USU awards WRNMMC with 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award

by Eric D. Ritter

Uniformed Services University presented the prestigious 2014 USU Excellence in Teaching Award to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), November 6, in recognition of superior support for USU’s medical and nursing education programs.

According to USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine dean, Dr. Arthur L. Kellermann, Walter Reed, Bethesda was easily selected this year, in part, for the leadership qualities and professionalism they help develop.

“We all know that Walter Reed is where our nation heals its heroes,” he said. “But, it’s also where the nation forges its future leaders of the military health system and American medicine. So, for all of us in the School of Medicine, thank you for the patience you demonstrated when you took our students under your wing. You are making them great nurses, great doctors, because they had Walter Reed as the perfect role model.”

The award takes into consideration the support for the USU teaching programs at military treatment facilities throughout the country, including the commander’s support and that of the faculty, staff and administrative elements.

The award is given to a large and a small military treatment facility each year. Recommendations are given by the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing faculty, and the winner is decided by the deans of the SOM and GSN. This is the eighth year USU has given this award to a military treatment facility.

Major Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark accepts the 2014 USU Excellence in Teaching Award from USU President Charles Rice (right), Deans Carol Romano and Art Kellerman (left) and John Lowe, HJF President and CEO (center). (photo by Eric D. Ritter)
J. Stephen Dumler, MD, has been selected to chair the Department of Pathology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, “America’s Medical School,” effective in January 2016. Dumler will lead a greatly expanded academic enterprise that aligns the academic and service work of the Department of Pathology at USU, the Department of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Joint Pathology Center, the successor organization to the former Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Dumler, who is currently a professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, succeeds Robert Friedman, MD, who retired in 2014 after 34 years as chair of the department.

Dumler received his MD degree from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. His professional training includes residencies in anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a pathology residency and postdoctoral fellowship in Infectious Disease Pathology from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Before joining the University of Maryland’s faculty in 2013, Dumler was a member of the faculty of The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for 17 years, and at the University of Maryland School of Medicine for six years.

His professional and research interests include vector-borne pathogens and tick-borne bacterial diseases, including an improved understanding of the pathogenesis of rickettsial infections such as anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and typhus. He has also made important contributions to research in medical microbiology and parasitology, especially in the development of molecular diagnostics for etiologic agents of acute febrile infections worldwide, including malaria, relapsing fever, and African sleeping sickness, among others. The alignment of the pathology activities and personnel of the Uniformed Services University, WRNMMC and the Joint Pathology Center will create one of the most formidable academic pathology programs in the world.

“The expanded department Steve Dumler is coming to USU to lead combines the outstanding education and cutting-edge research capabilities of our existing Department of Pathology with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center’s world-class Clinical and Anatomic Pathology services and a renowned Pathology residency program,” said Arthur Kellermann, MD, MPH, dean of the Hébert School of Medicine. “In addition, USU’s and WRNMMC’s programs will work closely with the Joint Pathology Center—the federal government’s premier pathology reference center supporting the Military Health System, the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The synergy this combination creates will produce an academic and clinical powerhouse that will provide outstanding service to ill and injured warfighters, advance Pathology research and education and training, and promote high-impact innovations in the United States and worldwide. Steve Dumler’s energy, vision and leadership skills make him the ideal choice to lead this formidable department. We are pleased to welcome him to ‘America’s Medical School.’”
More than 135 Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) brigade staff supported Military Field Practicum (MFP) 202, or "Operation Bushmaster", at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG), Pa., Oct. 5 through Oct. 24, contributing to another successful training evolution.

Operation Bushmaster, the "capstone" of the USU military medical education, serves as a final graded examination for fourth-year medical students at the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at USU.

After "deploying" to FIG, as part of a Joint Task Force tasked with a Show of Force mission, USU students were formally evaluated on their medical knowledge and leadership abilities in a resource constrained, far forward tactical field setting. During a realistic, 96-hour simulated combat zone, students assume leadership and clinical positions in a battalion aid station where they are presented with reality based missions and operational problems for which they have to plan and execute. Simultaneously, students manage the medical care of simulated disease and non-battle injury patients, combat stress and trauma casualties.

Support staff and faculty are essential to carrying out the training.

