

USU Newsletter

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The Road to Victory.... Pg. 6



Carol R. Scheman
Vice President for
External Affairs and
Managing Editor

Tech. Sgt.
André Nicholson
Editor

MC2 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor

Christine Creenan
Copy Editor

Marla Wright
Webmaster

Publishing
USU Duplicating Office

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Cover photo by
HM2 Michael Oliver

Dr. Rice Announces Selection of Senior Vice President

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has selected Dale C. Smith, Ph.D., as the university's first senior vice president.

"Dr. Smith has served as acting senior vice president for over a year and, after consideration of both internal and external applicants, it is clear that he brings a unique set of skills and an irreplaceable background to this position," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D. "Dr. Smith is not only an expert in medical history, he is an expert in the history of this university. It is this combination that makes it apparent that he is the best person to help us move this remarkable institution forward in its next stage of maturation."

Dr. Smith is currently a professor and chairman of the Department of Medical History in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at USU. In 1979 he received

his Ph.D. in the History of Medicine from the University of Minnesota. From that time until he moved to the Uniformed Services University in 1982, he was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Smith is active within his profession, having served as chairman of the program committee (1984) of the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM), as a member of the National Institutes of Health Special Study Section on the History of the Life Sciences on two occasions, as a member of the Council of the AAHM, as associate editor of the Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, on the editorial board of the Bulletin of the History of Medicine and as the editor of the AAHM Newsletter. He is also a consulting historian for Military Medicine, the journal of the Association of Military Sur-

geons of the United States.

In his new role as senior vice president, Dr. Smith will be providing direction and oversight of the operations of the Office of Diversity and Recruitment, the Learning Resource Center, the Center for Multidisciplinary Services, the Office of Affiliations and International Affairs, the Directorate of Continuing Education for Health Professionals and the soon-to-be established Office of Accreditation and the Office of Planning and Strategic Development.



Dale C. Smith, Ph.D.
Senior Vice
President

MTN Visits White House, Presents Award

By Leeann Ori
Alumni Programs Specialist, Alumni Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Military Training Network is helping the military health system breathe a little easier...quite literally, by supporting vital life-support education at the White House.

By partnering with the American Heart Association, the MTN provides guidance on basic life support training to 235 sites across the globe. It is through these sites that 250,000 people learn essential life-saving techniques each year.

The primary mission, HM1 Trudy Carmichael, USN, explains, "is to promote a higher quality product to better care for our Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen." This year the MTN has increased awareness with visits to several sites who met the standards for receiving a Best Practice Award. The standards, which include a rating at or above 95 percent on the site assistance visit checklist, was awarded to 35 programs out of 113 this year. One of those sites was the White House Medical Unit. LTC John Maurer, USA, director of MTN, along with several members of the MTN, presented CDR Ronny Jackson, USN, and Maj Karey Dufour, USAF, from the unit with a coin for the



Photo by Tom Balfour

LTC John Maurer, director of the MTN, presents BG Richard Tubb, MC, USAF, Physician to the President and Director of the White House Medical Unit, with a coin for the Best Practice Award.

Best Practice Award. This is the first year MTN has created a special coin to present to recipients of this distinction.

Later this month, the MTN will be co-hosting the Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update International Educational Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, NV. This is an important step in advancing the organization's goals.

CHE Receives Six-Year Accreditation from ANCCCA

By Christine Greenan
Web Writer, Office of External Affairs

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation, has recently awarded the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Office of Continuing Education for Health Professionals a six-year accreditation for continuing nursing health education (CHE).

Although the ANCC typically awards only four-year accreditations, the CHE USU program was able to demonstrate an exemplary record, and was therefore granted a six-year term.

"The outstanding hard work of the entire office, particularly the course administration specialists who ensure full compliance with educational standards, is to be commended," said Sylvia Scherr, director of Continuing Education for Health Professions.

This news comes on the heels of yet another six-year approval awarded to the office for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits Continuing Medical Education for Physicians office by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education in 2004. Under the direction of CAPT Jaime Ann Luke, NC, USN, senior executive director of the Continuing Health Education directorate, the program provides resuscitative and trauma education through the Military Training Network as well as continuing education accreditations for six professions including: physicians, nurses, social workers, health care administrators, psychologists and pharmacists, in tri-service education programs.

