

Three students who made their first trip out of their native country of India in February 2005 to continue their nursing education in the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing and Health Professions will graduate in May with advanced degrees.

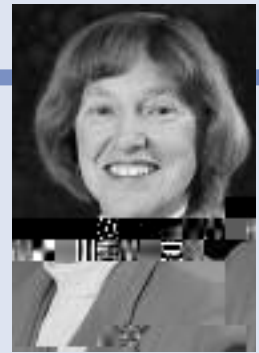
They are **Rajwinder Kaur, Ranjeet Kaur,** and **Navpreet Sidhu.** They are from communities in India northwest of the capital Delhi and near the border with Pakistan.

**Dr. Ann White,** assistant dean for nursing, said the three were nurses in their homeland when they decided they wanted to obtain Master of Science in Nursing degrees. They started course work while still in India through the College of Nursing and Health Professions' online offerings, completing about half of their courses before coming to Evansville to finish the clinical portion.

The three will complete requirements for the clinical nurse specialist track of the MSN program. The clinical nurse specialist is qualified to function as an expert clinician, leader, researcher, case manager, and consultant.

Rajwinder wants to work in intensive care. Ranjeet is most interested in pediatrics or obstetrics/gynecology. Navpreet is interested in the medical/surgical area of nursing care. The three were friends during their undergraduate ring their somre fr72 TDsurgical area of nursingc their undergraduate ring their somre fr72 TDsurgica36(72 Tlhi amJ22 they decided they wan MHeidi G Sciengori-GahjwinTD-0.017 Tc(h

# Dean's Notes



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Achieving excellence in our nursing and health professions programs requires the efforts and support of many individuals. Recognition and appreciation for our hardworking students, faculty, and staff and the contributions of area health-care providers and preceptors have been expressed previously in this column. Less recognized but important to the achievement of excellence are the individuals who contribute to our college through their support of scholarships and teaching excellence.

While space will not permit a complete listing of individuals and their gifts, I want to highlight three donors who have helped us achieve our goal of education excellence. In future issues of *Synapse*, we will feature others who have made significant contributions to our college.



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arnhart



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**Victoria Wertz** is a special friend of the college who resides across from St. Mary's Medical Center at the Protestant Home. Mrs. Wertz's support began in 1993, when she established scholarships in memory of her husband, Claude Sr.; her daughter, Judith; and stepdaughter, Barbara Jean. In 1995, Mrs. Wertz made a second major gift to our college using the proceeds from the sale of her home to establish a college enhancement fund. This fund supports faculty participation in cutting-edge conferences focusing on genetics and heart disease. We have been pleased to have Mrs. Wertz and her son, Jay, present the scholarships at our annual college Honors Day. In August, Victoria will celebrate her 102nd birthday.

Our friend **Mary Barnhart**, who died March 11, graduated from a baccalaureate nursing program in St. Louis where she met her husband, Dr. Willard Barnhart, a leading Evansville urologist who died in 1980. Last year, Mrs. Barnhart established a major unrestricted endowment for our college which will provide nursing scholarships for

USI students in perpetuity. I enjoyed my visits with Mary and her valuable insights and counsel about today's health care.

A more recent friend of our college is **John M. Lawrence**, a 1973 alumnus, who recently moved back to Evansville from Cleveland, Ohio. John's deceased wife, Melissa Faye Lawrence, was a nurse whom I had the privilege of teaching prior to coming to USI. With understanding and empathy for the stresses that students experience during final exams, John provides support each semester for our finals week hospitality room. Complete with soothing music, this room provides coffee, juices, and snacks for students before and after their final exams. This spring, Mr. Lawrence established an endowed nursing scholarship in memory of his wife. This is the largest scholarship awarded in our college. It was

presented to **Daphne Young** at the 2006 Honors Day ceremony. John also is generously underwriting the design of a logo which is being developed for our college.

The generosity and support of Victoria, Mary, and John are representative of individuals who understand the importance of private gifts. Without these generous donors it would be difficult to achieve the excellence which is the hallmark of our graduates.

The Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis is providing a matching gift of \$1.25 for every dollar given to an endowment established to benefit the University. This match is a wonderful opportunity to maximize the impact of your gift to our college.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become a part of our college giving community, please call me at 812/465-1151 or call the University's Office of Development at 812/464-1918. A big thank you is sent to all of you who support our college.

## Healthier Evansville

*Continued from page 1*

sponsor their own health-related events during the week-long emphasis.

A member of the School Community Council, Cagle said, "If we examine the 2004 health-risk behaviors for Indiana, we can see that we are not a

healthy state. Over 35 percent of the adult population and 15 percent of teens are overweight. Healthier Evansville is hoping to raise the desire for a healthy lifestyle. In essence, this is a campaign to raise awareness.

"It is important to give people the education and tools needed so they

can make responsible choices for both themselves and their families.

# Program Notes

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## Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene

### *Give Kids a Smile*

**Dr. Ralph A. Matacale**, program director of dental assisting, and dental assisting students provided free dental care to children during the 4th Annual Give Kids a Smile Day, a national initiative by the American Dental Association.

“We know we can’t treat all of the patients needing care in a single day, but our goal is to raise awareness of the problem and help as much as we can while providing a learning opportunity for dental assisting students,” Matacale said.

