



July 13, 2007



# Truman VA BULLETIN



## WELCOME

**Faith Andrulot, LPN** (PS)  
**Theresa Berry**, Readjustment Counseling Therapist (BH)  
**Felicia Casady**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)  
**Judy Conover**, Patient Services Assistant (BH)  
**Emily Crawford**, Psychology Intern (BH)  
**Rick Deaton**, Medical Supply Technician (PS)  
**Connie Dunn, RNP** (PC)  
**Tiffanie Fennell**, Psychology Intern (BH)  
**Donna Guill**, Food Service Worker (Canteen)  
**Shani Higgins**, Psychology Intern (BH)  
**Maria Hollabaugh**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)  
**Austin Krohn**, Optometry Resident (SC)  
**Jessica Mitchell**, Surgical Technician (PS)  
**Ping Moore**, Optometry Resident (SC)  
**Sanjiv Sethi, MD**, Staff Psychiatrist (BH)  
**Jennifer Su**, Psychology Intern (BH)  
**Michelle Tourville**, Medical Supply Technician (PS)  
**Cindi Wilkerson**, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)

## FAREWELL

**Nancy Kerpash, RN** (PS)  
**Duc Nguyen, MD**, Staff Physician (SC)  
**Katherine Osborn**, Optometry Resident (SC)  
**Keith Tyhurst**, Optometry Resident (SC)

## VA INFORMATION PROTECTION AWARENESS WEEK

The Information Protection Awareness Week Fair activities at Truman VA were deemed a big success by event planners. The week's theme was "Achieving the Gold Standard: Building and Strengthening Our Capabilities." Held June 25-29, almost 700 staff members visited the fair and picked up informational brochures, perused posters and received prizes and food. Off-tour and CBOC staff members were not forgotten with packets of information and "goodies" prepared by the Veterans Canteen Service staff and distributed to them as well. The fair's finale was a drawing for an IPOD, sponsored by the Employees Association and the Canteen Service. **David Wilcoxson** (BUS) was the lucky winner. The steering committee for the fair was chaired by **Jan Driskill**, Acting Associate Director. Committee members included **Renee Claypool**; **Adette Hatfield, RN**; **Chrys Higginbotham**; **Peggy Wilburn**; **Nathan Witt** and **Paul Young**. A special thanks is extended to

**Margaret Barnes, Cindy Morgan, Vickie Stockglausner, Marilyn Thomas** and Canteen Service staff members for their assistance. Finally, a big thank you is extended to Voluntary Service and the Youth Volunteers that popped the popcorn that attracted so many participants to the activity.

## JULY SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

### 25-Years

**Walter D. Harris** (FM) ★  
**Paul J. Kurzejeski** (SC) ★  
**Dwight Williams** (PS) ★

### 20-Years

**Shirley S. Blair, RN** (PS) ★  
**Ronald L. Hansing, MD** (CS) ★  
**Geraldine Rhodes** (BUS) ★  
**Sarah D. Seeger** (PC) ★

### 15-Years

**Russell B. Wilson** (SC) ★

### 10-Years

**Maureen A. O'Rourke, LPN** (PS) ★  
**Mohan Rao, MD** (PC) ★  
**Terry G. Thornhill** (Pharmacy) ★

### 5-Years

**Roja Balakrishnan, MD** (PC) ★  
**Farrukh Jawaid, MD** (PC) ★  
**Jerome J. Mank, MD** (PC) ★  
**Cade E. Mayberry** (FM) ★  
**Kenneth McClelland** (FM) ★



## NOMINATIONS FOR TRUMAN VA'S FEDERAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Truman VA's Federal Women's Program of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Committee is soliciting nominations for the 2007 Federal Woman of the Year award(s). Nomination forms are available on the hospital home page or from **Melissa "Missy" Bell**, Federal Women's Program Manager, room B-312. Completed nominations should be returned to Missy no later than close of business on Friday, July 27. Award recipients will be announced at the Women's Equality Day program on Monday, August 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. **Judy McKee**, Associate Director at the Kansas City VAMC, will be the featured speaker.

