

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

Volume 9, Issue 12 • July 7, 2014
www.usuhs.edu



Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

Sharon Holland

Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

Gwendolyn Smalls

Chief, Media Affairs

Master Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

NCOIC of VPE and Deputy Chief, Media Affairs

Christine Creenan-Jones

Editor and Layout Design

MC2 Brittney Cannady

Writer and Photographer

MC3 Laura Bailey

Writer and Photographer

Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Pulse staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions

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 by calling 301-295-3338.



Photo courtesy of the Postgraduate Dental College

On the cover

Commencement for the Army Postgraduate Dental School at Schofield Barracks was held onboard the USS Missouri in Honolulu, June 19. Read more about other university Postgraduate Dental College graduation ceremonies on page 4.

SoM launches Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program

by Sharon Holland, managing editor

Enlisted service members in the Air Force and Army now have an opportunity to prepare for future careers as uniformed physicians thanks to a new program headquartered at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

The “Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program,” or EMDP2, is a 24-month program for highly-qualified enlisted service members interested in a career as a military doctor. Candidates will attend school full-time at the George Mason University-Prince William campus in Manassas, Va., to prepare them to apply to medical school, while remaining on active duty.

Candidates must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution with a minimum of a 3.2 grade point average and meet service requirements for commissioning.

The inaugural EMDP2 class, up to 10 students, will report to USU at the end of July to begin the program, which will include full-time medical school preparatory coursework in a traditional classroom setting at GMU-PW, structured pre-health advising, formal Medical College Admission Test preparation, dedicated faculty and peer mentoring at USU, and integrated clinical exposure. Students completing the program successfully will qualify



to apply to most U.S. medical schools.

“We are thrilled to be launching the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program at the Uniformed Services University and excited to be partnering with George Mason University-Prince William campus for this new educational endeavor. We have had fantastic support from the services and by the many who wish for this program to succeed,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Aaron Saguil, associate dean for Admissions and Recruitment at the Hébert School of Medicine. “With the EMDP2, we will be able to even better recognize the talent that exists within our enlisted – the professional backbone of the military – and provide them an opportunity to continue their aspirations to become physician-leaders in the rapidly evolving Military Health System.”

USU bids bittersweet farewell to living legend Ada Sue Hinshaw

by MC3 Laura Bailey, writer

Nursing scholars and military leaders from across the country joined faculty, students and staff at the Uniformed Services University to bid a formal farewell to the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing Dean Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw during a scholarship and recognition symposium held in her honor, June 27.

The symposium recognized Hinshaw's many accomplishments with several presentations from accomplished health care leaders, including a keynote talk by Maj. Gen. Jimmie Keenan, chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

"Since you became the dean in 2008, you've created new positions, you've improved the quality of our academic programs and you've improved the quality of our instructors. You listened to us in the DoD and what our challenges were and you saw the challenges as opportunities in nursing and for nursing research. The leaders you produced here are not only advanced practice nurses, you are also producing our leaders, our senior leaders for all of our three services, and we could not do that without you," said Keenan. "In 2011, you combined the Navy nursing anesthesia program with the GSN anesthesia program to provide an overall comprehensive program. This program ranked number five in the nation and that includes civilian programs as well. That is amazing. You transitioned the Master of Science in nursing degree program to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Based on the American Association of Colleges in Nursing, you advanced a nursing practice from an MSN to a doctorate level and probably this was one of your big-

gest challenges. You will have a long lasting effect on the GSN. On behalf of the surgeon general and all of federal nursing – we want to say thank you again for all that you've contributed."

Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU, also took the podium and candidly shared the joys of celebrating Hinshaw's legacy and her new journey into retirement.

"On one hand, I viewed this event with great excitement because what better way could there possibly be to celebrate Dean Hinshaw's tenure here as the dean of the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing than with a day filled with scholarship – because after all, scholarship and nursing is what her career has been all about," said Rice. "She has been a pioneer. She's brought great distinction to the GSN. I had told her for many months that she had much more time that she could contribute to the GSN at the university, but she has been steadfast and has reminded me often that she came here with the promise of three years as her commitment to the GSN, but it's been six years now. I figured she couldn't count then, so why should she start counting now?" he joked. "She is convinced that this is the right time for her. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate her accomplishments."