According to CAPT Luke, "Only a small percentage of providers ever achieve this exemplary accreditation. It is a testament to the professionalism and outstanding quality of the nursing educational activities at USU."

USU Preventive Med Docs Identify TB-Test Weaknesses

A recent study led by Army Major James Mancuso, M.D., MPH, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), identifies that the tuberculin skin test (TST) has many sources of error. The study, titled "Pseudoepidemics of Tuberculin Skin Test Conversions in the U.S. Army after Recent Deployments," will be published in the first issue for June of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, a journal of the American Thoracic Society.

Co-authors Air Force Lt Col Lisa Keep, M.D., MPH, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, USU; and Steven Toller, M.D., MPH, Army Medical Surveillance

Activity, along with Dr. Mancuso, have described eight outbreaks of false-positive TB tests between 1983 and 2005.

More than a mere institutional inconvenience or an individual's momentary medical scare, these false positives have become a real financial and medical burden by inappropriately diverting limited funds and resources.

Concerns about TB exposure have been raised by recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan which are reported to have among the highest rates of active TB in the world. However, many service members do not have sufficient contact with locals to raise their risk of contracting TB. As a consequence, "testing after recent deploy-

ments to the endemic and hyperendemic areas has occasionally resulted in large numbers of U.S. Army service members with [positive tests] and massive efforts aimed at preventing active TB," wrote Dr. Mancuso.

Because the positive-predictive value of a test—that is, the likelihood of a positive result indicating an actual case—is dependent on the prevalence of disease in a population, the lower the prevalence of a disease, and the higher the variability in the test and testing procedures, the less the positive-predictive value of a test will be.

"This may dramatically reduce the positive-predictive value of the test to below 50 percent," said Dr. Mancuso.

Student Profile: LCDR Julie Conrardy, NC, USN

By Christine Greenan
Web Writer, Office of External Affairs

First a ski instructor, then a nanny, now a naval officer in the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist program at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), LCDR Julie Conrardy is as varied as she is committed to advancing military medicine.

Although a self-proclaimed 'military brat', Conrardy's decision to join the Navy more than a decade ago was more spontaneous than planned.

"I was walking in Manhattan and happen to come across a recruiter's office," she said.

That impulse proved to be life changing; Conrardy would soon find herself in the surgical ward at ports in Bethesda, Lithuania and Sweden (aboard the USNS Comfort) and Iceland. Her work as an oncology nurse allowed her to practice medicine across the globe while dually satisfying her passion for travel.

For the past year, however, she has remained on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center, to pursue an advanced degree from USU's Graduate School of Nursing. She was drawn to the school for many reasons, namely because the PCNS program is the only one of its kind and because the university fosters inten-

sive interactions.

"I like that the classes are small. There are only seven of us," she said.

Conrardy holds a bachelor's degree in communications disorders and speech science from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Bachelor of Nursing degree from Pace University in New York. She admits returning to school was a difficult transition, calling the research "hard" but enjoys the friendships she has developed and the opportunity to study in a joint service environment.

Conrardy will graduate in 2009 and begin rotations in Okinawa, Japan.

"I hope that I am always the patient advocate," she said of her role as a member of the Navy Nurse Corps. As she gains seniority, Conrardy wants also to use her charge to mentor young nurses embarking on new careers.



LCDR Julie Conrardy
NC, USN
GSN Perioperative Clinical
Nurse Specialist Program

ATL Hosts Portion of Patient Administrator Course

By MC2 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Anatomy Training Laboratory hosted the Decedent Affairs Officer portion of the Patient Administrator Course, June 10. The course covers the responsibilities and expectations of the DAO.

The Navy Medicine, Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command's PA course is a three-week course offered four times a year, which focuses on the role of patient administration in Navy medicine, and is open to active and reserve Navy personnel of rank E6 - O5, as well as civilians.

When a death occurs in an area of operation, the area's DAO works with Mortuary Casualty Affairs and the deceased servicemember's family to ensure expeditious return of their remains.

Students of the eight-hour course receive lectures throughout

the morning, and learn in a hands-on manner how to inspect remains in the afternoon.

