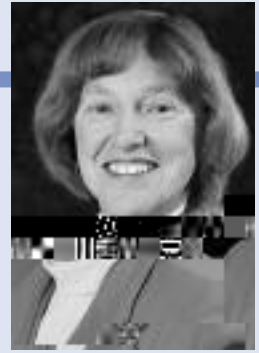


Food Services for the University, and **William Haliburton**, executive chef, have helped coordinate the practical rotation for the food and nutrition students. University food service is provided by Sodexo, one of the top three food-management companies in the world.

As part of the practical experience, students are becoming famil-

# Dean's Notes



**Dr. Nadine Coudret**

## New technology enhances student learning

Instructional technology has been a key component of our College since it was established in 1988.

Soon after the initiation of the nursing program, distance education classes via videoconferencing were offered in the RN-BSN program. In 1995, with the support of Drs. Trudy and Bill Mitchell, interactive wired student response pads were installed in the new Health Professions Center and used by both our college and the University community. The first Internet-delivered courses were offered by nursing in 1997 followed by course offerings in imaging sciences, health services, nutrition, and occupational therapy. Streaming lectures downloaded on iPods, online audio and video discussions, and virtual interactive classrooms are examples of technology used in our distance education programs.

An exciting instructional technology was added to the college this fall with the acquisition of four computerized anatomically accurate mannequins. Each of these computerized SimMan models provides realistic patient simulations. Students assess and initiate treatment on the simulation models and respond to patient scenarios that include variable heart and respiratory rates, breath and bowel sounds, contraction and dilation of pupils, and real patient verbal responses. Personal digital assistants (PDAs) loaded with clinical and instructional software are used with the SimMan as well as in other clinical and classroom settings.

Students in the college's newest program, food and nutrition, were greeted this fall with a new fully equipped lab classroom. Food analysis equipment and food sensory simulations provide students with a hands-on learning experience.

Student response pads (wireless) providing instant response capability support a new level of interactive learning for college students. Attendance tracking, elec-

tronic quizzes, and active learning games are possible with this technology. Students and faculty are enthusiastic about the added interaction and time-efficient learning that the response pads provide.

Consistent with the faculty's goal of providing active student learning, a classroom has been renovated and equipped with technology to provide the college's first model interactive classroom. Students are seated at round tables and engage in collaborative interactive learning through the use of wireless computers, whiteboards, and student response pads.

The Dental Clinic faculty and students are excited about the addition of a new intraoral camera and the addition of computers in each of the 15 dental operatories. EagleSoft dental documentation software on each of the computers supports both chair-side documentation and education.

Faculty and students in the College of Nursing and Health Professions are to be congratulated for their innovative and cutting-edge use of technology. Students graduating from USI nursing and health professions programs are prepared for the increasing world of technology.

### **Recommended reading**

Two books relevant to the use of technology and recommended to the reader are: Friedman, Thomas. *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005, and Oblinger, Diane G. & James L. Oblinger, eds. *Educating the Net Generation*. Educause, 2005.

## Management

*Continued from page 1*

before working in University food service operations.

In spring 2007, the students will have two expert faculty from Mead Johnson Nutritionals, an Evansville subsidiary of Bristol-Myers Squibb, who will help them gain an understanding of science-based knowledge related to food. **Dr. Carlos Aguilar**, senior scientist in international product development, and **Dr. Juan**

**Gonzales**, Latin American regional technical manager, will teach the course Principles and Applications in Food Science. Aguilar holds a doctorate in food science, and Gonzales earned a doctorate in food chemistry.

Each student will complete a research project during the course.

The food and nutrition lab is located in the Health Professions Center. Recently, students have conducted sensory experiments in the lab and

have studied how changing a recipe can affect the quality of a product.

McCullough said the USI program in food and nutrition is appropriate for any student interested in a bachelor's degree program and for community college students who have completed an associate degree. She has visited the new Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center in Evansville to provide information to students and faculty about the program.

# Program Notes

## Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

### **Bachelor's degree program**

The dental hygiene program is transitioning from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree program, effective for students entering the program in fall 2007. USI is the only institution in the state offering the entry-level bachelor's degree program.