Rice remembered when he first approached Hinshaw about coming to USU.

"When I asked Ada Sue to think about coming to the university, she said, 'Well I just retired as a dean and you know 12 years is probably enough,'" Rice said. "I said, 'Let me give you a couple of facts about this particular dean

opportunity. In the first place, you won't have any undergraduate students.' She said, 'OK.' I said, 'Not only do you not have to do any fundraising, you're protected from doing fundraising. The third thing is, all your students are full-time and they're all subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.'"

At the conclusion of his remarks, Rice presented Hinshaw with the University Medal in recognition of her vast accomplishments at USU.

For every word of appreciation Hinshaw received, she had multitudes more appreciation to give back.

"Thank God I flunked retirement the first time because I can't tell you how fun it has been," said Hinshaw. "I have to tell you, I was set up for success. I had all kinds of support. I thank you for that because it really made all the difference for what we were able to do in the school of nursing. When I think about it, the people who walked this journey with me – those of you who are on faculty, staff, our students, our FMSC group ... each group has just been phenomenal to work with and I really thank each of you because this could not have been done without all of us working together. We've always been true partners. There've been times when we've agreed, times when we've disagreed, but we've always understood each other and always trusted and been able to rely on each other. So, there are a lot of people in my career that I owe a lot to. I thank all of you for coming on this journey with me. This is without a doubt, the capstone of my career. I won't forget that. Thank you very much."

PDC holds multiple commencement ceremonies

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

June was a monumental month for the Postgraduate Dental College at the Uniformed Services University with five commencement ceremonies taking place across the United States over a two-week span. The events – held in North Carolina, Texas, Hawaii and Maryland – celebrated the accomplishments of more than 50 dental officers who earned a Master of Science in Oral Biology degree after completing rigorous residency programs at the Army, Navy and Air Force dental schools.

The 2014 PDC class includes dentists with specializations in Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Orofacial Pain, Periodontics, Prosthodontics and Comprehensive Dentistry. Six USU students also completed the Tri-Service Orthodontics Residency Program.

“PDC alumni are bright,

skilled and forward thinking. They are truly scholar-clinicians. Their USU-honed abilities contribute significantly to the health and readiness of our military forces,” said Dr. Patrick Sculley, executive dean of the PDC. “Being a part of the PDC graduations is a memorable experience. Each graduation is unique in its own right, reflecting the traditions of the respective service, the supporting installation, and the dental specialties of the graduates. However, all are consistent in paying homage to the accomplishments of the graduates and the support of faculty members, family and friends. It is an exhilarating experience to participate in such joyous and meaningful events.”

Sculley presided over the PDC ceremonies with USU President Dr. Charles Rice and Board of Regents Chairman Dr. Ronald

Blanck. They were joined by health care experts from across the Military Health System, including Navy Rear Adm. Stephen Pachuta, who delivered the keynote address for the Naval Postgraduate Dental School.

“Be proud of our accomplishments. You earned your place at today’s ceremony. You have achieved a very significant milestone,” he said.

Pachuta, the Chief of the Navy Dental Corps, also encouraged the PDC graduates to be the mentor they wanted during residency, work hard to foster strong relationships and maintain a keen focus on the main mission before ending his speech on a wistful note.

“Good luck to each of you as you embark on a new and exciting journey. I would gladly change places with any of you for the opportunity to do it all over again,” he said.

Photo by MC3 Laura Bailey



USU students plunge into studies

Students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine participate in a Dive Lab exercise at the Naval Support Activity Bethesda pool to experience the physiological effects cold water has on the human body, June 20.

ETI spurs innovation, enhances learning at USU

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Like all health science programs, the curriculum at the Uniformed Services University covers expansive, highly-technical benchmarks. In order to keep learners engaged, USU delivers its content through exciting mediums, many of which are developed by the Education & Technology Innovation Support Office, or ETI.

The office has partnered with USU's faculty to incorporate innovative technologies and instructional techniques into courses to advance learning objectives for both classroom and distance learning environments since 2006.

One recent project even took a creative, subhuman turn when Dr. Catherine Ling, an assistant professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, collaborated with ETI to integrate zombie apocalypse animation into her course, Population Health and Epidemiology in Advanced Practice.

