



# Truman VA BULLETIN

MAY 16, 2008

## WELCOME

**Susan Audiss**, Medical Support Assistant (PC)  
**Christopher Carl**, Telephone Operator (HA)  
**Amanda Gore**, Student Nurse Technician (PS)  
**Brian Lee**, Pharmacy Intern (Pharmacy)  
**Larry McBride**, Food Service Worker (PS)  
**Megan Miller**, Physical Therapy Aid (CS)  
**Anna Pintoja, RN** (PS)  
**Jazmin Schrader**, Recreation Aid (PS)  
**Lori Spry**, Social Worker (BH)  
**Joshua Sumowski, RN** (PS)  
**Christina Stafford**, Pharmacy Intern (Pharmacy)  
**Jane Viebrock, RN** (PS)  
**Sonja Williams**, Secretary (BH)  
**Justin Zimmerman**, Physical Therapy Aid (CS)

## FAREWELL

**Lucille Boyd**, Civilian Pay Technician (FA)  
**Michelle Eames, RN** (PS)  
**Marsha Hammer, RN** (PS)  
**Barbara Hatfield, RN** (PC)  
**Karey Johnson, RN** (PS)  
**Anthony Lopez**, Medical Technician (CS)  
**Judy Marsden**, Human Resources Specialist (HR)  
**Kenneth McClelland**, Housekeeping Aid (FM)  
**Jeremy Trustee, LPN** (PS)  
**Laura Wilson, LPN** (PS)

## VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

**Janelle Maland** (Pharmacy) has been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.

## DOUGLASS H.S./TRUMAN VA PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZED

On May 9, at the culmination of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Partners in Education celebration in Columbia, Truman VA received a 10-year award for its Partnership in Education with Frederick Douglass High School. During the past 10 years, more than 100 Douglass High students have participated in the "industry based" program in which students spend their entire school day at the hospital – half a day in the Douglass classroom and half a day in a paid job. Congratulations!

## TRUMAN VA NURSE RECOGNITION

As part of National Nurses Week, the following Truman VA staff members were recognized at the May 8 ceremony:

### 2008 Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing

- ★ **Bill Ardrey, LPN** (Licensed Practical Nurse role)
- ★ **Natalie Russell, RN** (Registered Nurse staff role)
- ★ **Brandy Worley, RNP** (Registered Nurse expanded role)
- ★ **Marie Hulett, RN** – 2007 Hands and Heart Award

**Natalie Russell**, 6<sup>th</sup> floor inpatient surgery unit, is the 2008 **national recipient** of the award for a registered nurse in a staff role. Every year, nurses at each of the 154 VA medical centers nationwide are recognized for excellence in nursing practice in the following roles: 1) registered nurse expanded role; 2) registered nurse staff role; 3) licensed practical nurse role; and 4) nursing assistant role. Local facility award recipients are nominated for network and national recognition, with one national recipient named for each category. She received the award from **Dr. James B. Peake**, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, at a May 12 ceremony in Washington, DC at VA headquarters. Congratulations, Natalie and to all of the other local award recipients!



## DIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION – MAY 22

Diversity Day, sponsored by Truman VA's EEO Committee, is scheduled from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 22, in the auditorium. The theme for the event is "Celebrating Our Differences." There will be displays, demonstrations, food samples provided by the Veterans Canteen Service and giveaways as well as interesting facts and statistics about our workforce and the veterans we serve. Check out the following booth displays: African American, Asian Pacific, Disability Program, Federal Woman's Program, Hispanic Employment Program and Native American.

## THE REWARD AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE WANTS YOU

Truman VA's Reward and Recognition Committee is seeking members to serve on the following subcommittees:

- ▶ Employee of the Month
- ▶ Star Award
- ▶ Torch Award
- ▶ Spotlight Award.



If you are interested, please submit your name to **Lena Warren** (HR) by June 6. She can be reached at extension 56397 if you have questions.

## MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD

May 3-10 was designated as "Bike, Walk and Wheel Week" by the City of Columbia and the Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health. On May 6, Columbia Mayor **Darwin Hindman** presented several individuals with a Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness Award as recognition for their commitment to their personal health or for their inspiration to others. **Karen Smarr, PhD**, staff psychologist at Truman VA, was recognized for her work with smoking cessation programs for veterans. Congratulations!

## NATIONAL CORPORATE COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS WEEK, MAY 25-31

- C**ommit to "Doing the Right Thing"
- O**bey the regulations and policies that apply to your job
- M**ake compliance awareness part of your job
- P**ut your Standards of Conduct in an accessible spot
- L**ead by example
- I**f in doubt, check it out
- A**ttend training sessions
- N**otify supervisor of possible wrongdoings
- C**ommunicate openly and honestly
- E**thics is a part of all activities

Support the compliance program and become eligible to win a prize. Look for more information in the May issue of the compliance newsletter, "A Clean Bill of Health."

## WORLD HEPATITIS DAY, MAY 19

World Hepatitis Day will be observed on Monday, May 19 to heighten worldwide awareness about hepatitis B and C in order to make progress in reducing the enormous and largely preventable death toll from these viruses. Here are just a few key facts and figures:

- ▶ 500 million people are currently infected with hepatitis B or C
- ▶ That is more than 10 times the number infected with HIV/AIDS
- ▶ Between them, hepatitis B and C kill 1.5 million people a year
- ▶ One in three people on earth has been exposed to either or both viruses
- ▶ Most of the 500 million infected do not know.

For more information, visit [www.aminumber12.org](http://www.aminumber12.org).

## HAND HYGIENE REMINDERS

Improving hand hygiene is the goal of many health facilities including VHA. Why is this so important? Infectious diseases are the third leading cause of deaths in the country. Many of these diseases are spread from person-to-person by unclean hands. Everyone can help create a safer environment by doing several very simple things:

- ▶ Perform hand hygiene with soap and water, using friction and scrubbing all surfaces of your hands for 15 seconds. Hands should be rinsed and dried well to avoid chapping. A paper towel should be used to turn off the faucet if this is necessary.
- ▶ Alcohol hand gel can be used instead of soap and water if your hands are not visibly soiled, rubbing all surfaces of your hands until they are dry.
- ▶ Perform hand hygiene (1) before and after patient contact; (2) before eating, drinking or preparing food; (3) before applying makeup or touching contact lenses; (4) after use of the restroom; and (5) after contact with contaminated items or surfaces.

## INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY "COMPUTER CORNER"

Helpful hints to use your keyboard:

- ▶ Hold down CTRL then click A – Highlight or selects the entire document
- ▶ **CTRL + C** - Copy Selection
- ▶ **CTRL + V** - Paste Selection
- ▶ **CTRL + X** - Cut Selection
- ▶ **CTRL + Z** - Undo Last Action
- ▶ **CTRL + B** - Bold Selection
- ▶ **CTRL + I** - Italicize Selection
- ▶ **CTRL + U** - Underline Selection
- ▶ **Shift + F3** - Change the case of selection
- ▶ **CTRL + Shift + A** – Format letters as Capitals
- ▶ **CTRL + Shift + W** – Underline words but not spaces



*ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!*