Heroes All – All Winners in a Race for Life

Jefferson Apothecary

Newly Designed Apothecary Serving You

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Robert Neroni Photography

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AGL KW: Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

From left, Raymond Kitchens, Security; Amy C. Wu, MD, JMC '00, resident, Pediatrics; Maggie Bush, RN, Labor and Delivery; Anthony Santillo, Security. Thanks to magnificent teamwork of instant response and life-saving expertise, 3-month-old Drequon Hall will celebrate Valentine’s Day at home in North Philadelphia with his mother, brother and sister.

Drequon is safely home because of an extraordinary chain of human events by perhaps two or three dozen Thomas Jefferson University Hospital staff members, especially 19-year-veeteran Security Officer Anthony Santillo. Says Thomas J. Lewis, hospital President and CEO: “With a newborn’s life at stake, all of us can take pride in how well this team responded, representing in deed and spirit the best of what it means to work at Jefferson. While several individuals can be identified for their singular heroic actions, all who played a role can rightfully also be called heroes.”

Race for Life Begins

The race to save a new life began when a young woman burst into the 10th St. lobby of the Gibbon Building screaming: “My mother’s having a baby in our van.” Like all University security officers, Mr. Santillo, staffing the lobby security desk, is trained to react instantly to any emergency. He immediately radioed for medical help and dashed out to 10th Street. Through an open side door of a parked van he saw Sekeithea Hall, 27, on the van floor with a newborn baby laying motionless beside her. The umbilical cord was wrapped around the infant’s neck. Reaching quickly, Officer Santillo carefully removed the cord, and proceeded to clean the tiny face and mouth.

Next, Officer Santillo says, “I gently pressed baby’s chest. The baby coughed, spat out some blood and began to move his arms and legs. I then focused my attention on the woman, who was crying.”

More Help Arrives

At this point, more help arrived in the person of several JJeffSTAT staff members and Amy C. Wu, MD, JMC ’00, a 1st year Pediatrics resident at duPont Hospital for Children. Dr. Wu was walking home following clinic rounds when she spotted the commotion.

“I heard the baby crying, and saw he was still attached to his cord, so I asked people to get a blanket and clamps, and oxygen or a breathing mask, because his heart rate was starting to fall. Just then, a resident stuck her head into the van. We recognized each other from having done deliveries before. I said the baby was cold so we needed to clamp and cut the cord.”

Midwife Morris, MD, a 1st year resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology, picks up the story. “I was doing my rotation in the Emergency Department (ED) when a man rushed in, saying a woman was about to deliver outside. He led me and a few other residents out to the van, where Amy Wu was working with the baby. Because I’m with Obs/Gyn, I felt comfortable stepping in. I clamped and cut the cord, delivered the placenta and got the mother out onto a stretcher.”

JeffSTAT Alerts

Meanwhile, alerted by JeffSTAT, Megan Heyer, RN, the ED charge nurse; and Heather Malandru, RN, ED stage nurse, ran to the van. Despite being 7 1/2 months pregnant, Megan Heyer raced back to the ED entrance to call Lariia Lightstone, RN, at Labor and Delivery (L&D). “There is a baby being born on 10th Street!” Mr. Lightstone and Pat Constantyn, RN, Clinical Specialist, raced to the ED rear, while Maggie Bush, RN; and Dara Haverty, MD, 49 year Obstetrician/Gynecologist, raced to the ED front.

New Chief Information Officer Named To University Senior Officer Level

After an extensive national search, Wayne J. Thompson has been named Chief Information Officer (CIO) and a senior officer of Thomas Jefferson University, effective February 1. Mr. Thompson comes to us from the University of Southern Florida (USF) Health Sciences Center in Tampa, FL, where he served as CIO.

Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, said, “To stress the importance of the role of information technology, the University has elevated the Chief Information Officer position to the senior officer level reporting directly to me. Mr. Thompson’s broad experience in information technology and his success in structuring USF’s information technology system make him an excellent choice for this post.”

The CIO is the principal administrative officer for planning, developing and managing information technology (IT) for the University, and advises senior officers on all matters involving computer technology and voice, video and data transmissions and networks.

Mr. Thompson said he looks forward to meeting faculty, staff and students to better understand their IT needs. He welcomes the opportunity to oversee the University’s information system as well as to build key relationships with his counterparts at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and the Jefferson Health System.

