GSN Presents Clinical Educator Awards to Outstanding Faculty

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

In recognition of the unique talent among USU faculty members, the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) awarded annual Clinical Educator Awards to Maj. Kelly Nader, Carlton Brown, M.D., and Maj. Ricky Norwood for leading the way in academic excellence. Nader is recognized for an eagerness to share knowledge and for her dedication to the field of nursing. She provided students in the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Program many opportunities to engage in dynamic learning experiences at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Across the campus, at the National Naval Medical Center, Dr. Brown is also commended for upholding high standards in health sciences education. Said to “epitomize the meaning of clinical excellence,” Dr. Brown earned the respect of students in the Nurse Anesthesia Program for his ability to synthesize the latest anesthesia research into practical clinical language.

Norwood, the third recipient of this prestigious honor, guided and supported students in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, Ft. Meade, Md. The GSN alum and mentor provided one-on-one teaching experiences, tailoring lessons to meet the needs of individual students.

The Clinical Educator Awards Program was developed by the USU Faculty Senate so deans from the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing could recognize clinical preceptors who make significant contributions to the education of USU students.

USU Professor Named to NSBRI External Advisory Council

By Ken Frager
Public Affairs Specialist

Dr. Harry C. Holloway, professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, has been named to the External Advisory Council for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI).

The NSBRI, funded by NASA, is a consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight. The Institute’s External Advisory Council is composed of leaders in research fields central to the Institute’s mission and advises management on strategic issues and programmatic effectiveness.

During his 50-year career, Holloway has been a pioneer in research on how humans adapt to extreme environments. He has an extensive resume with the U.S. Army and has been a leader in the country’s human spaceflight program, which includes serving as NASA’s first associate administrator for the Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications from 1993 to 1996.

“Dr. Holloway’s impressive research and leadership experience concerning human adaptation to extreme environments will be beneficial to our efforts to protect astronaut health and improve health care on Earth,” said Dr. Jeffrey P. Sutton, NSBRI director.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, Holloway served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for 30 years. During that time, he served as chief of neuropsychiatry at SEATO Medical Research Laboratory in Bangkok, Thailand, as the director of neuropsychiatry at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., and as chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at USU. Before joining NASA, he served as deputy dean and acting dean of the School of Medicine at USU.

His other activities with NASA included a term as chairman of the Aerospace Medicine Advisory Committee and as a member of the U.S./U.S.S.R. Joint Working Group on Space Biology and Medicine. He was also the co-director of the NASA Enterprise for the Human Exploration and Development of Space.

Holloway has authored numerous articles and major reports and has received many awards, including NASA’s medals for Distinguished Service, Leadership and Public Service. He is a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and has received the organization’s Distinguished Psychiatrist Award.

NSBRI is a NASA-funded consortium of institutions studying the health risks related to long-duration spaceflight and developing countermeasures to mitigate the risks. The Institute’s science, technology and education projects take place at more than 60 institutions across the United States.

NSBRI projects address space health concerns, which include bone and muscle loss, cardiovascular changes, radiation exposure, neurobehavioral and psychosocial factors, remote medical care and research, and habitability and performance issues such as sleep cycles and lunar dust exposure. Research findings also impact the understanding and treatment of similar medical conditions experienced on Earth.
Women’s History Month

By MC2 Chad Hallford
VPE Staff Writer

During the month of March, by presidential proclamation, USU heard the call “to honor the history, accomplishments and contributions of American women.”

CDR Gina Trotter, USU brigade executive officer, served as guest speaker for USU’s observance of Women’s History Month, offering highlights from President Obama’s proclamation, and celebrated military and federal government milestones women have written on the pages of history.

“President Barack Obama identified five outstanding women that have made significant contributions—keeping in mind the 2009 theme ‘Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet.’ These five women accomplished significant achievements and reached major milestones, which we celebrate,” said Trotter.

