

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has approved a new graduate program in nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

The proposal will be submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE). Pending approval, the first courses could be implemented in fall 2008.

The DNP program offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions will serve Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) graduates who are currently practicing as nurse educators, nurse practitioners, or nurse administrators. The DNP is an alternative to research-focused doctorates in nursing and is comparable to practice doctorates in pharmacy and physical therapy.

The program will require a total of 78 graduate nursing credit hours. MSN graduates from USI typically have earned 39-43 of the required graduate credit hours.

Dr. Ann H. White, assistant

During the past year I have been privileged to work with a group of area health care and education leaders to bring a regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to southwestern Indiana.

Representatives from area hospitals, the Vanderburgh County School Corporation, Echo Clinic, Ivy Tech Community College, University of Evansville, Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine-Evansville, the Vanderburgh County Medical Society, Welborn Baptist Foundation, and other individuals have met in an effort to establish a regional AHEC in southwestern Indiana.

There are more than 180 AHECs in 46 states. An AHEC is a network of regional “centers” that are coordinated through a central program office. The Indiana AHEC central program office is housed in the IU School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine.

The mission and goals of the Indiana AHEC follow.

Mission

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Program Notes

Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

Graduate success

All 24 students in the dental hygiene Class of 2007 successfully completed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination in March and the Northeast Regional Board clinical examination in May.

Clinical rotations

Twenty students are enrolled in the first-year class of the dental hygiene program. The 23 second-year students are participating in a clinical rotation with Deaconess Family Practice. They also are collaborating with nursing students to provide oral health care and education to patients in the oncology unit at Deaconess Hospital. This is the ninth semester for the oncology rotation.

Bringing smiles to Africa



Barbara Johnston '07, dental assisting, recently participated in a month-long mission trip to Malawi and Kenya through the Rafiki Foundation, a Christian organization. She provided dental hygiene treatment to more than 90 children and 70 adolescents and adults. Johnston said, "One lady at the orphanage was heard saying after I had given her dental hygiene treatment, 'I used to never want to smile or laugh, but now my teeth are so beautiful and I want to smile and laugh.'"



Carla Alldredge

Dr. Carla Alldredge '01 has joined the dental assisting program as a clinical faculty member. A 2005 graduate of the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, she provides dental care to patients and works with dental assisting students one afternoon a week in the dental clinic in the Health Professions Center. She also supervises the dental hygiene clinic on Tuesday nights. Alldredge earned a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education.

"I saw how much dentistry could help people and decided that I wanted to be able to provide a wider variety of procedures," she said.

Allredge recently opened her own practice, Allredge Dental Care in Newburgh, Indiana. **Melanie Meyers '07** is a dental assistant in her office.

Dr. Carla Alldredge, right, administers local anesthetic to the patient, Melanie Meyers. Assisting is Jennifer Miles while Kim Hite, left, program director for dental hygiene, and student Jennifer Koehl observe.

Food and Nutrition

Graduates, students at work

Graduates and students in the food and nutrition program are putting their knowledge to work. **Tonya Aeschliman '07** and seniors **Allison Schmahl** and **Shelley Frazier** are employed at Mead Johnson in Evansville. **Lindsay Hall** and **Britney Swears** work at Deaconess Family Practice and with the AmeriCorps public health education program conducting basic nutrition education and program planning. **Kristina Walker** provides nutrition education to youth in grades 1-6 through the Professor Popcorn program sponsored by the Vanderburgh County Extension Office.

Health Services

Graduate news

Jeanne Melton '04 is an instructor in health services at USI. She is pursuing a doctorate in health administration at Central Michigan University. **Michael Madden '05** is an assistant administrator at Fairchild Medical Center in Yreka, California. **Cindy Moore '07** is program chair for the medical assisting program at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

Nursing

IONE scholarship

Catherine Boarman '00, a graduate student in the nursing management and leadership specialty has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives (IONE). Boarman is one of five recipients statewide.

