking and suggesting cessation and intervention options. In addition, students performed pulmonary function screening and oxygen saturation analysis for those wishing to be tested. Two additional health fair events were scheduled in April at PPG Industries and the Vanderburgh County Safe House.

Job opportunities

Students learned recently about employment opportunities with two Indiana health-care organizations.

A representative from Clarian Health Partners in Indianapolis presented job information to all respiratory therapy students. Representatives from Deaconess Hospital in Evansville presented employment options and information about the hospital’s Respiratory Therapy Scholarship.

ACLS Certification

All second-year students successfully completed Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification in February. The training was conducted at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes.

Asthma Day Camp

Six respiratory therapy students participated in the Asthma Day Camp at Delaware School in March. The USI College of Nursing and Health Professions is a sponsor of the camp.
Jessica MacLeod, instructor in nursing, has received a grant from the USI Omicron Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau international nursing honor society to support dissertation research on the topic of everyday living of adolescent girls with epilepsy. MacLeod is a doctoral candidate in Indiana University’s Ph.D. program in nursing science.

Dr. Kathy Riedford, assistant professor of nursing, has received a Mitchell Fellowship award from the College of Nursing and Health Professions to support her clinical practice and to complete clinical requirements in a psychiatric nurse practitioner program. She is enrolled in a post-master’s certificate program at Rush University.

An article by Mara Beth Womack reporting the findings of research conducted in the College of Nursing and Health Professions’ dental hygiene clinic was published in the March 2007 issue of RDH Student Focus, a national publication for dental hygiene faculty and students. Womack studied the effect of soft lighting, aromatherapy, and music therapy to improve the comfort zone of dental patients. Womack is an instructor in the dental assisting/hygiene programs.

Dr. Ann White, assistant dean for nursing, has been invited to contribute a chapter to a 2008 book on evidence-based practice in nursing.

Dr. Jeri L. Burger, assistant professor of nursing, has submitted a chapter on communication for the seventh edition of the Fundamentals of Nursing textbook by authors Patricia A. Potter and Anne Griffin Perry. Mary Ann Wehmer, instructor in nursing, was invited to write the chapter on health-care delivery systems. In addition, Wehmer wrote an article on perioperative hypothermia for the premier edition of Lippincott Williams and Wilkins’ OR Nurse Manager 2007.

Constance F. Swenty, instructor in nursing, is pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Case Western Reserve University.

Judi Kuric, instructor in nursing, is co-author of the chapter on neurotrauma in the eighth edition of the textbook Medical-Surgical Nursing to be published this year by Elsevier Health Sciences. The book is by Joyce M. Black and Jane Hokanson Hawks.

Jennifer Bartek, instructor in dental hygiene/dental assisting, has been selected as the USI Outstanding Graduate Student in Secondary Education for 2007.

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

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Scholarship news

Honors Day salutes outstanding achievement

More than 140 students majoring in programs offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions were recognized with scholarships or awards in March at the college’s annual Honors Day ceremony.

Many donors were on hand to present the awards they made possible and to meet the outstanding students who will benefit in the coming year from their generosity.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said, “These generous friends of the college recognize the important role of private gifts in developing the excellence of our graduates.”

Lawrence scholarship endowment tops $250,000

The endowment for the Melissa Faye Lawrence Endowed Nursing Scholarship has increased to more than $250,000 with additional gifts and matching Lilly grants.

John Lawrence established the endowment in spring 2006 in memory of his deceased wife, a nurse. Additional gifts, including another generous gift from Mr. Lawrence, were received in late 2006. He also secured for the fund a major gift from a friend in Ohio who asked to remain anonymous.

The Lawrence scholarship is the largest scholarship awarded in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. It was presented to Sharyn Lane at the 2007 Honors Day ceremony.

Scholarship remembers nurse Fran Jagelewski

Friends and co-workers of nurse Frances Jagelewski of Newburgh, Indiana, have established a scholarship in her memory.

Jagelewski died April 18, 2006. She last was employed as a case manager at HealthSouth Tri-State Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville. A nurse, she helped establish the LifeFlight program at Welborn Hospital while working there.

The Fran Jagelewski Memorial Nursing Scholarship benefits a USI student who is a senior in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Criteria include financial need and an interest in trauma nursing or cardio-respiratory nursing. The award was presented to Justin Waninger at the 2007 Honors Day ceremony.

Additional gifts designated to the scholarship can be made to the USI Foundation, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712.

U.S. News & World Report lists nursing program

USI’s graduate nursing program was one of 10 listed in the October 16 special edition of U.S. News & World Report devoted to “e-learning,” or distance education. The magazine surveyed more than 400 institutions and listed the largest programs in terms of enrollment, along with key attributes of the programs such as price per credit hour, class size, and availability of technical assistance.

U.S. News & World Report also included the USI program in its online E-Learning Guide.

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/elearning/directory/elearn2nur_33395.htm

Calling all alumni

Submit news along with your degree and year of graduation, major, address, phone number, current position, and employer to College of Nursing and Health Professions, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712-3593 or e-mail dgutley@usi.edu.

Remembering Dr. Gordon Kelley

Dr. Gordon E. Kelley, professor emeritus of health professions, died October 23 in Evansville at age 72. He joined USI as director of the Division of Allied Health in 1971 and later became associate dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. He retired in 1996.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said, “Dr. Gordon Kelley was a wonderful colleague and friend who provided leadership and service to the University and to our college. The excellent reputation of our dental and allied health programs is a reflection of his teaching and leadership excellence.”

Kelley developed the initial USI health professions programs, including dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental laboratory technology, radiologic technology, and respiratory therapy. He taught students in all health professions disciplines, thus contributing to the professional lives of many health-care practitioners who have graduated from USI. Kelley provided computer technology leadership long before it was the norm. His venture into this arena positioned the College of Nursing and Health Professions to lead the way in the use of technologic modalities for education purposes.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Kelley Health Professions Scholarship in the USI Foundation or to the Deaconess/Ohio Valley Hospice.