HM1 Ron Rivenburgh, USN, branch head of Navy Mortuary Affairs and one of the instructors of the course, said USU's ATL is a prime location for the course.

"All the facilities necessary for the course are on the USU campus," Rivenburgh said. "We embalm the bodies in the morning for the students to inspect in the afternoon, and the facilities in the ATL are very convenient."

Rivenburgh stressed the importance of the hands-on remains inspection portion of the course.

"We want them to learn how to handle the remains inspection in concordance with their duties," Rivenburgh said. "If they don't do a good job, they're letting the family of that servicemember down, so it's an important part of their role."



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

A Good AED-ea

USU's Family Practice Clinic, in conjunction with the department of Environmental Health Services has installed 13 of a planned 15 automated external defibrillators throughout the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), AFRRRI and outlying buildings: 28, 53, 59 and 79. The AEDs are small electrical units designed to restart a person's heart in the event of cardiac arrest. Pictured here, HMC Jeffrey Mueller, USN, leading chief petty officer for USU's enlisted Navy Division, installs an AED in one of the university's lecture rooms.

2008 Marks 60 Years of Military Desegregation

The year 2008 marks the 60th anniversary of President Harry S. Truman's executive order 9981, issued July 26, 1948, declaring that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

The American military has traditionally been known as a social motivator and has been regarded as leading the country toward integration/desegregation, yet war time needs seem to be one of the great motivators toward equalization. Initial efforts of integration were solidified as preparations began for the Korean War (Demographic studies took place before the Global War on Terrorism, so it's difficult to tell how much the current war-time posture has affected the status of advancement and utilization of ethnic minority servicemembers.)

Military desegregation began in 1946 and was finally achieved in 1954 with the completion of the Fahy Committee's final report, "Freedom to Serve." This was a full decade before the US Civil Rights Act of 1964, the beginning of equal rights in the civilian population.

Evidence of the military's continuing interest in equal opportunity can be found in its many efforts at self improvement over the years, as well as in its constant monitoring of programs, scrutiny of trends in population representation, internal surveys of its person-

nel, and aggressive approach to management training.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" (freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear) were largely unavailable to African Americans, yet 2.5 million black men registered for the military draft. More than one million eventually served in all branches of the armed forces during World War II. In addition, thousands of African-American women volunteered as combat nurses.

Integration took the same slow path for other minorities as well as African Americans. America's first Black general officer was Benjamin O. Davis, who initially entered the Army in 1898 and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general 42 years later at the age of 64. Second- and third-generation Japanese Americans who joined the military were viewed with distrust and assigned to all-Nisei units.

In 1976, that the first Japanese American, Theodore S. Kanamine, rose to the rank of a general officer in the Army.

The first Hispanic American to ascend to this level was David G. Farragut, appointed as an admiral in the Navy in 1866 after a brilliant career during the Civil War. It would then take another 100 years for the next Hispanic American to be appointed as a general officer: Richard E. Cavazos, who went on to become the Army's first Hispanic four-star general.

USU Alumni Gather for 2008 Reunion, Cruise

By Leeann Ori

Alumni Programs Specialist, Office of Alumni Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) held its alumni weekend May 16 – 17, which provided an opportunity to reunite after 25 years away from the university.



Contributed photo

Alumni attending the 2008 reunion dinner pose for a picture aboard the Capital Elite Yacht. This was an opportunity for guests to reunite as they observed historic D.C. monuments from a unique perspective.

the recent growth at USU with a tour of Building E. Later, graduates from various years gathered in the small dining hall for a Hawaii-themed reception.

The reunion's events started with campus tours provided by the Office of Alumni Affairs. During this time, alumni reminisced in lecture rooms, met with a few former professors and were given an opportunity to witness

After years apart friends reunited as if no time had passed. Those who were unable to attend, provided postings for the memory board to share with guests. The stories ranged from recent deployment experiences to updates on new additions to their families.

The main reunion event was held aboard the Capital Elite Yacht, which provided graduates with a tour of the Potomac River while they ate dinner.

The night was filled with delight as everyone shared stories while they enjoyed a unique view of D.C. Among the many alumni who attended, was the School of Medicine commandant, Col. Ken Tashiro, a 1984 SOM graduate.



