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The Pulse is printed by USU's Duplicating Center.

Production

The Pulse is funded by the Department of Defense and published by the Uniformed Services University. It is authorized for members of the U.S. military services, USU alumni, faculty and staff. Contents of the Pulse are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the DoD or USU. Appearance of anything resembling advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, USU or Pulse staff members.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to DoD policy and Associated Press style. All photos are DoD photos unless otherwise indicated.

The Pulse will be published bi-weekly on Mondays. The deadline for submissions is at 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Submissions can be sent to Christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu or 301-295-3338.



Graphic by Patrice Bolte

On the cover

The Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and will also name the school after the late senator Daniel K. Inouye on Oct. 29. Read more about Inouye on page 2.

GSN celebrates 20th Anniversary; school to be named for late Senator

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Uniformed Services University is honoring Daniel Inouye – the second longest-serving senator at the time of his death in 2012 – by naming the Graduate School of Nursing after the iconic World War II hero during a ceremony, Oct. 29.

The event, which is being held in conjunction with the GSN's 20th anniversary celebration, will laude Inouye's steadfast commitment to military medicine and USU.

Inouye's reverence for both was evident throughout his 53-year political career. He supported key legislation to improve military medicine by establishing USU in 1972, and later championed a bill that expanded the university's scope into graduate nursing education in 1992.

Although Inouye built much of his political career around military advocacy, his veneration for uniformed nurses and physicians was born long before he took office.

As a young man, Inouye enlisted in the Army and served on the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit comprised entirely of Japanese-American Soldiers, who fought treacherous battles against enemy forces in the 1940s.

As a soldier, Inouye stood out, even while serving alongside the most decorated infantry regiment in American history. A courageous leader, Inouye quickly rose through the Army's ranks, but his military career was stymied after he was grievously injured by German soldiers in Italy. A Nazi platoon shot Inouye in the stomach, leg and nearly severed his right arm with a rifle grenade before he was able to return fire and protect his platoon from a siege.

Although Inouye's wounds were dire, and his right arm had to be amputated, military doctors and nurses saved his life and gave him a new perspective.

"The care my father got on the heat of the battlefield and at hospitals back home was incredible," said Inouye's son, Ken. "He spoke about it a lot when I was younger, and it left a huge impression on me, because the underlying theme of my



Courtesy photo

Daniel K. Inouye

father's stories was always the debt he felt to his providers, and how they not only saved his life, but helped get him in the right frame of mind to move past his injuries."

Inouye paid his gratitude forward many times over through his work on Capitol Hill. He was USU's single most important proponent over the past four decades, and he also introduced legislation that established the soon-to-be-named Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.

"My father didn't talk about his professional life at home very often, so it's been quite humbling and cathartic to learn more about his work," said Ken. "I look forward to celebrating his legacy with USU at the naming ceremony."

The event will include talks from many esteemed leaders in health care, including Dr. Mary Wakefield, administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Senator Inouye was a true American hero who accomplished many extraordinary feats throughout his remarkable life. Our school is one of them," said GSN Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw. "There is no better, more deserving namesake, and I'm proud to be part of a mission that meant so much to him."

GSN alum leads VA nursing

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University has educated hundreds of leaders over the past 20 years. Dr. Christine Engstrom, acting chief nursing officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs, is one of them. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing Science from USU in 2007, and has been hard at work pioneering new advancements in federal nursing ever since.

At the VA, Engstrom oversees more than 84,000 nurses at 152 hospitals and 900 outpatient facilities. She also develops new health care policies that benefit millions of veterans around the world.

Although her charge is enormous, and it comes with many incredible challenges, she is passionate about her work and the people she serves.

“There are a lot of barriers in health care to work through, especially at a place like the VA, where our providers and patients are spread far and wide,” she said. “But it’s incredibly gratifying, and I can’t imagine a more humbling job than working for the men and women who have defended our great country.”

Engstrom has served veterans in ways beyond administration, too. Her work history is rooted in cancer research and care. She even completed her PhD dissertation on the subjective and objective measures of hot flashes in prostate cancer patients.

“At USU, all of our work had to have some connection to federal or military medicine,” Engstrom said. “My



Courtesy photo

Dr. Christine Engstrom

research aligned with the university’s mission, because there is a connection between Agent Orange and prostate cancer.”

Besides earning high marks at USU, her compelling work has drawn international acclaim, as well. Engstrom was invited to present her dissertation findings at a podium presentation in Austria by Sigma Theta Tau, a national honor society for nursing.

Her academic accomplishments were followed by leadership positions at top health care organizations. In addition to working at the VA, Engstrom is a faculty member at the University of Maryland and at USU.

She attributes part of her incredible success to USU’s collegial environment.

“Getting my PhD was tough, because the expectations at USU were high,” Engstrom said. “Still, I look back on those years with great fondness because my class was such a tight-knit group. We helped each other get through a rigorous curriculum, and come out on top.”

Engstrom – who is a member of the inaugural PhD class in the GSN – will recount her professional experiences and time at USU as a keynote speaker for the GSN’s 20th Anniversary Celebration, Oct. 29.

