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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

Uniformed Services University Alumni and Faculty Earn Top Air Force Medical Awards

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

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Faculty and alumni from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences topped the list of recently announced Air Force Medical Service award recipients in the areas of education, research, clinical care and leadership.

The Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Thomas W. Travis, himself a USU alumnus, announced the recipients of the Air Force Medical Service 2014 Annual Awards on Feb. 10, 2015. The categories included both individual and team awards and represented a wide cross-section of the Air Force medical department, including enlisted Airmen, nurses, physicians, dentists, health care administrators and civilian support staff among others.

USU graduates and faculty were eligible for consideration in 40 categories, and six were selected whose awards reflected the best in education, research, leadership and clinical excellence. They include:

USAF Physician Educator of the Year: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Anthony Beutler, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine.

USAF Dental Educator of the Year: Maj. (Dr.) Nicholas Duvall, 81st Dental Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. (USU Postgraduate Dental College class of 2012).

USAF Clinical Excellence Award - Field Grade Category: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ryan Mihata, 88th Medical Operations Squadron, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,



Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Nicholas Duvall, the recipient of the Air Force Medical Service Dental Educator of the Year award, giving a lecture. (Courtesy Photo)

Ohio (USU School of Medicine class of 2005).

The Chief of the Medical Staff Commitment to Excellence Award: Lt. Col. (Dr.) Lauren Wolf, 377th Medical Group, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico (USU School of Medicine class of 2003).

USAF Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research Award: Capt. (Dr.) Jameson Voss, 711 Human Performance Wing, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio (USU School of Medicine class of 2010 and USU Master of Public Health class of 2013).

USAF Surgeon General Award for Best Hospital of the Year: 96th Medical Group, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Commander: Col. (Dr.) Gianna Zeh (USU School of Medicine class of 1993).

“We are enormously proud of our graduates and faculty who have been recognized for excellence in their respective fields, and we are pleased, but not surprised, that they have risen to the top,” said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D.