Tenure awarded to three; Valadares promoted

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees approved tenure for three faculty members in the College of Nursing and Health Professions during its March meeting. Tenure will be effective August 18, 2008, for Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, associate professor of nursing; Dr. Martha Brown Sparks, professor of nursing; and Dr. Kevin Valadares, assistant professor of health services/administration.

The trustees also approved the promotion of Valadares to associate professor effective August 20, 2007. Valadares is program director for the undergraduate program in health services and the Master of Health Administration program.
News

Allison Shafer named GLVC Scholar-Athlete

Allison Shafer, who is double-majoring in nursing and health services, has been named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year for women’s cross country.

Shafer accumulated a 3.882 grade point average in her first three semesters at USI and earned a 4.0 GPA during the fall semester.

“I chose the nursing profession,” she said, “because I enjoy being able to interact with people on a daily basis. Also, I feel that you can experience a great sense of personal satisfaction by being a nurse. Knowing that I have done my best to improve someone’s life is a rewarding feeling!”

On the cross country course, Shafer was the GLVC Female Runner of the Year after winning the conference championship with a 6k time of 21 minutes, 46.07 seconds. She helped the Screaming Eagles to a second-place team finish at the GLVC championships and went on to the NCAA II Great Lakes Regional Championships where she finished second. She earned All-America honors when she finished 15th at the NCAA II National Championships in Pensacola, Florida.

Shafer holds the Aline Nunn Renner Deans Scholarship at USI. She is from Plainville, Indiana.

Mike Fetscher in first class of USI Athletic Hall of Fame

Mike Fetscher ’96, coordinator of instructional broadcasting for the College of Nursing and Health Professions, is one of seven inductees in the inaugural class of the USI Athletic Hall of Fame. A player from 1992-95, he is USI’s only three-time All-American in baseball. The first members of the USI Athletic Hall of Fame were inducted at a ceremony in February.

Jennie Hiam named Indiana Nurse Practitioner of the Year

Pioneering family nurse practitioner has ‘passion for quality nursing care’

Jennie Hiam, instructor in nursing, has been named Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the Indiana Chapter of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). Hiam and winners from every state will be recognized at the AANP 22nd National Conference June 20-24 in Indianapolis. In addition, the Indiana chapter will hold a reception in her honor.

Marcia Plant Jackson, Indiana representative to the AANP, said Hiam was selected by her peers for her commitment to the community, especially her service to uninsured and incarcerated individuals; for her work in the education of family nurse practitioners; and for her groundbreaking role as a nurse practitioner in Indiana.

Hiam has been a nurse practitioner since 1972, which dates to the early days of advanced practice nursing in Indiana. She already had earned a master’s degree in nursing when she completed a family nurse practitioner program at Indiana University.

“It sounded very exciting to me because we could do so much more and meet people’s needs so much better. It broadens your nursing,” Hiam said.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions said, “Jennie Hiam is a caring, dedicated, and excellent nurse practitioner who serves as a role model for nurse practitioners in Indiana. Her contributions to nurse practitioner education and her excellence of care for patients make her a worthy recipient of this award and a valued graduate nursing faculty member here at the University of Southern Indiana.”

Hiam said it has been shown that family nurse practitioners provide excellent and effective care. For her, the mark of a good family nurse practitioner is the practitioner’s relationship to people.

“It’s not the number of procedures you can do or their sophistication. It’s your relationship to people—patients, families, and staff. If you don’t have a relationship, you’re not going to be effective. The nurse practitioner movement is designed to improve health care. With good relationships we are much better able to provide care.”

Hiam joined the College of Nursing and Health Professions faculty in 1997. She serves the community by working part time at ECHO Community Health Center. As a faculty member, she participated in writing and now is involved in implementing a grant program from the Division of Nursing to provide health-care services to inmates in Vanderburgh County correctional facilities.

In nominating her for Indiana Nurse Practitioner of the Year, a former student wrote, “The one thing that she impressed upon me the most while I was her student was that every person has value and is worthy of my caring and respect, regardless of his or her current situation.”

A peer who nominated Hiam wrote, “Whether she is explaining a medical condition to an illiterate patient or demonstrating to a student how to do a complete physical assessment, her passion for quality nursing care shows.”
Nursing and Health Professions Continuing Education

**Workshops and Conferences**

- **13th Annual Case Management Conference**, May 10
- **9th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium**, May 11
- **Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries**, May 18–19
- **Nursing Clinical Practice**, September 28
- **P.E.P. (Perinatal Education Partners) Rally: A Perinatal Conference**, October 10–11
- **12th Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference**, October 17
- **Healing Touch Workshop**, October 26–28
- **Basic Parish Nurse Education Program**, November 7–11

**Certificate Programs** (Internet-delivered instruction)

- **Alzheimer's Disease Management**, six weeks, begins September 24
- **Anticoagulation Billing**, three weeks, begins September 24
- **Anticoagulation Therapy Management**, six weeks, begins April 30, June 25, August 27, and October 22
- **Case Management**, six weeks, begins September 10
- **Chronic Heart Failure**, five weeks, begins October 1
- **Complementary and Alternative Health Care**, six weeks, begins September 17
- **Diabetes Management**, six weeks, begins August 20
- **Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness**, 10 weeks, begins September 17
- **Lipid Management**, six weeks, begins September 17
- **Pain Management**, six weeks, begins September 10
- **Basic Parish Nursing**, six weeks, begins September 24

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

**Registration information**: [http://health.usi.edu](http://health.usi.edu) or 812/465-1148

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