“The school’s milestones over the past 20 years have mirrored some of my own professional and personal achievements, so I consider it a great honor to speak at the GSN’s anniversary celebration,” she said.

TSNRP welcomes new director

Article courtesy of TSNRP

Army Lt. Col. Michael Schlicher replaced outgoing Navy Capt. John Maye as the executive director of the TriService Nursing Research Program at the Uniformed Services University earlier this year.

As the new director, Schlicher is eager to leverage his extensive nursing science and practice background to advance TSNRP’s mission to facilitate military nursing research and translate those findings into practice to improve patient outcomes.

“My predecessors left behind a wonderful program with a solid foundation and unique legacy. They provided me with a great foundation to continue the program’s growth and maturity,” he said.

“TSNRP is primed for unprecedented possibilities to expand military nursing research and evidence-based practice, and what makes it even more exciting is that three Nursing Corps chiefs have made research and evidence-based practice a top priority.”

Before taking the leadership reins at TSNRP, Schlicher earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science and Nanotechnology from the University of Washington. He also served as chief of the Center for Nursing Science and Clinical Inquiry at Brooke and Tripler Army Medical Centers as well as the regional research consultant for the Southern and Pacific Army Regional Medical Commands.

Visit www.usuhs.mil/tsnrp to learn more about the TSNRP.

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress releases new book

By MC2 Brittney Cannady

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University has just published a new book, *Disaster, Disease and Distress: Resources to Promote Psychological Health and Resilience in Military and Civilian Communities*. The book is a compilation of fact sheets and educational resources developed by the Center over a ten-year period that addresses important health and mental health issues of service members and their families impacted by deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The resources are geared toward communities around the globe affected by natural and human-made disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and incidents of community violence.

Center experts in the fields of military and disaster psychiatry developed the fact sheets in *Disaster, Disease and Distress*, many in the

immediate aftermath of specific incidents, to educate military and civilian healthcare professionals, service members and families, government leaders at the federal, state and local level, and stakeholders in family and child trauma, workplace mental health, public health, human services and academia about planning for, responding to and recovering from traumatic events. Many of these fact sheets address health and mental health issues related to the risks of suicide.

Disaster, Disease and Distress features four sections. Section one, *Caring for our Nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines: The Role of Medical and Social Service Providers*, addresses deployment health issues including the impact of combat injury and behavioral health issues unique to the military community. Section two, *Military Family Health*, is for

service members and families. Section three, *Disaster Preparedness and Response*, encompasses responder self-care, disaster leadership and disaster care. Section four, *Special Populations*, provides information for teachers, Guard and Reserve, law enforcement, workplace mental health professionals and others.

The Center's director, Dr. Robert J. Ursano, explains that, "Because many of the signature wounds of war – visible and invisible – persist and will affect individuals and families over time, and because natural disasters and public health threats endure, we believe these fact sheets will be useful and valuable to many audiences in the public and private sector for many years to come."

Disaster, Disease and Distress is available for download at www.cstsonline.org.

USU team brings home German armed forces badges

By MC2 Brittney Cannady writer, and Christine Creenan Jones, editor



Members of the Uniformed Services University recently earned prestigious German troop proficiency badges.

Members of the Uniformed Services University earned the prestigious German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency after demonstrating outstanding professional acumen and completing several physical and mental challenges this year.

Although the foreign badge is traditionally worn by members of the unified armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, it is also awarded to American troops who complete rigorous events, includ-

ing first aid training, field exercises using protective gear, a 100-meter swim, weapon qualification with the 9MM pistol, a shuttle run, 100-meter sprint, a pull-up

event, and a long-distance foot march.

Army Maj. Daniel Blaz, an assistant professor in USU's Family Nurse Practitioner Program, earned a gold badge this year after completing his final test – a 12k foot march while shouldering 33 pounds of load-bearing gear at a course in Reston, Va.

Blaz, an avid runner and fitness buff, was challenged by the course but ultimately prevailed by leaving with top honors and a sense of pride.

"The toughest part for me was probably the swimming event since it was harder to swim in uniform than I thought. But passing all of the tests was a personal fitness goal I had for myself," he said.

Blaz was joined in Reston by six teammates from USU, who also took home gold and silver badges, including Army Maj. Christopher Brett, adjunct faculty and USU alumnus (gold); Army Col. (Dr.) Louis Dainty, School of Medicine faculty and alumnus (silver); HM1 Juan Vega, USU staff member (silver); and medical students Army 2nd Lt. Ryan Bucknam (gold); Army 2nd Lt. Daniel Lammers (silver); and Army 2nd Lt. Ardarlon Farhat-Sabet (silver).

The day ended with a badge presentation ceremony directed by the German Armed Forces Command in Reston, and a post-foot march celebration that included German food and music.

Medical students learn military skills at FTX 101

By Sharon Willis, managing editor and deputy vice president for External Affairs

First-year medical students in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University recently participated in their first tactical training exercise in a field environment. "FTX-101," part of the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine's unique curriculum, was held at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., Oct. 17-20.