Photo by Leeann Ori

USU Alumnus Kathy Hall-Boyer, SOM Class of 1983, is reunited with her fellow alumni who could not attend the reunion with the help of the Alumni Memory Board.



USU

A Traditional Academic University with a Unique Focus



USU Alumnus Lauds Joint-Service Approach to Research

By MAJ David Bentzel

Director, Laboratory Animal Program, NNMC

My name is MAJ David Bentzel, I'm a Master of Public Health 2003 graduate, and an Army Veterinary Corps officer currently serving as the director of the Laboratory Animal Program at the Naval Medical Research Center Detachment in Lima, Peru. My primary responsibility for the past three years has been management of Animal Care and Use Program and the Laboratory Animal Facility, which culminated in our successful accreditation by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International.

I have served as a voting member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee as well as the Institutional Review Board to help ensure the ethical use of both animals and humans in research. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the bacteriology, parasitology, and virology programs to develop and lead research protocols investigating *Bartonella bacilliformis*, pin-

worms, and rabies virus infection, which have led to several journal publications.

I've also had the unique opportunity to participate in a field study in the city of Iquitos, Peru, located in the Amazon jungle. The study sought to determine the seroprevalance of *Rickettsia felis* in dogs and cats to determine the likelihood of these animals serving as reservoirs for human infection. Not only did the sample collection require some creative capture and restraint of street animals, but it gave a glimpse into life in some of the poorest areas of a remote city in a developing country.

As the only Army officer at a Navy facility, I have been provided an insight into the operation of a "sister service", which helped instill a joint service approach to military research for everyone involved. I am extremely grateful for my opportunity to serve at NMRCD and experience life in a South American country and highly recommend it to anyone involved in infectious disease research.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Born to Run

A team of commissioned and enlisted servicemembers from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) participated in the annual Tom's Run, June 6. The run is held yearly to promote fitness and raise awareness of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and is named in honor of Tom Brooks, a retired Coast Guard chief warrant officer who contracted the disease in 1999. The run begins in Cumberland, Md., and follows the historic C&O Canal path to Georgetown before curving back to end at USU. Pictured here, back row from left are: Lt Col William Boyce, JAG, USAF; HM2 Tinsae Tekleab, USN; MAJ Jeff Yarvis, MSC, USA; HM1 Brian Politi, USN; and CAPT James King, USN. Front row from left are: HM1 Joseph Monsivais, USN; MSgt Stephen Huntington, USAF; YN1 Randy Forest, USN; MA1 Julio Jauregui, USN; and LTC Joseph Harre, VC, USA.

Dates to Remember

Clinical Simulation Manual Information : Richard Kyle's Patient Simulation how-to manual, "Clinical Simulation: Operations, Engineering and Management" is available in USU's Alumni Bookstore, as well as online at Amazon.com, and from Elsevier Book Sales' website, elsevierdirect.com.

Basic Life Support Classes: Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers courses will be on the first and third Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. Seats are limited, so if you would like to attend a course, please contact mrogers@usuhs.mil for availability.

June 17 : Navy Hospital Corps Birthday: The Navy Hospital Corps will be celebrating its 110th anniversary with a cake cutting June 17 in the Sanford Lobby. Congratulations to the "devil docs" at USU and around the world on the birth of their beloved Corps.

June 19 : 5K Summer Fun Run/Walk: There will be a "Run In the Sun 5K" June 19 at noon at the Comfort Zone Complex, Bldg. 23. For more information or to register, please contact Jack at the Sports Office (301) 295-0031 or Jack@mwrbbethesda.com. For the latest information on current and upcoming sports and other activities visit www.quickscores.com/comfortzone.

June 30: First USU/HJF Symposium— The Military and Civilian Medicine Joining Forces to Advance Research symposium will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, Md. For more information, call 301-294-1218.

July 10 – 25 : 2008 Field Exercises: Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted July 10-25 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. These exercises are unique to our University and require the support of all university uniformed personnel. Only emergency leave will be granted during this time frame as there are over 135

uniformed personnel (not including evaluators) needed to support this mission.

