Case Management conference celebrates 10 years

When the Case Management 2004 conference opens at 8 a.m. May 13 in Carter Hall, the School of Nursing and Health Professions will celebrate 10 years of involvement in bringing some of the nation's top experts in case management to improve the quality of health care in the Tri-State.

Lisa Gish '00 M.H.A. ’04, longtime committee member and former chair of the conference, said that case managers are facilitators and coordinators who improve the flow and process of health care to maximize quality, cost effectiveness, and outcomes for the patient and all involved.

“What we have done in this community with this conference is recognize that case management is an important component of health care,” Gish said. “We provide a high-quality educational format and bring in national speakers with the latest information in the field.”

The annual conference attracts attendees within a 200-mile radius of Evansville.

Keynote speaker for this year’s conference is Patty McCollom, who delivered the first keynote presentation in 1995 on ethical issues in case management. She also keynoted the 1997 conference and conducted a break-out session that year. Her keynote presentation this year will be on “Standards of Care and Ethics.” McCollom is a nationally known nurse consultant on case management and executive director of International Academy of Life Care Planners, a professional organization based in Ankeny, Iowa.

Other repeat speakers in honor of the 10th anniversary of the conference are Kathleen Lambert and Nancy Skinner.

An attorney from Tucson, Lambert conducted sessions in 2001 and 2002. She has extensive experience and expertise on legal issues related to case management. At the 10th annual conference she will speak on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Skinner, principal consultant for Riverside HealthCare Consulting in Whitwell, Tennessee, has more than 15 years’ experience in case management and case management education.

See Case management, page 2

Eight to graduate in first class of health administration master’s program

The first eight graduates of the master’s program in health administration completed degree requirements in December and will receive their diplomas May 9 at Commencement.

Members of the first MHA class include Abdul Alboloshi of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Tonya Heim of Holland, Indiana; Lisa Gish and Wayne Hurlock of Newburgh, Indiana; and Emily Holt, Carol Hermes, Jeanne Melton, and Joshua Scheller of Evansville.

The students began work on the program in August 2001. Most instruction in the master’s program is delivered online. Students come to campus on selected Friday evenings and Saturdays during each semester for group presentations and special speakers. The format allows working professionals to continue in their full-time jobs while advancing their knowledge and skills through an advanced degree program.

As a culminating requirement of the program, each student completed an administrative residency designed to utilize advanced skills. Carol Hermes, program director, said presentation of the final residency reports was part of the last meeting on campus for the cohort group of students.

Lisa Gish ’00 completed her residency with The Heart Group in Evansville, working on a project to help evaluate and benchmark the group’s staffing. Gish is executive director of Tri-State Business Group on Health, a non-profit coalition which works to make

See MHA, page 4
Dean’s Notes

Academic year highlights and future plans

As we prepare to celebrate the 2004 graduation of our students, I want to share with you some of the highlights of the past year and our planning for the 2004-05 academic year.

Accreditation

During the past year the baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs and the dental assisting and dental hygiene programs had accreditation site visits. Positive reviews were received from the on-site accreditation visitors including laudatory comments about the community support for the programs. Final decisions by the respective accrediting associations will not be received until fall, but the favorable site visitors’ exit reports suggest positive accreditation reports for all four programs.

Faculty activities and recognition

Dr. Barbara Davis, nursing faculty, and Dr. Eileen Morrison, health services/health administration faculty, have been awarded tenure. Eleven of the 43 full-time faculty members in the school are tenured. Dr. Davis, Dr. Morrison, and Dr. Ann White, director of the graduate nursing program, were promoted to the professor rank. Promotions will be effective August 23. Fourteen percent of our full-time school faculty hold the professor rank.

Linda Matheson, director of the dental assisting program for the past 15 years, is retiring at the end of this year. Linda has provided excellent leadership for the dental assisting program and has distinguished herself in our school through her commitment to student advising and dental assisting. We wish her well and look forward to her continued support for the dental programs.

Dr. Ralph Matacale, assistant professor of dental programs and a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, was called to active duty March 1 and deployed to Baghdad. Members of the Southwestern Indiana Dental Association and school faculty generously stepped forward and have assumed Dr. Matacale’s teaching and clinical assignments.

