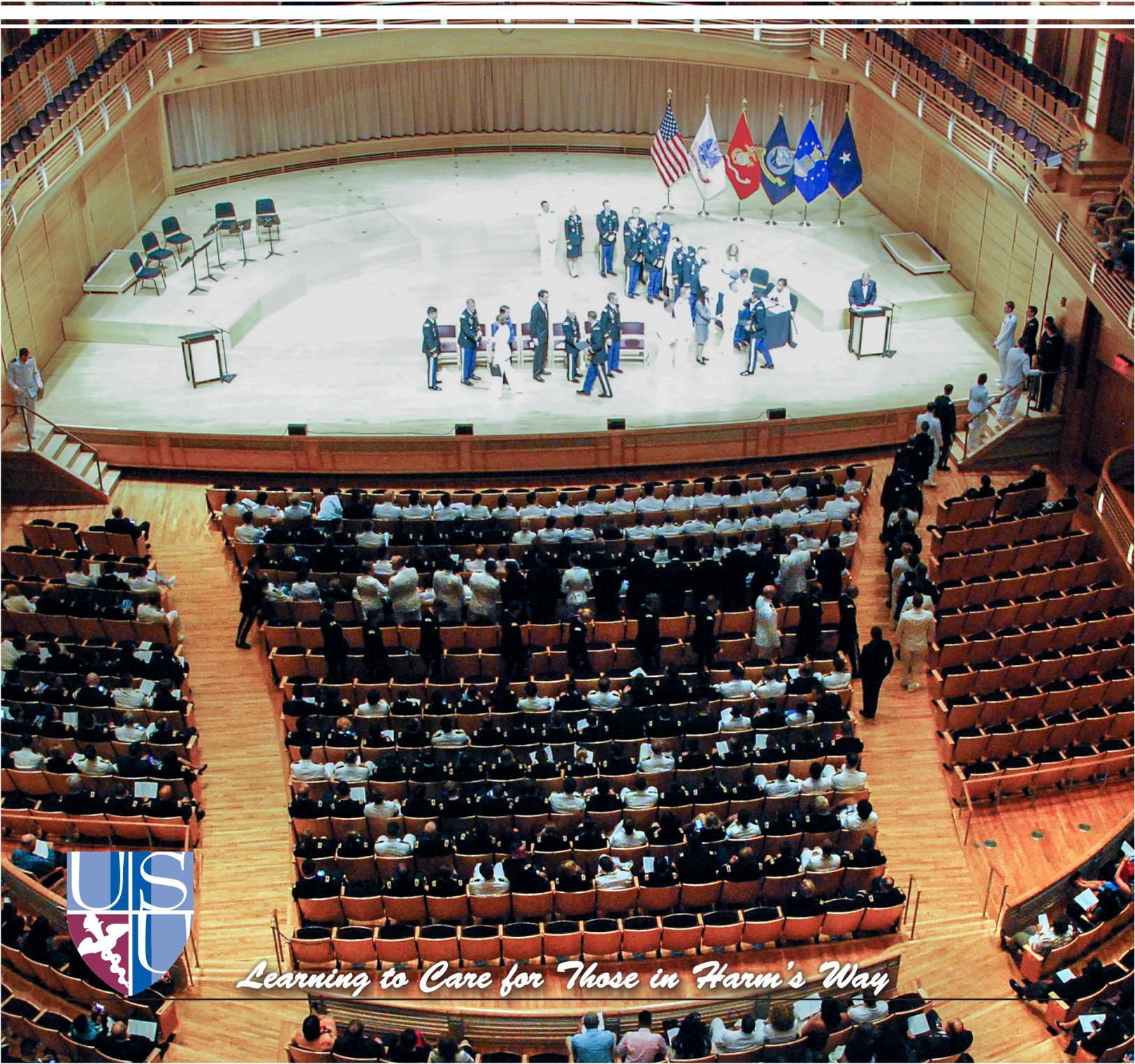


The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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*Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way*

**Sharon Holland**

Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

**Christopher Austin**

Writer and Interim Editor

**MC2 Laura Bailey**

Writer and Photographer

**SSgt. Stephanie Morris, USAF**

Writer and Photographer

**Sarah Marshall**

Contributing Writer and Photographer

**Tom Balfour**

Photographer

**Production**

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# Army Celebrates 241st Birthday



Col. (Dr.) Thomas Oliver, ret. Gen. Ronald H. Griffith, and Cpl. Xavier Susana cut the cake for the Army's 241st birthday celebration at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, June 14. (Photo by Army Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon)

By Christopher Austin

Army students, staff and faculty at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated the service branch's 241st birthday on June 14 in Sanford Auditorium.

