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the pulse

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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

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Photo by Thomas Balfour

Third-year students at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University took part in field training that tested their military medical aptitude and leadership abilities in an operational environment. Read more about the exercise on pages 4-5.

Air Force SAPR director speaks at USU's Women's History Celebration

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer

Air Force Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, director, Air Force Sexual Assault and Prevention Office, was the keynote speaker during a celebration observing Women's History Month at the Uniformed Services University, Mar. 18.

"There are many women who came before me who were pioneers. I'm lucky in the fact that gender has never been on my mind throughout my career," said Grosso.

During her talk, Grosso described her career as a merger of good luck and gifted male and female mentors who guided her toward success over the years. But of all of her mentors, Grosso credits her mother, a nurse who earned a PhD later in life, as the person who made the biggest impression on her life and career.

"I've been given every opportunity, and I'm blessed because I always had a great role model. So I've felt like I could do anything I wanted to do," she said.

This has included serving in key leadership roles in the military. Before assuming her current position, Grosso was the director of Force Management Policy and deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services at Headquarters, U.S. Air



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Air Force Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso

Force, in Washington, D.C.

Although Grosso has excelled in all of these positions, she admits serving as director of SAPR was outside of her comfort zone. Still, Grosso is committed to the job and making a difference for the uniformed personnel she serves.

"I believe in the saying, 'To whom much is given, much is expected.' So I do my job to the best of my ability. If you do your best and follow your core values, you'll never go wrong. That's what commitment means to me," she said.

USU alumni named "Area's Top Doctors" by Washingtonian Magazine

By Sharon Holland, managing editor

Every year Washingtonian Magazine puts out its "Area's Top Doctors" issue.

Doctors in more than 40 specialties are asked which of their peers they would send members

of their own families to, and those with the greatest number of recommendations make the list. This year, several F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine alumni are on list. They in-

clude: Drs. Richard Morrissey ('85), Michael Slack ('83), Thomas Howard ('84), George Gibeily ('81), Gail Seiken ('86), John Bosworth ('87) and J. Donald Bridges ('87).

DeLeon honored by American Academy of Pediatrics

By MC3 Laura Bailey, writer

Photo by Thomas Balfour



Dr. Patrick DeLeon (center, right), a distinguished professor at the Uniformed Services University, will be awarded the American Academy of Pediatrics President's Certificate for Outstanding Service, April 27.

Dr. Patrick DeLeon, a distinguished professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing and the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, will be awarded the American Academy of Pediatrics President's Certificate for Outstanding Service, April 27.

DeLeon is being recognized by the AAP for his work on the Emergency Medical Services for Children program, which has improved the quality of pediatric emergency care throughout the country.

DeLeon was drawn to the cause because the EMSC saves countless children's lives every year.

"The reality is this legislation is the one thing that I'm most proud of because it makes a huge difference, especially in rural America. That's the wonderful part of it," he said.

Balog named 2013 American Psychiatry Association Award recipient

By Sharon Holland, managing editor

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Daniel Balog, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, was selected as the recipient of the American Psychiatric Association's Nancy C.A. Roeske Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education for 2013.

The award is presented annually to APA members and fellows who have made outstanding and sustaining contributions to medical student education.

"Dr. Balog is an invaluable leader in preclinical education. As co-director of our first-year Neuroscience Module, he has done an exemplary job as the first face of psychiatry to each medical school class. He alone has been responsible for transition and reorganization of the preclinical psychiatry curriculum as our school transitioned from a 24- to 18-month preclinical course," said Dr. Robert Ursano, psychiatry department chair at USU. Balog, a 1991 graduate of the School of Medicine, is "well respected by colleagues, he has consistently drawn expert presenters for lectures, and created and managed a series of high-quality small group exercises in mental status examination," according to Ursano.

Balog's contributions include serving as a leader in his department's medical education efforts



Courtesy photo

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Daniel Balog

for the past two years, chairing the Medical Education Committee. In this capacity, he revitalized the organizational structure and improved recordkeeping of medical student education activities. He also enthusiastically took on the task of orienting all new faculty to the department and their roles.

"Dr. Balog has been a consistently wonderful preceptor and role model for clinical clerkship students. He applies his wealth of military psychiatry experience to enhance their clerkship education. As the preclinical module director, he is also able to effectively reinforce and expand on topics covered in preclinical education. The department is very pleased for his success and recognition," said Ursano.



Countdown to Commencement Trivia Question #4

Commencement at the Uniformed Services University is held on this special holiday each year, a fitting tribute to the uniformed officers who graduate from USU programs.

Do you know the answer? The first person to e-mail their response to Christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu wins a large coffee and donut courtesy of the USU cafeteria.

Students demonstrate military medical know-how at “Gunpowder”

Third-year medical students at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University completed the military field practicum, "Gunpowder," a two-day field exercise delivered by the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine. The event was held in two iterations between March 25-28. Activities were

embedded in an environment of tactical combat casualty care, advanced trauma life support, ethical detainee care and small-group military scenarios. This unique field training developed leadership and communication skills that students will be able to utilize in operational military medical environments.



Photo by Thomas Balfour



Photo by MC3 Laura Bailey



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Photo by MC3 Laura Bailey

Photo by Thomas Balfour



GSN seeks to reduce attrition through mentorship program

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Nurse Anesthesia programs for the military – like the one at the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing – tend to have high attrition rates. This problem can be attributed to several factors beyond academic standing. Family issues, professional failures, health problems and reassessment of personal goals have all been linked to higher-than-average dropout rates for military NA students.

