



# The Journal

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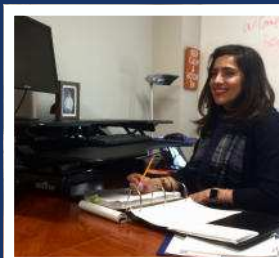
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Photo By Sharon Holland



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# Black History Month: 'African Americans in Times of War'

By Bernard S. Little  
WRNMMC Command Communications

Walter Reed Bethesda observes Black History Month with a program Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. in the America Building's piano foyer.

The 2018 theme for Black History Month, "African Americans in Times of War," honors women and men who served their country in uniform, particularly those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The theme also commemorates the centennial of the end of World War I in 1918.

"African Americans have contributed significantly throughout the history of America. Our contributions during times of war is no different, and especially significant because [it happened] during the darker eras of this country when we were not considered equal. African Americans believed enough in the idea of America that they took up arms, fought and died for this great country," said Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Tavarae Lewis, a member of the Multicultural Committee at Walter Reed Bethesda.

"America is a country whose strength stems from the diversity of its people. While we come from different walks of life and experiences, it is the belief in this tenant that unites us as one America. However, it is important to take time to reflect on the many contributions various communities have made to this great nation. In the words of our current Director of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja: "The U.S. military does not practice diversity, we are diversity. Hence, that is what makes us the most capable force of good on the globe," Lewis added.

Navy HM3 Jared Reiber, also a member of the WRB Multicultural Committee, agreed. "The importance of Black History Month is much more than just the famous people we see on the screen," he said. "I think about it as more of everyone who is a part of it."

Focusing on this year's theme for Black History Month, Reiber said, "To me it means the heritage of America. In all the wars and battles we have had in America, African Americans have been a part of them. From the Revolutionary War to the War of Terror, we as Americans have worked side-by-side with one another.

"And not all wars are physical," Reiber added. "You can take Jesse Owens as an example. He was the Olympic athlete



COURTESY U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

**This year's theme for Black History Month, 'African Americans in Times of War,' honors women and men who served their country in uniform and commemorates the centennial of the end of World War I in 1918.**

who stood up to Adolf Hitler during the 1936 Olympics in Germany. Hitler was vocal about his hatred of black and Jewish people." He explained Hitler's goals included using the 1936 Olympics to showcase his "master race" of people with the hope that German athletes would dominate the games, but multiple victories by American athletes, and in particular, Jesse Owens, dispelled Hitler's theory of a master race without the use of bombs and guns.

"I remember [Owens] from the stadium they have in Ohio [where Owens grew up and went to school] named after him," Reiber continued. "My high school track team runs a meet at it every year," he added.

"The [Black History Month] theme can bring history back to the present," Reiber added. "I am a firm believer in 'If you forget the past you are doomed to repeat it.' If we can remember and celebrate the lives of those who stood up, had an impact and increased the general well-being of human society, than I know we are going in the right direction in this country," he said.

For more information about the Black History Month observance at Walter Reed Bethesda, call HM1 Tavarae C. Lewis at 301-319-2649.

## Bethesda Notebook

### Tunnel Closed

The tunnel that runs from Bldg. 11 to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is closed because of construction. Pedestrians should take an alternate route.

### CMC's Calls For All Enlisted

A mandatory Command Master Chief's Calls for enlisted members of all services at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center are scheduled for 7:15 to 8 a.m. in Memorial Auditorium on the following days: Feb. 16 for E-4's; and Feb. 23 for E-3's. For more information, call Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jonathan Spears at 301-295-2429.

### Black History Month

The Walter Reed Bethesda Multicultural Committee hosts a Black History Month observance Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. in Memorial Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend.

### American Heart Month

In observance of American Heart Month, Cardiology Service is hosting a series of informational tables on the first floor of Building 9 in the west mezzanine (near The Wedge). Nurses, licensed providers, nurse practitioners and technicians will be available to answer questions and pass out information related to heart health. Dates and information for the tables are: Feb 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Integrated Cardiac Health Program (heart health through diet, exercise, quality sleep and stress management); Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon, Heart Failure Awareness, Tobacco Cessation; and March 1 from 10 a.m. to noon, Women's Heart Health.

