

University of
Southern Indiana

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Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions

Aging in
America



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FEATURES

Aging in America

college preparatory student or traditional age cohort member

transitioned to ranked list

Advising center

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Foundation

Around the college

donated ventilator

reathes new life into program

Alumni e



On the cover

The path of aging Americans.

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What started as extra credit evolved into two life-changing study-abroad experiences for a 29-year-old Mt. Vernon, Indiana, native. The first broadened Erika Schmitt's view of world healthcare; the second decided her future as a nurse.

In 2012, she attended an informational meeting about a cultural immersion course in Ghana, offered by USI's International Programs and Services. She was captivated by what she heard, and signed up. Schmitt and 19 other USI students spent nine days

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Freshmen find a friend in the Advising Center

Taryn Hagan felt overwhelmed at times. Life was simple before college, now she had to figure out course requirements, learn to balance her study load, and adjust to the general swell of college life. She needed someone to talk to, someone to help her select the right courses and mentor her as she transitioned from a small high school in North Spencer County into a new academic world. She found that someone in her advisor at the College of Nursing and Health Professions Advising Center.

My advisor put things into perspective and calmed me down when it got to be too much, Hagan said.

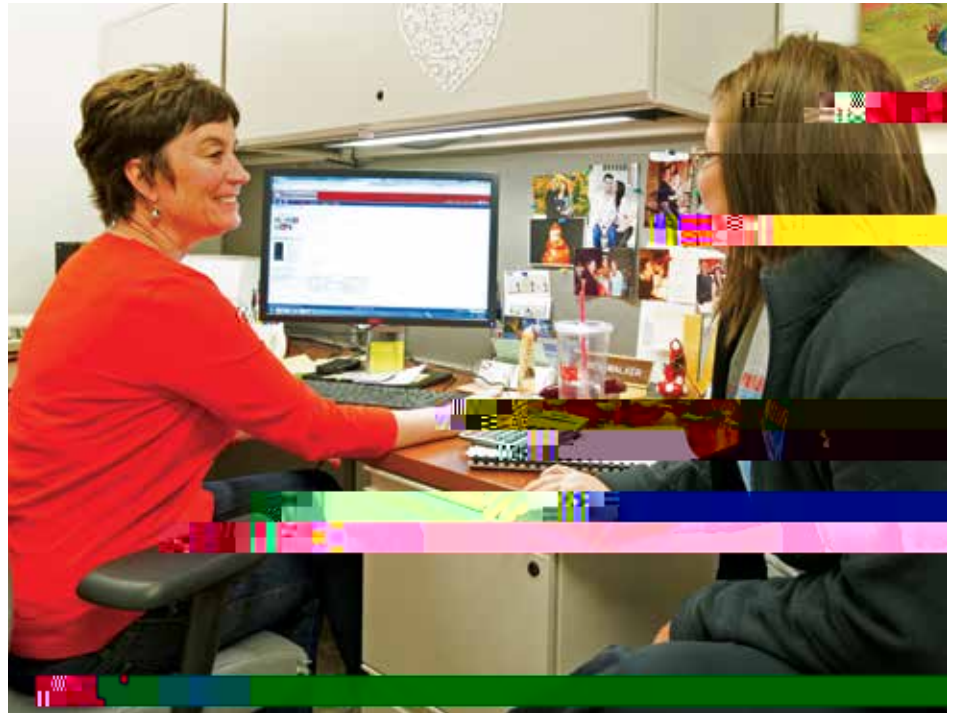
Freshmen face an array of new experiences their first year on campus, from registering for classes to improving study skills to dealing with homesickness to roommate issues to finding occupations that fit their life goals. The four advisors and a director at the center, which opened last fall, assist about 1,200 students in the College annually.

We want students to know that we're their one-stop, home away from home, the place they can always come to and someone will help them, said Dr. Sarah Stevens, director of the Advising Center.

For advisors to serve students well they must establish a relationship built on honesty and big-picture goals. Advisors meet with their advisees at least once per semester prior to registration, but the staff is available to meet with them more frequently. We treat all students as individuals and are here for students with high or low needs. Whatever support they desire, that's us, Stevens said.

Hagan, now a sophomore in the nursing program, met with her advisor four or five times her freshman year. She really knows what she's talking about because she's been in our shoes, she said.

The staff is equipped to assist first-year and pre-major students in the College with most of their needs, unless it's outside their realm, in which case they refer them to the proper campus resources. Once accepted into a program, faculty take over advising. Prior to the Advising Center, all of the College's students sought



Advisor Connie Walker discusses course options with a College of Nursing and Health Professions student.

assistance from assigned faculty members, who not only carried full teaching loads but also were responsible for research and other duties at the University. There was an obvious need to provide concentrated help for new students, and the College created an expanded advising center with additional staff and a clear mission. The new Advising Center moved into its current space last year and has become a welcome haven for new students.

