

USU Newsletter

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**USU Newsletter
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HM2 Michael Oliver

USU Bids Farewell to its Lone Marine, Welcomes new Senior Enlisted Leader

*By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*

The hails and farewells of any military command are bittersweet; with the sorrowful departure of a friend comes the excitement of an incoming one. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) recently bid farewell to its Headquarters Company commander in a ceremony Jan. 11.

With the departure of Capt Timothy Gerlach, USMC, the responsibility for Headquarters Company personnel has been transferred to COL John Wempe, MC, USA, USU Brigade Commander, until a suitable replacement for Gerlach can be found.

Dr. Charles Rice, university president, thanked Gerlach for his years of service to both the USU Headquarters Company and the U.S. Marine Corps. He remarked upon Gerlach's strong sense of pride, and commended him for his participation in seven operations Bushmaster, sharing his immense experience with more than 800 medical students.

Gerlach said his time as company commander gave him a strong idea of the work ethic and intelligence of the U.S. military's enlisted corps, and that it was an experience he won't soon forget.

"It was fun working for the brigade, and now I feel more of an appreciation towards the enlisted service members," he said. "I learned a lot about their culture. It was my great pleasure to work with them, and it will be something that I will treasure

for a long time."

Gerlach was then awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his invaluable service to the USU Brigade.

In conjunction with the change of command ceremony, a change of responsibility also took place, as SFC Donald Peña, USA, passed the position of brigade Senior Enlisted Leader on to HMCM Clinton A. Garrett, USN.

Garrett has served more than 24 years in the U.S. Navy in various roles, including director for the Health Resources Management Course at the Naval School of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., and Navy senior enlisted leader at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, DC.

During the ceremony Garrett remarked that he was eager to assume responsibility of the position, and thanked Peña for his service to the brigade.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

COL John Wempe, MC, USA, congratulates Capt. Tim Gerlach, USMC, on his Defense Meritorious Service Medal.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

From left to right: SFC Donald Peña, USA, outgoing Senior Enlisted Leader; HMCM Clinton A. Garrett, USN, incoming SEL; COL John Wempe, MC, USA, USU Brigade Commander; Capt Timothy Gerlach, USMC, outgoing Headquarters Company Commander; and Dr. Charles L. Rice, University President, stand at attention while the citation for Capt Gerlach is read.

Graduate School of Nursing Receives New Acting Dean

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

With the departure of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) acting dean of the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN,) a familiar face has stepped up to the challenge and responsibility of the education of the military's top nurses in that position.

COL Bruce A. Schoneboom, CRNA, Ph.D., AN, USA, has served the university in a variety of roles, including research director for the Nurse Anesthesia Program, department chair for the GSN, and vice dean of the GSN. With retired BG William Bester's resignation from acting dean in December, Schoneboom has agreed to take on the role of acting dean until a replacement is found.

An alumnus of the university's neuroscience and graduate education programs, Schoneboom said he's eager to take on this leadership role.

"It's exciting and challenging to be the acting dean of the GSN," he said. "It's certainly an honor to be in a position to lead in a school like this."

Schoneboom said interesting and effective changes are on the way for the GSN, to include new programs.

"To be an effective organization change has to occur, and there are certainly things that will continue to change within the GSN," he said. "The new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program will matriculate students this summer."

Schoneboom's new responsibilities will include active participation as a part of the university president's cabinet, and to work with the Federal Nursing Service Chiefs to ensure the quality and scope of the new GSN programs will meet the standards of the services. He said the responsibility and challenges of the position are much larger than those he's faced in former positions, but that he's ready and eager to take on both.

"It's certainly a larger administrative role than what I've been in before," he said. "I already had an idea what to expect, but you never know what it's like until you're actually experiencing it. General Bester and I worked hard in making sure the transition would go smoothly when he departed. When a permanent dean is found, I will go back to my previous assignment as the vice dean."

Schoneboom said he's continually impressed with the ways in which the university continues to progress and change for the better, from the campus structure, to the programs through which the students are educated.

"The two words that come to mind when I think of the progress USU has made from when I was a graduate student until now are 'bigger and better,'" he said. "This place is very special; both the School of Medicine and the GSN have grown in terms of size and the programs they offer. The research conducted here is very exciting, in terms of improving the health of the nation, and particularly the uniformed services. The educational programs are top notch, many with high national rankings. It's an honor to be serving this university, and hopefully I'll be around for a few more years, continuing to serve and lead."