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# Uniformed Services University Offers Degree Opportunities for Enlisted Service Members

By Sharon Holland  
USU External Affairs

Enlisted service members have often been referred to as the 'backbone' of the military for their support, leadership, willingness to get the job done, and thirst for knowledge. It's important to retain these dedicated, talented troops to ensure their experience is passed on to the next generation of military non-commissioned officers. It's also important to ensure they are prepared for careers in the civilian sector once they leave the service.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) offers a wide variety of educational opportunities open to enlisted personnel. USU, a Department of Defense agency, is the nation's only Federal health sciences university. While the school's main campus is located in Bethesda, Maryland, next door to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, it also offers a number of programs for enlisted in San Antonio, Texas.

## College of Allied Health Sciences

Congress granted approval in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act for USU to grant undergraduate degrees. As a result, the University's College of Allied Health Sciences was established to meet the needs of corpsmen, medics, technicians and the Services by awarding transferable college credits that can lead to undergraduate degrees for enlisted students completing military medical training programs at the Defense Health Agency's Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) in San Antonio. The degree program will make students more competitive for promotion and more marketable in the civilian sector once they leave active duty.

USU faculty assess academic portfolios for students currently enrolled in one of five METC programs — surgical technologist, medical laboratory technologist, nuclear medicine technician, physical therapy technician, and neuro-diagnostic technician — and for instructors in 49 METC programs.

An expansion is planned to include more METC programs, and other military organizations have also expressed interest in working with the College, including the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, the Tri-Service Research Laboratory at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston,



PHOTO BY SHARON HOLLAND

**Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu (center), a member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences board of regents, watches students in the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) medical laboratory technologist course practice blood draws. The MLT course is one of several METC programs that offer enlisted students a degree pathway through USU's College of Allied Health Sciences.**

and the Community College of the Air Force.

Students' qualifications, as well as the training received at METC, is documented and transferred to recognized, transcribed college credits with the opportunity to complete a degree awarded from USU once enough credits are earned. These transcripts also capture previous education and training for enrolled students, and apply current course work toward requirements for a USU degree in a process fully vetted and approved by the Middle States Commission of Higher Education, USU's accrediting institution.

Army Staff Sgt. Robert Eccles, a medical laboratory program instructor at METC, was the first graduate of USU's College of Allied Health Sciences last year. Eccles earned his Associate of Science in Health Sciences degree and will begin work on his bachelor's degree this month.

"I was honored to earn my first, but not last, degree from USU. I am even more excited for all the service members who will be following me in this program to be able to earn their degrees from USU," Eccles said. "I look at this program and what it will offer to all the service members coming through the medical laboratory program and other programs, and it fills me with happiness to know that these Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen won't have to struggle as much as I did to earn their degrees. I already have

been telling my peers and students, this is the best opportunity available to service members, and the most painless way to earn our degrees."

For more information on the College of Allied Health Sciences, visit: [www.usuhs.edu/cahs](http://www.usuhs.edu/cahs).

## Enlisted to Physician Program

The USU Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program, or EMDP2, was designed to give promising enlisted service members interested in becoming military physicians a pathway to medical school.

The two-year program is a partnership between USU, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, and the George Mason University-Prince William Campus (GMU-PWC). Students remain on active duty and maintain their current pay and benefits while going to school full-time.

Program components include undergraduate-level science coursework in a traditional classroom setting at GMU-PWC in northern Virginia, structured pre-health advising, formal Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) preparation, dedicated faculty and peer mentoring at USU, and integrated clinical exposure.

Once they complete the rigorous program, successful students will be competitive for acceptance to U.S. medical schools. Students are required to apply for medical school at USU, but may also apply for entrance to other

medical schools through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program.

Nearly 70 students have been accepted into the EMDP2 program to date, with backgrounds ranging from combat medics to air traffic controllers to linguists to musicians. Currently, 21 EMDP2 program graduates have enrolled in medical school; 18 are attending USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, and the other three are enrolled at civilian medical schools.

"I think one outstanding thing about this program, from the day I submitted my packet, is that everyone is encouraging and they are motivated to see you succeed," said former Army Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Richter, a member of the charter EMDP2 class and now a second lieutenant and student in the Hebert School of Medicine class of 2020. "Should you need any help, whether it's academically or administratively, there is someone willing to help you out ... I commonly tell my colleagues that if you can't succeed in this situation, you might need to find a different path."

Each service has its own application requirements and acceptance criteria, and interested service members should go to the EMDP2 website at [www.usuhs.edu/adm/emdp2](http://www.usuhs.edu/adm/emdp2) or Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/USUEMDP2/](https://www.facebook.com/USUEMDP2/).

## F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine

Participating in the EMDP2 program is not the only way enlisted members can enter medical school at USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, dubbed "America's Medical School."