"The American Soldier trains, deploys, and engages and destroys enemies of the United States in combat operations as the world's premier land force. Our theme this year is the American Soldier: always ready always leading. Soldiers serve as the cornerstone of the Army profession," Army Capt. Amanda Cline said in the celebration's welcoming statement. "As Army professionals, we are grateful for the opportunity to maintain the trust and confidence of the American people while adding to our legacy of 241 years strong."

Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army Chief of Staff, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey both appeared in a commemorative video for the event.

The highlight of the celebration was the speech given by Gen. (ret.) Ronald H. Griffith, former U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff and current member of the Board of Regents, who spoke about his Army career and the importance of healthcare teams to the military.

"When I was senior level in the Army, I can tell you, on the battlefield, there's no one more important than the medical support," Griffith said. "I know that you're here and you're thinking about your future, and you may get a chance to serve in a hospital, but don't forget your ultimate mission is to take care of the Soldier on the battlefield."

After the event, Griffith was given a memento from the university for speaking at the event.

**On the cover**

The 2016 National Capital Area Joint Service Graduate Medical Education Graduation Ceremony was held June 17 at the Strathmore Music Center. See story, pg. 5. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris)

# Hamlette, Smith Awarded Civilian of the Year 2015

By Christopher Austin

Admissions counselor Lenora Hamlette and transportation specialist Deborah Smith have been recognized as Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) junior and senior employees of the year for 2015, respectively.

Hamlette has worked for the Office of Admissions for the past 13 years, and was recognized for her dedication to helping incoming students in their first introductions to USU.

Her primary roles include counseling potential applicants, briefing incoming interviewees on the application process, writing weekly reports for the Dean of the The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SoM) and the Admissions Committee, and keeping track of all admissions and declinations.

“This is a heavy workload, as all acceptees must pass a medical examination and security clearance. (Hamlette) does an outstanding job coordinating with the Military Personnel Office and the Security Office,” Director of the USU Office of Admissions Joan Stearman said in her nomination letter. “Staff from these offices have informed me that they value working with her.”

Stearman also commends Hamlette for her role as action officer for the Second Look Day.

“It was so impressive to watch her coordinate all the aspects of this event, including the lectures and a hospital tour at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center” Stearman said.

In addition, Hamlette reached



*Admissions counselor Lenora Hamlette is the Junior Employee of 2015. (Photo by Tom Balfour)*

out to the Student Spouses Club to help them have an easy transition into school life, organized an Open Mic event and coordinated with the Dean’s Office to ensure accepted students and their families would be welcomed by the medical school dean.

Smith was awarded senior employee of the year – and was awarded senior employee of the second quarter of 2015 – for her work on the student travel program.

Her role is to facilitate the travel and accommodations of USU students as they travel across the world in pursuit of their education. She advises SoM dean, assistant dean of Student Affairs, SoM, and the commandant of the SoM, on financial matters regarding the student travel budget.

Smith has negotiated several contracts for lodging and transportation at 31 military installations in addition to managing daily opera-



*Transportation specialist Deborah Smith is the Senior Employee of 2015. (Photo by Tom Balfour)*

tions of the Student Travel program.

“Smith continues to serve as the subject matter expert for the SOM Student Travel Program since her recognition as employee of the quarter...she continues to excel in her duties and responsibilities,” Teneza said in her nomination letter for Smith as senior employee of the year.

Smith’s review of student travel orders led to saving the school more than \$770,000.

She has worked for the University for 20 years.

# USU Walter Reed Surgery Department Participates in Organ Summit Pilot Program

*Courtesy Article*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is participating in a new pilot program designed to pioneer kidney paired donation chains, started via the military share program, in which families of active duty service members donate one of their kidneys to patients listed for transplant at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

Kidney paired donation is a transplant option for candidates who have a living donor who is medically able, but cannot donate a kidney to their intended candidate because they are not compatible. In announcing the program as part

of the White House-hosted Organ Summit, officials said this effort is to help sensitized patients, who are hard to match, to receive kidney transplants.