Matacale and dental assisting students also provided service in the fall at Tri-State Family Dental Centers and at Impact Christian Health Center in Evansville. They performed service learning activities at the Impact center on 10 Mondays during the spring semester. Matacale is president of the Indiana Dental Association’s 10-county First District Dental Society and has hosted continuing education sessions at USI.

## Health Services

### *CHES certification*

**Gretchen Winders '05** is the first graduate in health services with a minor in worksite wellness to complete requirements as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Certified Health Education Specialists have met the standards of competence established by The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. and have successfully passed the CHES examination. Winders is a wellness coach/health advocate at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

## Nursing

### *Revised curriculum*

Forty-eight students are enrolled this semester in the first two nursing courses offered in the revised undergraduate nursing curriculum that rearranges

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## Program Notes

*Continued from page 3*

## Alumni and student news

**Celia Rizen '99**, nursing, is associated with the Vanderburgh County Health Department as a nurse in the Tuberculosis Clinic.

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**Dana Morris '00**, dental hygiene education, will graduate this spring with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry.

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**Katie DeFries '04**, nursing, has been accepted into the neonatal nurse practitioner program at Vanderbilt University.

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**Shelby Collins '05**, M.H.A., is director of the Child Health Center at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

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**Barbara Zellerino '05**, M.H.A., is a senior consultant with 3M Health Information System Division in Atlanta.

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**Laura Peterson '06**, health services, has been accepted into

# Faculty Notes

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**Dr. Jeri Burger**, instructor in nursing, has completed a Ph.D. in nursing at Saint Louis University.

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**Jessica MacLeod**, instructor in nursing, has completed written and oral exams to qualify as a doctoral candidate in Indiana University's Ph.D. program in nursing science.



**Mary Ann Wehmer, Cathy O'Nan,** and **Mellisa Hall** are pursuing doctorates in nursing practice at Case Western Reserve University. **Marilyn Ostendorf** has enrolled in a doctoral program at Purdue University. All four are instructors of nursing.



**Dr. Kathy Riedford**, assistant professor of nursing, is enrolled in a post-master's certificate program at Rush University to complete a psychiatric nurse practitioner program.

**Jeanette Schafer named  
Indy 500 Festival princess**

A nursing student who is the  
resident assistant on the nursing and  
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# News

## St. Mary's vice president Betty Brown named Distinguished Nursing Alumna

A nursing graduate who is a vice president with St. Mary's Health System in Evansville is the 2005 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award at the University of Southern Indiana.



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The award was presented to **Elizabeth "Betty" J.**

**Brown** by the USI Nursing Alumni Society at its annual meeting in October. The award recognizes Brown's leadership in health care, her service as a model of scholarship in her practice, her career advancement in the field of nursing, and her support as an alumna of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Brown is vice president of strategic physician integration at St. Mary's. She was a member of USI's first nursing class, earning an associate of sci-

ence in 1990 and a baccalaureate degree in 1992. She completed a master's degree in nursing at University of Evansville. She also holds a master's in business administration from USI.

Throughout her career, Brown has maintained close ties with the University. She serves on the advisory committee for the graduate program in health administration and is an adjunct instructor. A member of the USI Nursing Alumni Society advisory committee, she encourages nursing graduates to become active in the group. "It's wonderful to be able to network and reconnect," she said.

## 25 participants enroll in Alzheimer's courses

Eleven participants completed the new six-week online Alzheimer's certificate program available for the first time this semester. Fourteen students enrolled in the undergraduate Alzheimer's course (GERO319), also new this semester.

Both programs focus on application of the theory of retrogenesis to increase prediction and understanding of symptoms associated with the illness and to provide guidance in choosing strategies to prevent or manage the symptoms. **Dr. Martha Sparks**, associate professor of nurs-

ing, developed the two programs with funding from the Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education.

## College welcomes former USI baseball All-American

**Michael W. Fetscher '96** has been named coordinator of instructional broadcasting for the College of Nursing and Health Professions. A communications major at USI, he worked in production for 14WFIE-TV in Evansville from 1995 until accepting his present job.



*etscher*

He has served as audio technician at USI basketball games for eight years and music arranger for the Evansville Fourth of July fireworks for six years. He has freelanced for ESPN, Fox Sports, Disney Channel, F/X network, and various regional networks.

Fetscher was a two-time All-American and three-time All-GLVC pitcher for the USI baseball team between 1992 and 1995. He finished his career with the Screaming Eagles ranked number one in career appearances (68), saves (16), and strikeouts (218); and number two in career wins (24) and shutouts (4).



*crowd of interested adults and children gathered around Mic e Stanle as she tended to a sna e-ite wound in a illage in ndia*

## Otis Stanley participates in health assessment in India

**Dr. Otis Stanley**, instructor in health services, was a member of a team of health-care professionals who recently assessed the health situation in 15 coastal villages north of Kankinada, India, and outlined recommendations for improvement.

The assessment focused on five major areas: safe water, environmental sanitation, nutrition, general preventive services, and curative health services. Stanley said the greatest immediate need was for safe water. Initiatives for improvement will include integrating health practices into an existing church-based basic literacy program and developing a training program for village health aides.

Stanley's wife Mickey, associate professor of nursing at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, also was a member of the assessment team. The assessment was performed in January at the invitation of a church ministry in India through its relationship with a church in Norris City, Illinois. The Stanleys live in Equality, Illinois.

