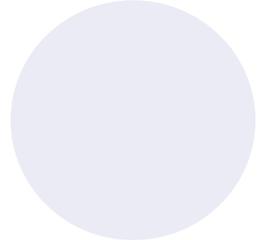
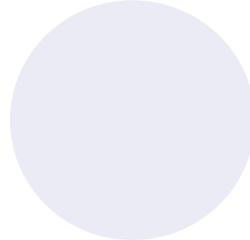


# Truman VA Bulletin



April 3, 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 7

## WELCOME:

**Denis Clayborne-Harris,**  
Medical Supply Aid (PS)

**Deborah Henderson,**  
Cook (Canteen)

**Jason Jones, RN,**  
Staff Nurse (PC)

**Michael Leyden,**  
Telephone Operator (HAS)

**Carl Smith,**  
Telephone Operator (HAS)

**Jessica Teter, MD,**  
Staff Physician (PC)

## FAREWELL:

**Elton Lamberson,**  
Med. Instrument Tech. (SC)

**Gary Uhrich,** Housekeeping  
Aid (FM) \* deceased

**Carol Vaughn, RN,**  
Staff Nurse (PS)

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## Truman VA Hoop Stars

Here's a quick trivia question for you! How many VA employees across the nation helped lead their high school boys' basketball teams in scoring and served as team captain? The answer is one.

**Brandon Gleason**, a senior at Frederick Douglass High School, is completing his second year in a unique "partnership in education" program between the school and Truman VA. He works as a medical supply aid in the VAMC's sterile processing department.

The "industry-based partnership," which began in August 1998, allows up to 10 Douglass students to spend their entire school day at the VAMC. Students spend half of their day in a classroom with their Douglass High teacher, **Steve Pass**, and the other half in a paid part-time job. More than 100 Douglass students have participated in the program during the past 11 school years. A handful of program gradu-



Tanner Cassil, 3rd from left, and Brandon Gleason, 4th from left, in the huddle.

ates have found permanent employment opportunities at Truman VA.

Brandon was featured earlier this season on the sports pages the *Columbia Missourian*. His coach, **Lynn Allen**, quoted in the article, said, "He's the best leader we've had in the 12 years that I've been here." The coach also added that Brandon has excelled on the court and off by scoring 19 points per game, being a straight-A student and maintaining his job at the

VA hospital. Brandon is not the only VA employee on the Douglass Bulldog squad. **Tanner Cassil**, who works as a recreation aid, is another key contributor on the court. The high school junior is very popular with residents on the VAMC's Community Living Center.

The VA-Douglass partnership yields benefits for involved students, the high school and the VAMC. Benefits for students include (1) a paid job, a moti-

## Hoop Stars, Continued from Page 1



vation for improved school attendance; (2) increased self-esteem; (3) increased work skills such as timeliness, attendance, cooperation with supervisors and co-workers and some technical skills that are transferable to other health-related jobs; and (4) being treated as adults in a "working world" environment. Benefits for the high school include (1) the program supports the mission of schools to increase the likelihood of success for students as participating citizens in our society; (2)

VAMC resources, i.e., personnel, space, expertise, are available to assist with other school programs; (3) the VA employee association assists with scholarships; and (4) there are increased opportunities for student involvement in community activities such as Veterans Day and disaster drills. Benefits to the VAMC include (1) recognition from the larger community and school district as a full-fledged, engaged community partner; (2) ongoing connection between medical center

employees and the school through contact with students and the Douglass teacher; and (3) several Douglass students have found permanent employment opportunities at the VAMC.

## O I & T "Computer Corner"

*"The idea is to provide enough bandwidth (circuits) to accommodate above average usage but not necessarily the highest possible usage..."*

Over the past 10+ years, VA has branched out to local communities by providing Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). These endeavors require a significant amount of Information Technology (IT) services. One of the greatest challenges in providing IT services to a remote facility is providing adequate bandwidth for the data communication needs of the site without financially committing to more than we need. If you have ever made a call on Mother's Day, you may have heard "all circuits are busy, please try again later." The idea is to provide enough bandwidth (circuits) to accommodate above average usage but not necessarily the highest possible usage (i.e., Mother's Day). This concept is referred to as "over subscribing" and is fundamental in balancing

usage to cost. Four of our six CBOCs have a circuit type called T1, operating at 1.544 Mega Bits. The Jefferson City and Kirksville clinics have dual T1's, operating at 3 Mega Bits each. The hospital business office, which recently moved to a remote location, uses a T3 circuit that operates at more than 48 Mega Bits. VA users at the hospital all have a minimum of 100 Mega Bits and some even have 1,000 Mega Bits per second connections. OI&T continues to monitor and deploy additional resources in areas that demand greater bandwidth in order to meet the ever changing environment in health care.



