

SAYING GOODBYE TO JACK THE FISH

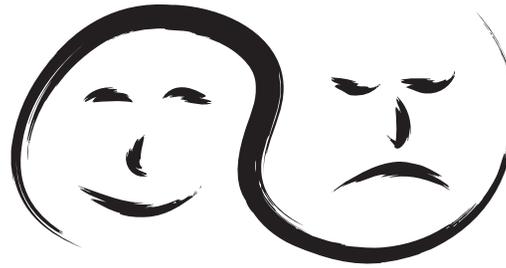
After 10 years of living at the Boise VA, Jack, the big fish in the Bldg. 114 waiting lobby has been moved to the Boise Aquarium. Jack was originally donated to the Boise VA by Sherry Picotte's father-in-law, who was pleased to find a home that could take on such a large tank. However, Jack has continued to grow and has outgrown his tank at the VA!

Jack was somewhat of a celebrity among those who frequented Bldg. 114 and will be missed by many.

Cheers Jack!



Hello's



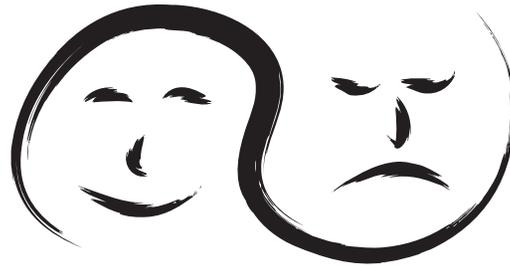
Goodbye's

The Boise VAMC would like to welcome our
new employees who came aboard:

James Olson, EMS
Jodi Lowman, Fiscal
Kenneth Colpitts, Nursing
Stefanie Dwyer, Nursing
Kamerin Engstrom, Nursing
Kailey Grosboll, Nursing
Katherine Schwartz, Nursing
Wyndi Stevens-Hill, Nursing
Tracy Weiser-Sales, Nutrition & Food
Kimberly Miles, EMS
Jenae Root, MIS
Chloe Mathewson, Nursing
Billie Blair, Nursing

Val Brisbin, Police
Emily Hutchison, Telehealth
Caroll Berndt, COS
Angela Ehlers, Dental
Yolanda Gallegos, EMS
Jessica Thompson, EMS
Erik Maxon, HRMS
Elaine Estacio, Social Work
Jack Davis, Surgery
Josiah Christensen, Fiscal
Valerie Grave, Telehealth
Allisa McCullough, HAS

Hello's



Goodbye's

The Boise VAMC would like to say goodbye to
the employees who left us:

Christine Chandler, Telehealth

Debra Shawler, Nursing

Kelly Chance, HAS

Nicolaus Dockstader, EMS

Marjaliisa Nisser, Research

Nancy Williams, MSO

VETERANS GET YOUR FREE

FLU VACCINE



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center

Flu vaccines are expected to arrive mid-September and will be provided for free to enrolled veterans. Get a flu vaccine during your scheduled appointment, walk-into any Outpatient Clinic, or attend one of the flu clinics being offered below.

**Please remember your VA ID card and clothes that help make your shoulder accessible.*

Drive-Thru Flu Clinic

Boise VAMC, Parking Lot 1

September 19 - 21

9:00am - 3:00pm

Walk-In Flu Clinics

Boise VAMC, Bldg. 85A

September 18 - November

Mon-Fri / 8:00am - 3:00pm

Caldwell CBOC

September 25 - October

Mon-Fri / 8:00am - 3:00pm

2017
International
Sterile Processing Services
Week



Patient
Safety
STARTS
WITH
US

Boise SPS
Open House
Oct. 8-14
9am to 3pm

Open to staff & patients.

Participate in guided
tours and hands-on
sterile processing
demonstrations.



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

SERVICE PIN AWARD CEREMONY



NEW

JOINT PATIENT SAFETY REPORTING SYSTEM

JPSR



Learn how to enter a **NEW** patient safety report on the reverse side!

POTENTIAL EVENTS - NEAR MISSES/CLOSE CALLS - ADVERSE EVENTS

HELPFUL HINTS

Information can only be saved when the event is complete.

Information cannot be saved and accessed later.

There is a 10 minute inactivity timeout of the form.

Click the 'JPSR Help' link for online help.

Click on 'Clear Section' at the top right of the form to clear all values entered in section.

