

# USU Newsletter

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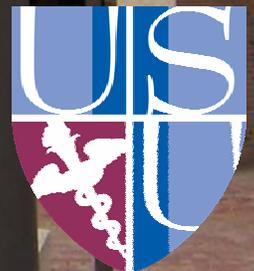
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**Cover photo by  
MC3 Jeff Hopkins**

## USU Faculty Member Elected to AAM Fellowship

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*

A Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) faculty member was recently elected to a Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

Anthony Maurelli, Ph.D., a professor for the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, was elected to Fellow for his "pioneering discoveries in microbiology and evolutionary sciences. He has conducted innovative research to develop these in the areas of bacterial pathogenicity, virulence evolution, and inter-kingdom evolutionary relationships."

The AAM is the honorific leadership group within the American Society for Microbiology, which is the oldest and largest single life science membership organization in the world. AAM's mission is to advance microbiological sciences through the pursuit of scientific knowledge and dissemination of the results of fundamental and applied research. The AAM recognizes scientists for their outstanding contributions to microbiology and provides microbiological expertise in the service of science and the public.

Nomination for Fellowship is made by a current Fellow of the AAM and supported by two additional fellows in good standing. The nominee must have earned a doctorate degree, be a senior professional in microbiology and distinguish themselves through scholarly achievement in microbiology (e.g., have an outstanding publication record, significant professional service record, patents, inventions, etc.).

Maurelli said he was gratified and honored for his nomination and subsequent election.

"It's not something that everyone gets," Maurelli said. "To be elected to Fellowship in the academy, you must be nominated by at least two Fellows in the academy, and I was nominated by my Ph.D. advisor as well as the scientist who was my post-doctorate advisor in Paris. It's really an honor, because it's a high recognition by the most prestigious scientists in your profession."

Maurelli said what attracts him to his work is the ever-present possibility that discovery is just around the corner.

"Being a scientist is unlike most other professions in that any day you can come into work and discover something that hasn't been seen before," Maurelli said. "You get the chance to answer a lot of biology's unresolved questions. Scientists have the opportunity to use imagination and creativity to solve problems, and I think that's one of the most exciting parts of being a scientist; there's always something new to learn and discover."

"It's a humbling experience in that, when you're at the cutting edge of trying to understand how nature and biology work, you understand

quickly how little you do understand," he said.

As a Fellow, Maurelli will have the opportunity to participate in some of the service activities of the AAM, such as serving on their general committees and advisory committees, which draw up policy letters and recommendations.

Maurelli has been with the university since 1986; while completing his post-doctorate education in Paris, France, Maurelli's supervisor informed him of the availability of a position at USU.

"I chose USU because it was a good opportunity for a young scientist like myself to come back into the U.S. at an entry level assistant professor position," Maurelli said. "From there, I could build up my own laboratory and continue doing the research that interested and excited me. Eventually I would start training new Ph.D. students, graduate students and medical students. It's all part of the system of academic science."

Maurelli's laboratory research centers on bacterial pathogenesis, or how different infectious agents cause disease, as well as how the immune system copes with the infection.

"Our two main research focuses are studying the pathogen, and understanding what it does to us," Maurelli said. "Within the department, we have people who study bacterial pathogens, viral pathogens, such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus, people who study parasitic worms, but all emphasize infectious disease. It's a really cohesive group of scientists, whose interests really complement my own."

Maurelli said USU has afforded him opportunities to work with top researchers in the DC area.

"I think the university has a growing reputation which attracts good scientists," Maurelli said. "The geographic area we are in is a really good area for setting up collaborations with other scientists, because of the high concentration of research laboratories: the National Institutes of Health across the street; the Food and Drug Administration research labs in the area; and the University of Maryland in College Park. They've made it relatively easy to work with other investigators, as well as bring them here for seminars and to teach graduate students."

"My wife and I have found that the DC area is also a good place to raise a family," he added.

All new Fellows will be recognized at the 108<sup>th</sup> ASM General Meeting in Boston, June 4.



**Anthony Maurelli, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, Department of  
Microbiology and  
Immunology**

## Student Profile: LT Stephanie Duffy, Anesthesia Program, GSN

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is home to students with prior service experience, and students with no military experience alike. With a combined 12 years of enlisted and commissioned service to the Navy, LT Stephanie Duffy, NC, USN, is more than adequately prepared for the military aspects of the curriculum USU has to offer.