In Ling's class, the zombie apocalypse was fodder for classroom discussions about the use of population health models and theories. Students had to plan interventions using these theories and models while considering factors like the role social and popular media play in forming provider assumptions and biases about largely unstudied or misunderstood populations. The zombie animations created by ETI were essential to the background understanding of these models.

In the end, Ling's creative approach to education paid off.

"The overwhelming student response has been very positive, and ETI has been an integral partner for developing creative approaches to engagement," said Ling, who based this assignment around scenarios developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Strategic Command.

Others at USU have also championed the merits of ETI, including Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Justin Woodson, an associate professor at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. In May, he invited ETI experts to participate in Operation Bushmaster, so they could provide objective feedback on ways to improve USU's capstone field exercise.

"The ETI has provided invaluable contributions to the Military Contingency Medicine/Bushmas-

ter course over the last several years in the form of curriculum development and evaluation. They have helped me build new online products for the students and faculty training program as well as new curriculum evaluation instruments which have proven invaluable to the evolution of the program. They are in the field expertly observing faculty and student learning and teaching dynamics at times and locations

that are impractical for me and my staff, consequently seeing things that I cannot otherwise see. The improvements we've made to this program are too numerous to mention, but there is no question that ETI has facilitated a raising of the academic bar for these programs," said Woodson.

Raising the bar at USU was the impetus behind the establishment of ETI in the first place. The university has always sought ways to improve education, and for the past eight years, ETI has spurred major innovation across USU's departments and schools.

"Education in the health professions is undergoing more change than has been seen in fifty years and free standing professional schools are at a disadvantage without expertise in curricular design and pedagogical methods. ETI gives our faculty access to widely experienced experts in these areas and so facilitates exploration of new teaching methods and technologies. ETI has helped us flip class rooms, standardize curricular materials across clinical teaching sites, provide continuing education to specialist in Central Command and encourage faculty development in education. They are our own force multipliers," said Dale Smith, professor of Military Medicine and History, who also serves as the acting director of ETI.



USU Family Medicine Interest Group to receive AAFP Program of Excellence Award

by Sharon Holland, managing editor

The Uniformed Services University's Family Medicine Interest Group was recently selected as one of 10 programs nationally to receive the American Academy of Family Physicians' Program of Excellence Award. This marks the second time the USU group has been selected for the honor.

The FMIG Program of Excellence Award recognizes family medicine interest groups for their efforts to stimulate interest in family medicine and family medicine programming. The award is presented annually to 10 groups that exhibit exemplary efforts in community outreach/patient advocacy,

family medicine advocacy, and infrastructure and student involvement/student retention. Recipients of the award are acknowledged during the opening session at the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students, which will be held on Aug. 8 in St. Louis.

"Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Bunt, the faculty advisor, and Air Force 2nd Lt. Brooke Pati, the student leader, deserve great credit as well as all of the student co-leaders and members who have done so much community service over the past year," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Stephens, chair of the F. Edward Hébert School of

Medicine Department of Family Medicine at USU. In 2008, Stephens, along with student leader 2nd Lt. Brooke Sciuto, helped USU's FMIG earn the prestigious award.

"Attracting medical students to the specialty of family medicine is critical to answer the ongoing and worsening primary care physician shortage," said Dr. Clif Knight, vice president of education at the AAFP. "Excellent FMIGs such as these award winners are an important component in these efforts. They're essential to helping medical students understand the professional challenge and satisfaction of being a family physician."

Former LRC director named Librarian Emeritus

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Janice Muller, former director of the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center, was named Librarian Emeritus at the Uniformed Services University by President Charles Rice, June 30.

This rare and prestigious honor is given to individuals who demonstrate superior service at the LRC and USU. Muller distinguished herself through noteworthy accomplishments over a 30-year span that included growing USU's digital collection to an impressive 15,000 unique titles. She also led an initiative to improve the design, usability and performance of the LRC website while promoting the use of mobile devices, tablets and smart phones as learning platforms before her retirement in 2012.

