USU Bids Farewell to its Lone Marine, Welcomes new Senior Enlisted Leader

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The hails and farewells of any military command are bittersweet; with the sorrowful departure of a friend comes the excitement of an incoming one. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) recently bid farewell to its Headquarters Company commander in a ceremony Jan. 11.

With the departure of Capt Timothy Gerlach, USMC, the responsibility for Headquarters Company personnel has been transferred to COL John Wempe, MC, USA, USU Brigade Commander, until a suitable replacement for Gerlach can be found.

Dr. Charles Rice, university president, thanked Gerlach for his years of service to both the USU Headquarters Company and the U.S. Marine Corps. He remarked upon Gerlach’s strong sense of pride, and commended him for his participation in seven operations Bushmaster, sharing his immense experience with more than 800 medical students.

Gerlach said his time as company commander gave him a strong idea of the work ethic and intelligence of the U.S. military’s enlisted corps, and that it was an experience he won’t soon forget.

“It was fun working for the brigade, and now I feel more of an appreciation towards the enlisted service members,” he said. “I learned a lot about their culture. It was my great pleasure to work with them, and it will be something that I will treasure for a long time.”

Gerlach was then awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his invaluable service to the USU Brigade.

In conjunction with the change of command ceremony, a change of responsibility also took place, as SFC Donald Peña, USA, passed the position of brigade Senior Enlisted Leader on to HMCM Clinton A. Garrett, USN.

Garrett has served more than 24 years in the U.S. Navy in various roles, including director for the Health Resources Management Course at the Naval School of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and Navy senior enlisted leader at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC.

During the ceremony Garrett remarked that he was eager to assume responsibility of the position, and thanked Peña for his service to the brigade.

See COMMAND, page 6

From left to right: SFC Donald Peña, USA, outgoing Senior Enlisted Leader; HMCM Clinton A. Garrett, USN, incoming SEL; COL John Wempe, MC, USA, USU Brigade Commander; Capt Timothy Gerlach, USMC, outgoing Headquarters Company Commander; and Dr. Charles L. Rice, University President, stand at attention while the citation for Capt Gerlach is read.
Graduate School of Nursing Receives New Acting Dean

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

With the departure of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) acting dean of the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), a familiar face has stepped up to the challenge and responsibility of the education of the military’s top nurses in that position.

COL Bruce A. Schoneboom, CRNA, Ph.D., AN, USA, has served the university in a variety of roles, including research director for the Nurse Anesthesia Program, department chair for the GSN, and vice dean of the GSN. With retired BG William Bester’s resignation from acting dean in December, Schoneboom has agreed to take on the role of acting dean until a replacement is found.

An alumnus of the university’s neuroscience and graduate education programs, Schoneboom said he’s eager to take on this leadership role.

“It’s exciting and challenging to be the acting dean of the GSN,” he said. “It’s certainly an honor to be in a position to lead in a school like this.”

Schoneboom said interesting and effective changes are on the way for the GSN, to include new programs.

“To be an effective organization change has to occur, and there are certainly things that will continue to change within the GSN,” he said. “The new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program will matriculate students this summer.”

Schoneboom’s new responsibilities will include active participation as a part of the university president’s cabinet, and to work with the Federal Nursing Service Chiefs to ensure the quality and scope of the new GSN programs will meet the standards of the services. He said the responsibility and challenges of the position are much larger than those he’s faced in former positions, but that he’s ready and eager to take on both.

“It’s certainly a larger administrative role than what I’ve been in before,” he said. “I already had an idea what to expect, but you never know what it’s like until you’re actually experiencing it. General Bester and I worked hard in making sure the transition would go smoothly when he departed. When a permanent dean is found, I will go back to my previous assignment as the vice dean.”

Schoneboom said he’s continually impressed with the ways in which the university continues to progress and change for the better, from the campus structure, to the programs through which the students are educated.

“The two words that come to mind when I think of the progress USU has made from when I was a graduate student until now are ‘bigger and better,’” he said. “This place is very special; both the School of Medicine and the GSN have grown in terms of size and the programs they offer. The research conducted here is very exciting, in terms of improving the health of the nation, and particularly the uniformed services. The educational programs are top notch, many with high national rankings. It’s an honor to be serving this university, and hopefully I’ll be around for a few more years, continuing to serve and lead.”