Advisors know college is about discovery, and twists and turns are expected. Freshmen sometimes think life is a straight shot. You start out here and end up there, Stevens said. But that's not always the case, and students change majors for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it's because of limited space available in a program and other times it's because a career course wasn't right for the student. In any case, the advisors encourage students to stay open to possibilities.

Not because they can't make it, she said, but because they might find something they love more.

Finding the right career is something advisors know about and want for their advisees, said Stevens, adding it's the reason each of us is a good advisor. None of us followed a traditional path to get to where we are.

Stevens and her staff are dedicated to students' futures, no matter what their initial quests. As Stevens says, We want all students to find careers that are fulfilling, and match their skill sets. And we want them to have a great experience at USI.

Advising Center
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
By appointment
or walk in
812/228-5042

Legacy lives on through College

Trying to capture the essence of Dr. Gordon Kelley, former associate dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, is a difficult task. He was a teacher, researcher, author, soldier, horticulturist, collector, husband, father, grandfather, and a leader at the University of Southern Indiana. Someone Deborah Carl Wolf, assistant dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, described as “a gentle, quiet force who sowed the seeds that grew the College.”

USI recruited Kelley in 1971 from Indiana University School of Dentistry where he was a crucial collaborator in research demonstrating the importance of fluoride to help develop the College of Nursing and Health Professions programs. At the time, USI was a single-building campus, but its physical size didn't deter him. He grew the College's health professions programs by developing the dental assisting, dental hygiene, radiology, respiratory therapy, and dental laboratory technology programs.

Developing programs was just a part of his legacy. Kelley also taught students in all health professions disciplines, contributing to the professional lives of many healthcare practitioners. Additionally, Kelley provided computer technology leadership long before it was the norm, a venture that positioned the College to lead the way in the use of technologic modalities for education purposes.

Those who worked with Dr. Kelley appreciated his leadership at USI, said Wolf, a former student and eventual colleague of Kelley's. “While he was always willing to help, he let us learn from

our own mistakes. He never made anyone feel inadequate—it was all a learning process.”

Kelley retired in 1996, and died 10 years later, but his legacy lives on through the success of the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Gordon and Gail Kelley Health Professions Scholarship he and his wife established in 1993. “Gordon and I understood the importance of these scholarships,” Gail said. “We both received scholarships as students.”

Since its inception, the scholarship has benefited more than 20 students within the College of Nursing and Health Professions. “He would be happy to know he's enabling students to continue their education,” Wolf said. “Scholarships like this one sometimes make all the difference as to whether a student can participate in our program.”

As a graduate student working on an advanced degree from IU '64 in the field of preventive dentistry, Kelley had to find ways to support his family [see sidebar for related story]. Gail recalls how he worked his way through dental school brushing rats' teeth for purposes of research. “He earned \$200 a month, and we learned how to budget that,” she said.

When he wasn't advancing the knowledge of USI students or developing new programs for the College, Kelley devoted time to his many hobbies. He grew orchids in his personal greenhouse, collected old radio premiums, wrote a book on Sherlock Holmes, and was a veteran radio host, airing a weekend nostalgia show on USI's WSWI during the station's tenure in a house along the Lloyd Expressway West. Kelley donated those early radio program recordings dating from 1932 to 2000 to the David L. Rice Library Archives.

“Dr. Kelley had a passion for so many things,” Wolf said. “You can't help but admire that.”



Changing cultural perception one person at a time

Zaida Franco is on a mission to change the perception of dental hygiene in the minds of Hispanic people, starting with her own family—who've never visited a dentist. “They're waiting for me to graduate and get a job so they can go to the dentist,” she said.

The 2012–2013 recipient of the Gordon and Gail Kelley Health Professions Scholarship, Franco said dental hygiene isn't a priority among Hispanic people; however, she wants to educate Hispanic people about the importance of oral hygiene, and hopefully make them more comfortable visiting the dentist.

“The scholarship she received will go a long way in helping make her dream come true. I was just accepted into the dental hygiene program, and for someone to believe in me enough to award me a scholarship is inspiring.”

Franco, a junior majoring in dental hygiene, is a first-generation college student at the University of Southern Indiana. Her mother completed high school; her father did not. She moved to Logansport, Indiana, from Mexico with her family when she was eight years old, and has progressed toward earning her college degree.

Franco works at the dental clinic during the school year, and holds full- and part-time jobs during the summer to supplement her family's income and help pay for college. “Financially, this scholarship will help tremendously, and it has given me the confidence to believe I can excel in this program,” she said.

