

DEPT. OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION
AWARDS

EMPLOYEE OF
THE MONTH
(FEBRUARY):

PATRICK
SEKARSKI, RPH
(PHARMACY)

CUSTOMER SER-
VICE STAR
(JANUARY):

LISA THOMAS,
MD (BH)

SAFETY "GOOD
CATCH" AWARD
(DECEMBER):

JANET
EICHENBERGER,
RRT (SC),
JENNIFER
GOUL, RN (PS)
AND JUDITH
WARREN, RN
(PS)

Truman VA Bulletin

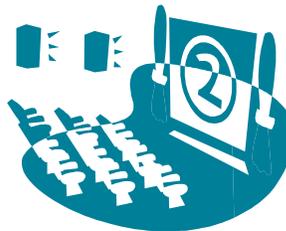
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FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Documentary Gets Spin At True/False

A documentary film related to returning combat veterans, *The Way We Get By*, has been accepted into Columbia's annual True/False Film Festival, Feb. 26 to March 1. This movie is an intimate story of three senior citizens that have dedicated their lives to greeting troops at a tiny airport in Maine. It celebrates three unsung heroes that share their love with strangers that need and deserve it. Bill, Joan and Jerry show that, despite our political views, our ages and our physical distance from each other, a deep human connection can bring us back together and rebuild our country.

The film will screen on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 5:00 p.m. (Secret Screening Silver at Ragtag Theater) and on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3:30 p.m.



(Secret Screening Silver at Windsor Theater). For ticket information, you can visit the True/False Film Festival Web site at <http://truefalse.org/tickets/faq.htm>. Also, the film

will be shown nationally on PBS this November.



National Recognition for Sarah!

Congratulations to **Sarah Froese** (BH)! She was recently recognized by a VACO official on a national conference call for her efforts to implement the Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD VASH) program for homeless Veterans in Columbia for Truman VA. Sarah was assigned program responsibil-

ity in June 2008 when the housing vouchers were initially released. She got all of the required paperwork in place, met with landlords, collaborated with the Columbia Public Housing Authority and helped 29 Veterans get screened and referred for housing vouchers. Sarah has been commended for her diligence in getting the new

program started and for doing so in a manner that has brought national recognition for Truman VA.



National Safety ‘Step-Up’

VA is calling for a special training campaign on safety – called a "Step-Up" – from March 8-14 at all medical centers and outpatient clinics to ensure that VA staff members follow the highest standards for patient safety. The nationwide campaign is the culmination of a VA education program to implement stronger procedures and better accountability at VA health care facilities. The training was triggered by VA inspections that found reprocessing of endoscopic equipment did not follow the manufac-

turer's exact instructions at two VA medical centers. Those facilities have already taken corrective action.

VA officials are not aware of any patients having been harmed by improperly re-processed equipment. Although risks are small, VA is notifying patients that might have been treated by the affected equipment.

Normal activities will continue during the "Step-Up" at all VA facilities, but with extra emphasis on safety and proper processing pro-

ocols. Specific efforts will include retraining on re-processing endoscopes, establishment of easily-tracked accountability for instrument processing and training on standard operating procedures by facility leadership. Patient appointments should not be affected.

“Your generosity will provide 124 free lunches to clients unable to pay for their meals.”

Meals on Wheels Grateful

On behalf of the Meals On Wheels Board of Directors, I would like to thank the VA employees that purchased 77 lunches during the annual "Big Wheels" Fund Raiser. Your generosity will provide 124 free

lunches to clients unable to pay for their meals. Your community support of our special business partner is very much appreciated.

Linda Duffen



OI&T Computer Corner

OI&T is replacing every personal computer with a leased Dell computer and 19" flat panel monitor. Part of the upgrade includes a new version of Wireless Office. The first time that you use the Wireless Office software, you will be

prompted for the SERVER NAME, VHACMOSMTP1. A note with these instructions will be left on the keyboard when your new personal computer is placed. If you have any questions, contact the

OI&T Help Desk at extension 56500.

'Voice of the Learner' Survey

The Masie Organization's "Voice of the Learner" survey will be distributed to a random sample of 14,000 VHA employees in early March. This survey will provide a profile of how VHA employees currently learn at work and how their education preferences are changing. It addresses employees' preferred learning methods, their satisfaction with current educational opportunities and their suggestions for improving future learning culture within VHA. The sample size will provide sufficient numbers for facility-specific data.

VHA leaders, managers and supervisors recently completed the Harvard Business School Learning Organization Perception Assessment regarding the status of their learning environments. Front-line employees and members of management will be able to provide input regarding their learning needs and experiences through the "Voice of the Learner" survey.

VHA has accepted the challenge to become recognized and distinguished as a learning organization. Learning organizations view education as a strategic tool to build both individual and organizational skills and competencies. Research consistently shows that organizations that value workforce development have a competitive edge through enhanced products and services. Unified and systematic education integrated into daily employee life at VHA will lead to improved care for our nation's heroes.

As part of the FY 2009 Executive Career Field Performance Plan, each VHA facility is assessing the learning environment in their organization in order to develop action plans that will improve the strategic alignment of learning for performance and for workforce development. The assessment will be based on input from leaders, managers, and front-line staff.

Results from the "Voice of the Learner" survey will combine with those of the Harvard Business School Learning Organization Perception survey to give an overall snapshot of VHA's current status as a learning organization. This comprehensive information will allow each VHA facility and VISN to complete a self-assessment and develop practical action plans for transforming VHA into a recognized leader among learning organizations. For more information about this survey, visit the VHA Learning Organization Web site at

<http://vaww.learning.va.gov>

or contact **Kathryn Burks**, Truman VA's Designated Learning Officer.

"This survey will provide a profile of how VHA employees currently learn at work and how their education preferences are changing."

Black History Month Factoids

- Black residents make up 13.5 percent of the U.S. population.
- Blacks are the largest minority group in 23 states, including Missouri.
- In 2007, 2.4 million blacks were military Veterans.
- 27 percent of blacks, ages 16 and older, work in management, professional and related occupations.
- In 2002, there were 1.2 million black-owned businesses.



February is Black History Month



Dept. of Veterans' Affairs

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hosp.
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000

**ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM?
THANK A VETERAN!**

WELCOME

David Atterberry, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Ryan Brown, General Engineer (FM)
Garrett Falls, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Daniel Goetges, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Mary Hall, LPN (PC)
DeAngelo Hoffman, Cook (Canteen)
BethAnn Reid, Pharmacy Technician (Pharmacy)
Lori Smith, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Angelia Stewart, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
William Woolery, Housekeeping Aid (FM)

FAREWELL

Katherine Byars, Patient Services Assistant (SC)
Maureen Bressett, RPh, Pharmacist (Pharmacy)
Joyce Hollis, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)



Odds & Ends

Recent Office Moves

The following moves have taken place recently in the hospital:

Credentialing Staff

Melanie Cox moved to room C300.

Winnie Chirnside moved to room C300A.

Lisa Bechtold and **Sarah Tilley** moved to room B303.

Patient Accounts Staff

Jan Boone moved to room C301E.

Gary Markovich moved to room C301B.

Details Clerk

Heather Paxton moved to room B109.

Recreation Staff

Ashley Babcock, Erin Carr and **Nicole Stevens** moved to room A202.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Ollie Easter (BH), **Robyn Lutz** (Pharmacy) and **Tiffany Smith** (PC) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact **Lena Warren** (HR) at extension 56397 for information.