Scholarship, service, and leadership activities continue to play an important complementary role to the school’s teaching mission. During the past year a number of student and faculty manuscripts were submitted and presentations delivered. Faculty involvement in community and professional service projects continued to increase.

Enrollment growth

Enrollment growth in our school and in the University continues. Spring 2004 enrollment in the school increased 16 percent over enrollment in spring semester of 2003.

Future planning

Guided by our school’s strategic plan, and in response to regional workforce needs, planning is moving forward on the development of a baccalaureate program in nutrition and dietetics. The program will provide study options in dietetics, food service administration, and nutrition and wellness.

Significant interest and support has been expressed for the development of a vascular sonography program. Assessment of need and identification of required resources for this program are under way.

On May 9, we will celebrate the graduation of 311 of our new health professional colleagues and new alumni. We are proud of these graduates and know that wherever they practice, health care will be better because of their commitment to caring and practice excellence.

Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions said, “It’s been a privilege to partner with leaders in case management in our community to provide premier case management education.”

Corporate sponsors for this year are Holiday Health Care Corporation, Orthopaedic Associates Inc., and Tri-State Orthopaedic Surgeons Inc. The steering committee includes professionals from an array of area health-care organizations.

An offshoot of the conference has been the development of the Internet-delivered certificate program in case management offered by the School of Nursing and Health Professions and taught by Skinner. The six-week program is offered three times a year.

The case management conference is recommended for case managers, discharge planners, nurses, physicians, social workers, students, and other health-care professionals.
**Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene**

**New program director**

Terry R. Dean, D.M.D, has been named to succeed Linda Matheson as program director for dental assisting. Matheson will retire following spring semester after 15 years as program director of the dental assisting program.

**Dental hygiene table clinic**

From left, Joni Sears, Krissy Pahmeier, and Chrisann Swanson won first place in November for their table clinic “Controlled Drug Delivery Systems” at the annual meeting of the Indiana Dental Hygienists’ Association in Indianapolis. Students from all dental hygiene programs throughout the state competed in the event.

**Health Services/Administration**

**First master’s graduates**

The first graduates of the master’s program in health administration completed their requirements in December. See story page 1.

**Nursing**

**IONE award**

Reva (Jody) Hill is one of four graduate nursing students in the state of Indiana to receive a $2,000 award from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives (IONE). The award supports Hill’s completion of the nursing management and leadership specialty in the graduate nursing program of USI’s School of Nursing and Health Professions. She received the IONE award in fall 2003.

Hill is clinical director of critical care and cardiovascular services in the Bloomington Hospital, a position she has held while pursuing an advanced degree. She has previous experience at Dunn Memorial Hospital in Bedford, Indiana. In nominating Hill for the award, Dr. Ann White, program director for graduate nursing, said, “She exemplifies the nursing leadership skills and abilities required in today’s health-care organizations.”

**Respiratory Therapy**

**Professional meeting**

Students in the Respiratory Care Club have worked hard to prepare academically and raise money for a trip to the Region II for Respiratory Care 31st annual meeting in Covington, Kentucky, on April 28–30. Students held car washes, distributed dining coupons for Hacienda Mexican Restaurants, and sold candy to help fund the trip. Two teams representing the School of Nursing and Health Professions will compete in the Sputum Bowl competition at the meeting. They will defend the championship won last year by the second-year team.

**Hospital recruitment**

Three hospitals—Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Regional Hospital in Terre Haute, and Deaconess Hospital in Evansville—seeking graduates for their respiratory care departments recently presented employment information on campus to students.

In addition, Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis has recruited three USI students as “ambassadors” for the hospital’s respiratory care department. Students attended an orientation weekend in St. Louis March 12–13. Ambassadors are interested in the St. Louis area as a place of employment after graduation and are not committed to another hospital through employment or tuition assistance. They solicit and share student perceptions, raise enthusiasm for Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and coordinate events at their respective schools. Ambassadors receive a stipend.