In the drop down fields type the first few letters of entry to limit the number of choices, ex. 'BOI'.



DIRECTIONS

Open the link to JPSR in: APPman - Admin - JPSR

After going through PIV authentication process, click on Department of Veteran Affairs icon.

Begin filling out Reporting Form. You do not need to login or register to report an event. Be mindful of the 'Helpful Hints' mentioned on the front of this page.

Fill out the Details of the person reporting the event or type 'FEAR' to remain anonymous.

Fill out WHEN the event occurred.

Fill out WHERE the event occurred. (Type BOI in 'Campus' select 'Boise VAMC' and the next 3 boxes will auto-populate)

Fill out the DETAILS of the event. (Do not use any personal identifying information of staff or patient in this box)

Answer the next few questions. If the event involves a patient, a screen will appear with the request for additional information. (The 'Veteran Number' is the last 4 of the SSN)

A PDF document can be attached to the report, if applicable.

DON'T FORGET TO CLICK 'SUBMIT' TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS!



Homeless Veterans Stand Down

**October 21, 2017
8am to 2pm**



For more info please call (208) 422-1000 ext. 7423

You fought for us - Let us fight for you



**PROOF OF VETERAN REQUIRED
MEDICAL SCREENINGS, HAIRCUTS,
FOOD, SURPLUS GEAR & MUCH MORE!!!**



Boise VA Medical Center - 500 W. Fort Street Boise, Idaho 83702



GET TO KNOW YOUR...



Lindsay Jordan
HCHV



Abigail Asumendi
MHICM



Raymond Dyer
RSAT



Alexandra Leahy
2P



Brooke Hanson
ICT

2017-2018



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center

SOCIAL WORK INTERNS



Josh Echevierra
VJO



Brianna Salmon
TCT



Jill Jenson
OPT MH



April Calhoun
OPT MH



Makala Knutson
OPT MH

LOCKING YOUR PC WHEN NOT IN USE

There is a requirement to lock your computer screen each and every time you walk away from your computer screen. Even if you are only leaving your PC for a quick moment to grab something from the printer, use the restroom, etc. and the only other people around are other VA staff - you are still required to lock your computer screen by pressing **Cl + Alt + Delete (Lock This Computer)**. By doing Lock vs. Logoff you can get back into your PC more quickly when you return.

Those found in violation of this requirement will be warned upon a first offense; will be required to take training upon a second offense; and will receive discipline from their supervisor upon a third and subsequent offenses.

Do your part to protect patient information by locking your computer screen when you are not using your PC.





National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October 1-31, 2017

My Information Security Officer is:

Matt Biggs, x1560

My Privacy Officer is:

Erin Martin, x1031

National Cyber Security Awareness Month provides VA's workforce with tips, tools and resources to properly handle records containing sensitive Veteran data.

We Care to be Aware

For more info, visit staysafeonline.org/ncsam

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Office of Information
and Technology

Office of Information
Security



Calling All VOLUNTEERS!!

Looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to bring their trunks, decorate these trunks, and pass out candy at the Boise **VAEA** 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat Event on Saturday, October 28, 2017. The event starts at 4pm so get there early to decorate!

Easy Peasy!

So, what do you say?? Can you help make this event a great success?!

(Last year was a blast!)

****PLEASE LET US KNOW IF ELECTRICITY IS NEEDED****

Please contact your VAEA Rep Cindra @ cindra.goldenstein@va.gov or call Ext. 1302



Dr. Dennis Stevens was featured in the 'VA Researchers Who've Served' section of the VA's website.

Dr. Dennis Stevens is a world-renowned clinician-scientist at the Boise VA Medical Center in Idaho. An infectious disease specialist, he loves taking care of the clinical needs of Veterans and wants to help them in any way he can. By researching diseases that have plagued Veterans for decades, he believes he can improve care not only today but also for future generations of service members and Veterans. In his nearly five decades as a VA researcher, Stevens has earned many honors, including the prestigious Society Citation Award in 2000 from the Infectious Diseases Society of America for his lifetime achievements in research, medicine, and teaching. He has also written more than 170 manuscripts and has edited and contributed to dozens of medical and scientific textbooks.

VA Research Communications: What drove you to military service?