To support scholarships at USI, visit online at usi.edu/giving/scholarships

Haaff has healthcare in mind for hometown students

As the first person in his extended family to graduate from college, Randall Haaff '84, knows how important scholarships are to University of Southern Indiana students.



Haaff

That's why he established a scholarship benefiting incoming health services students from the community where he grew up. I want to give someone the opportunity to get started in college just as I was given that opportunity, said Haaff, a financial advisor in Evansville with a degree in finance from USI. I feel fortunate that I'm in a position to do that.

Haaff set up a health services scholarship for two reasons: he has family and friends in

health professions fields, and employment opportunities in health professions provide bright futures. He's not new, however, to supporting the University. In 2012 he established the Randall L. Haaff '84 College of Business Scholarship Endowment.

The Randall L. Haaff College of Nursing and Health Professions Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student from South Spencer High School in Rockport, Indiana, who is enrolled full-time and has a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The scholarship is automatically renewed for one year as long as the recipient remains in good academic standing.

Scholarships for College of Nursing and Health Professions students are critically important, says Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Providing financial support to our students

allows them to concentrate on their education instead of working multiple jobs to earn money for school. Students have less stress when their financial needs are partially or fully met.

My intention is to continue giving, Haaff said. I began giving immediately after I graduated from USI because I knew how much the University helped me. USI served as a springboard to get me where I am today.

Haaff supports many endeavors of USI. He gives to Toast to the Arts, sponsors students who wish to travel abroad, is a member of the USI Foundation Board, Accounting Circle, Varsity Club, Alumni Association, and the Finance Department's advisory committee. He was the College of Business Alumni in Residence in 1995. He also is a trustee with the Spencer County Community Foundation, and a member of Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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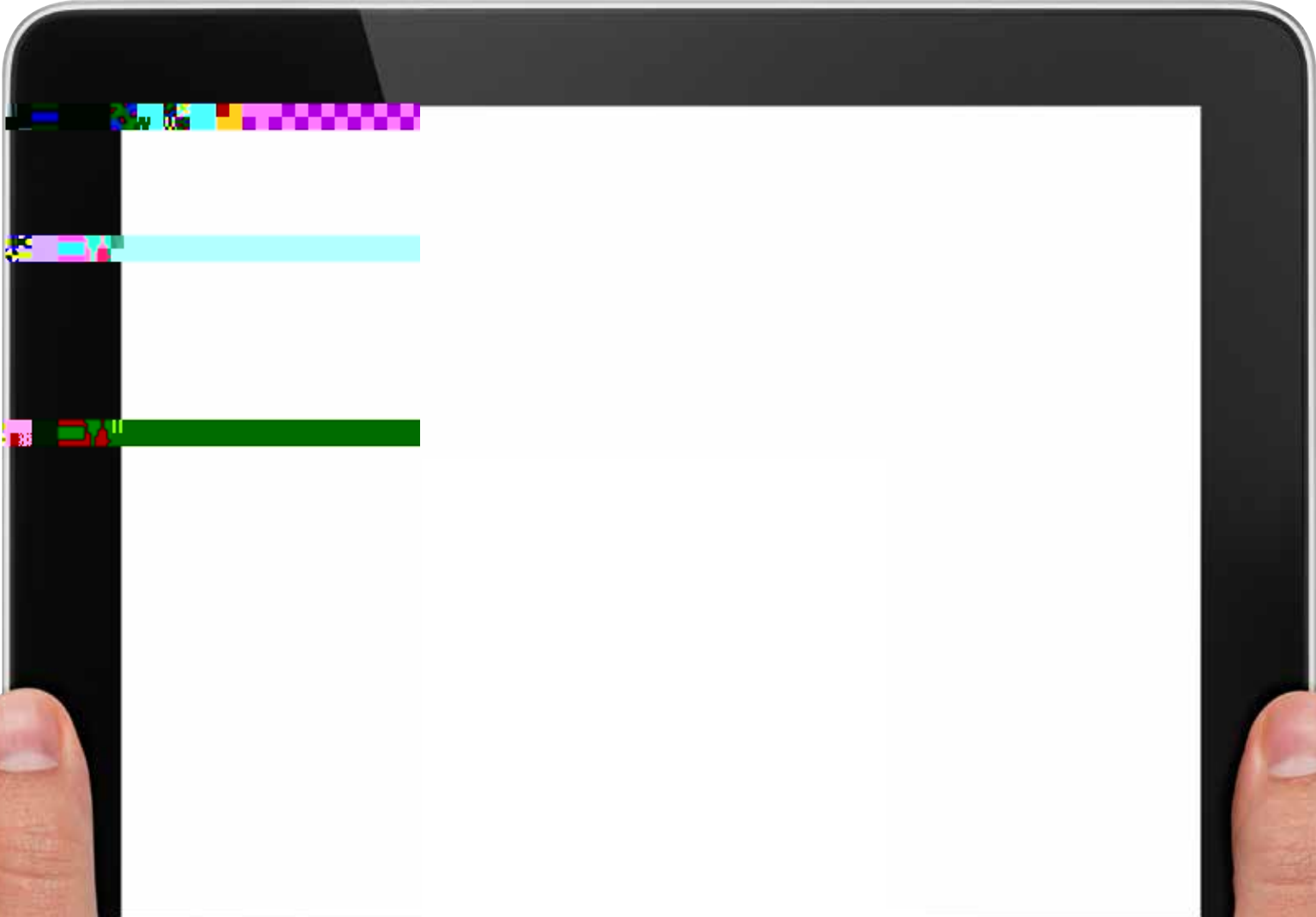
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The Clinical Simulation Center in the College of Nursing and Health Professions has undergone a dramatic renovation during the summer months. The room has been subdivided into separate areas to more closely resemble a hospital setting,