**Radiologic Technology**

**Gift to department**

Dr. Augustin Sierra, a physician in Henderson, Kentucky, and his wife Gloria have donated an automatic film processing unit to the radiologic technology program. Dr. Martin Reed, director of the radiologic technology program, said, “The equipment will allow students to process radiographic films for exposure labs conducted in the USI radiologic and imaging sciences classroom. Students will have the opportunity to learn the traditional processing techniques at USI. This is particularly valuable since many clinical sites are mainly using computed radiography and imaging receptors.”
**Faculty Notes**

Fred England, adjunct faculty member in health services, received the 2003 Regent’s Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives for helping the organization achieve its goals and for the advancement of health-care management excellence. He also received the 2003 Meritorious Service Award from the Indiana Association of Homes and Services for the Aging for contributions made to providing long-term health-care services.

Colleen R. Walsh, instructor in nursing, will make a presentation on adult spinal disorders, metabolic bone diseases, and inflammatory disorders for the certification exam review course at the conference of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses May 15 in Nashville, Tennessee. During May she also will present in Boston and in Dallas at the Barkley and Associates acute care nurse practitioner certification exam review course.

Walsh and graduate nursing students Lori Bretschneider and Carol Wingfield are co-authors of a research project titled “Perceived quality of life in individuals who have undergone total knee arthroplasty.” The manuscript has been accepted by *Orthopaedic Nursing Journal*.

Dr. Barbara A. Davis, professor of nursing, and five graduate students in nursing will have their article “Patient Satisfaction with Triage Nursing in a Rural Hospital Emergency Department” published this year in *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

Mary H. Rutherford, adjunct nursing faculty, has accepted a position as a clinical subinvestigator at Medisphere Medical Research Center.

Dr. Martha B. Sparks, associate professor of nursing, has participated in a number of initiatives to raise awareness and provide information on Alzheimer’s disease. In collaboration with WNIN’s Parri Black, who received a grant for local programming as part of PBS’ “The Forgetting” that aired January 21 nationwide, Sparks provided information at workshops called What Every Faith Community Needs to Know about Alzheimer’s Disease. The workshops were held in Owensboro, Jasper, and Evansville. The purpose was to facilitate awareness of the disease, needs of patients and caregivers, and ways that churches can help with individual support, respite care, or as support groups. Shari Sherman and Robin Mitchell of the area Alzheimer’s Association also presented at the workshops. Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, served on the project planning and implementation team.

Dr. Terry Dean, program director for dental assisting, recently conducted a merit badge seminar in dentistry for Boy Scouts in the region. Four scouts completed rigorous requirements in seven areas of didactic and hands-on work to earn the badge in dentistry.

**MHA**

*Continued from page 1*

Health care more effective, accessible, and affordable—all from the employer perspective. She said the residency gave her experience from the perspective of the health care provider.

Joshua Scheller ’00 completed undergraduate programs in radiologic technology and health services at USI before graduating with the MHA degree. He began a new job March 22 as radiology manager at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana.

Scheller was associated for eight years with St. Mary’s Medical Center in Evansville, serving most recently as an MRI technologist.

He also has been an adjunct instructor for the radiologic technology program in the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions.

In his new job, Scheller’s duties include all aspects of clinical operations and responsibility for new patient and employee satisfaction initiatives. Ball Memorial is a 500-bed teaching hospital. The radiology department is a full-service imaging department with approximately 100 employees. The department also houses a hospital-based radiologic technology program.

Scheller said he enrolled in the master’s program because he wanted to advance into a leadership position.

He said, “I was limited in my ability to take a leadership role and implement change working as an MRI tech.”

After completing the MHA program, he said, “I didn’t realize how much I had learned until I reflected over the experience after graduation. My whole method of thinking and how I approach problems had changed. Not only did the program increase our knowledge, but it trained us to be assertive and to think as leaders.”
IANS president

Angela Jones planned state conference for student nurses

What is it like to be a flight nurse? What are the qualifications for entering graduate school in nursing? How does a nurse talk to a family about organ donation? What can a nurse with an entrepreneurial spirit achieve?

Student nurses from throughout the state learned about these topics and more when they met February 21 at the Adam's Mark hotel in downtown Indianapolis for the annual state conference of the Indiana Association of Nursing Students (IANS).

Chief planner for the conference, titled Opportunities in Nursing, was Angela Jones, 2003-04 IANS president and a USI nursing student. The experience of organizing the conference gave Jones insight into planning a complex event. “And, it’s been a lot of fun,” she said.