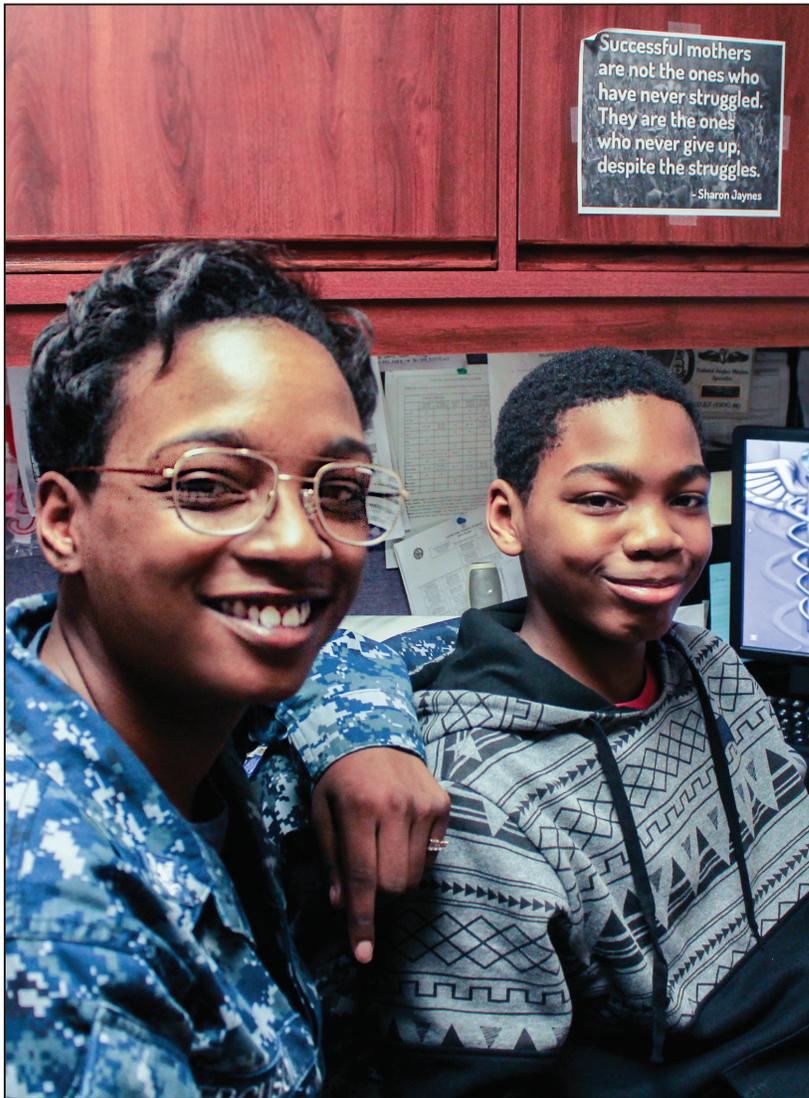


On the cover

Army Lt. Col. Danette Cruthirds a nurse anesthesia faculty member in USU's Graduate School of Nursing, shows a student proper techniques during a recent anesthesia practice simulation at the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center. The Center, and the rest of the National Capital Region Simulation Consortium, was recently accredited. See story, page 4. (photo by Thomas Balfour)

Proud Single Mom, Sailor: Turning Struggle into Success

by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey, writer and photographer



RP3 Ashley Ferguson and son, Kameran (Photo by MC3 Laura Bailey)

A quote, secured with clear tape, hangs above Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Ashley Ferguson's desk inside her office at the Uniformed Services University.

Her son has joined her at work this day and they're both laughing about her so-called "dance moves" – her son denying she has any.

Later, they plan to go home, and paint various toys. They enjoy the time they have together between school and work.

"The Navy can be tough to be a single mother and be enlisted," said Ferguson. "He's the reason for everything I do. I joined the military for him. The military has made it possible for me to provide for my son inde-

pendently."

It's no coincidence that the quote above her desk by Sharon Jaynes reflects her own struggle as a single parent – "Successful mothers are not the ones who have never struggled. They are the ones who never give up, despite the struggles."

As an RP, her duties include supporting clergy of all faiths in the facilitation of religious activities. Her typical day at USU includes assisting Lt. Cmdr. Ray Pratik, a Navy chaplain, practicing with the color guard for ceremonies and giving campus tours for USU visitors. Once a month, she dedicates a Sunday to prepare the base chapel for others' spiritual practices and customs by setting up for various religious services. Her schedule is full and responsibilities are many, but these things along with motherhood are no match for her happy-go-lucky personality.

"My favorite thing about my Mom is that she's fun," said her son, Kamren.

She may be smiling now, but that wasn't always the case, she said. Her smile is a learned one and gets better with practice.

"At my previous command, I wasn't the most positive person," said Ferguson. "So, it feels good to be at a new place and remake myself, because you can be anything that you want to be. If you let your past dictate what your future's going to be, then your past can just keep continuing, or your future can become better."

Her experience in the Navy has helped her realize that her past only has power over her future if she allows it, she said. Even then, a negative past can be used to make improvements along the way.

The book, "Great Quotes From Great Women", contains inspiring quotes from African American women of the past who came from various walks of life and overcame struggles of their own. The book, which she reads often, sits at her desk.

"I constantly look at this and try to strive to be a better person for myself as an African American woman," said Ferguson. "I read a quote the other day. It said some of the people with the worst pasts create the best futures. Every time I go somewhere new, if I have the opportunity to be a better person, I always try to do that not just for me, but for my son too."

ACS, SSH Award Accreditation to National Capital Region Simulation Consortium

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

The National Capital Region Simulation Consortium (NCRSC), including the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center of the Uniformed Services University, has been accredited as a comprehensive Accredited Education Institute (AEI) by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH).