**Deborah Carl**, program director for dental hygiene, said, "Increasingly, research shows a direct link between systemic health and oral health. One is essential for the other. There's more information that needs to be taught."

Carl said an increasing number of prospective students have indicated interest in a bachelor's degree program in recent years.

### **Improved clinical facilities**

The dental clinic facilities have been upgraded with the installation of computers and software in all clinic operatories. All client scheduling is completed through the software, and it will be used to compile client records, resulting in less paper chart production.



**Senior dental hygiene student Lydia Flora, left, and junior Natasha Brown practice using the new digital intraoral camera in the dental clinic. The camera allows the user to document and show areas of the teeth and gums on a computer screen.**

Each operatory also has a docking station for use of a camera for intraoral photography. The camera allows the user to show at close range a specific portion of the mouth that may not be seen easily by the eye.

The photos are important for patient education and better diagnosis

and treatment by the clinician. A copy of the photo in the patient's file is a useful reference for follow-up visits. Software support and intraoral photography are becoming the standard of care at most dental offices today.

### **Clinical faculty**

**Dr. Richard Whaley**, a dentist in Vincennes, Indiana, has joined the faculty as part-time clinical faculty.

## Food and Nutrition

### **Working with Sodexo**

Students in the food and nutrition major are completing a 10-week period of hands-on work with the University's Sodexo food-services operation. See story on page 1.

The undergraduate nursing program has received a two-year grant of \$324,555 from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Strategic Skills Initiative, a program which identifies critical occupational shortages and funds grants to address those shortages.

The grant will support the increase of undergraduate nursing students from 60 to 80 each year.

**Dr. Ann White**, assistant dean for nursing, is project director. The nursing program has obtained new simulation equipment to enhance training opportunities and added faculty to support the increased number of students. Deaconess Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center are providing additional clinical units and clinical instructors.

**Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, said the grant merges technology advances occurring in health care and health-care education and will move the college to the forefront in computerized simulation training.

The college also has received a five-year grant with \$269,000 for the first year of the program.

## **Program Notes**

*Continued from page 3*

# Faculty Notes

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**Dr. Barbara Davis**, professor of nursing, is co-author along with USI M.S.N. students of two articles published recently. The article “The rela-

## Welcome new faculty and staff

The College of Nursing and Health Professions has announced the following appointment:

- **Wanda Douglas**, instructor in nursing, has served the last eight years as education director for the Texas Nurses Association. She is past executive director of the Louisiana State Nurses Association and former faculty member at Delgado Community College in New Orleans and at Midland College in Midland, Texas. She holds an associate degree in nursing from Olney Central College in Olney, Illinois; a bachelor's in nursing from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock; and a master's in nursing from University of Texas at Arlington. She has pursued doctoral work at Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans.

- **Rebecca Gallagher**, instructor in nursing, was most recently a family nurse practitioner with St. Mary's Senior Health Center in Evansville. She also has been a home health nurse with St. Mary's and has experience in a geriatric housecall program and geriatric outpatient clinic at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She has worked in other nursing positions in Brownstown, Indiana, and in Indianapolis since 1983. Gallagher earned an associate degree in nursing at Indiana University School of Nursing in Indianapolis and bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from USI.

- **Kimberly Hite** is program director for dental assisting. She has been associated since 1996 with dental offices in Evansville and in Henderson, Kentucky. In addition, she served as an adjunct clinical instructor in dental hygiene for the College of Nursing and Health Professions the past two years and worked with Dr. Ralph A. Mata-

cale last summer as a dental hygiene practitioner at the Vanderburgh County Community Dental Clinic. Hite earned associate degrees in dental assisting and dental hygiene, a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene education, and a master's in education, all from USI.

- **Emily Holt** is assistant professor of dental hygiene/assisting. She previously worked full time as a dental hygienist in a family and cosmetic dentistry practice in Owensboro, Kentucky, in addition to serving as an adjunct instructor in the USI dental hygiene program. She earned an associate degree in dental hygiene, bachelor's degrees in dental hygiene and health services, and a master's in health administration, all from USI.