As IANS president, Jones attended the four-day National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) annual meeting in Phoenix in April 2003 and the organization’s mid-year meeting during November in New Orleans. At these conferences, she learned more about how the organization operates at the state and national levels and made contacts with potential speakers and vendors for the state meeting.

Among the speakers at the IANS annual meeting were Dr. Ann H. White, USI program director for graduate nursing, who spoke on admission to graduate school and the opportunities that await nurses who earn an advanced degree. Ron Krouse, a flight nurse with Lifeline aeromedical service in Indianapolis, spoke on patient management during transport of ill or injured persons via helicopter.

Two nursing faculty from the University of Indianapolis gave a presentation on discovering a unique mission or creating a nursing practice that may be unlike common clinical situations. Representatives from the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization talked about the nurse’s role in organ procurement.

Approximately 15 USI nursing students attended the conference in Indianapolis.

Jones also serves as chair of fundraising for the USI Association of Nursing Students. The USI chapter participates in community service activities, sponsors speakers, provides leadership opportunities, and enhances faculty and student interaction. Both the USI chapter and the state organization, which registers more than 1,000 nursing students from throughout Indiana, are affiliated with NSNA.

Jones expects to complete a bachelor’s degree in May 2005. At the same time, she is working toward a bachelor’s in health services at USI with completion also expected for 2005. She earned an undergraduate degree in biology in 2001 at University of Indianapolis and worked at Bristol Myers-Squibb Company in Evansville before returning to college to prepare for a career in health care. Jones works as a student nurse at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Evansville. She is from Marion, Indiana.

Another USI student, Cara Swanson, was vice president of IANS for 2003-04 and also helped plan the state conference. Malea Wolfe, also a USI undergraduate student in nursing, was elected to serve on the executive board as vice president for 2004-05.
A student in the Master of Science in Nursing program is one of 18 nurses in the province of Ontario to be awarded an Advanced Clinical/Practice Fellowship from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

Lisa Beck is a critical care educator at Thunder Bay Regional Hospital (TBRH) in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, a city of 120,000 people located on Lake Superior. Since there are no clinical nurse specialists (CNS) working at Thunder Bay, she must relocate to a larger city with a teaching hospital and qualified mentors to fulfill clinical requirements for the MSN program.

The fellowship has allowed Beck to take a paid leave to focus strictly on learning. She is completing the fellowship March 1-May 22 at Hamilton Health Sciences in Hamilton, Ontario, about 1,000 miles from her home.

Beck will graduate in May from the MSN-CNS track. Her area of expertise is in critical care, focusing on cardiovascular surgery and caring for critically ill cardiac patients.

“I enrolled in the graduate nursing program at USI because it could be completed online through distance education,” Beck said. “Because I live in a remote community, access to continuing education is very limited. It was difficult to find a clinically focused, flexible online graduate program that I could do from my home and also allow me to continue to work full-time. USI met all my needs.

“Once I graduate from USI, I have hopes of creating a CNS position in the critical care unit at TBRH. If I am successful, I will be the first hired practicing CNS within the hospital. I hope to serve as a mentor in the future and expand the current level of expertise available in our community.”

The MSN program offers five tracks: clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, acute care nurse practitioner, nurse educator, and nurse leader or manager.

After enrolling in the graduate nursing program fall semester, Margaret Myslinsky of Portage, Indiana, had to change her plans and delay her studies to fulfill her military duties.

A captain with the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, she was deployed in the fall to Iraq as a member of the 447th Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron with additional duties at the contingency aeromedical staging facility, Camp Sather, Baghdad International Airport. The Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron provides medical care for preventive health, troop member sick call, and trauma and critical care medical treatment for members deployed in the area. Patients have included Air Force, Navy, Army troop members, coalition members from other countries, and some Iraqi nationals. At the staging facility, wounded troop members continue medical treatment and are readied for transport to larger medical facilities.

“As a nurse, it is an honor to be serving our fellow service members and to be providing the best nursing care possible to everyone treated. Being deployed in Iraq has strengthened my nursing skills in the area of trauma and working with individuals of different cultural backgrounds,” Myslinsky said.

She expects to be enrolled once again in the family nurse practitioner program in the fall semester.

We welcome comments from our alumni and friends regarding accomplishments, career activities, and special events in your personal life (marriage and births).

