

Nursing Alumni News



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USI Nursing Alumni Newsletter

College of Nursing and Health Professions

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Plan to attend Alumni Dinner



Plan to attend the Nursing Alumni Society Dinner on Tuesday, October 21 at Kirby's Private Dining, 1119 Parrett Street, Evansville. Cash bar and networking begins at 5:30 p.m.; dinner begins at 6 p.m.

This year's special guest is **Marilyn H. Oermann**, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, who will speak on *"Lifelong Learning: A Commitment."* Dr. Oermann is

a Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing and director of Evaluation and Educational Research at Duke University School of Nursing. She also is editor of *Nurse Educator* and *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*.

Nursing Alumni Society Dinner

Tuesday, October 21
Kirby's Private Dining

Make your reservation!

MSN student receives USI's mentor award

David Gladys, a senior nursing student at USI, presented the 2014 Mentor of the Year award to his mentor, **Elizabeth "Libby" Ivy '06** at the Volunteer USI Recognition Dinner on August 27. Libby is currently a nursing education student in USI's MSN program.

Since the spring semester of 2013, Libby has been involved in mentoring nursing students at Deaconess Hospital. While working as a registered nurse on the oncology/respiratory unit, she adopted students as understudies and mentees. It was during one of these courses that she became a mentor to David, whose experience in a hospital setting was nonexistent prior to entering the nursing program.

"She was an exceptional mentor to me from the beginning," he said.

When David found himself doubting his decision to major in nursing, Libby was there again to give him the confidence



From left, Dean Ann White, Libby Ivy and David Gladys.

he lacked to continue. Since then, he has taken part in a Global Engagement Internship in India where he performed assessments on children and plans to graduate this May with a degree in nursing. He said if not for Libby's guidance and encouragement, he would not have had the confidence to continue with the nursing program or travel to India.

See page 3 for more on USI students' study abroad experiences.

Hospitals honor USI nursing alumni, current students

At Deaconess Hospital

Graduates and current students of the USI Nursing Program honored at Deaconess Hospital with yearly nursing awards are:

- Advancement of the Profession Nurse of the Year: **Mary Young, BSN, RN '12**



Mary Young '12



Olivia Graber '12



Edna Fletcher '90



Rebecca Deig '11

- Community Service Nurse of the Year: **Olivia Graber, BSN, RN '12**

- Florence Nightingale Nurse of the Year Award - Cross Pointe: **Edna Fletcher, BSN, RN '90**

- Florence Nightingale Nurse of the Year Award - Gateway **Rebecca Deig, BSN, RN '11**



Current students enrolled in the USI Nursing Program honored at Deaconess Hospital with yearly nursing awards:

- Leadership Nurse of the Year Award: **Claire Bennett, BSN, RN** (currently enrolled in the MSN Program)
- Mentorship Nurse of the Year Award: **David North, RN, CMSRN** (currently enrolled in the RN-BSN Program)

At St. Mary's Medical Center

USI Nursing Program graduates and current students honored at the St. Mary's Medical Center annual Nurse's Day Dinner Celebration are:

- Transformational Leadership Nursing Excellence Award: **Sharyn Townsend, BSN, RN, CPN, TNS '08**
- Structural Empowerment Nursing Excellence Award: **Senta Thompson, MS, MSN, RN, CCRN '14**
- New Knowledge, Improvements & Innovations Nursing Excellence Award: **Kirsten Jones, BSN, RN '11**

USI undergraduate nursing students awarded Nursing Scholarships from St. Mary's Medical Center:

- Sue Connor Vauthier Scholarship: **Sydney Renshaw**
- Nursing Auxiliary Scholarship: **Alexandra Wells**
Sarah Gentry
Stephen Ward
Karina Osipyan