USU Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. day during a ceremony Jan. 14.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, a retired Marine Corps major general, gave a speech entitled “Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on... Not a day off.”

Stanley spoke of his experiences during the times when America was slowly abandoning segregation.

“It was a different time,” he said. “I remember almost as if it were yesterday when Glen Echo Park was integrated: when that happened, it didn’t stay open long. They closed it because they didn’t want people like me there.”

“It didn’t traumatize me; it was just the way it was,” he said.

Stanley’s parents sent him and his siblings to South Carolina each summer to work on a farm, cropping tobacco for minimum wages. He said it taught him a lot about segregation, and he and his siblings had to go to Atlantic Beach rather than Myrtle Beach, due to racial restraints.

“At that time I remember we didn’t care,” he said. “We had more fun than at Myrtle, it was a better beach.”

Stanley said his family believed firmly in Martin Luther King, Jr.’s tenants, in particular that individual worth is not determined by a person’s social status, race, or achievements; that no person is better than another.

“I had a family that believed firmly that no one was any better than anyone else,” Stanley said. “If you acted to the contrary, they would remind you very quickly.”

Dr. Clifford L. Stanley

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“I had a family that believed firmly that no one was any better than anyone else,” Stanley said. “If you acted to the contrary, they would remind you very quickly. There was something about that, that was very grounding. I remember on one occasion looking at another kid who was different than me in some way, and laughing, and my mother saying something about ‘slapping the taste out of my mouth.’”

Stanley also spoke of another of King’s tenants, the concept of “one nation,” and cited the employ of African American troops during the American Revolutionary war as an example.

See KING, page 6
Congratulations to the following USU alumni, assigned faculty and students who were recently selected for promotion to either Colonel or Major, U.S. Army, in the Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Specialist Corps, or Medical Service Corps.

### Major, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army
- Jeffery Scott Hogue - Faculty, USU Department of Military and Emergency Medicine

### Major, Medical Specialist Corps, U.S. Army
- Colleen A. Daniels - MPH class of 2004, Asst. Chief, Occupational Therapy, NNMC

### Major, Nurse Corps, U.S. Army
- Michael W. Bentley - current student, Neuroscience Graduate Program, SOM
- Daniel A. Blaz - GSN class of 2006, Nurse Practitioner
- Jessica M. Counts - GSN class of 2006, Nurse Practitioner
- Brad E. Franklin - GSN class of 2007, Nurse Practitioner
- Stacey S. Freeman - GSN class of 2007, Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Gregory L. Lara - GSN class of 2007, Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Robert P. Long - GSN class of 2007, Nurse Anesthesia

### Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S. Army
- David M. Benedek - Class of 1991 and Faculty, USU Department of Psychiatry
- Steven J. Brewster - Class of 1991, Family Medicine/Preventive Medicine
- Arthur B. Chasen - Class of 1992, Surgery
- Paul Duch - Class of 1989, Family Medicine
- Robert V. Gibbons - MPH Class of 1997, Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Thailand

### Major, Military Medicine Corps, U.S. Army
- Jess A. Graham - Class of 1990, Nuclear Medicine
- Kurth W. Grathwohl - Class of 1991, Anesthesiology
- Eric R. Helling - Class of 1991, Otolaryngology
- Ronald P. King - Class of 1990, Aerospace Medicine
- Andrew J. Kosmowski - Class of 1991, Emergency Medicine
- Dale H. Levandowski - Class of 1997, Psychiatry
- Michael D. Lewis - Faculty, USU Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics
- Kenneth K. Lindell - Class of 1994, Radiology
- Eric T. Lund - Class of 1990, Preventive Medicine
- Christian Macedonia - Class of 1992, Obstetrics/Gynecology
- M. Shaun Machen - Class of 1992, Orthopaedics
- Albert J. Martins - Class of 1986, Neurology
- Carol A. Moores - Class of 1991, Family Medicine
- Kelly A. Murray - Class of 1992, Family Medicine
- Patrick G. O'Malley - Faculty, USU Department of Medicine
- Daniel E. Parks - Class of 1992, Family Medicine
- Paul F. Pasquina - Class of 1991, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Kris A. Peterson - Class of 1991, Psychiatry
- Michael L. Place - Class of 1991, Family Medicine
- Mark M. Reeves - Class of 1991, Family Medicine
- Daniel J. Schissel - Class of 1993, Dermatology
- Eric E. Shuping - Class of 1991, Family Medicine
- Alexander Stojadinovic - Class of 1991, Surgery
- Michael Sundborg - Class of 1994, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Donald Taillon - Class of 1991, Pathology
- Kenneth Trzepkowski - Class of 1991, Family Medicine
- Manuel Valentin - Class of 1991, Aerospace Medicine
- David P. Vetter - Class of 1994, Medicine
- Paul W. Whitecar - Class of 1991, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- R. Kevin Winkle - Class of 1991, Ophthalmology