In an effort to reduce attrition, the GSN created a student mentoring program for NA students. The purpose of the program is to build esprit de corps among participating members through activities that encourage success.

“Our mentoring model is flipped upside down. Instead of targeting at-risk students, we welcome all NA students into our program beginning the moment they step foot on campus. Furthermore, our program has nothing to do with the NA curriculum or grades. Instead, we’re focusing on leadership and how USU students in the NA program can

demonstrate good officership while navigating through our rigorous program,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Wofford, an assistant professor in the GSN.

Wofford and other members of the mentorship program shine a spotlight on leadership by talking about social and professional issues impacting members of the NA community. In the past, this has included discussions about stress management, personal wellness and professional life after USU.

These monthly talks are hosted by USU faculty and guest speakers with personal insights about the issues military nurses face. For example, Army Maj. Matthew Welder, a fellow NA and director of Surgical Services Service Line in the Office of the Surgeon General, discussed his deployment experience in Iraq and Afghanistan at the November meeting.

“Major Welder’s talk was especially meaningful because nurse anesthetists are prone to frequent deployments, and being

able to share insider knowledge about work conditions on the frontlines is a great learning experience for our students,” said Wofford.

Welder’s talk made an impact, according to surveys filled out by members of the mentorship program, who rate the value of each session and choose topics for follow-up meetings through a popular vote. This democratic approach is a way for NA students to learn more about subjects that interest them. It’s also a promising model for reducing attrition, since it targets many of the non-academic reasons for leaving the NA program.

“The GSN conducts a yearly analysis to study attrition rates at USU. While it’s still too early to figure out if the mentorship program is making a retention difference in the GSN, there are strong indicators that NA students are benefitting from the program. In my opinion, that’s good news any way you slice it,” Wofford said.



Courtesy photo

Miller assumes leadership role at IDCRP

Courtesy of the IDCRP

Army Col. (Dr.) Mark Kortepeter (left), former director of the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program at the Uniformed Services University, welcomed the new IDCRP director, Army Col. (Dr.) Scott Miller, after Kortepeter accepted a new position as the associate dean for Research at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

Like his predecessor, Miller brings extensive research and leadership experience to the IDCRP. Before joining the program as deputy director in 2013, he completed an internal medicine residency and an infectious disease fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Miller also served at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where he worked on clinical trials for antimalarial drugs.

Members of Class of 2015 lauded for academic performance

By MC3 Laura Bailey, writer

Thirty students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine were recognized during an academic awards ceremony for outstanding academic performance during the clerkship phase of the Molecules to Military Medicine curriculum, March 18.

The Outstanding Academic Performance Award, the Distinguished Academic Performance Award, and the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence were given to students who earned honors in four, five or all six of their major core clerkships, respectively.

These accolades were especially meaningful because the Class of 2015 was the first cohort to begin learning under USU's reformed medical program.

"You are the leading edge of the new curriculum. I know some of you refer to yourselves as guinea pigs but I prefer to think of you as pioneers. You really are blazing the trail for all of the classes that will come behind you," said Dr. Arthur Kellermann, dean of the School of Medicine.

The winners of the Outstanding Academic Performance Award include U.S. Army 2nd Lts. Leonid Belyayev and Elena Zitzman, U.S. Air Force 2nd Lts. Maggie Castile, Erin Grindlay, Jonathan Muldermans, Mark Prats, Claire Widule and Hal Willardson, U.S. Navy Ensigns Patrick Engelbert, Lisa Herrington, Tracey Honohan, Michael Sullivan and Jessica Winters and U.S. Public Health Service Ensign Jaren Meldrum.

The winners of the Distinguished Academic



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Dr. Arthur Kellermann (third from left), dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, congratulates the winners of the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence.

Performance Award include Army 2nd Lt. Caitlin Goodin, Air Force 2nd Lts. Robert Lystrup, Meghan Olsen, Shira Paul and Joshua Romain, and Navy Ensigns Sara Drayer, Kelly Haeusler, Chase Hughes, Lyndsey Kiss, Willis Lyford and Andrew Woodhouse.

The winners of the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence include Army 2nd Lts. Timothy Blood and Rowan Sheldon, Air Force 2nd Lt. Lauren Halbert and Navy Ensigns Thomas Allen and Michael Tsai.

41st Anniversary of the Air Force Assistance Fund

Courtesy of USU External Affairs

This year marks the 41st anniversary of the Air Force Assistance Fund. The theme, "Commitment to Caring," reiterates the Air Force's heritage of taking care of one another, whether active duty, retired or surviving family members.

The AFAF is a charitable fund by Airmen for Airmen. All monies raised during the campaign go to supporting the Air Force's four charities: The Air Force Aid Society, which takes care of Airmen and their families, with emergency assistance, educa-

tional loans, spouse tuition and base enhancement projects; the Air Force Village and Air Force Enlisted Village, which provides retirees' widows and widowers with a home and caring community among fellow Air Force family members; and the Lemay Foundation, which seeks out and provides the same group with short-and-long-term financial grants.

Read the [official memorandum](#) to learn more about this year's campaign announcement from Secretary of the Air Force,

Ms. Deborah Lee James; the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Mark A. Welsh; and, the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. James Cody.

If individuals are interested in contributing to this year's campaign or want more information, contact Master Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson, the AFAF campaign manager at the Uniformed Services University. This year's campaign runs through April 25.

Final Frame



Photo by Thomas Balfour



The Fighting Docs narrowly lost to rival ice hockey team, The Shooters, in a 4-3 overtime shootout, March 30.