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the pulse

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F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine



America's Medical School

"When my service is ended and I look back over the milestones of my career, I want most of all to be remembered for the Military Medical School."

F. EDWARD HÉBERT
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Photo by Christine Creenan-Jones

On the cover

The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University was dubbed "America's Medical School" by its dean, Dr. Arthur Kellermann. Read more about the branding initiative on page 5.

Nursing professor elected to AANA Education Committee

By Sharon Holland, managing editor

Air Force Col. Susan Perry, an assistant professor in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University, was recently elected as a Delegate for the Education Committee at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

The election took place during the AANA's annual Assembly of School Faculty, held in San Diego, Feb. 18-20.

Perry is one of only two elected members of the seven-person committee. She was elected by the AANA's program directors and faculty to serve the nearly 47,000 certified registered nurse anesthetists and student registered nurse anesthetists worldwide.

"I ran because I know that the future of CRNAs resides in the best education and a full scope of practice," Perry said. "This is the exact model at USU and in our independent scope of practice within the Air Force. We have the model to emulate and I want to assist our members by implementing best education practices to all of our programs."

As a member of the AANA Education Committee, Perry will provide direction for programs associated with educating future nurse anesthetists, and will expand and improve educational opportunities for interested anesthesia clinical and didactic educators. In addition, her responsibilities as delegate include reviewing and recommending changes in the standards and guidelines for



Photo by Thomas Radfour

Air Force Col. Susan Perry

educational programs and schools to the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, and maintaining lines of communication with all nurse anesthesia professionals, anesthesia students, allied health professionals, non-medical organizations and governmental agencies.

"Our nurse anesthesia program is consistently ranked nationally in the top 10 because of the contributions and expertise of our faculty. The recent appointment of Col. Susan Perry to the AANA Education Committee brings added national visibility and credibility to the GSN and the University," said Carol Romano, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and associate dean of the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.

USU graduate student receives tropical disease research award

By Robert DeFraités, assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at USU

Robin Miller, a graduate student in the Emerging Infectious Disease graduate program at the Uniformed Services University, is the recipient of the 2013 Simpson Student Award in Tropical Disease Field Research.

The award is presented annually by the Tropical Medicine Dinner Club of Baltimore and is intended to encourage and assist Baltimore-Washington area students who are conducting biomedical field research in tropical areas.

Miller is a Doctor of Philosophy candidate in the laboratory

of Dr. V. Ann Stewart, an assistant professor in USU's Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics. Miller graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology from George Washington University in 2008.

Since matriculating at USU in 2010, she has won a number of scholarships and student awards.

The Simpson Award comprises a one-time \$500 payment to be used by the student to defray costs for travel or research in developing countries. In addition,

the recipient was honored as the guest speaker at the dinner club's February meeting.

Miller presented her talk, "Characterization of malaria diversity in the context of HIV infection in a holoendemic region in Kenya," on Feb. 4.

The dinner club was founded in 1970 as means of enhancing communication among tropical health professionals and provides a unique opportunity for students, fellows and residents to meet and network with legends of tropical medicine in the Baltimore-Washington area.

USU wins CFC's 'Most Outstanding Campaign' award

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer

The Uniformed Services University received three awards for its 2013 Combined Federal Campaign recently, including the Merit Award, the Most Outstanding Campaign and the e-Giving Award, which recognizes the successful implementation of electronic payroll deductions.

Collectively, USU personnel donated more than \$154,000, which exceeded the goal established by the Office of Personnel Management by nearly \$50,000.

"The DoD is all about teamwork and that was an incredibly important component of our campaign team," said Robert Thompson, chief of staff at USU.

The university held several fundraising events throughout last year's campaign season, including a Jersey Day, chili cook-off and other contests to raise



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

Brigade Commander Air Force Col. Kevin Glasz (far right) stands with Combined Federal Campaign keyworkers and managers at the Uniformed Services University. The university earned several awards after raising more than \$154,000 in donations in 2013.

contributions to benefit the CFC.

The university, along with several other federal agencies in the

National Capital Region, were lauded during an awards program held at the Pentagon auditorium, Jan 30.