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**Mirror Therapy Helps Relieve Amputee Soldiers of Phantom Limb Pain**

CDR Jack Tsao, MC, USN, looks on as SGT Nicholas Papoure, USA, demonstrates mirror therapy, a therapeutic technique designed to aid in the relief of phantom limb pain, a condition suffered by many amputee patients. Phantom limb pain manifests as a painful or uncomfortable feeling in an amputated limb, which the patient’s brain insists is still attached. Through the use of a mirror, Papoure is able to visualize flexing his missing limb, which helps alleviate the pain. CDR Tsao, an assistant professor of neurology at USU, recently published the results of his study entitled “Mirror Therapy for Phantom Limb Pain” in the New England Journal of Medicine.
Student Profile: 2d Lt Lisa Dang, SOM Class of 2011

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

It may not take a rocket scientist to be a physician, but it could certainly help, and one student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) fits that description.

2d Lt Lisa Dang, MC, USAF, a Los Angeles, Calif., native has worked for five companies in the space-propulsion industry, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Michigan Institute of Technology, as well as a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology. She says her inherent curiosity and thrill-seeking nature pulled her towards the study of aerospace engineering.

“I love math and science,” she said. “I like to build things, and have always been fascinated by science and biology, as well as the thought of exploring the new frontier of space. What’s cooler than going into space or riding in fighter jets?”

Dang said her love of math and science stemmed from her childhood, in which she had very little exposure to the English language. 
“my family didn’t speak English, so humanities and social studies were a problem for me, and I ended up picking up on math and science instead,” she said. “My parents immigrated to America from Vietnam, and their parents had immigrated to Vietnam from China; I was the first of my family to be born in America.”

Dang added that her pride of being a first-generation American was a major factor in her decision to join the U.S. military.

“I’ve always wanted to serve,” she said. “I feel a sense of pride when it comes to being part of this country. It’s done a lot for my family; as we are immigrants, it sort of defines the American dream. I was...
**DANG, from page 5**

interested in becoming an astronaut, so the Air Force or the Navy were ideal choices."

After completing her bachelor, Dang took a year off to work, during which time she was able to take an engineering project from paper studies and build a rocket, which she tested at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, and then presented it to NASA. This development inspired her to return to graduate school at Caltech for her master, following which she returned to work as a propulsion engineer.

"I had a lot of fun," Dang said. "I did a lot of things, was given a lot of responsibilities, and all the while I was taking classes and studying for the Medical College Admissions Test. As soon as I received notice that I had been accepted to USU, I put in my letter of resignation."

One may wonder what makes a person so interested in rockets and propulsion to decide to study medicine. Dang says she has always wanted attend medical school, and that many of the experiences she has had during her work as a propulsion engineer have been analogous to medicine.

"As an engineer, I believe the human body is the most advanced and efficient machine ever created, and no one can create a machine as complex as the human body," she said. "I'm just fascinated by it. I think a lot about engineering while I study medicine, but I was also thinking a lot about medicine while I studied engineering. For my last job with Boeing, I worked with small rockets on orbiting satellites, trying to sustain a satellite for its orbital lifetime. I found the rocket systems to be analogous to the human cardiovascular system; it contained a lot of tubing and piping like vasculature, and the onboard computer system was much like a nervous system and brain. I basically had to try to assess the health of a satellite that was thousands of miles away; I had to use deductive reasoning to understand what was going on, and decide how best to extend the life of the satellite. It's very similar to medicine in terms of doing the least intrusive things to the satellite to improve its life, just as physicians do with humans."

Moreover, Dang commented that the most immediate way to affect people is through their health, and despite how interesting space propulsion and travel are, she feels medicine is a more immediate concern for humanity.