Name________________________________________________________Your student record name________________________
Degree/Year of graduation_________________________Major____________________________________Phone____________
Street Address_________________________________________City__________________________State______ZIP____________
Current Position_____________________________________Employer________________________________________________
Your news__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Joyce Verran featured as Visiting Scholar

Dr. Joyce A. Verran, an authority on nursing care delivery systems, was the featured speaker April 13 in the Visiting Scholar program for the School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Verran is director of the Nursing Systems Division at the College of Nursing at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Her longtime studies in the area of nursing care delivery systems include research on working environments in acute care, complexity of care in ambulatory settings, and nursing practice models in rural communities.

Also on the program were Lorrie Wood-Hessler, a certified nurse specialist at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, and Deborah L. Carl, director of the dental hygiene program for the USI School of Nursing and Health Professions.

Program Advisory Councils also met on the day of the Visiting Scholar program. Each program in the school has an advisory group of area professionals that provides input on curriculum, clinical opportunities, and developments in that discipline.

Roche Diagnostics honors school as partner

Roche Diagnostics presented the School of Nursing and Health Professions its 2003 Partner Appreciation Award award February 17 in Indianapolis. Victoria Pigott, special projects director for the school’s anticoagulant practitioner unit, accepted the award on behalf of the school.

The School of Nursing and Health Professions partners with Roche to deliver three online certificate programs—Anticoagulation Therapy Management, Chronic Heart Failure, and Lipid Management. The school also helped the company educate its customers on issues related to a recent product recall.

Sigma Theta Tau sponsors speaker on Native Americans

Marya Grathwol, a sister of St. Francis, presented a program March 1 on the “Influence of Native American Culture on Health Care.” Her presentation in Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center was sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society. Grathwol has lived on the Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations in Montana.

Alumni note

Julie Davis Vittori ’91 psychology, ’02 B.S.N., has earned board certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a psychiatric mental health nurse. She is a staff nurse at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Non-traditional student on mission to complete dental assisting program

Scott Strouse, 57, described himself as a reluctant volunteer when he went to Honduras four years ago to assist a dentist on a medical/dental mission trip. The experience gave him such an intense desire to serve that he enrolled in USI’s dental assisting program so he could play a greater role and offer his service to other mission groups.

Strouse recently was identified by faculty as an outstanding student in the dental assisting program. Linda Matheson, program director for dental assisting, said that he has had a “positive influence on the class in that other students respect his life experiences and look to him for leadership.”

He is completing the coursework this semester. As a non-traditional student, he thought when he began the program two years ago that it might be difficult being in class with younger people. “But honestly, that’s been the most refreshing part,” he said. “I love being with them.”

Strouse has made three trips to Honduras thus far and another is scheduled for September. The medical/dental teams visit villages with no running water or electricity. “The assistant holds the flashlight,” he said. Dental missions focus primarily on extractions. To get access to basic care, many villagers stand in the sun all day or may be in line through a tropical storm.

Strouse will put to use immediately what he has learned about some topics, such as sterilization, and said it may be possible that one day he might serve in a mission clinic where more specialized knowledge, such as use of x-ray equipment, would be important.

President of Strouse’s clothing store in Evansville, Strouse became involved in dental missions through Christian Fellowship Church in Evansville and has accompanied Dr. Pat Johns and Dr. Loren Wilson on mission trips coordinated by the General Baptist organization.
Check your calendar

Nursing and Health Professions
Continuing Education

Workshops and Conferences
Living with Grief, Alzheimer’s Disease, April 28
Tenth Annual Case Management Conference, May 13
Sixth Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Conference, May 14
Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries, May 21-22
Refilling Your Chalice, A Renewal Weekend with Joan Borysenko Ph.D., October 9-10 (Co-sponsored with Greater Evansville Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation)
Ninth Annual Educator Conference, October 20

Certificate Programs
(Internet-delivered instruction)
Anticoagulation Therapy Management, six weeks, begins May 3, June 28, August 23
Case Management, six weeks, begins May 17, August 30
Chronic Heart Failure, five weeks, begins June 7, September 27
Complementary and Alternative Health Care, six weeks, July 12, October 4
Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness, 10 weeks, begins September 20
Lipid Management, six weeks, begins September 6
Pain Management, six weeks, begins May 10, September 20
Basic Parish Nursing, eight weeks, begins September 27

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

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

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