An ACS-accredited comprehensive institute addresses the educational needs of a broad spectrum of learners and advances the science of simulation-based surgical education. The overall goals of the ACS-AEI program are to enhance surgical patient safety, support surgeons' maintenance of certification requirements. It also will address the competencies that all surgeons and surgical residents need to achieve and demonstrate, and enhance access to contemporary surgical education. AEIs provide learners an opportunity to learn and practice new skills and receive immediate feedback without compromising patient safety or comfort. AEIs also conduct innovative research to advance simulation-based surgical education.

The AEI accreditation program is a voluntary peer-review process. Institutions that successfully complete the process are accredited for a period of three years. To remain accredited for another three years, an institution continues to demonstrate compliance with 31 criteria in four standards: Learners and Scope of Educational Programs; Curriculum Development, Delivery of Effective Education, and Assessment;



(Courtesy Photo)

Staff and faculty from the National Capital Region Simulation Consortium, including the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center at USU pose with their accreditation certificate.

Administration, Management and Governance and Advancement of the Field.

There are two levels of accreditation: Comprehensive and Focused, with each having specific requirements. The level of accreditation status differs based, in part, on the focus of the educational program, the learners served, the curriculum offered and the technological support and resources available. The National Capital Simulation Consortium, as a Comprehensive AEI, provides a comprehensive program that educates four learner groups, develops original curricula, offers a broad spectrum of education programs. It also has the resources and physical space necessary to conduct its educational activities. The consortium is also dedicated to the advancement of the field through research and scholarly activities.

The accreditation is for the Consortium's Assessment, Research, Teaching/Education, System Integration and Patient Safety pro-

grams. This is the first accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to the consortium, which includes USU, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

The five-year accreditation granted by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization. It shows the consortium's substantial conformance to the SSH standards. In earning the five-year accreditation, the consortium put themselves through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to the accreditation team of surveyors, its commitment to offering healthcare simulation training programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

The SSH was established in January 2004 to represent the rapidly growing group of educators and researchers who use a variety of sim-

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New Phone System Being Implemented Across University

by Christopher Austin, writer/ layout design



New Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones are being installed throughout the university. (photo by Christopher Austin)

The Uniformed Services University Office of the Computer Information Officer is implementing a Voice over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone system for USU and its off site locations. It will replace the current system and phone units.

The Telecommunications Branch of USU's Network Operations and Communications Department is

working to install the new VoIP system, upgrading the current communications' capacity in a project that increases service and also saves the University approximately \$450,000 a year.

"The contractors gave us a lot of very good information on the best approach, especially the technical side of things in regards to our con-

figuration for our networks," said David Lyons, the Telecommunications Manager at USU.

An added benefit of the VoIP is that all concerns related to phones and phone relocations within the University can be handled by the Telecommunications Branch. Before, issues with the phones needed to be handled through the external phone service provider, adding more customer wait time.

The new phones have a digital display and include features like video calling, corporate directory look-up, visual voice-mail and a call-log for all incoming and outgoing calls.

Lyons and his team are working evenings and weekends to deploy the new phone units to avoid disrupting users during normal duty hours.

The replacement of all current phones is expected to be completed by July.

Each phone will come with a printed user quick guide. Frequently asked questions and video tutorials on the new phones can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/a/usuhs.edu/voip-project/>.

Continued from "Simulation Consortium" on pg. 4

ulation techniques for education, testing, and research in healthcare. The membership, now more than 3,000, is working to improve performance and reduce errors in patient care by using all types of simulation. These include task trainers, human patient simulators, virtual reality and standardized patients. They promote improvements in simulation technology, educational methods, practitioner assessment

and patient safety that promote better patient care and can improve patient outcome.

The NCSC, comprised of USU, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, has been providing healthcare simulation activities to students, residents, fellows and staff since 1999.

Working with a wide array of partners from the DoD and oth-

er federal agencies, the more than 30,000 sq. ft. Val G. Hemming Simulation Center at USU provides learners with an expansive selection of training tools. They range from simulated clinical exams using live patients, to task trainers designed to improve skills and in procedures, to the Wide Area Virtual Environment (WAVE) for team training of combat medical and surgical teams.