"An exercise of this scale cannot be accomplished without the absolute dedication of a team," said Army Col. (Dr.) Melissa Givens, assistant professor and director of the MCM course.

"I am humbled and inspired by the dedication and spirit of my USU colleagues as they each contributed in their own unique way. The collaboration between SOM and GSN made for an incredible synergistic effort, all fueled by amazing support staff from across the University.

"I want to highlight a few of the key individuals who gave countless hours of their time: Mr. James Schwartz (Course Co-Director) who makes the magic happen in the field; Master Sgt. Kalili (Course NCOIC) and Senior Chief Dow, MEM’s senior enlisted officer, both consummate professionals who orchestrated a complex compilation of support staff and led it to execute like a seasoned team; Maj. Wanda Michaels and Sgt. First Class Kimbrough (Operations Officer and NCOIC), a dynamic duo of a team who coordinated and executed thousands of individual tasks to ensure the operation flowed seamlessly; Lt. C ol. Carissa Grant, Sgt. Escusa and Ms. Kelly Mullaly (Administrative Officer, NCOIC and our Departmental Secretary), who worked tirelessly to process and execute hundreds of travel orders for individuals all over CONUS; Lt. Gen. (retired) Schoomaker, Dr. John McManigle and Dr. Neil Grunberg (MEM Leadership Team) who completely revamped our approach to faculty development and student leadership evaluation; Dr Goolsby who coordinated all casualties and simulation, and finally our GSN colleagues who ran our casualty moulage (Maj. Brian Kittleson and Lt. Col. Andrea Fuller), working round the clock to process over two thousand casualties for the benefit of our student’s learning.

“There are literally hundreds more I could thank, and I hope you all realize the role you play in educating the future leaders of military medicine.”

Students learned how to carry stretchers and patients over several different terrains to effectively transport patients through a field environment.
Students learned several field combat techniques such as stacking and room clearing.

Learning to care for a patient in tight spaces.

First-year medical students, U.S. Naval Academy midshipment and USU faculty volunteered to play victims to add more realism to the exercise.

Students learned how to work under pressure such as evacuating a patient while under fire after a simulated IED blast.
Rear Adm. (Dr.) David Lane has been named as the next director of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. (USMC photo)

USU Alumnus Rear Adm. David Lane to direct WRNMMC

By Sharon Holland

Rear Adm. (Dr.) David Lane, a 1991 graduate of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, has been named as the next director of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Lane, who is currently serving as The Medical Officer of the Marine Corps and the director of Health Services for the Marine Corps, enlisted in the Navy in 1975 as a hospital corpsman. He was later accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1981. Lane subsequently served as a naval flight officer in EA-6B Prowler aircraft prior to attending medical school at USU.

After medical school, Lane completed a family medicine residency at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Wash., and served on clinical staffs at the Naval Hospital Bremerton, Naval Health Clinic Groton, and Naval Medical Center San Diego before being selected as Aide to the Surgeon General of the Navy. He has also cared for patients at the Naval Hospital Rota Spain, Naval Health Clinic Newport, Rhode Island, Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, and most recently at the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, where he served as Commanding Officer. Lane also served as a command surgeon with the Marines in the Pacific area of operations from 2004-2012, and spent two years at Yale University School of Medicine as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.

“I am delighted that Admiral Lane has been named to the directorship of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. I have known and worked with him for many years and I know that he, as a USU alumnus, understands the critical importance of a close working relationship between the medical center and the university. I am confident that he will build on the outstanding groundwork of Maj. Gen. Jeff Clark,” said Charles L. Rice, MD, USU President.

USU founding Psychiatry professor wins William Cullen Bryant award

By Sharon Holland

Navy Rear Adm. (ret) John C. Duffy, founding Psychiatry professor at Uniformed Services University (USU), received The William Cullen Bryant Award, October 22, which recognizes individuals who, in the tradition of New York Medical College (NYMC) Founder William Cullen Bryant, demonstrate distinguished leadership in health care, science, education, business or the arts. Duffy has held academic appointments at six medical schools, three of them start-ups. He has also launched a medical institute and a medical journal. Today, at 81, he is professor and director of international clerkship services at the University of Central Florida’s College of Medicine, a four-year-old institution that just graduated its first class.