- **Tracy Kinner**, instructor in nursing, joined USI from St. Mary's Sleep Disorders Center, where she worked as a family nurse practitioner. She also is a family nurse practitioner in the emergency room at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. Kinner has experience as a registered nurse in pediatrics, pediatric intensive care, and in a cardiovascular catheterization laboratory. She earned an associate degree in nursing at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio, and a bachelor's in nursing from Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio. She completed the master's program in nursing at USI in 2005.

- **Jeanne Melton**, instructor in health services, was most recently executive director of the AIDS Resource Group of Evansville. She has worked extensively in not-for-profit organizations, and her primary focus and interest have been on women and children's health. She is a past administrator for the Little Red Door Cancer Agency and the BASTA (Spanish for



*Swenty*

# News

## **IONE awards scholarship to M.S.N. student Lori Grimm**

**Lori Grimm**, a graduate nursing student, has received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Indiana Organization of Nurse Executives. Candidates selected for this scholarship are completing a graduate degree in nursing with an emphasis in nursing administration. Grimm is pursuing the nursing management and leadership specialty. She works at Women's Hospital in Evansville as the patient safety officer.

## **Andrew Bowman receives award from ENA Foundation**

**Andrew Bowman**, a graduate student, has been awarded a \$5,000 Advanced Practice Nursing Scholarship from the Emergency Nurses Association Foundation.

A registered nurse, Bowman is night shift patient care coordinator in

the emergency department at Home Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana. He has been associated with Home Hospital since 1982.

Bowman is enrolled in the acute care nurse practitioner program and plans to complete requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing degree in July. He is a manuscript reviewer for "Emergency Medicine Practice," a monthly evidence-based journal, and a contributing author for "Emergency Nursing Procedures: 4th Edition," a manual edited by Jean Proehl, to be published in 2007.

## **Summer study available at Harlaxton in England**

Students will have opportunities to observe the British health-care system in action and study at Harlaxton College near London through a summer study/travel program offered by the College of Nursing and Health Professions. The program is planned for June 17–July 1.

**Jeri Burger**, assistant professor of nursing, said the group will attend

classes at Harlaxton and visit a number of health-care settings in the area. Students may travel independently over the weekend between the two weeks of classes and will spend a day in London before their return trip.

Harlaxton College in Grantham, England, is owned and operated by the University of Evansville.

## **Advisory committees, adjunct faculty welcomed**

Community professionals who serve on advisory committees for the educational programs in the College of Nursing and Health Professions attended a welcome dinner and meeting in late September. More than 80 health-care providers and representatives of area health-related organizations and agencies toured the University's new Rice Library and learned about program goals for the academic year.

Adjunct faculty attended an in-service meeting in August. They learned about new technology available for college programs.

**Sara Jenkins Womack '04** is the dental hygienist on an interdisciplinary team of health-care providers helping to improve health care for expectant mothers and their families in Hopkins County, Kentucky.

Based on the Centering Pregnancy concept developed by a Yale University nursing graduate, the program in Madisonville expands the title to "Centering Pregnancy with Smiles" to emphasize the addition of dental hygiene care and education to the original model.

Pregnant women whose babies will be delivered by a midwife are placed into groups of 12-16 women with similar due dates. The women meet as a group with the midwife, the dental hygienist, and other health-care providers in a two-hour session each month until their last month of pregnancy when they begin meeting every other week.

"Instead of 10 minutes with a midwife, they get 10 two-hour sessions," Womack said.

At each visit, the midwife assesses patients individually prior to an educational session using a discussion format. A free exchange ensues in an atmosphere of mutual support.

The women learn more about their bodies and their babies.

Womack said research shows a correlation between periodontal disease and pre-term low birth weight infants. A baby is more likely to be born full term and at a normal weight when the expectant mother has healthy gums and teeth and presents without infection. Womack provides information on proper brushing, flossing, periodontal disease, development of cavities, eruption of a child's primary and permanent teeth, and proper feeding techniques for infants. Each patient also is scheduled for a dental hygiene appointment.

Centering Pregnancy with Smiles is a joint project of the Hopkins County Health Department, the