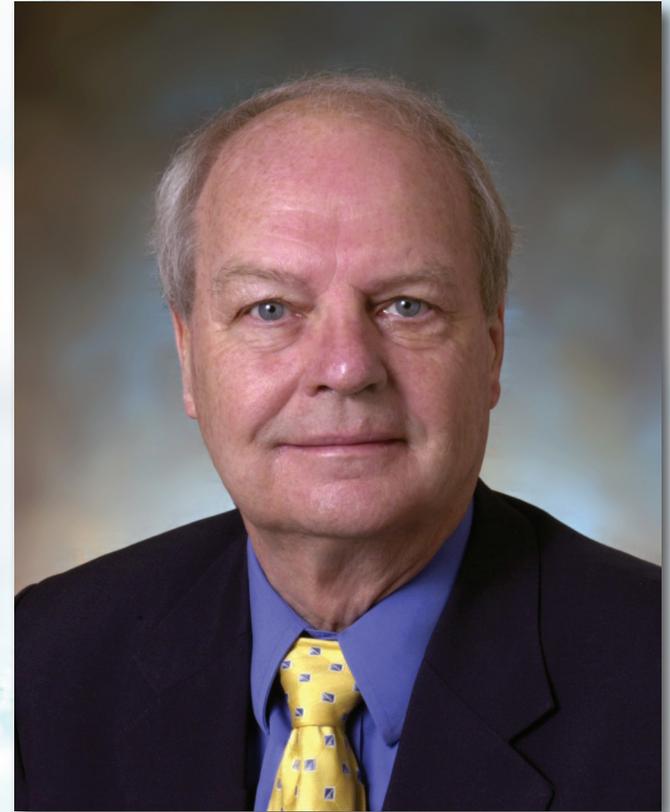
Stevens: My father always encouraged me to "be the best I could be." He said if you are going to serve in the military, you should become an officer. I enrolled in the ROTC at the University of Montana.

What inspired your research career?

As an undergraduate, I read a book called the "Microbe Hunters" by Paul de Kruif. He described microbiologists in history that tried to determine the cause of cholera, typhoid fever, malaria, and other diseases. I majored in microbiology at the University of Montana. I did special projects on bacterial growth with Dr. Matsuri Nakamura and was inspired by a pathogenic microbiology course taught by Dr. James Taylor. In graduate school, I learned the principles of deductive reasoning and pathogenesis, but with emphasis on the pathogen. During medical school and medicine residency at the University of Utah, I became aware of host factors involved in pathogenesis. While a resident, I encountered many faculty members that were outstanding clinicians, excellent teachers, and dedicated researchers. I decided that that is what I wanted to do.

You've been a researcher in VA for nearly five decades? How does that feel?

I have been a researcher at the Boise VAMC since 1979 and have had nearly continuous funding through VA Merit Review grants. It feels like I have been a successful researcher by VA standards. I appreciate the attitude in VA that supports academicians, whether it is teaching or research, as well as the dedicated clinicians. Everyone is treated the same. It makes for good relationships.



Did you have mentors in your youth or at any other time who inspired you in life, the military, and-or in your research career?

My mother and father were consistently supportive of my intellectual interests. When I was in the military, Dr. Jay Sanford, a famous Infectious disease physician and a great friend of the military, was often a visiting professor at our institution at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He later became dean of the medical school at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He was a true inspiration and would be supportive of me for decades.

When and where did you serve in the military? Describe your military experience.

I was in the ROTC from 1960 to 1964 and in summer camp at Fort Lewis in Washington state in 1963. I delayed active duty so I could attend graduate school at Montana State University from 1964 to 1967 and medical school at the University of Utah from 1967 to 1971. In 1968, I worked as a research technician at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, and in 1971, I completed a three-month clerkship at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii on active duty as a second lieutenant. I entered active duty in 1974 as a captain and internist at Fort Lee in Virginia, and I completed an infectious disease fellowship at Brooke Army Medical Center, from 1975 to 1977, under the tutelage of Dr. Dale Everett. For the next two years, I was assistant chief of infectious diseases at Brooke Army Medical Center.

What type of research are you involved in? What are your specialties? What are your goals? How does your work potentially impact Veterans?