## Prevention of Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of this hospital that all employees enjoy a working environment free from all forms of discrimination including sexual harassment and discrimination based upon one's sexual orientation. No employee, either male or female, should be subjected to unsolicited or unwelcome sexual overtures, verbal or physical conduct. Sexual harassment, like any other form of employee misconduct, will not be tolerated.

to sexually harass another employee by (1) making acceptance of unwelcome sexual advances or request for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature a condition of an employee's continued employment; or (2) making submission to or rejections of such conduct the basis for employment decisions affecting the employee; or (3) creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment by such conduct.

mediately inform their supervisor, service line director, the EEO Program Manager or an Office of Resolution Management (ORM) EEO Counselor at 888-737-3361 *within 45 calendar days* of the date of occurrence of the event or alleged act. Questions regarding sexual harassment and the EEO discrimination complaint process should be directed to **Sara Hake**, EEO Program Manager, at extension 56316.

Specifically, it is illegal and against VA policies for any employee, male or female,

Employees that believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment should im-

## National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day, April 16, is a nationwide effort focused on educating and making patients aware of the importance of end-of-life planning and advance directives. This is something hospitals do every day, which is why the American Hospital Association encourages its members to join the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the

American Bar Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization to support this effort. For more information, visit the following site:

<http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org>

## Occupational Therapy Month

Occupational therapy (OT) is the profession that focuses on life skills. In recognition of all the ways OT contributes to society's well being, April has been designated as Occupational Therapy Month. For many Veterans, OT is a lifeline. It helps them continue to participate in "occupations" or desired daily life activities that help them stay engaged in things that provide a sense of purpose and independence despite physical, cognitive,

visual or psychosocial challenges. Sometimes Veterans need OT services to do things others take for granted such as getting dressed, performing leisure activities, living alone, getting around in the community, eating unassisted or even socializing.

Occupational therapists assist Veterans in continuing to lead purposeful lives by helping them learn or regain

skills, prescribing adaptive equipment to compensate for limitations and/or making recommendations to maximize safety and function in their home or community. At Truman VA, the OT Clinic is located on the second floor. For more information, contact **Michael Taylor**, Supervisory Occupational Therapist at extension 53596.

*“National Healthcare Decisions Day is a nation-wide effort focused on educating and making patients aware of the importance of end-of-life planning”*



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Columbia, MO 65201

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.COLUMBIAMO.VA  
.GOV

# April Service Pin Recipients

## 20-Years

**William E. Lee,**  
Housekeeping Aid (FM)

## 15-Years

**Patrick D. Sheridan,**  
Medical Support Assistant (PS)

## 10-Years

**Ronda J. Charbonneau, RN,**  
Staff Nurse (PS)

## 5-Years

**Kathy S. Braden,**  
Respiratory Therapy Technician (SC)

**Jasmit K. Khurana, RPh,**  
Pharmacist (Pharmacy)

**Kelly L. Koenig,**  
Medical Support Assistant (SC)

**Dillis L. Nagel,**  
Respiratory Therapy Technician (SC)

**Ginger P. Spratt,**  
Respiratory Therapy Technician (SC)

## NOTICE

Veterans seeking information about their rights under the proposed settlement of the court case involving the May 3, 2006, theft of computer equipment from the home of a former VA employee can visit <http://www.VeteransClass.com> for more information.

## Odds & Ends

### DIVERSITY DAY REMINDER

As we reported earlier, you can participate in Truman VA's 2009 Diversity Day event on June 25. In order to celebrate our past, current and future diverse population, and to make our theme of "We Are America" come to life, the EEO Committee is seeking volunteers willing to speak in their native language, provide cultural music and model costumes or attire from their cultural/ancestral background. For more information, contact **Jeff Kimbro** (HR) at extension 56402. The deadline for volunteers is April 15.

### ALL EMPLOYEE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

All employee town hall meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, April 7 at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

### VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

**Brenda McCoy** (Research) and **Katherine Wills** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) for information.

Enjoy Your  
Freedom?  
Thank A  
Veteran!