July 28 – Aug. 1 : Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course: AFRRRI will host the Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation (MEIR) Scientific Course from July 28 –Aug. 1. All personnel are invited and encouraged to attend. Visit www.afrrri.usuhs.mil for registration and information. CMEs/CNEs will be offered.

August 4-5 : Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting— The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

2008 Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Ride for Kids: Attention MOTORCYCLE enthusiasts! The Baltimore/Washington "Ride for Kids" road ride is set for Sunday, Sept. 21, starting at the mall in Columbia, Md. Donations for the ride (minimum \$35.00 donation per bike) will benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 9:15 a.m. The police-escorted ride through scenic countryside starts at 9:30 a.m., rain or shine. Riders on all makes and models are welcome. After the ride, stay for the Celebration of Life program to hear from the local children we help. Award presentations will honor the highest fundraisers and distribution of premiums will follow. The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, Inc., is a federally-recognized nonprofit charitable organization. Their missions are to discover the cause of and cure for childhood brain tumors by supporting medical research, aid in the early detection of children's brain tumors in order to improve the quality of life of children. For more information contact CDR Rene Hernandez at 295-9635, or email at rhernandez@usuhs.mil. You can also log onto: www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2008/baltimorewashington08.html.

Sept. 28 : Navy Five-Miler— The 2008 Navy Five-Miler will be held Sept. 28 in downtown D.C. FC2 Adam Race will be heading up a team from the university. The course is mostly flat and good for beginning runners. For more information, visit www.navy5miler.com. Contact FC2 Race at 295-9637 or email him at arace@usuhs.mil to join the university's team.

USN/USPHS Alumni, Faculty, Student Promotions

Congratulations to the following USU alumni, faculty and students who were just selected for promotion to CDR, U.S. Navy, in either the Medical Corps, Medical Service Corps, or Nurse Corps:

Medical Corps:

Hernan O. Altamar - Class of 1997
Chad M. Baasen - Class of 1995
Roderick C. Borgie - Class of 1997
David A. Boyd - Class of 2001
Daniel Breazeale - Class of 1999
Kevin J. Brown - current Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics student
Han O. Bui - Class of 1997
Rachel A. Burke - Class of 1997
James A. Caviness - Class of 1996, 2006 (Master's)
Ruchira Densert - Class of 1997
Jeffrey H. Feinberg - Class of 1997
David P. Gallus - Class of 1997
Katerina Gallus - Class of 1997
Gregory J. Hall - Class of 2001
Douglas G. Hawk - Class of 2000

David Y. Healy - Class of 2000
James S. Houston - Class of 2001
Robert T. Howard - Class of 1997
Michael P. Keith - Class of 1997
Stewart M. Kerr - Class of 1998
Michael A. Kuhn - Class of 1997
Henry Lin - Class of 1996
Hugh K. McSwain - Class of 1997
Daniel C. Mielnicki - Class of 1997
Edward F. Miles - Class of 2000
Gregg J. Montalto - Class of 1997
Bret N. Pasiuk - Class of 2000
Denise L. Peet - Class of 1997
Katherine Schexneider - Class of 1999
Andrew W. Schiemesel - Class of 1996
Daniel F. Seidensticker - Class of 1997
Richard P. Serianni - Class of 2000
Daniel L. Sherwood - Class of 2001
Danny T. Shiau - Class of 1997, 2005 (Master's)
Robert Silk - Class of 2000
Patrick Sipe - Class of 1997
John H. Smith, Jr. - Class of 1997
Christopher Streeter - Class of 1999

Kenneth A. Terhaar - Class of 2001
John D. York - Class of 1999

Medical Service Corps:

Trupti N. Brahmabhatt - Class of 2007 (EID)
Gregory W. Cook - Class of 2007 (PMB)

Nurse Corps:

Paul M. Cornett - Current GSN Faculty
David S. Markell - Current GSN Faculty

Congratulations to the following USU alumni and students of the Graduate School of Nursing who were also recently selected for promotion in the U.S. Public Health Service:

Victoria Anderson - charter GSN class of 1995 (FNP) - to CAPT, USPHS
Stephanie Bardack - Class of 2010 - Ph.D. program - to CDR, USPHS
April Kidd - Class of 2010 - Ph.D. program - to CDR, USPHS



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