**COL Bruce A. Schoneboom,
CRNA, Ph.D., AN, USA
Acting Dean, Graduate School of
Nursing**

USU Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. day during a ceremony Jan. 14.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, a retired Marine Corps major general, gave a speech entitled "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on... Not a day off,"

Stanley spoke of his experiences during the times when America was slowly abolishing segregation.

"It was a different time," he said. "I remember almost as if it were yesterday when Glen Echo Park was integrated; when that happened, it didn't stay open long. They closed it because they didn't want people like me there."

"It didn't traumatize me; it was just the way it was," he said.

Stanley's parents sent him and his siblings to South Carolina each summer to work on a farm, cropping tobacco for mini-

mum wages. He said it taught him a lot about segregation, and he and his siblings had to go to Atlantic Beach rather than Myrtle Beach, due to racial restraints.

"At that time I remember we didn't care," he said. "We had more fun than at

"I had a family that believed firmly that no one was any better than anyone else," Stanley said. "If you acted to the contrary, they would remind you very quickly."

Dr. Clifford L. Stanley

Myrtle, it was a better beach."

Stanley said his family believed firmly in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s tenants, in particular, that individual worth is not determined by a person's social status, race, or achievements; that no person is better than another.

"I had a family that believed firmly that no one was any better than anyone else," Stanley said. "If you acted to the contrary,

they would remind you very quickly. There was something about that, that was very grounding. I remember on one occasion looking at another kid who was different than me in some way, and laughing, and my mother saying something about 'slapping the taste out of my mouth.'"

Stanley also spoke of another of King's tenants, the concept of "one nation," and cited the employ of African American troops during the American Revolutionary war as an example.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

**Dr. Clifford L. Stanley,
MajGen, USMC, retired,
president, Scholarship
America**

See KING, page 6

USU Alumni, Faculty, and Student promotions, MAJ and COL, USA

Congratulations to the following USU alumni, assigned faculty and students who were recently selected for promotion to either Colonel or Major, U.S. Army, in the Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, Medical Specialist Corps, or Medical Service Corps.

Major, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Army -

Jeffery Scott Hogue - Faculty, USU Department of Military and Emergency Medicine

Major, Medical Specialist Corps, U.S. Army -

Colleen A. Daniels - MPH class of 2004, Asst. Chief, Occupational Therapy, NNMC

Major, Nurse Corps, U.S. Army -

Michael W. Bentley - current student, Neuroscience Graduate Program, SOM

Daniel A. Blaz - GSN class of 2006, Nurse Practitioner

Jessica M. Counts - GSN class of 2006, Nurse Practitioner

Brad E. Franklin - GSN class of 2007, Nurse Practitioner

Stacey S. Freeman - GSN class of 2007, Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist

Gregory L. Lara - GSN class of 2007, Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist

Robert P. Long - GSN class of 2007, Nurse Anesthesia

Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S. Army -

David M. Benedek - Class of 1991 and Faculty, USU Department of Psychiatry

Steven J. Brewster - Class of 1991, Family Medicine/Preventive Medicine

Arthur B. Chasen - Class of 1992, Surgery

Kenneth H. Cho - Class of 1991, Radiology

Paul Duch - Class of 1989, Family Medicine

Robert V. Gibbons - MPH Class of 1997, Armed Forces Research

Institute of Medical Sciences, Thailand

Jess A. Graham - Class of 1990, Nuclear Medicine

Kurth W. Grathwohl - Class of 1991, Anesthesiology

Eric R. Helling - Class of 1991, Otolaryngology

Ronald P. King - Class of 1990, Aerospace Medicine

Andrew J. Kosmowski - Class of 1991, Emergency Medicine

Dale H. Levandowski - Class of 1997, Psychiatry

Michael D. Lewis - Faculty, USU Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics

Kenneth K. Lindell - Class of 1994, Radiology

Eric T. Lund - Class of 1990, Preventive Medicine

Christian Macedonia - Class of 1992, Obstetrics/Gynecology

M. Shaun Machen - Class of 1992, Orthopaedics

Albert J. Martins - Class of 1986, Neurology

Carol A. Moores - Class of 1991, Family Medicine

Kelly A. Murray - Class of 1992, Family Medicine

Patrick G. O'Malley - Faculty, USU Department of Medicine

Daniel E. Parks - Class of 1992, Family Medicine

Paul F. Pasquina - Class of 1991, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Kris A. Peterson - Class of 1991, Psychiatry