Like President Obama, Trotter praised Ellen Swallow Richards (first woman graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Maria Sanford (worked to protect the forestland of the Mississippi River), Marjory Stoneman Douglas (worked to protect and restore the Florida Everglades), Rachel Carson (exposed pesticide dangers to environment and public health) and Grace Thorpe (organized Native American campaign against storage of nuclear waste on reservation land), for their efforts to protect the environment for present and future generations.

In her discussion, Trotter also highlighted events from the creation of the Army Nurse Corps (1901), to the implementation of the Federal Women’s Program (1968), to the first female military officer promoted to four-stars, General Ann Dunwoody (2008) and other notable successes for women throughout history.

Speaking on the active embodiment of this year’s theme, Trotter said, “Because we are a medical and nursing school, we naturally produce scientists and researchers. I think the fact that our faculty, staff and students are actively involved in educational and research pursuits in the scientific community—will lead to us improving our planet.”

Technology Watch

Campus, Be Wary of Information Technology Security Vulnerabilities

By MC2 Chad Hallford
VPE Staff Writer

Technology Watch is a new feature for USU employees that highlights how DoD agencies and other academic institutions have been impacted by vulnerabilities in IT security.

Ever wonder if your actions on the internet, or the activities you may pursue on DoD-networked computers weakens the security of the USU campus? Mr. Joel Robertson, training coordinator and Information Technologies (IT) security expert, advises how university personnel can be more IT security savvy.

“There are a lot of emergent threats that are prevalent in the commercial industry. We also have to protect our data—it could be personal data, sensitive information such as personally identifiable information [PII], Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA] information,” said Robertson. “It is very important to make sure that our networks are always available, always secure. The number one security violation on the campus network is application violations, and this is something that we are attempting to get under control,” said Robertson.

The DoD needs IT users to be aware of what applications are installed on systems, what updates keep vulnerabilities patched, ensuring programs have current licensing, and which programs can and can’t be installed on DoD systems.

“An example could be where an individual could bring personal software from home, or goes out and purchases a copy of a spyware removal software. This software has spyware embedded in it or could have malicious code that affects us in two ways,” said Robertson. “It may infect the system, and the system may go down, making services unavailable.”

Robertson advises to follow the security guidelines on the USU Information Awareness [IA] website or the DoD IA website (iase.disa.mil) to keep current on IA policies and practices.

USU
A Traditional Academic Health Center with a Unique Focus

Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

CDR Gina Trotter was the keynote speaker during the Women’s History Month celebration.
USU Diversity Officer Receives New Assignment

By Ken Frager
Public Affairs Liaison

Captain Cynthia Macri, M.D., vice president of Recruitment and Diversity at USU since 2002, has been named Diversity Special Assistant in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, effective May 2009. CAPT Macri’s entire military career, spanning more than 20 years, has been devoted to education at the graduate, undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

“We are grateful for the work CAPT Macri has done to help us increase the number of under-represented minority students and faculty at USU,” said USU president Charles Rice. “Her new assignment is a reflection of her accomplishments and we congratulate her on her future successes.”

Macri has received four personal awards during her career – the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal (2) – all for her contributions to the education of medical department officers.

USU Students Go the Distance to Provide Medical Relief to those in Need

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

2nd Lt Daniel Adams was excited to visit the Dominican Republic. But not for its lush mountains and pristine beaches. The earnest medical student would spend his vacation providing free medical care to underserved populations.

Traveling beyond the orange groves and coffee plantations, Adams was far removed from the tourist enclaves, spending the first three days in Hato Mayor. In this small farming town, abject poverty is rife and illness often goes untreated.

With the hopes of providing even modest relief, Adams, and several volunteers from his church and medical school, would set up shop in a provincial clinic nearby. Their suitcases—filled with donated medications, vitamins, toothbrushes, and fluoride—became mobile pharmacies.

“I was overwhelmed by the medical need. People walked miles to visit our clinic,” Adams recalled. “We saw everything from the common cold to tuberculosis and AIDS.”