I am involved in infectious disease research, specifically gram positive infections caused by pathogens such as group A streptococcus, Staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium perfringens, Clostridium sordellii, Clostridium septicum, and Clostridium difficile. I am board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. Our goals are to understand the pathogenesis of these infections and provide new treatments. We've developed new concepts in antibiotic treatment for these infections. Our work has been widely published. I am chairman of the Infectious Disease Society of America guidelines committee for the diagnosis and management of skin and soft tissue infections. In the last decade, this work has clearly led to better treatment for Veterans with these types of infectious diseases.

Did your military experience inspire you to pursue a career as a VA researcher? Is your military experience connected in some way to your VA research?

Absolutely. As a clinician, I experienced a wide variety of infectious diseases in soldiers brought to Brooke Army Medical Center from all over the world. How these various pathogens caused disease and killed soldiers became of extreme interest to me. I began to focus on the gram positive bacteria and started to develop a fundamental understanding of the virulence factors, specifically bacterial toxins and how they were produced by the microbe. In collaboration with Dr. Robert Allen at Brooke Army Medical Center, we began work to discover how these toxins affected the host response and specifically the immune system. Dr. Allen and I continued to collaborate for several decades even after we both left the military. That work has been the central theme of research that I have performed at the Boise VAMC since 1979.

Do you believe being a Veteran yourself gives you a greater emotional tie to the work you are doing? Do you believe being a Vet gives you more insight into Veterans' needs?

Yes. I know the hardships of serving one's country and the injuries that can occur in combat. Much of our work has centered on horrific infections that active-duty military can endure. In addition, Veterans can develop the same types of infections. They deserve the best possible care. Being a Veteran has improved my compassion for other Veterans and has provided more insight into current and future needs for our Veterans. I also am aware that some Veterans really appreciate that I served in the military. This has improved doctor-patient relationships.

Based on your life experiences to date, what do you believe are the keys to success? What motivational tips would you share? I think your brain and heart have to be in sync when the tasks are difficult and laborious. It takes a lot of work. There are victories and defeats, and the heart is what carries on through those times. One must have a prepared and questioning mind. You can't be a researcher if you believe in the status quo. Pursuing the unknown is reward enough.

You've earned so many honors and awards in your career? What do you attribute that success to?

Having fresh ideas, questioning dogma, having a vision for a program, being honest, and being a good communicator in published research works and verbally at national and international symposia. The greatest honor and award in research is to be recognized for accomplishments by one's peers. Perhaps my greatest achievements are the Society Citation Award I received from the Infectious Diseases Society of America and election to membership in the Association of American Physicians for work I did on severe group A streptococcal infections, such as flesh-eating bacteria. Two articles of mine published by the New England Journal of Medicine were also great awards. Finally, an invited "State of the Art" article that will be published by the New England Journal of Medicine in the next few months was great recognition of my accomplishments. That article will have a large audience, and it summarizes a lot of the work we've done at VA over the years.

What's the next step for you in your VA career?

In the last six years, I have been instrumental in getting a new basic science research facility built by VA that cost \$7.5 million. I also founded a VA-sanctioned non-profit organization named the Idaho Veterans Research and Education Foundation. The foundation began with a \$2,000 donation from me and currently has a budget of \$500,000, all from overhead from research grants. Last June, we were awarded \$10 million from the National Institutes of Health to develop a center of excellence for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. This five-year grant comes with renewals for two successive five-year periods. We've hired five new investigators to work on infectious diseases. My next step is to work to make sure all of these new elements are sustainable for the future and to identify a replacement for me who shares the passion and vision that has carried us forth the last few decades.

GET TO KNOW YOUR...



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center



Hanna Thomas, PsyD



Jordan Wisner, PhD.

2017-2018 **PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL RESIDENTS**



Former NFL player Jared Allen came into the Boise VA Medical Center to help his brother get enrolled.

Enrollment Specialist and Vikings fan Brian Flesch got the chance to take a photo with Jared.





BOISE
VA MEDICAL CENTER

PURPOSEFUL CHANGE



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

PILOT EXPANSION

Working hard to be the
"BEST PLACE TO WORK"

JOIN US

October 26th 10am to 12pm in the LRC for

Celebration of WAVE 1 Sprint Projects &
Kick-Off for WAVE 2 Sprint Projects

GET TO KNOW YOUR...



