

Synapse

College of Nursing and Health Professions

USI faculty, staff, and students have all benefited in some way from their relationship



Dean's Notes

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The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was recently awarded initial accreditation, retroactive to April 2011, by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The accreditation is the first for a doctoral program at USI. The DNP program received accreditation with no contingencies for a period of five years—the longest amount of time allowed for a first-time accreditation.


Students admitted to the DNP program select from two areas of study concentration: advanced practice and organizational and systems leadership. The program prepares experts in advanced nursing with emphasis placed on innovative,

evidence-based practice and research. The curriculum includes a minimum of 36 required DNP credit hours beyond the master's degree for a total of 78 credit hours.

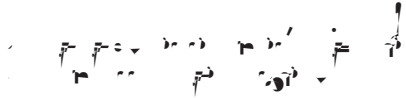
The DNP program had its on-campus site visit in April 2011. Three representatives from the CCNE spent two and a half days talking to stakeholders, including students, faculty, administration, library staff, and service partners. A self-study was



AROUND THE COLLEGE



The University of Southern Indiana online graduate degree nursing program was ranked 15th in the categories of Admissions Selectivity and Faculty Credentials and Training, in the 2012 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. The program also ranked 25th for Student Engagement and Accreditation and 71st for Student Services and Technology. Its overall ranking was 127th out of more than 500 online graduate nursing programs.



C

What's the secret to a long life? How is aging approached in other cultures? These questions and many more will be addressed during the fifth annual Mid-America Institute on Aging to be held August 9-10 in the University Center.

The conference, sponsored by the College of Nursing and Health Professions, is a two-day multi-disciplinary conference for nurses, social workers, older adults, lay persons, and professionals working in the field of gerontology. National and local speakers will provide practical tools and ground-breaking information related to successful aging and gerontology.

Christine Moss will deliver the keynote address, "American Indian Aging and Unintended Consequences" and a concurrent session, "Ethnography of Aging-Zuni Elders." Moss is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. She is the first and only American Indian to hold both nursing and juris doctorates. Her main area of interest is American Indian aging.

Deborah Cella, coauthor of the book, *Measuring Up: The Longevity Project: Surprising Discoveries for Health and Long Life from the Landmark Eight-Decade Study*, will discuss "The Longevity Project: Surprising Discoveries for Health and Long Life from the Landmark Eight-Decade Study," as well as a concurrent session, "Running for Their Lives: Physical Activity and Longevity." She is a health psychologist and has studied pathways to health and longevity for the past 20 years. She received her PhD from the University of California and is currently chair of the Department of Psychology at La Sierra University in Riverside. In addition to her research on pathways to health and longevity, she studies clinician-patient communication and its relationship to patient outcomes.

John L. Cook is a clinical bioethicist, hospice volunteer, and the author of the award-winning book, *The Ethics of Life*.

G m J m A

From April 9–19, the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) welcomed two visiting faculty scholars from the University of Osnabrueck in Germany.

Both faculty members are from the research university's Division of Nursing Science. The visit was arranged by associate professor of health services/administration at USI during a November trip with graduate health administration students to Evansville's sister city of Osnabrueck.

Dr. Coudret has been a lecturer in nursing education and curricular development at the University of Osnabrueck since 2007. Her research is focused on educational theories and professional development in nursing education and nursing competences in Europe.

Dr. Dutthorn has been a lecturer in the Division of Nursing Science at Osnabrueck since 2010. His research is centered on professionalization of nursing in an international comparison, and nursing science in the context of long-time care.



During their 10-day stay, they will present research finding, exchange research interests and experiences, guest lecture in several

departments, and promote study abroad and greater collaboration between the two universities and sister cities. In addition, Dutthorn and Zimansky will participate as presenters at the CNHP Research Conference on April 11, participate during the Doctor of Nursing Practice intensives, and meet with Evansville community leaders.

"This is something we want to keep doing and something we have a lot of support for," said Valadares. "It's good to invite faculty to come here for a short amount of time and interact with our USI community. It's my hope that this will be part of an ongoing relationship and, at some point, we may have our faculty spend time over there as well."



Dr. Coudret, dean emerita of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, was presented one of the top awards in geriatric education from the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education at the group's annual meeting and conference in February, in Arlington, Virginia.

Dr. Coudret received the Administrative Leadership Award for her exceptional efforts in support of gerontology and geriatrics education. She served as dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions from 1988 to 2012.

Sports and sports nutrition have always been both a hobby and a passion for **Dr. Ayesta**, a native of Caracas Venezuela, majoring in dietetics at USI. Over the past two years, his passion has led to innovation as he nears completion of a multi-year project to create a sports nutrition supplement.

Ayesta transferred to USI in 2009 on a scholarship through the Study America Program and plans to graduate this May. While at USI, he began an honors project under the direction of **Dr. Gonzalez** and **Dr. Cevallos**, adjunct instructors in food and nutrition, as part of the food science course he was taking. Gonzalez and Cevallos also are employed with Mead Johnson and worked with Ayesta to find the resources he needed.

During the spring 2011 semester, Ayesta focused on the formulation of a whey-based sports beverage, completed research, and submitted a draft proposal.

"This project has been a challenge," says Ayesta. "But the knowledge I've acquired is invaluable. It's an experience that has changed my life."

During the summer of 2011, he was hired by Mead Johnson. The position was not related to his project, but did allow him access to people and resources that helped him.

"The collaboration between Mead Johnson Nutritionals and USI has been responsible for a lot of student innovation and success," says Ayesta. "I'm thankful to both for what they've allowed me to accomplish."

After completing the proposal portion of his project, Ayesta asked to continue his work.

The Indiana State Nurses Association (ISNA) recently conferred the Honorary Recognition Award to Coudret for her distinguished service to the Association and to the profession. She has been a long-time member of ISNA and has served in many positions, including ISNA President from 1983–1985.

A release from the ISNA said that "Dr. Coudret has influenced the education of nurses and other health professionals with her vision to provide quality educational programs, and she has served as an influential health care leader. Her career in nursing and nursing education is testament to her distinguished service to the nursing profession."



"I wanted to actually make the product," he said. During the fall 2011 semester, he formulated the product and by December, had obtained a prototype and began testing it. He recently presented his findings for a nutrition course with **Dr. Gonzalez** as part of ongoing work for his honors project.

Ayesta submitted his product to the Dairy Research Institute's New Product Innovation Competition. Three winners will compete at the national level in July.

He is applying for summer internships and plans to enter a graduate program in the fall. "Ultimately, I'd like to be a sports registered dietitian and work with athletes," he says.

A m

Alicia M. ..., director and chair of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, has served as a faculty member in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program since 2009. She previously practiced occupational therapy in hospitals, school systems, home health, and outpatient orthopedics.

Alicia M. ..., informatics instructor in the graduate nursing program, also is a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at USI, where her capstone area of interest is informatics and system design. She previously worked at Southwestern Healthcare as chief administrative officer for 11 years.

Alicia M. ..., assistant professor in food and

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Dr. Ann H. White, Interim Dean
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