"I have volunteered with medical missions and visited AIDS hospices," she said. "It's just the little things you get out of that human interaction that are so precious. You just can't get them from anything else."

Dang said she’d learned of USU during her time at MIT.

"I had spoken with a colonel at MIT," she said. "I told him about my interests, and he put me in contact with a military doctor that he knew, but I had also done my own research. If I hadn’t decided on USU, I would have likely gone through the Health Professions Scholarship Program."

Dang said she’d like to be stationed in the Washington, DC area, but lacking that, she’d like to be overseas or deployed.

"I'd like to be a cardiothoracic surgeon, so wherever there's a need for my specialty is where I’d like to be. I'm particularly honored to serve the military community; I think it's a tremendous honor to help those who defend our freedoms with their lives."
Headquarters Company Change of Command: Capt Gerlach, USMC (BDE) recently relinquished his duties to COL Wempe, USA, Brigade Commander. The USU Brigade Headquarters Company is temporarily disestablished until such time as Capt Gerlach’s successor is named.

Brigade Awards Ceremony: The next USU Brigade Awards Ceremony will take place Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize the Enlisted Service Member of the Year, as well as other military personnel for their contributions to the organization. All department heads, chairs, supervisors, and directors are encouraged to attend this important occasion to show their support.

Soldier Readiness Processing: An important component of Army Force Health Protection is Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP). AR 600-8-101 requires Soldiers to complete the SRP Requirements each year. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center will conduct the next SRP from March 3 – 7, from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Blgd T-2 beside Wagner Gym at WRAMC. This event is for all Soldiers at USU and AFRRI. Soldiers must bring their medical records, yellow shot record, blue/green medical Card, CAC Card, ID Tags, and SRP checklist. For further info, contact SSG Ward, USA (MPO) at (301) 295-9653 or SFC Harris, USA (MPO) at (301) 295-3087.

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Calendar of Events

January 23– 3:30 pm– Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar “Role of Cellular MicroRNAs in Epstein Barr Virus Signaling.”

January 28– 11:30 am– Lecture Room A: Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Program “Regulation of Memory T Cell Differentiation: Implication for Rational Vaccine design.”

February 6– 3:30 pm– Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar “Dimensions in Cell Migration and Tissue Remodeling.”

February 13– 3:30 pm– Lecture Room A: Seminar “Brain Angiotensin II Has a Role in Brain Inflammation and Stress.”

February 20– 3:30 pm– Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar. “Control of Cell Metabolism by the Jak/Stat Pathway.”

NSPS System Questions and Answers

1. Why do we need the National Security Personnel System?

NSPS strengthens our ability to accomplish the mission in an ever-changing national security environment. NSPS accelerates the Department’s efforts to create a Total Force (military, civilian personnel, Reserve, Guard, and contractors), operating as one cohesive unit, with each performing the work most suitable to their skills. We need a human resources system that appropriately recognizes and rewards our employees’ performance and the contributions they make to the Department of Defense (DoD) mission. We need better tools to attract and retain good employees.

2. What advantages does it offer to me?

Employees will be recognized and rewarded based on their personal contributions towards our Nation’s defense. Employees will be encouraged to take ownership of their performance and successes. Employees and their supervisors will have open communications so that employees know what’s expected. Increases in pay will be based on employee performance and mission contribution. NSPS promotes broader skill development and advancement opportunities in pay bands.

3. What criteria are used to classify a position as supervisory in NSPS?

To be considered a supervisor in NSPS, an individual must supervise more than one employee and perform the duties of an immediate supervisor, which include: Assign work to subordinates based on priorities, difficulty of assignments, and the capabilities of employees; Provide technical oversight; Develop performance plans and rate employees (or recommend such actions); Interview candidates for subordinate positions and recommend hiring, promotion, or reassignments; Take disciplinary measures, such as warnings or reprimands (or recommend such actions); Identify developmental and training needs of employees, and provide and/or arrange for needed development and training. Supervised employees may include Federal civilian employees, military members, uniformed service employees, volunteers, or other noncontractor personnel. Positions with oversight responsibilities only over private sector contractors do not meet this definition.

4. Are wage grade employees covered?

At this time, DoD has decided to delay the implementation of NSPS for wage grade employees.