Army Col. (Dr.) Robert Mabry, served 11 years as an Army Ranger infantryman and Special Forces medical sergeant before applying to medical school at USU. Mabry, who served as a rescue medic with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia, during the infamous "Blackhawk Down" battle in 1993, chose USU after interviewing for medical schools because, he said, "the whole organization was dedicated to ensuring my success as a doctor."

Mabry's NCO experience paved the way for his career in emergency medicine. Since graduating from USU, Mabry has served as the program director of the Military Emergency Medical Services and Disaster Medicine Fellowship, the largest EMS fellowship in the nation, and as the director of Trauma Care Delivery at



# NSAB: No Drone Zone

By NSAB Public Affairs

Flying drones for recreational purposes can be a lot of fun but it can also be dangerous. All drone pilots must thoroughly understand the rules and safety precautions where they fly.

In Washington, D.C., the flying of recreational and professional drones without authorization is prohibited on military installations, including Naval Support Activity Bethesda.

On NSA Bethesda, only one program has been granted an exception and a permit by the Federal Aviation Administration and the commanding officer. This program, run by the American Red Cross at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, is authorized to operate drones with participants in a therapeutic program, but only in designated areas.

“Flying drones in the National Capital Region is prohibited; this includes NSAB,” said Hans Semple, NSAB antiterrorism officer. “All personnel who request to fly a drone in the area would need a permit from the FAA.”

Drones that are determined to be unauthorized may be targeted or stopped by security personnel.

If you see drones operating on NSA Bethesda that you suspect are unauthorized and/or being operated in a suspicious manner, contact base security at 301-295-1246.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has published guidelines regarding recreational drone use at [www.faa.gov/uas/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/).

If you have a smartphone, you can download the FAA’s B4UFLY app for approved flight zones and for flight planning.

For more information on drone operations aboard the installation, contact Hans Semple at [hans.b.semple.civ@mail.mil](mailto:hans.b.semple.civ@mail.mil).



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## NSAB's New SLO Looks to Connect Families With Education Resources

By Andrew Damstedt  
The Journal

Naval Support Activity Bethesda’s (NSAB) new school liaison officer has only been on the job a couple of weeks, but is already looking at implementing new ways to help military families focus on their child’s education.

“A school liaison officer is an advocate for families who are transitioning,” said Chanel Sharp, who started as NSAB’s school liaison officer Feb. 2. “We’re an information hub.”

Some of the information she hopes to disseminate through new workshops is geared toward helping military teenagers make a smooth transition after moving. Topics will include how to adjust to moving to a new school, how to get ready for college, future employment and why it’s important to disconnect from social media.

“It’s hard, nobody likes to be the new kid,” Sharp said. “[Making friends] will add to their happiness and longevity.”

Sharp is also looking to set up classes to help parents motivate their children at school.

As a former school teacher, Sharp said she brings a different perspective to the school liaison officer position.

“A teacher sees a lot in the classroom,” she said.

That’s why she encourages parents to find time to help out in their child’s classroom — so they can see the interactions their child makes firsthand.

“You can find out a lot by just observing for one day,” she said. “It’s really important the perspective that is gained, you also get to see where the teacher is coming from. Carve out some time at least one time a year to volunteer at the school during school hours.”

She also recommends parents meet with their child’s teacher and principal after moving to a new area.

When moving to the National Capital Region, Sharp said many military families have a lot of questions about the 14 school districts in the area and her role is



PHOTO BY ANDREW DAMSTEDT

**Chanel Sharp, Naval Support Activity Bethesda’s new school liaison officer, encourages families to stop by her office for any educational needs.**

to provide parents with enough information to make decisions about their children’s education.

One advantage for parents, she said, is the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, which is an agreement between all 50 states where school districts have to make appropriate accommodations for military families during transitions.

“So if a child was in a previous sport, that child doesn’t have to try out again for the football team or the basketball team,” she said. “Same thing for credits, if they took a Florida history, they don’t have to take a Texas history. What was found was a lot of our military teens were falling behind in graduating and having to retake a lot of classes.”

Sharp comes to the NSAB position from being Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall’s school liaison officer. She views her role as a sounding board where parents can come and talk through questions they have about education.

“Sometimes a parent already knows what they want for their child, but they just need to talk it out and look at the pros and cons,” Sharp said.

Sharp encourages parents to utilize her office as a resource.

“If parents have any questions, such as ‘This doesn’t sound right that my child has to take this class’ or ‘My child is looking for scholarships,’ just reach out to us,” Sharp said.



