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 motivation to excel academically, and being a part of a supportive community. The program has also provided a pathway to permanent employment opportunities at Truman VA for graduates.

Brandon was featured earlier this season on the sports pages of 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 Truman 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.
Hoop Stars, Continued from Page 1

- VAMC resources, i.e., personnel, space, expertise, are available to assist with other school programs;
- the VA employee association assists with scholarships; and
- there are increased opportunities for student involvement in community activities such as Veterans Day and disaster drills.

Benefits to the VAMC include:
- recognition from the larger community and school district as a full-fledged, engaged community partner;
- ongoing connection between medical center employees and the school through contact with students and the Douglass teacher; and
- several Douglass students have found permanent employment opportunities at the VAMC.

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. O&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.

“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...”
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.

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

Employees that believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment should immediately 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.

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.
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!