Through this initiative, service members around the country can also help some of the hardest-to-match veterans and their dependents to receive transplants using kidneys from the military share program, while at the same time facilitating life-saving kidney-paired donation chains for civilian patients, officials said.

"We are excited to participate in this initiative, which has the potential to increase organ allocation for our patients," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Eric Elster, professor and chairman

of surgery at USU and Walter Reed. "While it will require overcoming logistical barriers, we in military medicine excel at such challenges."

Army Maj. (Dr.) Jason Hawksworth, transplant chief at Walter Reed, said his team "looks forward to contributing to the innovative initiative that may exponentially increase the availability of life-saving transplants on patients throughout the nation."

The USU Walter Reed Department of Surgery performs an average of 30 transplants per year on patients from across the country, and the medical center also maintains a living donor kidney transplant program that participates in national paired kidney exchanges.

## USU hosts 9th Annual Faculty Senate Education Day

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Faculty Senate hosted its 9th annual Education Day on June 8. The event promotes continuing education of the faculty, staff and students at USU and its affiliated teaching institutions, provides interdisciplinary discussion of innovative and effective strategies used in health science education, and facilitates transfer of strategies between and among research and clinical disciplines. This year's Education Day guest speakers were Harprit Singh Bedi, M.D., vice chair of radiology at Tufts University School of Medicine, and J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean emeritus and professor of Medical Education and Internal Medicine at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. *(Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris)*



*Dr. Charles L. Rice, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences president, greets guest speakers during the 9th Annual Faculty Senate Education Day at USU on June 8.*



*Dr. Harprit Singh Bedi, associate professor of radiology and otolaryngology from Tufts University School of Medicine, speaks to faculty at Education Day on June 8.*

# National Capital Consortium Holds Annual Graduation Ceremony



*A National Capital Consortium Graduate Medical Education graduate exits the stage after receiving her certificate during the 2016 National Capital Area Joint Service Graduation Ceremony at the Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda, Md., on June 17. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris)*

*By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris*

Approximately 300 interns, residents and fellows received certificates of completion from more than 60 training programs in Army, Navy, Air Force and joint DoD health care facilities throughout the National Capital Region during the 2016 National Capital Area Joint Service Graduation Ceremony on June 17.

The ceremony, held at Strathmore Music Center, recognized the completion of National Capital Consortium (NCC) post-graduate training programs

“This ceremony is held to celebrate the completion of one to seven years of Graduate Medical Education after the completion of medi-

cal school,” said Jerri Curtis, M.D., executive director of the NCC and associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). “It is the largest GME ceremony in the entire Department of Defense.”

The event requires approximately nine months of detailed planning every year between USU and the GME office at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

More than 1,000 family members, friends and military personnel also attended the event to show their support for the graduates.

“These graduates, who make up one third of the entire medical corps in the Army, Navy and Air Force, are the future of military medicine,” Curtis said. “This day recognizes each one of them and their families.”

Special awards were also presented to some of this year’s outstanding graduates from WRNMMC and the NCC medical education programs.

The ceremony dates back to the 1940s when GME took place at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center. A combined graduation was held after the inception of the NCC in 1995.

# Annual State Event Honors Anatomy Donors

By Christopher Austin

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) visited Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville, Md., on June 20 for the yearly ceremony to commemorate those who have donated their bodies to medical research. The event was hosted by the Anatomy Board of Maryland.

The USU anatomy lab makes use of these donations in teaching medical students, allowing them to learn about the human body in a safe and realistic environment.

Patient diagnosis and treatment depends heavily on anatomy, said Dr. Alan Seyfer, the chair of the Maryland Anatomy Board and co-chair of the School of Medicine's gross anatomy course. Staging of tumors and the treatment it receives depends heavily on anatomical classification.

"We try to make it a highly respectful and ethical treatment of these people that are truly, in many ways, the student's first patients," Seyfer said.

A crowd of families gathered to witness the ceremony, which included representatives from religious and medical organizations from across the state giving thanks for the donations made by the deceased.