Michael L. Place - Class of 1991, Family Medicine

Mark M. Reeves - Class of 1991, Family Medicine

Daniel J. Schissel - Class of 1993, Dermatology

Eric E. Shuping - Class of 1991, Family Medicine

Alexander Stojadinovic - Class of 1991, Surgery

Michael Sundborg - Class of 1994, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Donald Taillon - Class of 1991, Pathology

Kenneth Trzepakowski - Class of 1991, Family Medicine

Manuel Valentin - Class of 1991, Aerospace Medicine

David P. Vetter - Class of 1994, Medicine

Paul W. Whitecar - Class of 1991, Obstetrics and Gynecology

R. Kevin Winkle - Class of 1991, Ophthalmology

Mirror Therapy Helps Relieve Amputee Soldiers of Phantom Limb Pain



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

CDR Jack Tsao, MC, USN, looks on as SGT Nicholas Papoure, USA, demonstrates mirror therapy, a therapeutic technique designed to aid in the relief of phantom limb pain, a condition suffered by many amputee patients. Phantom limb pain manifests as a painful or uncomfortable feeling in an amputated limb, which the patient's brain insists is still attached. Through the use of a mirror, Papoure is able to visualize flexing his missing limb, which helps alleviate the pain. CDR Tsao, an assistant professor of neurology at USU, recently published the results of his study entitled "Mirror Therapy for Phantom Limb Pain" in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Student Profile: 2d Lt Lisa Dang, SOM Class of 2011

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

It may not take a rocket scientist to be a physician, but it could certainly help, and one student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) fits that description.

2d Lt Lisa Dang, MC, USAF, a Los Angeles, Calif., native has worked for five companies in the space-propulsion industry, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Michigan Institute of Technology, as well as a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology. She says her inherent curiosity and thrill-seeking nature pulled her towards the study of aerospace engineering.

"I love math and science," she said. "I like to build things, and have always been fascinated by science and biology, as well as the thought of exploring the new frontier of space. What's cooler than going into space or riding in fighter jets?"

Dang said her love of math and science stemmed from her childhood, in which she had very little exposure to the English

language.

"My family didn't speak English, so humanities and social studies were a problem for me, and I ended up picking up on math and science instead," she said. "My parents immigrated to America from Vietnam, and their parents had immigrated to Vietnam from China; I was the first of my family to be born in America."

Dang added that her pride of being a first-generation American was a major factor in her decision to join the U.S. military.

"I've always wanted to serve," she said. "I feel a sense of pride when it comes to being part of this country. It's done a lot for my family; as we are immigrants, it sort of defines the American dream. I was



2d Lt Lisa Dang, USAF,
SOM Class of 2011

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GSN Nurse Anesthesia Class of 2007 Graduates



Students of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) Nurse Anesthesia Program, Class of 2007, graduated at their respective phase II training sites Dec. 7. Clockwise from top left: Lt Col Adrienne Hartgerink, USAF, CRNA, program director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program was keynote speaker for the Navy students' graduation ceremony aboard the USS Midway in San Diego; COL Bruce Schoneboom, USA, CRNA, Ph.D., and Dr. Roopa Biswas present the Program Research Award to graduate CPT Robert Long, USA, during the Army's graduation ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Public Health Service graduate LCDR Jay Bryngelson received the Agatha Hodgins Award for overall excellence during the Public Health graduation ceremony; and Dr. Charles Rice presented Capt Kristine Willingham, USAF (third from the right), with the Board of Regents Award during the Air Force graduation ceremony at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

COMMAND, from page 2

"I look forward to working with everyone and to see them at work," Garrett said. "Working with the Marines has given me the confidence I need to carry on as the new senior enlisted leader. Sergeant Peña is a gifted leader, and I wish Captain Gerlach the best of luck."

Peña received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his exemplary service as acting senior enlisted leader, in charge of more than 120 enlisted service members, raising morale, and sharing his combat and medical experience with more than 160 medical students.

Dr. Rice commended Peña for his service to the brigade, and

welcomed Garrett to the university.

"Sergeant Peña has served the unit faithfully, with his unique style of leadership and warm personality," he said. "Now we pass this guidon to Master Chief Garrett with confidence. As the top noncommissioned officer (NCO,) he is going to have to lead with creativity and responsibility."

Peña thanked the university community for his opportunity to serve in a typical but heartfelt style that defines his personality: simple, and to the point.