## VETERAN'S NIGHT AT BOONE COUNTY FAIR

The Boone County Fair Board recently announced its decision to hold a Veteran's Night at the fair on Monday, July 23. All U.S. military veterans will receive free admission on that date.

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The following employees have been appointed for a two-year term as Controlled Substance Inspectors at Truman VA: **Bill Albert** (SC); **Don Davis** (FM); **Kathy Karl** (PS); **Barbara Michael** (ADIR/Learning Resources); **Holly Myers** (BUS); **Raymond Paxton** (BH) and **Amber Roberts** (PC). They will join the following current inspectors: **Wally Campbell** (BUS); **Paul Kurzejeski** (SC); **Dianne Mirtz** (PC); **Wade Park** (COS) and **Charles Truelove** (CS). The new inspectors will begin independent assignments in this collateral role on Aug. 1. The inspectors are responsible each month for conducting unannounced audits of on-hand narcotic inventories and certifying the accuracy of the associated records. A ward nurse, clinic nurse or anesthetist, depending on the area being surveyed, is expected to accompany the inspectors during their reviews. The review must be done at the time the inspectors report to an area. Any discrepancies noted during the monthly inspections must be resolved by the area supervisor at the time of the review. Staff in areas being reviewed should provide full access and support to the inspectors in a helpful and courteous manner. If any problems or concerns arise, please contact **Vickie Stockglausner**, Controlled Substance Inspection Coordinator, at extension 56593 or **Peggy Wilburn**, Alternate Controlled Substance Inspection Coordinator, at extension 56438.

### NEW VA UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH: Q & A

**Michael J. Kussman, MD**, was sworn in July 9 as VA's Under Secretary for Health. Dr. Kussman has served as Acting Under Secretary since last August. Before joining VA in 2000, he served in the U.S. Army for more than 25 years and achieved the rank of brigadier general. The following interview will be broadcast by "The American Veteran."

#### Q: What drew you to VA rather than private practice or teaching?

A: I wanted to continue to serve, even though I was taking my uniform off after over a quarter of a century of service. I am eternally grateful to VA for offering me that opportunity.

#### Q: VA has become a recognized leader in health care delivery and quality. How did VA turn around its reputation over the last 10-15 years?

A: We went from a hospital-based system to a patient-

based and clinic-based system in the mid-'90s. We put a lot of emphasis on performance and outcomes and quality. That enabled us to provide the best care anywhere. We have the best electronic health record system in the world, allowing us to monitor what we do and look at outcomes.

#### Q: How do electronic health records improve health care for veterans?

A: First, the system was built little by little by the same people who provided care. Our homegrown system allows us to monitor and track what we are doing. For instance, we lost no records during Hurricane Katrina. Wherever patients went, we could pull up their records from our hospital in New Orleans. Performances like that are why President Bush uses VA as the model in his initiative to have electronic health records everywhere in the country.

#### Q: What are some of the major challenges you'll tackle in the next year?

A: Our challenge is to take care of new veterans while not forgetting about all the other veterans from previous wars. The future will depend on how well we take care of these new veterans. They're a different generation, with different expectations and needs, such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other issues. We have to be cognizant of that, while we build on all the positive things we've done.

#### Q: What is VA doing to address the particular health concerns of the growing number of women in the military, particularly now that many are experiencing combat?

A: This is a very important issue for us. Women have unique health issues, from obstetrics to breast cancer to other gynecological issues. All our facilities have clinics for women to address their issues. Also, it appears that women may have different reactions to PTSD than men. We have specialized treatments for women with PTSD. We have a program in Palo Alto for women that's very sophisticated, as well as an inpatient facility in Cincinnati that only caters to women. We're also very aware that we serve a lot of women veterans now who are in childbearing age, and we don't deliver babies. So we've contracted for that, as appropriate.

#### Q: Is there one bit of advice or comment or invitation you'd like to make to both active duty service members and veterans?

A: Yes. **We're here for you!** The only reason we exist is to provide a spectrum of services to the veteran. We have great people and I think we're doing a very good job, but we're not perfect. When we make mistakes or things don't go well, we want to hear about it from our constituents. We'll accept responsibility for it and fix it. But VA is a great organization that's here for the veteran, and we want veterans to take advantage of that.

enjoy your freedom?

thank a veteran!