Countdown to Commencement: A look at the Class of 2014

Navy Ensign Christine Anderson, School of Medicine

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Although all of her classmates are uniformed officers, Navy Ensign Christine Anderson, a fourth-year medical student at the Uniformed Services University, knows more about military life than many of her peers. After all, Anderson was an enlisted sailor in the Navy for more than eight years before she arrived on campus.

During that time, Anderson had prodigious responsibilities as a cryptologic technician, experts who use computers to collect and analyze foreign intelligence to monitor worldwide threats. Although her job was an integral part of America's national security, Anderson remains humble. Instead of bragging about her achievements, she recounts her unique experiences and the team's camaraderie among her favorite service memories so far.

"I really enjoyed being a Navy cryptologist," she said. "I was part of an important mission, I met incredible people and I visited a lot of extraordinary places."

Indeed, Anderson's duty assignments stretched far and wide before USU. Her shore assignments included Florida and Hawaii, and she also spent three years stationed aboard the guided-missile cruiser, USS Hué City.

On the ship, Anderson conducted military operations up and down the Eastern Seaboard as well as the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Although her job was rewarding, Anderson had already begun preparing for a whole new career by the time her deployment ended in 2005.

"I've wanted to be a doctor for as long as I can remember. In fact, the reason I joined the Navy after high school was so I could pay for college," she said. "After eight years on active duty, I seized my opportunity."

After separating from the military, Anderson earned a biology degree from the University of

Las Vegas before coming to Bethesda for medical school. Attending USU meant she would incur a seven-year service obligation. But for Anderson, the commitment was extraneous because she wants to serve on active duty for at least 30 years by the end of her career.

"I liked being in the military so much that I

came back. Now, I can't imagine doing anything else. I'll continue serving for as long as the Navy allows me," she said.

Anderson's goal is to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology after she graduates from USU in May and finishes a transitional year at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

"It's such an interesting specialty because it's so diverse. I can work in a clinic or an operating room, and I can perform all kinds of procedures," she said. "It's a great mix of medicine."

Although Anderson is excited to begin the next chapter in her military career, she's still a little wistful to leave USU.

"I have to admit, medical school is a bear, but I learn so much every day at USU from my instructors and my amazingly talented classmates," said Anderson. "I'm excited to graduate but I'll miss this place tremendously."



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Navy Ensign Christine Anderson

Attention all USU faculty

The Faculty Senate is currently seeking nominations for the 2014 Faculty Senate president-elect, secretary/treasurer, and senators.

Interested faculty are encouraged to contact Dr. Susanne Gibbons, chair of the Faculty Senate's Nominations and Elections Committee, via e-mail at susanne.gibbons@usuhs.edu for a candidate form.

USU home to “America’s Medical School”

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Uniformed Service University is home to the nation’s only medical school designed for aspiring physicians in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service. At USU, these students learn traditional benchmarks as well as military-specific medical skills that will come to bear once they graduate and begin caring for America’s troops.

Dr. Arthur Kellermann was inspired by the school’s unique mission and began calling it “America’s Medical School” soon after he accepted a position as the new dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine in 2013.

“We are America’s Medical School because we belong to everyone in this great nation. After all, our school is federally funded, and our graduates take care of American troops, the backbone of our country,” Kellermann said. “By calling ourselves America’s Medical School, we are acknowledging the awesome responsibility that comes with our charge of answering to 317 million American stakeholders.”

Kellermann’s nickname for the school resonated with USU’s leadership, who embraced the tagline and have encouraged others to do the same.

“You can help by regularly using the new phrase to describe our school. The phrase is easy to remember and it communicates a powerful idea: We are America’s Medical School,” said Kellermann.

The phrase embodies a feeling of patriotism that is personified by USU’s more than 6,000 physician and graduate program alumni, who travel far



Photo by Thomas Balfour

The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University was dubbed “America’s Medical School” by its dean, Dr. Arthur Kellermann, because the school is federally run and centered around military medicine. Students in the SoM are uniformed officers learning to care for those in harm’s way.

and wide — often to dangerous places — to care for America’s troops.

“America’s Medical School is a great foundation for military medicine. We teach skills that can’t be learned anywhere else, because our patient population — mostly the U.S. military — do extraordinary things in service to our country, and as a result, often require specialized levels of care. We’re here for them, and the rest of America, who count on the military to protect our nation.”