# ANC Chief Stresses Readiness for 'Keeping You In the Fight'

By Bernard S. Little  
WRNMMC Command Communications

Celebrating the 117th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps with the theme "Keeping you in the Fight since 1901," Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, ANC chief, stressed the importance of readiness to meet the military's medical mission during a General's Call Jan. 29 at Walter Reed Bethesda.

Chief of the ANC since November 2015, as well as commanding general of the Medical Research Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Maryland, Holcomb explained the ANC has dedicated and talented nurses who work alongside those of her sister services as well as civilian nurses to ensure beneficiaries of the Military Health Care System receive safe, quality patient. Along with this, she stressed the importance for ANC nurses "being ready to respond to calls of need at any time, any place and for any need."

Holcomb encouraged people to look back through history and learn how nurses were able to take care of patients in austere settings with limited resources to save lives. She explained those nurses used their basic nursing skills along with compassion, teamwork and innovation to help the injured and save lives. "They used their hands, senses and common sense, and those are the skills we can never, ever lose," said the ANC chief.

Virtual health, which combines clinical care and professional collaboration, continues to impact the delivery of care, Holcomb explained. Virtual health uses telemedicine, telehealth and collaboration to connect clinicians, patients, health-care teams and other health professionals to provide care at a distance. The military is using this technology with greater frequency as service members deploy globally.

In this regard, Holcomb pointed out many ANC nurses have already responded to many real world needs in recent years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, humanitarian missions in response to hurricane relief efforts in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, as well as responding to the 2017 mass shootings in Las Vegas and Texas.

Keeping the force in the fight encompasses readiness for missions such as these and more, Holcomb explained, which is why she said "readiness remains at the forefront in all we do."

Holcomb added readiness not only means members of the ANC having the training and skills necessary to deploy at any time and to any place, but also ensuring enlisted service members who work alongside ANC officers are also equipped to function independently when they are the sole medical support at the point of injury on the battlefield.

Holcomb stressed that safe, quality



PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

**Army Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb (left), chief of the Army Nurse Corps and 2nd Lt. Morgan Plowman, the most junior officer in the ANC at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, cut a cake celebrating the 117th anniversary of the ANC during a cake-cutting ceremony Jan. 29 at WRNMMC. The ANC became a permanent corps of the Army Medical Department under the Army Reorganization Act passed by Congress Feb. 2, 1901.**

health-care, and "the care and compassion" with which ANC members deliver it to their patients, must remain paramount and should not be impacted by anything. "Patients are why we are here," she said.

Navy Capt. Valerie Morrison, WRNMMC's director of nursing services, said Walter Reed Bethesda "is fully in alignment" with Holcomb's priorities.

"Within the nursing arena, we work as a team. We must not only ensure that our new nurses are prepared and clinically competent to deploy, but also to train our hospital corpsmen, medics, and technicians critical skills they need when forward deployed," Morrison said.

Before cutting the ANC birthday cake with 2nd Lt. Morgan Plowman, the most junior ANC nurse at WRNMMC, Holcomb presented her ANC chief nurse coin to Army Capt. Rachel Hanlon, 2nd Lt. Matthew Brune, Spc. Mahadi Haque and Karen Cromwell for their exceptional nursing services and health care.

The Army Nurse Corps became a permanent corps of the Army Medical Department under the Army Reorganization Act passed by Congress on Feb. 2 1901, although nurses had served in the nation's armed forces since the creation of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

During the Civil War, the Union Army appointed Dorothea Dix as superintendent of Army nurses, and she cared for the wounded of the Union as



PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

**Army Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb (left), chief of the Army Nurse Corps, recognizes members of Walter Reed Bethesda's Directorate of Nursing Services, including Army 2nd Lt. Matthew Brune (center) and Spc. Mahadi Haque, for their outstanding nursing services during a General's Call Jan. 29 at the medical center in observance of the 117th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps. The ANC became a permanent corps of the Army Medical Department under the Army Reorganization Act passed by Congress Feb. 2, 1901.**

well as the Confederate forces.

In August 1898, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee was appointed acting assistant surgeon in the U.S. Army and placed in charge of Army nurses under the

Army Surgeon General's Department. She pursued the establishment of a

See **ANC**  
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## ANC

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permanent Army nursing corps, which became the ANC after passage of the Army Reorganization Act legislation that she helped draft.

During World War I, more than 21,000 nurses enlisted and over 10,000 served overseas, and during World War II, approximately 59,000 nurses served in the ANC.

Army nurses once again answered to call to serve during the Korean War, many working in Mobile Army Surgical Hospital or M.A.S.H. units near the front, as well at fixed health-care facilities stateside.