Students received training in field sanitation, combatives, the M9 pistol range (which included familiarization with body armor and instruction related to wounding and ballistics), land navigation and map reading, a casualty evacuation "lane" that included providing care under fire, patient evacuation from

buildings and a variety of medical and non-medical military vehicles, and aeromedical evacuation and familiarization with a Critical Care Air Transport Team set-up.

FTX-101 also included training in leadership reaction course, and health service support principles and medical capabilities, along with tactical movement, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear exposure, and how to establish an aid station. Each evening the exercise also included an officer professional development session.

FTX-101 is the first of four field experiences in the department's curriculum.



Photos by Dr. Jeffrey Longore and MC2 Britney Connolly

Surgery faculty member a “Rising Star”

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Dr. Nicole Crane, an assistant professor in the Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University, was recently named a “Rising Star Award” recipient by the American Chemical Society’s Women Chemists Committee.

Crane, who runs the collaborative advanced surgical imaging program at USU and the Naval Medical Research Center, earned the award for her work in acute, trauma-related medicine, and the use of spectroscopy and imaging to assess combat wounds. These methods can lead to faster wound healing times, allow patients to return to normal routines sooner, enhance quality of life and reduce medical costs for wounds sustained on battlefields or during homeland attacks, like the recent Boston Marathon bombings.

Crane’s work demonstrated outstanding promise in her scientific field – part of the criteria for earning a WCC Rising Star Award. The award – given to female ACS members in chemistry and chemical engineering who are working in academic, industrial, government, non-profit or other employment sectors – is also intended to help promote the retention of women in science.

“It’s such an honor to be receiving the Women Chemists Committee Rising Star Award from the American Chemical

Society for several reasons. First, it is a national organization, and second, the awardees are chosen by peer and senior members of the chemistry community. Finally, it is an award to promote women in science, which is critical for professional diversity,” Crane said. “I was honored to be nominated, but to actually receive the award is truly a privilege.”

Crane will receive the award at the ACS national meeting, where she will be given the opportunity to present contributions at a WCC-sponsored symposium, a stipend to cover spring national meeting travel expenses, as well as visibility and networking opportunities.



Dr. Nicole Crane



Courtesy photo

(From left to right): Gaithersburg Police Chief Mark P. Sroka, Navy Ensign John Hunt, Army 2LT Wells Weymouth, and Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney A. Katz.

Medical students honored by local government agencies

Navy Ensign John Hunt and Army 2nd Lt. Wells Weymouth, medical students at the Uniformed Services University, were presented the Chief’s Award by Gaithersburg (Md.) Chief of Police Mark P. Sroka, during a meeting of the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council, Oct. 7.

The two students received the awards for their actions on July 23, 2013, after an elderly man drove his vehicle through the wall of a Sam’s Club, seriously injuring several people. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue officials credited Hunt and Weymouth’s actions in administering immediate aid for saving one victim’s life.

The pair were also recognized as “Everyday Heroes” by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, County Councilmember Phil Andrews and Montgomery Council Fire and Rescue Services Chief Steven E. Lohr in a ceremony in Rockville, Md., on Oct. 22.

A look back at 20 years of innovations in the GSN

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Graduate School of Nursing is established, and Faye G. Abdellah is appointed the acting dean. Before coming to USU, Abdellah was already a legendary nurse. Not only was she the first nurse to become a rear admiral and Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, but she also developed the first federally-tested coronary care unit and authored many books that are still considered the gold standards for nursing education. At USU, Abdellah leveraged all of her professional experiences to create a unique military-focused curriculum for thousands of uniformed nurses who would later attend school at USU.

1993



Two students earn the first advanced degrees in nursing science from USU after completing rigorous academic benchmarks in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. The school quickly expanded to eventually include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science and Adult Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner programs.

1995

Hundreds of USU nurses deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan. Their skills are tested in many challenging ways, from treating severe battle injuries with limited resources to building their own clinics from tents and other makeshift supplies. Despite these dire obstacles, USU nurses demonstrate exceptional prowess and leadership while delivering combat casualty care. Their work in Iraq and Afghanistan continues to demonstrate the value of USU's unique curriculum.

2003

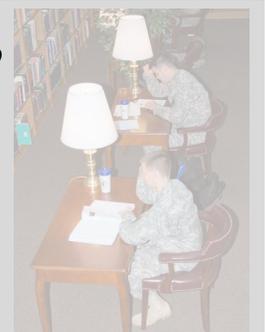


The Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program is ranked sixth in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Alumni from this program and every other GSN program also receive accolades for outstanding research, professional practice, leadership and community service.

2007

The Graduate School of Nursing grows several master-level programs into even more rigorous and comprehensive Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. The new DNP students receive advanced training in the clinical aspects of military nursing, health policy, informatics, population health, health economics and systems leadership. The programs will also give USU nurses increased parity with other health care providers, so they leave the university primed for leadership positions within the Military Health System.

2012



Final Frame



United States Senator Daniel Inouye presents Dr. Faye Abdellah, the founding dean of the Uniformed Services University's Graduate School of Nursing, a copy of the Congressional Record denoting her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. The GSN will be named for the late Senator on Oct. 29.