"New mediums are needed to engage young minds. The LRC, under the directorship of Ms. Janice Muller, helped lead the way at USU with modern technology that speaks to our students' interests, preferences and learning modalities. For this reason, and many others, it was a great honor for me to bestow the title, Librarian Emeritus, upon Ms. Muller and also present her with USU's Exceptional Service Award," said Rice.



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Janice Muller, former director of the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center, was named Librarian Emeritus by USU President Charles Rice, June 30. Muller was also given the university's Exceptional Service Award.

Like the Librarian Emeritus honor, the Exceptional Service Award was given to Muller because she profoundly influenced the mission at USU through her work in the LRC.

Service Member of the Quarter: HN Kayla Bristow

by MC3 Laura Bailey, writer and photographer

Hospital Corpsman Kayla Bristow, a surgical technician for the Veterinary Surgical Department at the Uniformed Services University, was selected as the Service Member of the Quarter recently.

“Receiving this prestigious award is a great honor to its selected recipients and recognizes those service members who go above and beyond – standing out among their peers by demonstrating a commitment to excellence in everything they do and a dedication to their core values and our mission at USU,” said Command Master Chief Patrick Hyde, USU brigade senior enlisted leader. “Each quarter, service members who demonstrate these qualities are selected to compete against each other for the coveted award. Only one service member is selected each quarter. HN Bristow was up against some tough competition and prevailed.”

It takes a certain kind of person to attain this level of achievement. Bristow is unique in many ways, but one thing in particular helps her to stand out among the rest, according to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Juan Vega, instructor in USU’s Military and Emergency Medicine department.

“Honestly, I would have to say that it would be her confidence,” said Vega, who is Bristow’s squad leader at USU. “It’s not common to see a junior sailor with so much confidence in their abilities.”

But that’s not the only thing she has going for her, said Vega.

“She has a go-getter attitude that stands out among her peers,” said Vega. “If she sets a goal she

tries to achieve it. So far, she has accomplished every goal that she has set for herself and that we have talked about. After accomplishing one goal she moves on to achieve another. She’s been attending college classes and volunteering a lot which really shows how dedicated she is. She takes the initiative.”

Challenges are met with a can-do attitude that helps her soar to great heights, said Vega. He recalls one time in particular when her spirit was undaunted by a formidable load of college classes.

“She was putting in a request for college classes and she had a lot going on – not just here at work, but personally as well,” said Vega. “She wanted to take four college classes at the same time. I asked her if she was sure about taking on so much and she looked at me and said ‘HM1, I’ve got this.’”

For some, receiving an award like this might be an opportunity to brag a little or maybe even a lot. However, that’s not the case for this quarter’s recipient who remains humble even when thrust into the limelight.

“It’s about showing people that it’s possible,” said Bristow, who enjoys volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in her spare time. “I look up to my leaders for an example of how I should be and I’m just trying to emulate that at my own level and lead by example. I hope this will encourage other junior service members and they’ll think if I can do it – then they can too.”

She credits her success to having a few key things in her toolbox. They include having a

connection with others and the belief that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

“My mentors, HM1 (Lisa) Shumaker, Chief (Darryl) Mercado and HM1 (retired) Althea Jamerson, have been a huge help to me this past year,” said Bristow, secretary of the Enlisted Social Committee at USU. “My roommate has definitely been there for me. My friends and family back home and my boyfriend – they just keep that motivation and tell me I can do it. There may be disappointments along the way or things may not go the way you hoped they would, but friends and family are great to lean on during these times. Find somebody who will help you along the way, have a network of people to keep you positive and whatever you do – do it with passion and do it to the best of your ability. That’s my credo.”

Receiving this award doesn’t mean she can slow down. Bristow is a mover and a shaker, who also volunteers weekly at the USO.

“My main focus is getting that promotion,” said Bristow, who is up for advancement this fall. “From there, I’m working toward getting my bachelor’s degree.” She also hopes to be assigned to a ship in the future.

Winning the Service Member of the Quarter could lead to an even bigger achievement, according to Vega.

“This puts her in for Service Member of the Year at the end of this calendar year so I’m keeping my fingers crossed for her,” said Vega. “I’m very happy for her and I hope she makes it.”

Final Frame



Congratulations to the 2014 graduates of the Postgraduate Dental College at the Uniformed Services University.