Countdown to Commencement Trivia Question #2

Each year, the Uniformed Services University invites an accomplished public figure to speak at graduation. Last year, this former United States Senator and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient delivered the 34th commencement address.

Who is he? The first person to correctly identify last year’s keynote speaker and e-mail their response to christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu wins a large coffee and donut courtesy of the USU cafeteria.

A look at USU's faculty: Air Force Col. (Dr.) Edwin Burkett

Director of the Global Health Division in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Edwin Burkett is an international health expert with years of global health and medicine experience. He was also the chief of medical staff for two large military clinics and has run several global health programs for the Department of Defense.

Burkett's unique background and leadership skills were the basis for his selection as the director of the Global Health Division in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and to serve on the Advisory Board for the Center for Global Health at Old Dominion University.

In his role, Burkett has worked tirelessly to develop a university-wide Global Health Program and expand the educational reach across disciplines and space. Part of this effort involves developing a distance learning Global Health Certificate program that will be available to educate health professionals throughout the Department of Defense. Although the program is still in its nascent stage, Burkett and his team have both the will and fortitude to see the job through.

After all, Burkett's success record is long with deep roots. In high school, he earned near-perfect marks on his report cards and graduated at the top of his class. His SAT scores were also impressive, which caught the attention of top American colleges, including Washington University in St. Louis.

Burkett eventually graduated from WUSL with a double-major in Biology and Spanish – a language he'd learned mostly through osmosis while living in Rialto, Calif.

"I grew up in a diverse neighborhood. A lot of my friends and neighbors spoke Spanish, so I picked up the language from them," Burkett said. "I chose to study Spanish in college, because I like being able to communicate across borders and figured it would

be a really good investment for a career in military medicine."

He was right. After earning a Doctor of Medicine from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at USU, Burkett completed his family medicine residency in 1994 and began delivering primary care in clinics and hospitals around the world. He attained the International Health Specialist designation in 2001 and began serving in IHS billets in 2006.

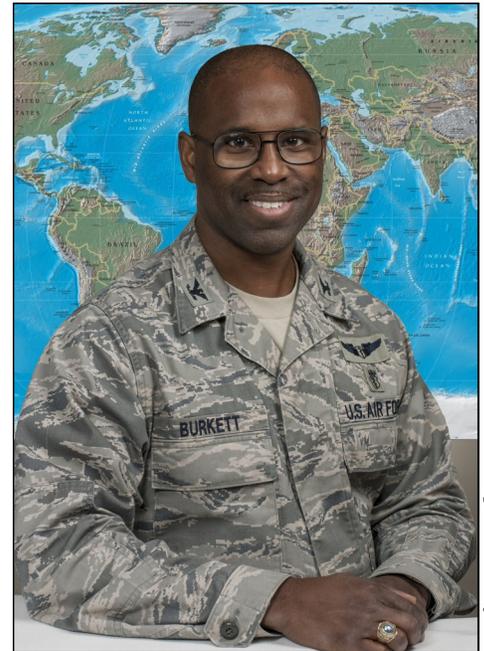
"Joining the IHS team was especially meaningful, because global health is a discipline that can bring forward significant change, and the reason I chose a career in medicine in the first place was so I could help as many people as possible," he said.

As the chief of Global Health at the Joint Forces Command Headquarters in Hampton Roads, Va., – his duty assignment before USU – Burkett worked to bridge health disparities by forging international partnerships, crafting policy and joint doctrine, and helping mobilize military resources to some of the world's most underserved areas.

His deployment experience and participation in humanitarian missions to places like Zimbabwe, El Salvador, and Haiti gave him the personal resonance to excel as a leader. It also taught him valuable lessons, including the importance of strategic planning when developing global outreach operations.

"I took part in a humanitarian mission in Haiti to deliver primary care to local nationals. Our clinic was set up in a school house, five blocks away from the city's hospital. Upon visiting the hospital – which was a minimally staffed, open-bay facility – I realized our outreach would have been far more effectual had we worked alongside the local healthcare providers, who would continue taking care of the injured and ill Haitians long after we left."

