

Have a need to know?

Health promotion
and aging information
on school Web sites

Occupational therapy assistant students promote Backback Awareness Day

Elementary students learn to pack it light, wear it right

Students at Corpus Christi School in Evansville know more about how to load and wear their backpacks following a visit by 15 students in the University of Southern Indiana's occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program.

The OTA students were among occupational therapy professionals and students in 56 cities nationwide who promoted the first annual Backback Awareness Day organized by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Susan Ahmad, director of the OTA program for the School of Nursing and Health Professions, said that 40 million students in the nation routinely use backpacks. In 2001, more than 7,000 emergency-room visits were related to backpack injuries.

"Injuries to the spine can set up lifelong problems," Ahmad said, "so backpack awareness is important for wellness or injury prevention."

The USI OTA students provided information about proper backpack

the load, and provided stickers and handouts with more information.

The OTA students also conducted a weigh-in to help the children understand the ideal weight for their back-



Elizabeth Courtney—USI

Autumn Bullock, a student in the occupational therapy assistant program, helps Matt Coudret, a fifth-grade student at Corpus Christi School calculate the weight of his backpack in relation to his body weight.

pack load. Each child was weighed and then his or her loaded backpack was weighed. The AOTA recommends that the backpack weigh no more than 15 percent of the wearer's body weight.

Corpus Christi is one of five businesses or organizations in the School of Nursing and Health Professions' Backback Awareness Day program, made possible by a grant from the Welborn Foundation. Katie Valadares coordinates the program.

Evaluation and planning are valued and major aspects of our school's development and commitment to educational excellence. During the past year, the School of Nursing and Health Professions Strategic Plan has been reviewed and revised. The revised Plan will be effective January, 2003.

Developed in 1992 and reviewed annually, the Plan continues to provide a blueprint for prioritizing school activities and allocating resources. In addition to the comprehensive Plan for the school, each program has its own strategic plan which guides its efforts and contributes to the overall success of the school's Plan.

Reflecting the priorities that have directed the development of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, the following mission statements in the school's Strategic Plan will continue to provide direction for the future:

- I. Provide creative and innovative undergraduate and graduate health-profession degree and certificate programs that meet professional standards of excellence
- II. Educate health-care professionals to meet state and
- III. Promote professional development of University

IV. Support excellence in health-care research and practice

V. Institute a caring atmosphere in which students, faculty, staff, and community health-care providers work together to optimize their personal and professional development

Each of the mission statements has accompanying objectives, implementation activities, a timetable, and performance measures. Strategic plans for individual programs have comparable components, but provide more detailed information about specific program activities.

Activities planned for 2003 and outlined in the Strategic Plan include the development of a new graduate-level geriatric nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist program and the introduction of a baccalaureate major in nutrition and dietetics.

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

State delegates

Dental hygiene students Kris Spilmon and Laura Raasch served as delegate and alternate delegate, respectively, to the Indiana Dental Hygienists' Association meeting in Indianapolis in Ma

Program Notes

Continued from page 3

year students. Officers are Brittany Ward, president; Wendy Barth and Doneva Townsend, vice presidents; Holly Broshears, secretary; and Rebecca Rose, treasurer. The club participated in the Student Involvement Fair and the Student Wellness Fair in September and is raising funds to travel to Covington, Kentucky, for the annual Region II Respiratory Care convention in April. As a fundraising activity, the

club sponsored a food booth last spring at the first annual campus-wide Spring Fest.

Screening exams

Since May, respiratory therapy students hav

Faculty Notes

Susan G. Ahmad, director of the occupational therapy assistant program, is coauthor of *A Guide for the Occupational Therapy Assistant: An Overview and OTA Exam Guide*.



Deborah L. Carl, program director for dental hygiene, attended the National Dental Hygiene Directors Conference in Key West in June. She served as chair of the National Dental Hygiene Directors of the American

School appointments announced

The School of Nursing and Health Professions has announced the following appointments:

- Nancy Ahrens, graduate student recruiting and advising coordinator, previously worked as a career consultant at Career Choices Inc. She has also had experience as a teacher and counselor. She holds BA and MA degrees from the University of Evansville.



Ahrens



Burger



Dugger



Hoebeke

president of Patient Care Services at Middle Tennessee Medical Center. She has held practice and administrative positions in gerontology, medical/surgical, and orthopedic nursing. Dugger earned BS and MS degrees in nursing

- Jeri Burger, instructor in nursing, is a doctoral candidate in nursing at St. Louis University, and holds a BA from Augustana College and an MS from the University of Minnesota. She most recently worked as a nursing instructor at the University of Evansville and as a staff nurse at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville. She has had additional experience in medical surgical nursing in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa and also has taught at South Dakota State University and Augustana College.