In 1955, the ANC stopped being all female, and once again, corps officers served with distinction during the Vietnam War with the Army decorating hundreds of nurses for bravery and distinguished service.

In July 1967, Col. Anna Mae Hays, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, was appointed ANC chief. During the Vietnam War, Hays travelled to Vietnam three times to monitor American nurses stationed. She also managed the development of new training programs and a significant increase in the number of nurses serving overseas. On June 11, 1970, Hays was promoted to the rank of brigadier general, making her the first woman in the U.S. armed forces to be promoted to a general officer rank. She held the position of ANC chief until her retirement Aug. 31, 1971. Hays died Jan. 7, 2018 at the age of 97.

Currently, ANC nurses are deployed worldwide as well as working in stateside facilities to keep a ready force in the fight.



PHOTO BY BERNARD S. LITTLE

Members of the Directorate of Nursing at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center gather for a group photo with Army Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, chief of the Army Nurse Corps for a group photo in the rotunda of the historic Tower at WRNMMC Jan. 29. Walter Reed Bethesda's Directorate of Nursing celebrated the 117th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps Jan. 29 with a General's Call hosted by Holcomb, who in addition to being the ANC chief, serves as commanding general, Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Maryland.

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| 3/6  | 11 am-1 pm      | Adult Coloring<br>Mezzanine West, Bldg. 9<br>Open to all. FREE.   |
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| 3/11 | 10 am-3 pm      | National Museum of African American<br>History and Culture*<br>Open to all. \$10 for transportation.    |
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## DEGREES

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the Department of Defense Trauma Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. He completed the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program, where he helped develop health policy while serving on Capitol Hill, and now serves as the Joint Special Operations Command Surgeon at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"Bob came to USU, graduated near the top of his class as class president, went on to become one of the most outstanding emergency docs in the military health system and helped create the combat casualty doctrine today that saved many men and women's lives in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Dr. Art Kellerman, dean of the Hebert School of Medicine. "He started as a 'C' student in high school, but he turned out to be a stand-up star. There are lots of stars like that in the enlisted ranks of America's military today."

NCOs who have their undergraduate degree and meet the criteria for entrance can apply for admission. Fifteen percent of the class that entered USU this past year spent time in the enlisted ranks before starting medical school.

In addition to the regular medical school admission process, enlisted interested in applying to USU must have the support of their current command, which will execute a DD-368, a conditional release (conditional on acceptance) for the service member for entry into medical school.

Hebert School of Medicine alumni have gone on to serve in a wide variety of exciting jobs, including NASA astronaut, service Surgeon General, White House physician, hospital commander, and like Mabry, medical leadership for operational forces.

For more information on the School of Medicine, visit: [www.usuhs.edu/medschool/howtoapply](http://www.usuhs.edu/medschool/howtoapply)

### Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences and Public Health

USU's Hebert School of Medicine also has a number of graduate degree programs in the biomedical sciences and public health. They include doctoral programs in emerging infectious diseases, neuroscience, molecular and cell biology, medical psychology, clinical psychology, health professions education, environmental health sciences, and medical zoology. In addition, there are master's degree programs offered in public health, tropical medicine and hygiene,

*"I made it through basic training with a bunch of soldiers in their late teens and early 20s. I've gone on dismounted patrols in a war zone and treated some pretty grievous injuries. Now I'm at USU. I feel like there isn't a whole lot I can't do," Bytnar said.*

health administration and policy, health professions education and military medical history. All of these programs are open to enlisted service members, with the exception of one clinical psychology track open only to civilians, and the Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, which is only available to military physicians whose careers are focused on tropical medicine.

Students enrolled in USU's graduate programs remain on active duty and maintain their existing rank and pay throughout their enrollment. As with all of USU's educational programs, tuition is waived. An additional service commitment is incurred after successful completion of the program. Interested applicants must have the support of their command to apply for these programs.

Army Sgt. Julie Bytnar made history as USU's first-ever enlisted graduate

student. Bytnar was a lead health care specialist with deployment experience in Afghanistan, where she treated everything from minor to life-threatening injuries. Her experiences there led her to consider pursuing a Master of Public Health degree from USU, where she could focus on injury prevention and epidemiology. She graduated in 2015 with her MPH, and is now pursuing her Doctor of Public Health degree from USU.

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Visit [www.usuhs.edu/graded/geofaqs](http://www.usuhs.edu/graded/geofaqs) for more information on USU's graduate programs.

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