Neither students nor the experienced physician-volunteers could heal all of the maladies; much of what they encountered was beyond their scope of care. “Sometimes we just listened and provided vitamins, and in many cases, that was therapeutic,” Adams explained. “Still, it was difficult to face disease we knew we couldn’t treat.”

With their supplies in tow, the group continued on, traveling to remote communities known as bateyes, where Haitian refugees live and work. Precariously built shacks made of mud and split cane, sit among large dump sites. Often, there is no running water, electricity or sewage systems—turning the camp sites into breeding grounds for disease.

Despite the austere circumstances, Adams and his classmates were ready for the challenge. “USU gives us the tools we need to practice good medicine in bad places,” he said. “We were even ready to have clinics in the field, the way the university teaches us.”

Adams has since returned and will soon graduate from medical school. He is eager to continue applying the tenets of military medicine, both in his career as a uniformed physician and through his passion to serve those in need.
When the question, “Who’s committed to excellence of service?” is asked at USU, the answer could be Ms. Ruth Sullivan and Ms. Cynthia Inal. Both recently earned distinction as USU Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter, respectively.

ENS Iain Gould, deputy director of the Military Training Network (MTN), describes Sullivan as “the keystone of the MTN” and assures “the continuity afforded by her is integral in the MTN accomplishing its mission requirements.”

Gould further describes that Sullivan’s “efforts supported training of over 250,000 military personnel in resuscitative medicine techniques and the realization of over $14 million DoD cost avoidance in fiscal year 2008.”

On being nominated Junior Employee of the Quarter, Sullivan said, “I’ve found that showing colleagues and superiors that I care and keeping a good attitude with regard to my work environment can help me build a good reputation that I can carry beyond the USU doors.”

The Senior Employee of the Quarter works across the campus at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), pursuing the same level of service to the university community.

CAPT David Lesser, head of AFRRI research support group, boasts that Inal is “the consummate professional and team player” and notes her achievements in “AFRRI’s Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) program, in addition to her responsibilities as a research biologist, government purchase card holder and billing official for credit card accounts.”

Inal’s grass roots GLP program enables “AFRRI/USU to develop products and applications that require approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

Speaking on receiving the nomination, Inal said, “I am really honored. I appreciate that my supervisors value my work and I hope that I continue to deserve their good regard.”

For their commitment to the university, the newest Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter will receive $250 saving bonds and reserved parking spaces.
Wesley Summers: The Backyard Artist

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

Wesley Summers has lived in Frederick, Maryland his entire life. In fact, the home he owns now is just a few miles from the house he grew up in. It’s a nice escape from the hubbub that surrounds USU, where he works as an IT specialist. Sure the commute is long, but worth the travel time, according to Summers. Nestled in the foothills of the Catoctin Mountains, his property stretches across more than seven acres, which is the perfect setting for a budding artist. Summers draws inspiration from the world around him, seeing beauty even in decaying pieces of wood, which fits well with Summers who, in addition to solving the computer woes of university personnel, is also a part-time sculptor.

Summers says his affection for artistry was realized almost as soon as he could grip a crayon, but his talent for wood carving was born from chance several years ago. Gypsy moths infected nearly a dozen trees in his backyard. Rather than chop and toss the wood, Summers dusted off his chainsaw and chisels and turned the century-old cedars and oaks into works of art. “I always wanted to create large sculptures and now I had material to work with,” he said. Heavy, obtuse logs became expertly-designed carvings. Take for example, the 600-pound statue that is the centerpiece of his front yard. With steady hands and keen eyes, Summers carved deep gouges and made decorative cuts until from the wood, a bird of prey emerged. Several other statues fill his backyard and decorate the region, including a four-foot ballet slipper that graces the courtyard of the Mid-Maryland Centre of Performing Arts.

Summers admits carving is often a study in patience. “Some of the statues take a week to complete and others may take up to a year,” he said. But time is on the side of a chainsaw artist who enjoys expressing himself through the medium in his backyard.