ST. MARY'S



Sharyn Townsend '08



Senta Thompson '14



Kirsten Jones '11

USI nursing students have study abroad experience

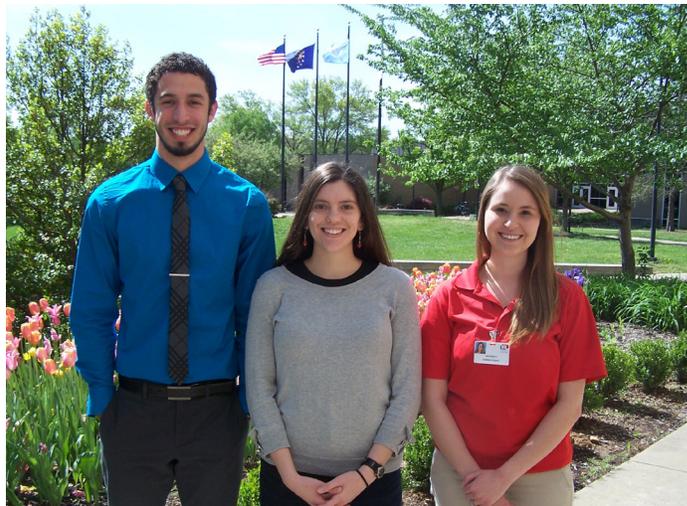
Three undergraduate nursing students were awarded full-funded international internships through USI's Global Engagement Internship (GEI) Program.

This competitive internship program is part of USI's global engagement initiative, designed to provide opportunities for USI students to gain a better understanding of global issues/challenges that impact our world. These areas include: public health, education, poverty reduction, environment, sustainability, climate change, peace and human rights.

"We were happy to learn that out of the eight internships that were granted, three are from the College of Nursing and Health Professions," said **Dr. Ann White**, dean. "What a wonderful opportunity for these nursing students to experience healthcare delivery in a totally different setting, in a new culture across the world."

The nursing students were:

- **David Gladys**, who traveled to India May 24 - June 29 with Crosscultural Solutions (CCS). His faculty mentor is **Dr. Jennifer Titzer**.



From left, David Gladys, Rebecca Denoncour and Tori Phelps.

- **Rebecca Denoncour**, who traveled to India July 5 - August 9 with Crosscultural Solutions (CCS). Her faculty mentor is **Susan Seibert**.
- **Victoria "Tori" Phelps**, who went to Costa Rica May 25 - July 20 with World Endeavors (WE). Her faculty mentor is **Mary Doerner**.

Current students in USI's DNP program garner achievements

Della Hughes Carter has been awarded Michigan State University's Billie Gamble Undergraduate Teaching Award this year.

Della also received the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nurses Society Rising Star in Nursing Poster Award. Her poster, "Proper Screening & Diagnosing of Diabetic Kidney Disease (DKD): A Quality Improvement Initiative in a Primary Care Setting for the Underinsured," was displayed at the STTI Leadership Connection 2014 program in Indianapolis, September 24-27.

Susan Seibert is the recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nurses Society Rising Star in Nursing Poster Award. Her poster, "Curriculum for Educating Dedicated Education Unit Nurses," was displayed at the STTI Leadership Connection 2014 program in Indianapolis.

Cynthia Bowers is the recipient of a Spotlight on Nursing graduate nursing scholarship for her DNP studies. The Spotlight on Nursing organization, based in Indianapolis, promotes the development of future nursing educators to increase nurse faculty in Indiana. In 2014, Spotlight On Nursing awarded five graduate nursing scholarships to students in the state of Indiana.

Cindy is also selected as a Student Volunteer at the National Doctor of Nursing Practice Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, October 8-10, 2014.

Vanessa Easterday has been awarded a \$1,000 grant through USI's Omicron Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International in support of her DNP capstone project: "A Framework of Applied Inquiry for Baccalaureate Nursing Students."

Faculty Awards & Achievements



Dr. Tracy Kinner, clinical assistant professor of nursing, was selected for the 2014 Melissa Faye and John M. Lawrence Excellence in Teaching

Award. The award is selected by the senior class and given to a member of the undergraduate faculty who demonstrates a commitment to nursing education. The award is given by **John Lawrence '73**, a generous benefactor of the CNHP.



Dr. Gina Schaar, assistant professor of nursing, received the 2014 College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP) Excellence in Teaching

Award. This honor was established to identify faculty members who have contributed significantly to the quality of teaching in the CNHP. It recognizes and encourages outstanding teaching.



Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Bonham, assistant professor of nursing, has been named president-elect of 2014-16 Board of the International Society of

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses. She will assume her duties as president in March 2015 at the annual conference in Seattle, Washington. Bonham was appointed nursing faculty at USI in 2009. Her clinical expertise as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist is focused on the mental health issues of children and adolescents.



Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, was selected for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Wharton

Executive Leadership Program. Launched in 2012 in collaboration with the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, this world-class enrichment experience is designed exclusively for top academic leaders in schools of nursing.



Dr. Mellisa Hall, chair of the MSN program, has achieved tenure and the rank of associate professor. She has taught at USI since 2005.



Roxanne Beckham, assistant professor of nursing, earned her doctor of nursing practice degree from USI in May 2014. Dr. Beckham has taught at

USI since January 2012. Her practice specialty is Leadership Management and Informatics.



Dr. Colleen Walsh has been named president-elect of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nursing (NAON). She is currently on the

Executive Board Officers, serving as secretary for 2014-2015. She is an assistant professor of nursing.



Dr. Mikel Hand and **Dr. Beth Bonham** presented at Sigma Theta Tau's International Nursing Research Conference in Hong Kong in July 2014.

Dr. Bonham and Dr. Maria Shirey's topic was "Engaging Interprofessional Colleagues in a Collaborative Community of Faculty Scholars." Dr. Hand's presentation was titled, "Post Mortem Nursing Care Effectiveness as Perceived by U.S. Hospital Staff Nurses."



Susan Seibert, clinical assistant Professor of Nursing and DNP student, presented her capstone project, "Educating DEU Staff Nurses in the Art of Clinical Instruction," at

the 2014 International Nurse Educator conference in the Netherlands, June 23-25, 2014. She also presented on an innovative student activity: "Quality Improvement Across the Curriculum: The Plan-Do- Study-Act Model in a BSN Program," developed with **Dr. Mellisa Hall**.

The following faculty have earned new board certifications:

- **Dr. Mikel Hand** – Nurse Executive Advanced (NEA-BC) from American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).
- **Dr. Roxanne Beckham** – Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) from National League for Nursing (NLN) and Nurse Executive and Nursing Informatics, both from ANCC.

Dedicated Education Units in the News

Unit Managers from the Deaconess and St. Mary's Dedicated Education Units (DEUs) presented findings of improved patient care at "The Portland Model DEU: A Future of Possibilities" conference in Portland, Oregon. Both St. Mary's and Deaconess DEUs documented a phenomenal increase in patient satisfaction scores within one month of their DEU's launch. The culture of excellence created within the collaborative academic-practice partnership with USI nursing students has led to

multiple positive outcomes. The DEUs' improvement in patient satisfaction scores was received with interest at this national conference, according to **Susan Seibert**, USI's DEU liaison. "Our DEUs have demonstrated remarkable improvements in patient satisfaction scores from before the DEU to after the DEU model was implemented," said Susan. "Only one other study in published nursing literature links the DEU model with patient satisfaction. Our results will be the first to show definitive impact on patient outcomes."



CTP Workshop: Susan Seibert recently held a workshop at USI for new Clinical Teaching Partners for Deaconess and St. Mary's. These nurses are working with USI students in the DEUs at both hospitals.



At the Portland conference, from left, are Angie Stroud, department manager, Oncology-Pulmonary Care Center/Unit DEU, Deaconess Hospital; Susan Seibert, USI clinical assistant professor of nursing; and Cara Huebner, director, Renal Diabetic Unit DEU, St. Mary's Medical Center.

Reconnect, reminisce and network with fellow Nursing Alumni!

The purpose of the USI Nursing Alumni Society is to:

- Establish and promote Nursing Alumni Society projects which strengthen the bonds between the members, the community, and the University of Southern Indiana
- Mentor and network USI Nursing Alumni for social and career development enhancement
- Provide a direct link of communication and serve as an agency for the dissemination of information regarding the educational advantages of the USI Nursing Programs
- Be the official representative agency and a working liaison of the USI Nursing Alumni
- Increase student recruitment through visibility and financial support

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