- B. Renee Dugger, instructor in nursing, previously worked as an assistant professor at Middle Tennessee State University and as assistant vice

from the University of Evansville. She is a clinical specialist in gerontology and has post master's graduate credit in nursing.

- Dr. Roberta E. Hoebeke, assistant professor of nursing, was formerly a family nurse practitioner at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Women's Health Center. She holds a PhD in nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, an MS in nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and a BSN from Michigan State University. Her practice experience includes medical surgical nursing, oncology, and cardiac rehabilitation. She has taught in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Honor societies welcome members

The School of Nursing and Health Professions extends congratulations to the following students and 2002 graduates who were inducted into professional honor societies in the spring.

Sigma Theta Tau International (Nursing), Graduate students: Kirk Ashburn II, Vickie Bush, Rita English, Kimberly French, Theresa Marcotte, Jeanette Schmidt, Melissa Singer, and Alan Swartz

Undergraduate students : Tera Egnew, Lindy Gower, Elizabeth Head, Patricia Hess, Michelle Koressel-Addington, Andrea Miller, Elisabeth Schepers, Melissa Schimmel, Paul St. Laurent, and Rebecca Tanner

Lambda Beta Society (Respiratory Care), Rachel Housman and Jessica Kissinger

Sigma Phi Alpha (Dental Hygiene), Stephanie Gregory and Sarah Siege

Alumni Notes

Rebecca Lantz Patton '99, ASN, is a staff nurse at the Community Hospital of Indianapolis. She is on an extended leave to care for her twins, Nathan and Nora, born March 1, 2002.

Calling all Alumni

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

Return form to
 School of Nursing and Health Professions
 University of Southern Indiana
 8600 University Boulevard
 Evansville, IN 47712-3593

Name _____ Your student record name _____

Degree/Year of graduation _____ Major _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Current Position _____ Employer _____

Your news _____

The School of Nursing and Health Professions is a leader in bringing health professionals to the Tri-State for continuing education and professional development opportunities for health-care professionals and educators.

More than 100 nurse leaders from service and education attended the Southwestern Nursing Workforce Summit August 8 at the University of Southern Indiana. Indiana legislators and health-care administrators also participated in the program which was designed to bring regional stakeholders together to exchange information and solicit ideas to address the demand for and retention of nurses.

Speakers included Rebecca Rice, deputy director of the national project, *Colleagues in Caring*, in Washington, D.C., and Nancy Dickenson-Hazard, chief executive of Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society.

Other speakers or educators who have been involved in recent campus programs include the following:

- Carol Curtiss, an internationally recognized speaker in oncology care and pain management, made a presentation at the Pain Management Symposium September 26.

- Ernest C. Klein Jr., executive director of the Indiana State Nurses Association, served as faculty for the October 15 program on Nursing Workplace Issues.

- Stephen Merritt, dean of enrollment management at Villanova University, was keynote speaker for the seventh annual Educator Conference on October 23. He is a recognized speaker on Generation Y.

- Larry Dossey, MD, made a presentation on spiritual health and healing November 22. He is an influential advocate of the role of the mind in

health and spirituality in health care and is the author of eight books, including *Healing Words and Healing Beyond the Body*.

Advisory committee offers input for respiratory therapy

Input from the respiratory care advisory committee is an important part of continuous assessment, said Robert W. Hooper, program director for respiratory therapy.

The committee includes individuals from various communities of interest. In addition to Hooper, members are Carolyn Anderson, Deaconess Hospital, chair; Priscilla Campbell and Kenneth Noblett, St. Mary's Medical Center; Dr. Gordon Kelley, USI professor emeritus of health professions; LeeAnn Kipta, health professional; Benny Blackford, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital; Steve Hollowell, Methodist Hospital of Kentucky; Linda Wheeler, consumer; Rebecca Rose, student; Dr. Duane Kuhlenschmidt, medical director (on teaching sabbatical in Australia until December); Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the School of

Nursing and Health Professions; and Tony Schmitt, director of clinical education for the USI program.

Health Department provides learning opportunities, internships

The Vanderburgh County Health Department is an important partner for the undergraduate program in health services and the graduate program in health administration.

Students have toured the department and met with its executive director, Sam Elder, who has been with the department for more than 50 years.

Carol Hermes, director of the health services program, said, "This man's memory is an untapped treasure chest of information about the health status and concerns of our community since the end of World War II."

Elder has made presentations to students about public health administration and has presented the school with an historical document on the status of health care in Evansville in 1948. Graduate students will use this document for analysis and study.

Through internships with the

Nursing and Health Professions
Continuing Education
Continuing Education