Duffy was born and raised in Eire, Penn. Her father is a tool-maker and a former Navy machinist's mate. Her step-father was also in the Navy, as a fire controlman chief petty officer.

Despite her step-father's insistence that she join the U.S. Air Force, Duffy enlisted in the Navy as a hospital corpsman to pursue her interest in health care. During her eight years of enlisted service, she was for a time stationed aboard the cruiser-type ship, USS Vella Gulf. During her time aboard, the ship deployed to various areas around the Atlantic Ocean while doing "work ups" for the next Mediterranean cruise. She said she enjoyed the quality of deployment life.

"I actually enjoyed shipboard life, for the limited time I was on-

board," Duffy said. "I was on a cruiser, which is small enough that everyone knows each other, especially since I was one of only three corpsman on board. We took care of everyone."

Duffy missed her ship's Mediterranean cruise however, as she was accepted into the Navy's Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program, which allows enlisted sailors the opportunity to earn an entry level degree in nursing and be appointed as an officer. Through the MECP, Duffy earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Carolina.

Upon attaining her degree, Duffy was stationed at the Naval Medical Center San Diego in the Intensive Care Unit for four years.



LT Stephanie Duffy, NC, USN  
GSN Nurse Anesthesia  
Program

See DUFFY, pg. 4



## USU Faculty Presented the 14th Annual Satava Award

Two Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) faculty members received the 14th Annual Satava Award at the 16th Annual Meeting of Medicine Meets Virtual Reality in Long Beach, Calif., Jan. 29 – Feb. 1. Dr. Alan Liu (right), assistant professor of surgery and director of Virtual Environments, National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center, and Dr. Mark Bower (middle), professor of surgery and surgical director of simulation, Sim Center, USU, received the award for their innovative and visionary efforts to develop, incorporate and validate the use of simulators for medical education. Established in 1995 to acknowledge the contribution of Richard M. Satava MD FACS, the award is presented to an individual or research group demonstrating unique vision and commitment to the improvement of medicine through advanced technology.

# CHAMP Director Inducted into Order of Military Medical Merit

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

A Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) faculty member was recently inducted into the Order of Military Medical Merit.

COL Francis O'Connor, director for USU's Consortium for Health and Military Performance was presented the OMMM medal by Dr. Charles Rice, March 11.

The OMMM is a private organization founded in 1982 by the commanding general of U.S. Army Health Services Command to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army medical department personnel. Membership in the order recognizes those individuals who have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the Army Medical Department with selflessness, and made sustained contributions to the betterment of Army medicine. These individuals are generally considered to be in the top 10 percent of their corps and field.

O'Connor said he was honored to be nominated and inducted into the OMMM, particularly because the nomination must come from the inductee's peers.

"I was thrilled," O'Connor said. "It's recognition from your peers that you made a positive difference in military medicine, and that's a great honor."

O'Connor has been with the university in a number of positions. From 1996 – 2004, he was the director of the university's Sports Medicine Fellowship, following which he was the chief of

Family Medicine at Ft. Belvoir. From there he deployed to the Middle East as command surgeon with Army Special Forces, before returning to USU in his current position. He is also assistant director for the SMF, and a professor in the department of Military and Emergency Medicine.

O'Connor says working at the university gives him the opportunity to educate students and perform research, as well as work with top-notch colleagues.

"I love teaching the medical students," he said. "I enjoy working with Dr. Patricia Deuster every day to try and solve problems plaguing service members, particularly those deployed to battle. The best part of working at the university is it grants me the opportunity to teach, see patients, and do research, which are three qualities of the true academic physician."



Dr. Charles Rice, university president, congratulates COL Francis O'Connor, MC, USA, director of the university's Consortium for Health and Military Performance, on his induction into the Order of Military Medical Merit.

From DUFFY, pg. 3

During this time she deployed as a nurse aboard the USNS Mercy, the sister-ship of the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship associated with the National Naval Medical Center. During her deployment aboard the Mercy as a commissioned nurse, Duffy provided tsunami relief support for Operation Unified Assistance, deploying to Indonesia, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.