Mortgage collectors circled Carter Hall in the University Center, reminding players they would lose their homes if their payments were late. Bad news cards are passed out announ-



Joy Cook clinical assistant professor and clinical coordinator of radiologic and imaging sciences, was appointed to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists magnetic resonance subcommittee to review current practice standards for the field. She will help revise current practice standards used nationally by technologists practicing in the magnetic resonance discipline. Clinical practice in imaging sciences is constantly changing. This committee has an important task in reviewing and revising the practice standards of those performing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) because it impacts the quality of patient care.

Claudine Fairchild program director and clinical assistant professor for diagnostic medical sonography, was named faculty evaluator for the American Council on Education in the discipline of sonography. In this role, she will review course materials and recommend postsecondary educational credit for courses and exams taken outside traditional channels as part of the ACE College Credit Recommendation Service. Evaluation and college credit recommendations from ACE can provide the non-traditional learner advanced degree opportunities with colleges and universities, Fairchild said.

Dr. Mikel Hand assistant professor of nursing, has two new roles with the Midwestern Nursing Research Society. He is chair of the 2013 Qualitative Methods Research Section, which advocates the use of qualitative research and

mixed methods to study healthcare issues.

College of Nursing and Health Professions sophomores recognized for outstanding accomplishments

Eight College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) students were recognized at the 2013 Freshman Convocation for their outstanding accomplishments. The ceremony is the official induction of new students to the USI community. Of the 23 students from the

New Hires

Lorinda "Lorie" Coan
assistant professor of dental hygiene, previously taught in the dental hygiene program at the Indiana University School of Dentistry, Indianapolis. She continues to practice as a dental hygienist in Greenfield, Indiana. Lorie has had many articles published in medical journals on tobacco cessation and other dental topics.

Charlotte Connerton
instructor in nursing, has taught at Lakeview College of Nursing and Indiana State University. A registered nurse for 24 years, she is a Faith Community Nurse and Certified Lay Minister. She has also edited chapters in geriatrics textbooks and was a contributing author on grief, loss, and death for a licensed practical nurse textbook.

Dr. Kristi Hape
assistant professor of occupational therapy, previously taught at the University of Indianapolis. Her research is in the area of handwriting development in children, and she has an interest in helping children with severe disabilities.

Most students earn a graduate degree hoping it will take them places in life. What some don't realize is just how far that might be. Literally. In Robert Feldbauer's case, that degree has taken him across the world.

A 2006 graduate of USI's Master of Health Administration (MHA) Program, Feldbauer has since made a career of building medical infrastructure in the Middle East. Furthering his career goals through higher education is important

to Feldbauer, and over the course of his life he's acquired a bachelor's degree in construction engineering and management and a master's degree in project management, both of which aided in his 22-year career with the U.S. Air Force. It was after he retired from the service as a Senior Master Sergeant that he entered the world of hospital management.

My MHA made me competitive for senior leadership positions, including my current position as chief operating officer at

Al Ain Hospital in the United Arab Emirates, said Feldbauer. I have the utmost respect for the program. I would personally recommend the program to anyone considering an MHA.

After completing his distance-learning degree, while working as a vice president at Mercy Hospital in Fairfield, Ohio, Feldbauer decided to work as a consultant for Joint Commission International, a corporation providing accreditation services for healthcare organizations globally, in the Middle East.

A year later, he returned to the United States as a healthcare facilities consultant and a director of facilities at a Cincinnati hospital. Then in 2010, he headed back to the Arabian Peninsula as project director overseeing the operational planning of Sidra Medi15.8al p

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