While at USF, Mr. Thompson was responsible for restructuring college and department IT staff into a central support group with an enterprise-wide focus and upgrading the computer security system. Before USF, Mr. Thompson served as manager of information services and chief information officer for the Hernando County School District, Brooksville, FL, and as director of systems design and technical support for Tringley Systems, Inc., San Antonio, FL.

Mr. Thompson has also served as director of technical services at ROI Consulting, Nesconset, NY, and was a technology consultant at sumdilx.com, a healthcare Web portal.

He has served as chairman of the Bay Area Teaching Hospital CIO Summit, and was a member of the advisory board of the Moffitt Cancer Center Information Technology Group.

Jefferson University Hospitals Jefferson Health System

VITAL SIGNS:

December 2000

Jefferson Health System

Outpatient Visits

Patient Days

Length of Stay

Budget

Actual

FEBRUARY 1, 2001

13th Golden Pantry Fundraiser for Jefferson’s Employee Scholarship Fund

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals

Jefferson Health System

DECEMBER 2000

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Weather Emergency Hotline 1-800-909-5598

Telephone Directory Online February 1
Area Gifts Support Jefferson’s Rheumatology Division

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Jefferson University.

Susan Silver, RN, Women’s Board President, Honored

Susan Silver, RN, President of the Women’s Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, was recently honored for her dedication to Jefferson’s philanthropic efforts. During a luncheon held in her honor, Silver was recognized for her tireless work in supporting the hospital’s mission.

John L. Abruzzo, MD

Named Master of American College of Rheumatology

John L. Abruzzo, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Jefferson Medical College, has been named a master of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR).

Stephen E. Strup, MD

Named Fellow of American College of Surgeons

Stephen E. Strup, MD, Assistant Professor of Urology, Jefferson Medical College, has been named a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS). The College is the largest organization of surgeons in the world. By meeting stringent membership requirements, Fellows earn the distinguished right to use the designation “FACS” (Fellow, American College of Surgeons) after their names.

Notables
**University Telephone Goes Online February 1**

Telecommunications/Information Systems announces the rollout of a new online telephone directory on February 1.

You can access the directory through the URL: [http://telephonedirectory.jhu.edu](http://telephonedirectory.jhu.edu)

For those who are not able to access the online directory, a printed version will be available Spring 2001. The online directory has many features to make it user-friendly. For example:

- You can search by last name, department name, phone or pager number.
- You can submit changes in "real-time" by using an online change form.
- You will find links to supplemental sections of the directory, such as the Administrative and Hospital listings, directions, area codes and maps with zip codes.
- After using the new online version, you will not be required to search by name, department name, phone or pager number.

**Good Time to Review Your Prescription Benefit Options**

With the reopening of the renovated Jefferson Pharmacy on the ground floor of Gibbon Building – 215-955-8845 – now is a good time for all employees to review the various prescription benefit options available to you at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital outpatient pharmacies.

Says Howard Cohen, RPh, MS, Director, Pharmacy Services, of the newly reopened Apothecary: “We encourage all employees to visit our state-of-the-art renovated facility, designed with patients as the Number One priority.”

Mr. Cohen reminds employees, “Your Jefferson University Hospital NPA prescription benefit plan offers you the opportunity to obtain your prescription medications at any of the three Jefferson Pharmacy locations.”

These include the Jefferson Pharmacy, located in the lobby of 833 Chestnut Street, 9th and Chestnut Streets – 215-955-4400 – and the Apothecary in the lobby of the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, Wills Eye Building, 8th and Walnut Streets – 215-595-3011.

**Jefferson Celebrates Black History Month**

Performances by the Jeghetto Jazz and Music Ensemble, left, and Frank Bey, far left, & His Swing Blues Band highlight Black History Month events at Jefferson. For details of specific Black History Month events, see listings marked ❖ in JeffCALENDAR on Page 4.

**Hospital Simulates Helicopter Crash**

To test Thomas Jefferson University Hospital’s emergency preparedness, several key departments organized a disaster drill simulating the effects of a medical helicopter crashing on the hospital roof.

The response, coordinated by the hospital’s Emergency Preparedness Committee, involved many personnel from Security, KISTRAT, Telecommunications, Emergency Response Team, Rehabilitation Nursing (Thompson 3), Hospital Administration, Public Relations and Transportation, in addition to members and equipment from the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Under the mock scenario, a medical helicopter approaching the helipad lost control and crashed when a trauma patient being transported became combative with the flight crew.