After graduating NYMC in 1960, Dr. Duffy entered an internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit that sparked an interest in pediatrics, but the escalation of the Vietnam War caused him to delay his residency and join the Air Force as a flight surgeon. Research with pilots led to an interest in the psychology of stress—and an award from the Aerospace Medical Association. He has participated in life-saving operations on several occasions with the U.S. Coast Guard, including rescues at sea where he was dropped by a harness from a helicopter onto a ship carrying seriously ill and injured service personnel.

Those early experiences in academia and the military launched a 45-year career mixing academic and clinical medicine with military and public health service. Duffy’s first stop was the University of Minnesota’s child psychiatry program, where he succeeded its retiring chair. Five years into that position, his first start-up opportunity came knocking. “The University of Arizona in Tucson was opening a new medical school, and they offered me the opportunity to head a new department of child psychiatry,” he says. “I developed a reputation as a guy who knew how to do academic start-ups.” Just two years later, Duffy was drafted for a similar challenge at the newly established USU.

“This award has special significance for me, as it comes from my medical school, whose imprint in my life has always been a major part of my career,” said Duffy.
McAndrews selected for NPWH Reporter Program

by MC3 Laura Bailey

Air Force Capt. Jennifer McAndrews, a nursing student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) program at the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), at the Uniformed Services University, attended the 18th Annual National Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH) Premiere Women’s Healthcare Conference, in Salt Lake City, Oct. 14 through the 17. She was selected to be a student reporter as part of the second student cohort of the NPWH Reporter Program.

“The NPWH serves as the professional organization for the women’s health specialty in nursing,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Jennifer A. Korkosz, the director of clinical education for the GSN’s WHNP program at USU. “Each year, NPWH sponsors students from nursing schools around the country to attend the annual conference in October.”

The program aims to build a community of women’s health nurse practitioner students nationally and provide those students the opportunity to connect with and learn from expert WHNPs and advanced practice registered nurses working in women’s health care.

“The student reporter program is a unique concept that NPWH has recently adopted,” said McAndrews. “We were required to assist with a variety of administrative functions while simultaneously serving as ambassadors for our schools. There were so many people who had no idea that USU existed and they were interested to hear about our program. Many were interested to hear how my schooling differs from that of my civilian counterparts.

“There are so many leadership opportunities in nursing,” said McAndrews. “I met many nursing leaders serving the profession in a variety of ways. More often than not, these nurses were nearing retirement and were actively seeking their replacements. As doctoral prepared nurses, we need to consider filling these roles so that our profession can continue to innovate and grow.”

Poster presentations, vendor booths, health promotions with yoga and a group run/walk kept her busy, but she enjoyed every minute, she said.

“It was outstanding,” said McAndrews. “Not only did I benefit from all of the educational experiences, I was able to meet many military nurses from around the country and got a behind-the-scenes view of what it takes to pull off such a large conference. There were over 500 healthcare professionals in attendance and between the conference and pre-conference there were 42 lectures and hands-on learning experiences. I was also able to hear what other NP students were working on in their programs. Without a doubt I would attend this conference again and now I’m excited to see what other conferences have to offer.”

Quit Like a Champion

You’ve always said you could go the distance; that you could stop lifting that pack at any time; that you had the strength and the willpower to be a quitter. Well, the American Cancer Society is hoping you’ll prove it – to yourself. On Thursday, November 19, we present the American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout event. It’s a day where defeating tobacco becomes a team sport. Sure, overcoming the obstacle of addiction can feel like a personal competition, but when you go one-on-one with tobacco, we’re all in your corner. So get ready, because with enough dedication, drive, and support, this is the day you’re going to lose – the cigarettes. We know it’s a challenge. But if you can win one day, you can win them all. Give the fans of your life something to cheer about. Quit like a champion. To learn more, visit cancer.org/smokeout or call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345.

Air Force Capt. Jennifer McAndrews, was selected to be a student reporter as part of the second student cohort of the 18th annual NPWH Reporter Program. (Courtesy photo)
To help kick off this year’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey, aka “Lindsay Lohan” addresses her adoring public as the winner of the CFC costume contest, October 30. (Photo by Tom Balfour)