VA

Boise VA
Medical Center



Rebekah Kintzing



Shawn Good



Lindsay Rautman



Erika Eisele

2017-2018 **PSYCHOLOGY** INTERNS

HELP US BEAT BREAST CANCER

PINK 10/24

FROM NOON

TO 1:00 PM

BLDG. 67

FRONT STEPS

WEAR PINK

SEEKING MENTORS...

LEAD Program

A major component of the program requires that the participants have the opportunity to work closely with and learn from a mentor. We are looking to ALL of our certified mentors so that we can get the best pairings of mentor/mentees possible.

We use short questionnaires to find what areas the mentee would like to improve upon and then try to match that person with a mentor that possesses those skills or traits. Our goal is to have the mentor/mentee matches determined before the end of November.

Expectations

The last few weeks of 2017 will be used by the mentor and mentee to get to know each other and to develop their relationship; no real structure other than what they both agree upon. January 17, 2018 will begin the formal relationship and will last at least until the mentee completes the Boise LEAD program at the end of June. Program requirements call for the mentor and mentee to meet for about an hour each week for the duration of the program.

Various topics of discussion will be made available by the LEAD Coordinator, but this will be open to your expertise as well. Some ideas include national and local healthcare issues, articles from the news, and issues we are dealing with internally. We will also periodically send out topics of discussion that are directly related to upcoming LEAD course work.

As you make your decision to become a mentor in the Boise LEAD program, you should be aware of the following commitments:

- Approximately 24 hours of meeting time with mentees (about 1 hour a week from January to June)
- Two to four hours of classroom time on February 1, 2018. This is where you and your mentee will receive more guidance on program expectations and which project the participant will work on.
- A signed contract with the LEAD Coordinator, the mentor, and the mentee acknowledging the program time commitments listed in the bullets above.

For more information about the program, check out the Education SharePoint site (click on the "LEAD Program" button on the left side of the page) or contact Donna Grant at extension 7378.

Please let Donna know NLT November 17th if you are interested in volunteering.



What's Happening in Mental Health -It's all about Hope and Recovery!



October 19th is **Global Peer Supporter Recognition Day**. In celebration of that day and all that the Boise VA Peer Support Specialist do, we thought you'd like to know a few things.

What is Peer Support? Peer Support is a system of giving and receiving help founded on key principles of respect, shared responsibility, and mutual agreement of what is helpful; it is a process dedicated to promoting empowerment and self-determination in the service of recovery.

What is a Peer Support Provider in a mental health setting? A person with a mental health and/or co-occurring disorder, **who has been trained** to help others with these disorders identify and achieve specific life and recovery goals. A peer support provider is a person **who is actively engaged in his/her own recovery**. A peer support provider is a person who volunteers or is hired to provide peer support services to other engaged in mental health treatment. It is said that a peer supporter **models recovery shoulder-to-shoulder** with the peers they support.

What is the purpose of a Peer Support Program?

- **To provide Opportunities** for Veterans to take control of their own recovery.
- **To teach and support** the learning of skills needed to facilitate one's recovery.
- **To make Veterans aware** of available services and choices.
- **To help Veterans develop** a sense of wellness and self-worth.
- **To bring a unique perspective** to the treatment teams on which they work.

What do trained Peer Support Providers do?

- **They serve as role models** by sharing their personal recovery stories, showing that recovery from mental illness is possible.
- **They teach** goal setting, problem solving, symptom management skills and a variety of recovery tools
- **They empower** by helping others identify their strengths, supports, resources & skills.
- **They advocate** by working to eliminate the stigma of mental illness.
- **They act as community liaisons** by identifying social supporters in the community and encourage the expansion of local community resources.



Boise VAMC Peer Support Specialists
L to R: Steve Walker, Deanna Brent,
Jimi Holcroft, Larry Buttel

GET TO KNOW YOUR...



VA | Boise VA
Medical Center



Eva Sommer, FNP-C



Jeremy Griffin, FNP-C



Kristy Crowhart, FNP-C

2017-2018 NURSE PRACTITIONER RESIDENTS



ADORABLE PET CONTEST

Do you have the cutest pet?

Enter a (high quality) photo of your pet to be considered for the 'Adorable Pet Contest'. Send your photo to Josh Callihan before 10/31 and include the pet and owners name.

Pet must be your pet and currently living with you. No cheating.

The top 5 cutest pets will be featured in the next Boise Front.

The winner will receive all bragging rights associated with having the cutest pet!