"Dr. Rice, COL Wempe, Capt. Gerlach, the brigade, and the rest of the university," he said, "hooah!"

Peña will return to his former position of Academics NCO for the Army Platoon.

KING, from page 3

"When the war started, George Washington had many African American troops," Stanley said, "and when they brought in troops from the South, they wouldn't stand for it, and they stopped letting them serve. This put Washington in a bind, however, as it was an all volunteer Army, and when a soldier's contract was up, they'd leave. He realized without man power, he could not succeed, so he had to reinstate the African American troops. At that time, necessity drove it; there was no way we could have succeeded against the most powerful army and navy at that time without help. That really was the foundation; it started women's suffrage and the civil rights movement."

Stanley and his family have experienced racism-related violence firsthand; while in

Wheaton, Md., in April, 1975, Stanley's wife was paralyzed when she was wounded in a racially motivated shooting.

"Seven years from the time Dr. King was assassinated, my wife was the victim of a racially motivated shooting," Stanley said. "She's still with us, but paralyzed. These kinds of things take place every day, although not always so blatantly obvious. I remember being around senior leaders who pronounced racism as gone."

Stanley concluded by stating that other's opinions of a person don't limit that person's capabilities, and that King's message continues to this day.

"There are people who want to put you in a box, and I'm just not going to fit," he said. "Dr. King's dream still lives; it was in the foundation of this country, and it's the core of any living organism that believes in

freedom."

Stanley led a 33-year career with the U.S. Marine Corps before becoming president of Scholarship America, in July 2004. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant after graduating from South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. In addition, Stanley holds a Master's degree in counseling from Johns Hopkins University, honorary Doctor of laws degrees from South Carolina State University and Spalding University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is married to the former Rosalyn Hill of Charleston, S.C. Their daughter Angela is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, currently serving as a nurse practitioner and clinic manager at the United States Naval Academy Clinic in Annapolis, Md.

DANG, from page 5

interested in becoming an astronaut, so the Air Force or the Navy were ideal choices."

After completing her bachelor, Dang took a year off to work, during which time she was able to take an engineering project from paper studies and build a rocket, which she tested at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, and then presented it to NASA. This development inspired her to return to graduate school at Caltech for her master, following which she returned to work as a propulsion engineer.

"I had a lot of fun," Dang said. "I did a lot of things, was given a lot of responsibilities, and all the while I was taking classes and studying for the Medical College Admissions Test. As soon as I received notice that I had been accepted to USU, I put in my letter of resignation."

One may wonder what makes a person so interested in rockets and propulsion to decide to study medicine. Dang says she has always wanted attend medical school, and that many of the experiences she has had during her work as a propulsion engineer have been analogous to medicine.

"As an engineer, I believe the human body is the most advanced and efficient machine ever created, and no one can create a machine as complex as the human body," she said. "I'm just fascinated by it. I think a lot about engineering while I study medicine, but I was also thinking a lot about medicine while I studied engineering. For my last job with Boeing, I worked with small rockets on orbiting satellites, trying to sustain a satellite for it's orbital lifetime. I found the rocket systems to be analogous to the

human cardiovascular system; it contained a lot of tubing and piping like vasculature, and the onboard computer system was much like a nervous system and brain. I basically had to try to assess the health of a satellite that was thousands of miles away; I had to use deductive reasoning to understand what was going on, and decide how best to extend the life of the satellite. It's very similar to medicine in terms of doing the least intrusive things to the satellite to improve it's life, just as physicians do with humans."

Moreover, Dang commented that the most immediate way to affect people is through their health, and despite how interesting space propulsion and travel are, she feels medicine is a more immediate concern for humanity.

"I have volunteered with medical missions and visited AIDS hospices," she said. "It's just the little things you get out of that human interaction that are so precious. You just can't get them from anything else."

Dang said she'd learned of USU during her time at MIT.

"I had spoken with a colonel at MIT," she said. "I told him about my interests, and he put me in contact with a military doctor that he knew, but I had also done my own research. If I hadn't decided on USU, I would have likely gone through the Health Professions Scholarship Program."

Dang said she'd like to be stationed in the Washington, DC area, but lacking that, she'd like to be overseas or deployed.

"I'd like to be a cardiothoracic surgeon, so wherever there's a need for my specialty is where I'd like to be. I'm particularly honored to serve the military community; I think it's a tremendous honor to help those who defend our freedoms with their lives."

