

GSN faculty, students earn high honors

It's has been a busy Spring for recognition at the USU's Graduate School of Nursing. Aside from the annual awards presented during the commencement exercises, there were awards from several external organizations honoring the efforts of faculty and students. According to Dr. Marguerite Littleton-Kearney, associate dean for Research in the GSN, "There were so many awards recently that we heard about, but we also know these are just the tip of the iceberg and that there are many we haven't given appropriate recognition yet."

Several USU nurse anesthesia students were awarded the Dean Hayden Student Research Grant from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation for their obstructive sleep apnea study that will be conducted at National Naval Medical Center. Congratulations to Lt. Cmdr. Robert Roadfuss, Lt. Martin Boese, Capt. Keith Denny and Capt. Ryan Ransom.

GSN students, faculty and former faculty also were recognized at the Navy Wide Research Competition held recently. One of the research projects conducted by USU community members at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth won the Navy Wide Research Competition in the staff category. The project was titled "The effect of intraoperative intravenous lidocaine infusion on the reduction of postoperative pain and return of bowel function in patients undergoing minor laparoscopic gynecological procedures." This project was conducted under the outstanding leadership of both USU's current research director at Portsmouth, Cmdr. Chris Oudekerk, and former research director Cdr. Greg Nezat.

Another project conducted at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, under the leadership of Cdr. Brent Bushey, placed second in the Navy Wide Competition in their category after previously winning the Navy Medicine-East competition. The research was presented by recent USU graduate Lt. Kevin Michel.

Lt. Cmdr. Jason McGuire (the GSN's newest faculty member) placed third in the Navy Wide Competition in his category after previously winning the Navy Medicine-West competition.

Dr. Sandra Bibb was selected as one of the 2011 "100 Extra-Ordinary Nurses in the Washington Metropolitan Area." This is the 20th celebration of this recognition sponsored annually by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Gamma Beta Chapter, Howard University. Recipients of this award are selected on the basis of established criteria that address excellence and extraordinary achievements in clinical practice, education, research, administration, publication or community service. The award was presented May 2, 2011 at Howard University.

GSN Class of 2009 alumni Lt. Cmdr. Julie Conrardy, Lt. Cmdr. Sandra Myers and Maj. Beth Brenek, won the 2011 AORN Journal Writers Contest award in the research category for their scholarly project publication: "Conrardy, J., Myers, S., & Brenek, B. (2010). Review of the literature to determine the state of the science for implementation of the joint commission universal protocol recommendations. AORN Journal, 92(2):194-207."

The presentation of this award took place during the 58th AORN Congress in Philadelphia recently,

where more than 10,000 perioperative nurses were in attendance from around the world.

This is the third year a GSN student group received this award (2011, 2010, 2008). The 2009 AORN National Research Excellence Award also went to a USU group for their research poster.

Additionally, several perioperative clinical nurse specialist alumni were selected to present 90-minute podium presentations:

- Cmdr. Vivian Devine—Creating a New Culture: When Large Organizations Merge
- Lt. Cmdr. BradLee Goeckner—Threats to Safe Medication Use in Ambulatory Surgery
- Lt. Cmdr. BradLee Goeckner—Hot Topics: Medication Safety in Perioperative Care - The Nurses Role

Several perioperative clinical nurse specialist alumni also were selected to present posters during the Congress:

- Maj. Denise Moultrie – Customer Service Focused Approach for the Perioperative Team
- Maj. Gregory Lara – Implementing a Surgical Safety Checklist
- Lt. Cmdr. Sandra Myers – Aseptic Technique in Afghanistan

Maj. Moultrie's poster won the clinical excellence award, beating out more than 215 posters selected for presentation at this year's AORN Congress.

Dr. Littleton-Kearney also said that while the individual awards are important, it is the people behind the recognition that should be credited for making things happen. Among those is Cmdr. John Maye, who recently accepted the directorship of the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program. "We will miss his research leadership at USU, but congratulate him on an outstanding opportunity that keeps him close to the USU."