



Truman VA BULLETIN

AUGUST 24, 2007

WELCOME

Karim Ahamed, MD, Staff Physician (SC)
Emily Andsager, Graduate Practical Nurse (PS)
Tanneeka Clark, Medical Support Assistant (PS)
Josie Evertson, RN (PS)
Leigh Fleck, Student Nurse Technician (PS)
Julie Heese, Social Worker (PS)
Joseph Hinkebein, PhD, Psychologist (BH)
Ronnell Hinson, Respiratory Therapist (SC)
Lorri Martin, Physical Therapist (CS)
Tracy Moister, Physician Assistant (SC)
Deborah Overby, Audiologist (SC)
Amy Swofford, Medical Laboratory Aide (CS)
Melissa Van Steenburgh, Social Worker (PS)
Tyron Yancey, Food Service Worker (BUS)



FAREWELL

Judy Marshall, LPN (PS)
Catherine Rieke, Audiology Trainee (SC)
Jennifer Schweiss, RN (PS)
Rebecca Stockdale, RN (PS)

VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Tanya Hawkins (PS), **Theodora Sydnor** (PS) and **Russell Tandy, RN** (PS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56497 for information.

ANNUAL REPORT WINS AWARD

Truman VA's 2006 annual report and the facility Public Affairs Officer, **Stephen Gaither**, are winners in the 2007 VHA Excellence in Communications Awards program for the publication category of facility annual reports. The Columbia VA publication is one of two earning certificates of merit behind the award of excellence entry. The annual VA public affairs contest includes 18 different categories and is open to entries from VA health care facilities nationwide. The 2006 annual report is available on the home page as well as our Web site at <http://www.va.gov/cmo>. **Jim Broadus**, photographer, and **Wayne Meyer**, medical illustrator, were key contributors for the publication. Congratulations!



WELCOME RECEPTION FOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

All employees and volunteers are invited to attend a welcome reception for **Marc Magill**, Associate Director, on Thursday, Aug. 30 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium. He joined the Truman VA staff effective Aug. 5.

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Organizers for the Aug. 8-9 blood drive at Truman VA offer a big thank you to all donors and others that helped. The American Red Cross collected 76 units of blood. Congratulations to the following winners of prizes: **Cheryl Kahle** (\$50 gift certificate), **Laura DeVenney** (door prize), **David Dykstra** (door prize), **Erica Keeler** (door prize), **Connie Riker** (door prize), **Theresa Sapp** (door prize) and **Marilyn Thomas** (door prize). Contact **Larry Propp** at extension 56553 to pick up prizes not claimed already.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY PROGRAM - AUGUST 27

Judy McKee, Associate Director at the Kansas City VA medical center and former Truman VA employee, will be the featured speaker for the annual Women's Equality Day program on Monday, Aug. 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The annual program, sponsored by the Truman VA Federal Women's Program of the EEO Committee, celebrates the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. The amendment was certified on Aug. 26, 1920, culminating a 72-year-long civil rights movement that originated in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1848. Recipients of the 2007 Federal Woman of the Year awards at Truman VA will be recognized at the program.



PATIENT EDUCATION NOTE

A new patient education site is available on the hospital home page under Clinical Practices. Patient education material can be printed from the site, which will be continuously updated as new information becomes available.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE – SEPT. 14

The Career Development Program at Truman VA is designed for non-supervisory employees. This particular program forms the basis for progressing to other leadership and career development programs within the VA Heartland Network (VISN 15), such as the facility LEAD program. The upcoming session of the Career Development Program will begin in October and end next May. A copy of the program description is available for review from service line secretaries. It is attached to the program application form as well. Application forms are available in Human Resources, from service line secretaries or in room B-319.

Interested employees must complete a program application form and submit it to Human Resources by Sept. 14. Your supervisor and service line director must sign the form to verify support of your participation in the program. For additional information or questions, contact **Lea Foster**, Program Specialist – Organizational Development, at extension 54071.

TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Providing access to persons eligible for programs or services to which they are entitled is a policy of this organization. Therefore, persons that, because of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency will be provided interpreter services at no cost to them. Any employee that encounters non-English speaking customers needing language assistance relevant to their medical care should notify his/her supervisor immediately. After assessing the needs of the individual, the supervisor will contact the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Coordinator to authorize and place the call for interpretation services. In collaboration with the LEP Coordinator, it the supervisor's responsibility to assure that appropriate medical care staff is available to participate in the dialogue between the interpreter and the non-English speaking customer.

At Truman VA, **Nita Robinson**, Supervisory Medical Administrative Specialist, has been designated as the LEP Coordinator. She should be contacted from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, at extension 56433 or pager #5500. On weekends and during irregular tours of duty (4:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.), the Administrative Officer of the Day (AOD) serves as the Alternate LEP Coordinator. The AOD can be reached at extension 53096 or pager #5499. The full Standard Operating Procedure for Obtaining Translation Service is available on the hospital home page under "Interpreter Service for Non-English Speaking Customers."

MOVING WALL COMING TO MOBERLY, SEPT. 20-24

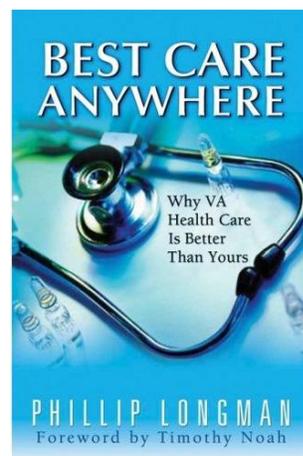
The "Vietnam Moving Wall" will be at Rothwell Park in Moberly on Sept. 20-24. This visit, sponsored by VFW Post 2654, will provide many with an opportunity to honor those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. It also provides a time for family members to come and remember their loved ones that died during the war.

The "Vietnam Moving Wall" is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC that carries the names of 58,253 Americans that lost their lives in the war. It has been touring the country for more than 20 years. When John Devitt, a former helicopter door gunner, attended the 1982 dedication service of the memorial in Washington, DC, he felt the positive power of "The Wall." He vowed to share that experience with those that did not have the opportunity to go to the nation's capital. Devitt and other Vietnam veterans including Norris Shears and Gerry Haver built the replica, which was displayed for the first time in Tyler, Texas in October 1984. Two structures of the "Moving Wall" now traverse the country from April through November, spending about a week at each site.

NEW BOOK- *BEST CARE ANYWHERE* – PRAISES VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

VA's health care delivery system is a model for the rest of America and offers solutions to the country's health care crisis, according to the author of a recently published book entitled *Best Care Anywhere: Why VA Health Care is Better Than Yours*. "I believe that within 10 years, the evidence-based, patient-centered, Vista-driven model of care pioneered by the VA will be the delivery device by which most Americans and many foreigners as well receive their care," said Phillip Longman, the book's author and a former economic journalist who is now a resident scholar at the Washington-based think tank, New America Foundation.

Longman began researching health care as a free-lance writer for *Fortune* magazine, which commissioned him to find who was doing the most to modernize health care in the U.S. The assignment was important to him because he lost his wife to breast cancer five years earlier and she had experienced significant difficulties with the care she received. While doing his research, Longman read several articles praising VA for the innovations the Department had made in the last 10 years. Pursuing the issue further, he discovered that VA had completely changed its image. His research became the basis for an article he wrote for *Washington Monthly* magazine and for his book.



The book lays out the author's plan to expand the VA model of care – first to cover all veterans and then to cover all their family members. He said there is a good case for merging the military health care system with VA, which could be expedited because of plans to close some military bases and hospitals. Longman's long-range plan would be to expand the system to other target publics, such as those on Medicaid or Medicare, and providing coverage for the 47 million Americans without health insurance. "After seeing what the VA can do, I believe the health care crisis is solvable," Longman said. A copy of the book is available in the VA Medical Library.

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!