USU Briefs



New Brigade Senior Enlisted Leader: HMCM Clinton Garrett, USN recently reported to USU and replaced SFC Pena, USA (BDE) as the Brigade Senior Enlisted Leader. Congratulations to SFC Pena on his truly noteworthy accomplishments to the University and the Brigade.

Headquarters Company Change of Command: Capt Gerlach, USMC (BDE) recently relinquished his duties to COL Wempe, USA, Brigade Commander. The USU Brigade Headquarters Company is temporarily disestablished until such time as Capt Gerlach's successor is named.

Brigade Awards Ceremony: The next USU Brigade Awards Ceremony will take place Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize the Enlisted Service Member of the Year, as well as other military personnel for their contributions to the organization. All department heads, chairs, supervisors, and directors are encouraged to attend this important occasion to show their support.

Soldier Readiness Processing: An important component of Army Force Health Protection is Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP). AR 600-8-101 requires Soldiers to complete the SRP Requirements

each year. The Walter Reed Army Medical Center will conduct the next SRP from March 3 – 7, from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Bldg T-2 beside Wagner Gym at WRAMC. This event is for all Soldiers at USU and AFRR. Soldiers must bring their medical records, yellow shot record, blue/green medical Card, CAC Card, ID Tags, and SRP checklist. For further info, contact SSG Ward, USA (MPO) at (301) 295-9653 or SFC Harris, USA (MPO) at (301) 295-3087.

National Nurse Anesthetists Week—Jan. 20 - 26

Nurse Anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care in the United States for over 125 years? Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, the offices of dentists, podiatrists, plastic surgeons, ophthalmologists, and pain management specialists; and U.S. Military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities? CRNAs are the hands-on providers of approximately 65% of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States? CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately two thirds of all rural hospitals in the United States? According to a 1999 report from the Institute of Medicine, anesthesia care today is nearly 50 times safer than it was 20 years ago? Interested in learning more? The Nurse Anesthesia Program of the Graduate School of Nursing will have a booth outside the cafeteria this week.

Calendar of Events

January 23- 3:30 pm— Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar "Role of Cellular MicroRNAs in Epstein Barr Virus Signaling."

January 28– 11:30 am— Lecture Room A: Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Program "Regulation of Memory T Cell Differentiation: Implication for Rational Vaccine design."

February 6– 3:30 pm— Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar "Dimensions

in Cell Migration and Tissue Remodeling."

February 13– 3:30 pm— Lecture Room A: Seminar "Brain Angiotensin II Has a Role in Brain Inflammation and Stress."

February 20– 3:30 pm— Lecture Room A: Molecular Cell Biology Seminar. "Control of Cell Metabolism by the Jak/Stat Pathway."

NSPS System Questions and Answers

1. Why do we need the National Security Personnel System?

NSPS strengthens our ability to accomplish the mission in an ever-changing national security environment. NSPS accelerates the Department's efforts to create a Total Force (military, civilian personnel, Reserve, Guard, and contractors), operating as one cohesive unit, with each performing the work most suitable to their skills. We need a human resources system that appropriately recognizes and rewards our employees' performance and the contributions they make to the Department of Defense (DoD) mission. We need better tools to attract and retain good employees.

2. What advantages does it offer to me?

Employees will be recognized and rewarded based on their personal contributions towards our Nation's defense. Employees will be encouraged to take ownership of their performance and successes. Employees and their supervisors will have open communications so that employees know what's expected. Increases in pay will be based on employee performance and mission contri-

bution. NSPS promotes broader skill development and advancement opportunities in pay bands.

3. What criteria are used to classify a position as supervisory in NSPS?

To be considered a supervisor in NSPS, an individual must supervise more than one employee and perform the duties of an immediate supervisor, which include: Assign work to subordinates based on priorities, difficulty of assignments, and the capabilities of employees; Provide technical oversight; Develop performance plans and rate employees (or recommend such actions); Interview candidates for subordinate positions and recommend hiring, promotion, or reassignments; Take disciplinary measures, such as warnings or reprimands (or recommend such actions); Identify developmental and training needs of employees, and provide and/or arrange for needed development and training. Supervised employees may include Federal civilian employees, military members, uniformed service employees, volunteers, or other noncontractor personnel. Positions with oversight responsibilities only over private sector contractors do not meet this definition.

4. Are wage grade employees covered?

At this time, DoD has decided to delay the implementation of NSPS for wage grade employees.



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