Test Your Knowledge

How much do you know about the university? The first person to correctly fill in the answers and bring their completed puzzle to a Newsletter staffer in B1009, receives a gift certificate for a free small coffee and donut courtesy of William III.
USU Briefs

Helpdesk Closure: The UIS helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html), or email help@usuhs.mil. If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

PFT/PFA/APFT Spring 2009: The spring 2009 Physical Fitness Test for all services is projected for April 7-9 and 14-16. Plan accordingly. If there are any questions, please contact your service specific fitness coordinators: Air Force contact TSgt Ernle at 295-3281; Navy contact FC1 Race at 295-9637; and Army contact SSG Rogers at 295-3720.

Personal Exercise/Fitness Areas: Physical Fitness training should be conducted in designated areas. The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060. All other spaces within the university are not authorized for exercise or fitness, with the exception of the Student Community Lounge area during specified PFT testing dates/times. Another option for indoor PT on base is the Comfort Zone Complex (CZC) in building 23. The CZC hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Antietam Road March: The annual Antietam Road March will take place on April 30 beginning at 7 a.m. This march is an important lesson in medical history that allows students, faculty and staff the opportunity to witness the medical practices of the Civil War. Military faculty, staff and students are to adhere to their service specific uniform regulations for backpacks and it is preferable that all who attend this function wear only black backpacks. Further guidance will be disseminated as the date draws near.

2009 Field Exercises: Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted from July 7-24 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Advance personnel will deploy on July 7 and main body personnel will deploy on July 12. These exercises are unique to our university and require the support of all university uniformed personnel. Only emergency leave will be granted during this time frame as there are over 145 uniformed personnel (not including evaluators) needed to support this mission.

Proper Use of Computer Resources: Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance (IA) manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices:

- Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network (including MDL and lecture hall spaces); connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system; permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games, and social engineering sites.

Tom’s Run 2009: Tom’s Run is a 200-mile Ultra Distance Team or Solo Trail Run from Cumberland to Bethesda. The event takes place this year on May 28-30. The course ends on the USU Quadrangle. Staggered start means all teams or solo runners compete equally. This is an excellent team building event. All runners must be shadowed by a mountain biker, which means almost anyone can compete in this event. For more information call Mr. Ray Handel at 295-3949.

Navy Enlisted Service Record (ESR) Accounts: All enlisted Sailors must be registered and have an account setup on NSIPS for their ESR’s by April 5. To gain access to the ESR, all enlisted Sailors must go to: https://nsipsweb.nmci.navy.mil/psc/ NEDB_SAAREMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/N_ERM_SAAR_MNU

Distinguished Visitor: Air Force Brigadier General Michael J. Yaszemski, M.D., Ph.D., will be giving a talk entitled, “Novel Treatments for Wounded Warrior Care: The Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine (AFIRM)” at 4 p.m. in Lecture Room C on March 24. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Service Member of the Quarter: SMOQ nominations are due through the chain of command to the senior enlisted leader by COB on April 3. The SMOQ board will be held on Apr 10. The SMOQ will receive a reserved parking space, a 72-hour liberty pass, a certificate of appreciation, and the ability to compete for the Service Member of the Year. For more info please contact the service advisors.

USU Hosts Sesame Workshop Screening

USU, in partnership with Maryland Public Television, will present a special screening of “Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change.” The program, hosted by Queen Latifah, John Mayer and Sesame Street’s Elmo and Rosita, looks at the challenges faced by injured soldiers and their families. USU professor, Stephen Cozza, M.D., is featured in the program and played an integral part in its development.

When: March 30, 2009
6-7 p.m. Reception and Briefing
7-7:30 p.m. Screening
7:30-8 p.m. Questions and Answers

Where: Sanford Auditorium

RSVP to Ken Frager at (301) 295-3981 or www.usuhs.mil/vpe/rsvpevents.html

Photo by Richard Termine