

USI BOARD APPROVES NEW MASTER'S
PROGRAM, SCHOOL OF NURSING;
THREE DEANS NAMED



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A new Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree program was approved by the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees Thursday, proposed by the USI administration as a response to an expanding local and statewide need for broader understanding and expertise in interdisciplinary studies, international affairs, and cultural diversity.

The proposed master's will be submitted for approval by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. USI officials hope to begin the program in the fall of 1988.

MALS approval came at the same time as the University prepares to confer its first master's degrees in the 1988 Commencement on Saturday, May 14, when nearly 500 students will be graduated. The Board approved the graduate list Thursday, along with the conferral of honorary degrees during Commencement to Mrs. Ernestine Morris Raclin, South Bend banker; Dr. Ernest E. Bestor, emeritus professor at the University of Washington; and Donald B. Cox, Evansville Realtor and business leader (see separate story).

The liberal studies master's is an interdisciplinary program utilizing the faculties of humanities, science, and social science. The degree will be of particular interest to a variety of area residents wishing to explore new disciplines in the liberal arts and science for personal satisfaction. In addition, it will provide a means for individuals in many professions -- including librarians, research workers, business people, writers and journalists, teachers in private institutions, and clergy -- to enhance their base of knowledge. The increasing need for such education in contemporary life has been the topic of several recent scholarly books and papers.

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**University of
Southern Indiana**
8600 University Boulevard • Evansville, Indiana 47712

Students in the MALS program will be encouraged to develop programs of study which lead to a greater understanding of international affairs and cultural diversity. In addition, the possibility exists for reciprocal transfer of course work taken in the MALS program and the USI master's degree program in Secondary Education, so that many of the courses can be taught in both programs. The MALS program reflects the University's commitment to provide broad educational opportunities to residents of the region.

In other action Thursday, the Board approved an addition to the structure of Academic Affairs which would allow for the creation of a School of Nursing and Health Professions. The Board previously had approved a structure with four schools, with nursing and health professions included with other science-related areas, but concurred with advice from accrediting agencies and nursing education professionals in establishing the separate school of nursing.

The new USI nursing program will offer both associate and baccalaureate degrees and will articulate with the Ivy Tech Southwest associate degree program. Clinical affiliations will be developed with area hospitals and arrangements have been made for USI to use the Health Sciences Building at Deaconess Hospital. USI has taught the academic courses for the Deaconess School of Nursing diploma program since 1980. With the demand for baccalaureate-trained nurses, Deaconess has announced it will not accept a freshman class for fall 1988. The Deaconess School will continue instructional services to the students currently enrolled until their graduation in 1990.

Dr. Robert L. Reid, USI vice president for Academic Affairs, said "Deaconess Hospital has taken justifiable pride in its tradition of excellence in training nurses for the delivery of high-quality health care. The University of Southern Indiana eagerly looks forward to working with the strong program and to carrying on the tradition and spirit which has been available through Deaconess Hospital."

USI President David L. Rice also notified the Board Thursday of the appointments of three of the five deans for the newly structured schools, including that of Dr. Nadine A. Coudret as dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. She currently holds the same position at the University of Evansville. The other appointments include that of Dr. James R. Blevins, current chairman of the USI Division of Humanities who will become dean of the School of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Frank L. Stanonis, current chairman of the USI Division of Science and Mathematics who will become dean of the School of Science and Engineering Technology.

Dr. Coudret's numerous professional affiliations currently include member, Indiana State Board of Nursing; director, UE Institute for Alcohol and Drug Studies; and chairperson, Evansville Coalition for Nursing and Evansville Consortium for Nursing Continuing Education. She is a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing and received her B.S., M.A., and M.S.N. degrees from UE, and an Ed.D. from Indiana University. She has been with the UE nursing program in various capacities since 1970, becoming dean of the nursing school in 1986.

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Dr. Blevins has been with USI since 1966 and chairman of the division since 1970. He received his B.A. from David Lipscomb College, M.A. and Ph.D. from George Peabody College, and completed two terms of post-doctoral work at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is an active member of various University and community organizations devoted to enhancement of the arts and was instrumental in the organization of a USI Society for the Humanities to broaden the influence of the University and the community upon each other in the development of humanities programs.

Dr. Stanonis, who joined the faculty in 1969, resumed the chairmanship of the Division of Science and Mathematics this past year, having served previously from 1973 to 1979. He took a one-year leave of absence in 1976 to serve as commissioner for environmental quality for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He received his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Kentucky and his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University, and had operated a geological and exploration consulting firm in Henderson, Kentucky, prior to joining the USI faculty.

In addition, Dr. Rice said two new administrative positions have been created in the Office of Academic Affairs, with Dr. M. Edward Jones to become associate vice president for extended services and Dr. Sandra M. Singer to become assistant vice president for graduate studies. Dr. Jones currently is director of Continuing Education and General Studies, coming to USI in 1974 from Northwestern University where he was assistant dean. He received his B.S. from Brescia College and his M.S. and Ed.D. from Indiana University. Dr. Singer is the first director of the Evansville Graduate Studies Center and a USI associate professor of psychology. She received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder where she was research administrator for the Institute for Behavioral Genetics prior to joining the USI faculty in 1980.

In personnel action Thursday, the Board approved tenure for Dr. David C. Cousert, associate professor of social work; Dr. Marie G. Hankins, assistant professor of chemistry; and Dr. Donald S. Wolfe, assistant professor of German. Approval also was given for emeritus status for Mrs. Ann Humphrey, director of publications who will retire June 30 after 10 years with the University, and for the early retirement of Dr. Kenneth B. Settle, chairman of the Division of Business, and Kenneth G. Vance, assistant professor of communications. Dr. Settle has been with USI for 16 years and plans to retire on January 1, 1989. Vance has been with USI 19 years; he plans to spend his final year on one-half assignment, retiring in May 1989.