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She maintains a 4.0 grade-point average in the graduate nursing program while working full time as executive director of the St. Mary's Surgicare/ Ambulatory Care Center in Evansville. She holds an RN license in the State of Indiana and has CNOR (certified nurse operating room) certification. Boarman lives in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

This is the fifth consecutive year for a USI graduate nursing student to receive an IONE scholarship.

Occupational Therapy

B.S./M.S.O.T. students

The 30 students who began the occupational therapy program in fall semester will be the first cohort to progress through the combined undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Students must complete both degrees (B.S./M.S.O.T.) to be eligible to take the national certification examination.

Thirty occupational therapy students completed their first fieldwork assignments last summer at clinical sites in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Students worked for 12 weeks under the supervision of a practicing occupational therapist.

ACOTE site visit

A two-person team from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) completed a three-day site visit for re-accreditation of the occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program in September. ACOTE will make the accreditation status decision in its December meeting.

Thirty new students began the OTA program in fall semester, and 26 second-year students are completing clinical training.

Radiologic and Imaging Sciences

New equipment

Two additional ultrasound machines were purchased recently for

the sonography program. Students now have four machines available for practice as they develop their sonography knowledge and skills.

Respiratory Therapy

25 years

Robert W. Hooper was recognized on Founder's Day in September for 25 years with the University. He is program director for the respiratory therapy program.

New graduates

Thirteen students completing the respiratory therapy program were honored with a ceremony and reception in August. **Hannah Anderson Hatfield** received the Essa P. Goebel Award for academic achievement and **Brittaney Lynch** received the Essa P. Goebel award for leadership and professionalism.

Club activities

The new respiratory care class of 14 students has joined students in the second-year class to participate in the Respiratory Care Club. During National Respiratory Care Week in October club members prepared a display case in the Health Professions Center and attended a one-day seminar at St. Mary's Medical Center. They will participate this semester in at least six health fairs performing pulmonary function screening and informing fair attendees about the hazards of smoking and environmental pollution.

ISRC Literary Award

John King, a second year respiratory care student, received an Indiana Society for Respiratory Care Literary Award at the ISRC Fall Seminar in September. He was recognized for his paper titled "Dietary Needs of the COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) Patient," one of 25 papers reviewed by a panel of one physician and two registered therapists.

Lisa Gish '00 B.S.N. '04 M.H.A. is the 2007 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award presented by the USI Nursing Alumni Society. She is executive director of the nonprofit association Tri-State Business Group on Health (TSBGH), a coalition of employers concerned with health-care costs and quality.

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Faculty Notes

Deborah Carl, program director for the dental hygiene program, is president of the Ohio Valley Dental Hygienists' Association for 2007-08. **Emily Holt**, assistant professor of dental hygiene, is president elect. Holt recently attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology in Washington, D.C.

Julie St. Clair, instructor in nursing, was selected to make an oral presentation titled "Improving Public Health through Service Learning: A Collaborative Model of Health Care for an Incarcerated Population" at the Indiana Public Health Association's Spring Conference. The meeting was held in May at Indiana University.

An article titled "Inpatient care of persons with Alzheimer's disease" by **Dr. Martha Sparks**, professor of nursing, has been accepted for publication in *Critical Care Nursing Quarterly*.

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Amy L. Wilson, instructor in radiologic and imaging sciences, has been selected from a group of 100 nominees to serve on the government relations committee of the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, a national organization. She will serve a two-year term on the eight-member committee.

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Faculty members **Jennifer Bartek, Deborah Carl, Kimberly Hite, Emily Holt, Phyllis Maddox**, and

The College of Nursing and Health Professions welcomed two new faculty members for fall semester.

- **Sherri Mathis**

'04 is an instructor in the occupational therapy assisting program. Mathis was an occupational therapy assistant from 1999 until 2004 when she completed a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy at USI. She has previous experience working in sc

News

Wires named patient care director

Jocelyn Wires '06 M.S.N. has joined Middle Tennessee Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as patient care director for labor and delivery/postpartum. Wires completed the nursing management and leadership