As a USU faculty member,



Air Force Col. (Dr.) Edwin Burkett

Burkett is encouraging his students to think analytically and weigh factors beyond medicine when planning global health operations to avoid oversights like his experience in Haiti. This will help ensure the military outreach that USU students will likely take part in after graduation is both effective and enduring. These benchmarks are major threads of the curriculum Burkett's division is developing for the Global Health Certificate, which is scheduled to launch in 2016.

"Global health studies have blossomed at USU over the past several years, which is great, because it's an emerging discipline that continues to gain traction as an important focus area for both the Military Health System and the Department of Defense as a whole," he said. "The Global Health Certificate is another way for USU to build the knowledge and expertise needed to ensure our nation's safety and improve world health."

Leaders like Burkett – who have the will to succeed and a passion to affect positive change – is another way for USU to continue thriving on the global scale.

McCoy selected for Junior Employee of the Quarter

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Suzanne McCoy, an educational support assistant in the Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery, is the new Junior Employee of the Quarter at the Uniformed Services University.

McCoy is being lauded for carrying out all of her workplace responsibilities with exceptional ability. This includes coordinating rotation schedules for more than 320 students, organizing and maintaining academic records and communicating with adjunct faculty across the country to help ensure USU's medical students had positive learning experiences during their Core Surgical Clerkship.

Furthermore, McCoy performed all of these tasks during a period of significant transition, since the School of Medicine is currently using two frameworks until the new Molecules to Military Medicine becomes the prevailing curriculum for all four SoM classes beginning next year.

"Ms. McCoy's nomination is based upon her unparalleled commitment to excellence and service to the School of Medicine and university community. This commitment has been particularly well demonstrated by Ms. McCoy's consummate support of the curriculum reform initiative, which could not have gone forward for the Department of Surgery without her unwavering assistance," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Lisa Cart-

wright, deputy chair of the Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery.

The Department of Surgery also highlighted McCoy's professional diligence, which has improved education at USU on many levels.

"Ms. McCoy is a somewhat shy and unassuming person. Nevertheless, her willingness to go the extra mile to ensure that the medical students in the university never missed an opportunity for the best clinical educational possible, and that the Department of Surgery continued to meet Liaison Committee on Medical Education accreditation standards, deserves formal recognition," said Cartwright.



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Suzanne McCoy

Barnes selected for Senior Employee of the Quarter

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Nicole Barnes, an administrative officer in the Facilities Department, is the new Senior Employee of the Quarter at the Uniformed Services University.

Barnes was selected because she demonstrates a commitment to excellence in all of her workplace endeavors, which includes performing extra duties such as manning the trouble call line and processing a large number of work requests for Facilities.

Barnes assumed these and several additional collateral duties during a staff shortage in Facilities. She also provided training for a new program support assistant and modified the position's standard operating procedures, which resulted in uninterrupted Facilities customer support. Furthermore, Barnes is the government purchase card billing official for her department, which she oversees with exact precision.

"Ms. Barnes' attention to detail

and mathematical acumen have resulted in zero discrepancies on her assigned budget accounts. She expertly managed all expenditures going to great lengths to ensure funding was available to support all customer product lines and that the division's operating needs were met. Ms. Barnes reviewed and certified the billing statement reports for the government purchase card prior to their due dates. Through outstanding personal integrity and superior work ethics, she greatly improved the financial management process and ensured compliance with all financial regulations for the Facilities Division," said Michelle Kilosky, a supervisory program analyst in Facilities.

Barnes' coworkers also lauded her ability to multitask and comradery during the employee shortage, which was a busy, difficult time for Facilities.

"Ms. Barnes, true to form, went above and beyond her regular du-



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Nicole Barnes

ties and performed in an exemplary fashion. She has truly been the glue that has kept the Facilities Division together and on course during this challenging period," said Kilosky.

Final Frame



All photos by Cynthia Hilsinger



Last month, students from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School of the Uniformed Services University's Postgraduate Dental College partnered with experts from the Navy Medicine Professional Development Center to teach children good oral hygiene habits in recognition of Children's Dental Month. The community outreach program included free dental screenings, games and a visit from the "tooth fairy."