USU and India Collaborate on Medical Educations

by *Uniformed Services University Pathology Department*

Over the past several decades, members of USU have been working toward establishing multiple teaching and research programs with several government and private institutions in India.

USU-sponsored conferences and symposiums include extensive lectures and hands-on laboratory technique demonstrations. More than 35 faculty members from the Departments of Pathology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, led by Dr. Radha Maheshwari and Dr. Robert Friedman along with administration, and faculty members from other leading U.S. Institutions participated in these courses in India. The University courses were recognized as high quality medical information exchanges on malaria, leprosy, leishmaniasis and filariasis--issues crucial to the military.

A graduate student exchange program was started between USU and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) in Pilani, India. BITS has long been recognized as one of the top universities in India and has collaborated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology for over 10 years. Over the past 25 years, more than 30 students have participated on research projects with faculty members at USU, and they have produced cutting-edge research there. Currently, there are two graduate students from this program who are working at USU.



(Courtesy Photo)

The inaugural session of the International Multifocal Conference in Karad, India, held in December. The event was sponsored by USU and The Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences University.

To celebrate the first 20 years of achievement of the USU-India programs, USU organized several scientific meetings in collaboration with Indian Institutions at BITS, Central Drug Research Institute and Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC) in Lucknow, India. A comprehensive report on the summary of the achievements was released by the Deputy Chief of Mission in January 2003 at an event at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

More than 50 scientific papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals with international recognition. Additionally, a large number of masters and Ph.D. dissertations were completed, and new capability and facilities were created in Indian Institutions.

The members worked on making significant progress toward bilateral cooperation on health with India's Armed Forces Medical Services and USU. They then signed an agreement on medical training and academic cooperation in military medicine. The Indian Minister of Health and Family Welfare, and his delegation visited USU and indicated their interest in expanding global public health-related programs. USU organized two workshops on global public health and medical education at BITS and in Lucknow with King George's Medical University (KGMU) and the ITRC. A USU medical student and PMB resident have completed rotations at the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, BITS, and at the KGMU.

Captain Sara Newman to Head Office of Public Health

by Louis Rowe, Deputy Associate Director of the National Park Service



Public Health Service Navy Capt. Sara B. Newman was recently selected as the new Director of the National Park Service's Office of Public Health (courtesy photo)

Public Health Service Capt. Sara B. Newman was selected as the director of the National Park Service's Office of Public Health, effective March 1. She replaced Captain Chuck Higgins who retired in October.

As director of the Office of Public Health, Newman will lead the NPS' public health efforts. She will also serve as the principal advisor to the director for public health programs that affect 300 million visitors a year. The Office of Public Health provides technical expertise to the NPS on food safety, drinking water safety, wastewater and vector control, infectious disease surveillance,

outbreak response and health promotion.

Newman will also serve as the commanding officer for the public health operating division, administratively managing 48 officers detailed to offices and bureaus in the Department of Interior.

Newman has more than 20 years of experience as a public health professional. She has worked with the National Park Service for the last eight years, developing the public risk management program and providing policy, guidance and technical support to parks – undertaking a range of visitor injury prevention initiatives.

At the Office of Risk Management, Newman has also served as deputy chief, leading the effort to oversee the development of a national safety, health and wellness strategy for NPS employees. From 2012 through 2013, she served as the division's acting chief.

"We are excited to bring Sara on to the senior management team of Visitor and Resource Protection (VPR)," said VPR Associate Director Cam Sholly. "Sara has demonstrated she has the broad public health experience and strong management skills and leadership ca-

capacity required to manage this critical program."

"I am honored to have been selected for this position and I am thrilled about the opportunity to support this outstanding program and team, Newman said."