"It really makes a difference," said Ronn Wade, director of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "Whether it's studies related to Parkinson's dis-



*Dr. Alan Seyfer, the chair of the Maryland State Anatomy Board and co-director of the School of Medicine's gross anatomy course at USU, gives a speech to honor those who have donated their bodies to medical study. (Photo by Christopher Austin)*

ease, Diabetes – [these donations] go a long way to advancing medical science.

"It's the legacy that helps them to live on," he continued. "We must respect and honor not just the donor, but the family."

"It is [the donor's] generous nature to care not just for their generation, but for generations to come," Richardson said.

The event closed with a note of gratitude from Maya Koretzky, a student from Johns Hopkins University, who read a letter of thanks to the gathered families.

"Long before we work with a living body, we learn with your donations," Koretzky said. "I'm forever indebted to you and your help with my education."

An annual memorial service is held at USU for those not able to attend the ceremony in Sykesville. The event is organized by Ron Rivenburg, the administrator of the Anatomical Gift Program that oversees the donations to USU.

"We accept an average of 100 donors annually to USU. Two years ago, I began an annual tradition of hosting a memorial service, which honors the donors," he said. "In our first year we had 15 guests, and in our second year over 55 attended combined with 150 more USU staff and students. With [service members] schedules being chaotic, a service here is the best tribute."

# University Awarded Grant from Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare

## Courtesy Article

As part of the national effort to address the shortage of nursing faculty and the number of advanced practice nurses providing direct patient care, the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare has awarded a \$70,000 grant to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) to advance the scholarly work of two individual Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science (Ph.D.) and five individual Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students in the university's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN).

The seven USU Jonas scholars join the 425 other 2016 scholars and the more than 1,000 bestowed on future nurse educators and leaders at 140 schools across all 50 states supported by Jonas Center programs. USU's awards are part of the Center's Jonas Veterans Healthcare Program which supports nurses pursuing Ph.D.s and DNPs, both terminal degrees in the nursing field.

As the nation's leading philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education, the Jonas Center is addressing the critical need for qualified nursing faculty. U.S. nursing schools turned away nearly 70,000 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2014, due in large part to an insufficient number of faculty. Further, nearly two-thirds of registered nurses over age 54 say they are considering retirement.

Donald Jonas who co-founded the Jonas Center with his wife Barbara Jonas, said "In 2008, we set an

ambitious goal to support 1,000 Jonas Nurse Scholars. This year, on our Center's 10th anniversary, we celebrate this achievement and are amazed by the talent of this cohort of future nurse leaders. In the decade to come, we look forward to continuing to work with our partner nursing schools and to the great impact that the Jonas Scholars will have on improving healthcare around the world."

"We are excited that this grant will allow our school to enhance the research and scholarly inquiry of uniformed nurse officers who will serve as future military health leaders, educators, scientists, and advanced practice clinicians," said Dr. Diane Seibert, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.

The seven 2016-2018 USU Jonas Scholars were competitively selected from the GSN students who matriculated in 2015. Two Ph.D. students, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kennett Radford and Army Maj. Christopher Stucky, and five DNP students – Army Captains Melissa Boetig, Amy Brzuchalski, and Christina Terehoff, Air Force Capt. Tekia Jones, and Navy Lt. Colleen Spiri – will receive support from the Jonas Foundation.

This is the second time USU students have been selected for the prestigious award. The first USU



*The Jonas Scholars of the 2016-2018 cohort met for the first time on June 30. (Photo by Christopher Austin)*

Jonas Scholars (2014-2016 cohort) included five Ph.D. students Navy Lt. Commanders. William Danchanko, Lalon Kasuke, and John Litchfield, and Air Force Majors Jacqueline Killian and Laurie Migliore, and two DNP Scholar groups: Army Majors Audry Torres and Imshin Kim, Captains Jeremy Mahoney and Elizabeth Poindexter (Scholar Team I), Air Force Captains Michael Allen and Alexander Kats and Air Force Maj. Jenifer Prosser (Scholar Team II).

"The Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing is very pleased that this grant will support the scholarship of future military nurse educators and leaders who will advance nursing science and the expansion of evidence-based practice for military and veterans' health care," said Dr. Carol Romano, dean of the Inouye Graduate School of Nursing.

# Final Frame



*Members of the University's military Brigade were recognized for their outstanding achievements during a Brigade awards ceremony, June 24. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon)*