

## **Simulated Trauma, Real Partnership**

### **SIUE School of Nursing Lab Provides Valuable Resource to St. John's Hospital Nurses**

From the moment it finished refurbishing its Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences (SLCHS), the SIUE School of Nursing has welcomed hospitals and health care agencies to achieve excellence by utilizing this outstanding resource. A perfect example of the fruits of such a partnership occurred this summer with the arrival of trauma nurses from St. John's Hospital in Springfield.

According to Candace Jennings, FACHE, Chief Nursing Officer for St. John's, the two Springfield-area hospitals rotate Level I trauma by state mandate. St. John's had been off of rotation, and its nurses wanted to make improvements before going back on.

Throughout June, July and August 2006, St. John's nurses and respiratory therapists rode together in a van down to the Edwardsville campus to sharpen their skills by engaging in trauma simulations in the SLCHS. Lab Assistant Maria Wolf, RN, BSN provided numerous computer-generated trauma scenarios with the SLCHS's state-of-the-art METI mannequin that breathes, has a pulse, blinks, and otherwise acts and reacts as a human.

"Our nurses say that she was so energetic and helpful!" said Jennings.

When the nurses undertook their first actual trauma case at the hospital in October 2006, the doctors were extremely impressed with the nurses' performance and could not believe that they had not seen trauma patients in 15 months.

"That is the greatest accolade our nurses could have received," said Jennings.

Jennings appreciates having a resource like the SLCHS available to her nurses. "We just don't have access to the same extent of training technology at our facility," said Jennings. "Training at the SLCHS made a major difference in our nurses' confidence level and ability right out of the gate."

"We were delighted to work with the nurses of St. John's Hospital in Springfield in our Simulated Learning Center for Health Sciences," said SIUE School of Nursing Dean Marcia Maurer. "It demonstrated that our resources serve and foster excellence not only out students, but also in nursing professionals beyond our walls."