Prior to working for the NPS, Newman was the special projects advisor to the deputy assistant secretary for public health emergency medical countermeasures in the Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the Department of Health and Human Services where she provided managerial support, technical input and strategic planning expertise in medical countermeasure planning.

Before that, Newman served as the senior epidemiologist with the Division of Immigration Health Services at the Department of Homeland Security, managing the agency's disease surveillance and infection control programs.

In 2002, Newman earned her doctorate of public health from the Uniformed Services University.

Prior to her doctoral studies, she served in the private sector as a technical consultant in public health for the World Bank, the International Center for Research on Women, Family Health International and John Snow, Inc.

In 1993, Newman earned her master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she focused on health program planning and evaluation and conducted her thesis research in Cear, Brazil.

“Docs” Fight for First

by Christopher Austin, writer/layout design

The Fighting Docs, the USU student-run hockey club, is currently in 1st place for the Hockey North American Washington, D.C. League.

So far, the club has had 12 wins and 3 losses. It has two more games in March before playoffs begin in April and hopes to encourage students to attend games and cheer them on.

“We had a bunch of fans come out once from the Graduate School of Nursing. That was kind of cool,” said Navy Lt. Brad Respondek, a registered nurse anesthesiologist student in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing and player/coach on the team. “Apparently, when the team was in its infancy, they used to have half the student body show up for games, but it’s been quite some time since that’s happened.”

The club was founded in the early ‘90s and has no qualifications for joining the team other than being associated with the university. Its main purpose is to provide those associated with the university an outlet.

“Anyone can join the team — male or female, skill level, or experience in hockey. It doesn’t matter,” Respondek said. “For those who are less experienced, we love having them on the team, because they improve, and we improve, and it builds unit cohesiveness.

“Every student needs balance and needs an escape from their studies just for their own mental health,” said Respondek. “For us, playing hockey once every seven to



The Fire Ants face USU’s Fighting Docs (in black) on Feb. 15. The Docs won the game 7-2. (photo by Thomas Balfour)

ten days is that mental break that we get.”

Members of the team include several medical students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, faculty and staff from USU, civilians attending the University and staff from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Around August every year, the club sends out a mass email to the student body asking if anyone would like to join for the season. It is too late in the current season to join but the team would be happy to take new members in the following season, according to Respondek.

FIGHTING DOCS

GAME SCHEDULE (DIVISION C1)

SUN 3/22 8:55 PM
FIGHTING DOCS vs. SHOOTERS
AT ROCKVILLE ARENA

TUESDAY 3/24 9:45 PM
FIGHTING DOCS vs. LODGE
AT WHEATON ARENA

Lushniak takes command in Liberia

Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, Rear Adm. (Dr.) Boris Lushniak, was recently deployed to Liberia as Commanding Officer of the United States Public Health Service Monrovia Medical Unit. The Unit was staffed by members of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Ebola Response Team, including a number of USU alumni. (Courtesy photos)



USU Master of Public Health program alumnus, PHS Lt. David Dar, a member of the PHS Commissioned Corps Ebola Response Team, served alongside PHS Rear Adm. (Dr.) Boris Lushniak, Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S., in Monrovia, Liberia



Rear Adm. (Dr.) Boris Lushniak assumes command of the U.S. Public Health Service Monrovia Medical Unit in Liberia.



Members of the PHS Monrovia Medical Unit Two stand at attention during the change of command ceremony



Rear Adm. (Dr.) Boris Lushniak (pictured, center right) takes a tour through the Monrovia Medical Unit upon his arrival in Liberia.

Final Frame



Deans from USU's Postgraduate Dental College were on campus recently, participating in the search for a new Postgraduate Dental College Executive Dean. Pictured, from left to right are: USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D., Navy Capt. Glen Munro, dean of the Navy Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda, Air Force Col. Drew Fallis, dean of the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School in San Antonio, Texas and Army Col. Priscilla Hamilton, dean of the Army Postgraduate Dental School headquartered in San Antonio. (Photo by Sharon Holland).