Injury to four transport patients on the helipad, the crash ignited a small fire and spilled debris down the side of Forederer, causing evacuation of rehab and spinal cord injured patients from Thompson 3.

Besides helping ensure that hospital personnel are prepared for any emergency, the exercise ensured compliance with EHAHO and CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) disaster drill requirements.

**Daffodil Day Orders Taken Through February 21**

You have until February 21 to place your order for the 26th annual Daffodil Day sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Daffodils will arrive on campus the week of March 19. For 12 straight years, Thomas Jefferson University has been first in Philadelphia County in contributing to Daffodil Day’s fight against cancer.

To order, call Marie Maikner at 3-4500.

**Jefferson Responds to New Federal Regulations Governing the Privacy of Health Information**

In recent months, numerous articles have appeared in the news media focusing on public concerns about misuse of the confidential medical information stored in the computers of hospitals and other health care providers. The media attention to this issue is due in part to new Federal regulations designed to provide greater legal protection for health information. These new Federal standards, often referred to as “HIPAA,” govern the confidentiality, security, uses and disclosure of health information, and significantly impact the administrative activities of every healthcare provider and insurer.

Although complete compliance with the HIPAA standards is not required until 2003, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital have already started preparing to meet these new privacy and security standards. Representatives from key departments have formed a committee which is now working on a program to ensure that all confidential information is handled properly. In addition, the committee is planning an educational program to make patients, employees, and medical staff aware of their rights and responsibilities under HIPAA. You will be hearing more about these activities in the coming weeks.

In the meanwhile, if you have questions about HIPAA or have concerns about the way Jefferson is currently handling confidential information, contact the Compliance Office directly, or use the Compliance Hotline (1-888-SCOMPLY).
JeffNEWS
Your Employee Assistance Program 1-800-382-2377

February 1, 2001

JeffNEWS

Heroes All

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Astronomer Megan Heyer had rushed back to the van to sop up Dr. Wu and the baby's body fluids. We were carrying the infant—tired and regulate blood pressure. Dr. Haverty and Maggie Trush. Knowing that it was a very early delivery, Dr. Wu, Ms. Trush and Ms. Heyer ran full speed down the hall to meet the Yankauer Team. Dawn and Thompson to the Founder's Pavilion 11th floor lobby. Security Officer Raymond Kitchens joined the race, raising elevator keys over fluttering files as the group raced to 1L position.

“Thank you,” Dr. Wu said while still helping the newborn during her sprint for life. “We have very lucky to be runners.” Dr. Wu ran 15 miles a week, and Ms. Trush is also a runner.

They were spanning because, as Dr. Wu said, “We get cold when we get cold, it depresses their heart rate and their breathing slows down and they start stopping. When we picked up the bay, he was cold and his heart rate was too low. If it were not for a life-threatening situation, we would not have run all the way!

“When we reached 1L, the baby was breathing fine. But we were not cold, so we placed him in a warmer. Neonatology staff had come down from the 8th floor to take over him,” Ms. Trush said. Meanwhile, Dr. Haverty and Security Officer Raymond Kitchens were inside the 1st floor where they were later reunited with their dear friends, Christine Malloy, MD and Winnie M. Selbst, MD, in the Founder’s Pavilion 11th floor lobby.

officer: Officer Santello

Officer Santello said, “He did a great job. He made sure the newborn was kept a little bit lower than the plenum so that the baby would not lose any blood. He immediately helped the baby in the nurture—anyway in the room. He told me he had suctioned out the baby, which was very important, to let the baby's first breaths and see if the baby was alive, or if the baby was dead.”

For Mr. Officer Santello, he quickly returned to his post in the Gibson lobby. Later, he modestly revealed that he had ordered flowers sent to Ms. Hall’s room.

Reached at home when Dr. Wu returned, 2 months later, Ms. Hall confirmed the “fine,” walking 14 pounds, it seems. She said of Officer Santello, “He was the first to recognize for what he did.”

Editor’s note:

The Jefferson employees who helped resuscitate this story and stipulated that any individual who assisted be included.

Special mention must be made to the following employees who also played a key role either in the actual episode or in later identifying the identities of those who did.

Dawn Atkinson Crotty, RN, MPA, CHCM, CHDP; Christine Malloy, MD; Winnie M. Selbst, MD; Rachel Sorokin, MD; Marcia L. Joseph, RN; Brenda Swanson RN; Daniel Ferra, RN; William Murphy, EM/F; Michael Woodin, MD; Serena Rothenhouse.