"I had deployed aboard the Mercy as a corpsman as well," Duffy said. "As an officer, the berthing areas were quite a change!"

Duffy's currently enrolled in the GSN's Nurse Anesthesia program, which educates nurses to provide quality anesthesia care in diverse settings throughout the world. She says she chose USU for her graduate education because of the opportunities for a unique experience that it offers, as well as the GSN Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist program's reputation.

"Everything I'd heard about the university made it sound like a really solid school," Duffy said. "It's ranked number six for nurse-anesthesia programs, which is also very impressive. I like that there's more camaraderie than can be found at civilian medical schools; everyone is willing to help you out, no one is competing for a job and class standing."

Duffy says she appreciates the opportunities for education and travel that the military affords her.

"I enjoy the different opportunities that I get in the military," she said. "Travel, education, and all the people from different walks of life you get to meet, they're all really wonderful. The military paid me to attend school while earning my bachelor's degree and now I'm earning my master's degree; the educational opportunities are definitely great if taken advantage of."

In her free time, Duffy enjoys soccer, horseback riding and surfing. She and her husband met in the Navy's Hospital Corpsman "A" school; he remains a Navy Reservist.

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## From Driving Don'ts to 'Honey Do's': USU's Senior Driver turns in his keys

By Tech Sgt André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) bid farewell to its senior motor vehicle operator during a social gathering March 13.

Eugene Holmes, who is joyfully known to most as Eugene or simply Gene, retired after 18 years of dedicated service to USU. Eugene's quiet but commanding presence will be missed by all those who worked with and around him.



Dr. Charles Rice (left), Patricia Burke (second from right) and Mary Dix present Eugene Holmes (second from left) with a USU pond picture.

during his time at USU and actually started out as a courier in the mail room and did that for about 10 years before becoming a driver and eventually the senior driver.

"I've really enjoyed my time here at the university," Eugene

"Eugene and I talked about almost everything during our drives to the Pentagon and all the other places we traveled," said USU's President Dr. Charles Rice. "I'll miss our conversations, but I won't miss Eugene's ability to find every traffic jam possible," he said jokingly.

Eugene wasn't always a driver

said. "Everyone I've worked with has been great and I'm going to miss them all. Mrs. (Patricia) Burke, my boss and Mrs. (Mary) Dix who I've known for years, have all been really good to me and I really do have great memories of my time here. When I first arrived here Dr. (Jay) Sanford was the university president, however I never did drive for him. When I started driving Dr. (James) Zimble was president and now Dr. Rice is president, so I've been here through three of our five presidents."

As a driver Eugene has gone everywhere from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to Quantico, Va., to Sharpsburg, Md., and many places in between.

Before Eugene came to USU he retired from Ft. Belvoir, Va., after 36 years. During his time there he worked in the Research and Development Center and held numerous jobs including supply clerk and nomenclature specialist. He also served four years in the Army before that.

When asked what the future holds for Eugene, he simply stated "I don't have very much planned, but I'm sure my wife has a 'honey do' list for me to start. I'm sure I'll also get involved with some volunteer work such as Meals on Wheels."

Eugene and his wife Verdine have three adult children, Veronica, Kelvin, and Latronga and six grandchildren, who he looks forward to spending more time with.



Eugene Holmes displays the crystal mug given to him by Mary Dix.



### Maryland USU License Plates Available for Purchase

There are many different ways to show your school spirit: painted faces at sports events, t-shirts and sweaters, stickers, ornaments and coins. Now it is possible to show that spirit with a Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) car license plate.

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# Calendar of Events

**March 23-26: AMEDD Radiology Course:** Current Concepts in Imaging.

**March 24: 28th USU Surgical Associates Day:** The Joseph H. Baugh Residents' Award, the 25th Michael E. DeBakey International Military Surgeon's Award, the 25th Baron Dominique Jean Larrey International Military Surgeon's Award, the Andrew C. Ruoff, III, Travel Award, the 22nd Barry Goldwater Service Award, and the Charles A. Hufnagel Residents Research Award will be presented. The Reserve Components Surgical Day will be included in the 28th USU Surgical Associates Day.

**March 24: Women's History Month Program:** USU will hold a Women's History Month Program March 24 at 10 a.m. in the USU Dining Facility. The keynote speaker will be COL(P) Loree K. Sutton, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs). All personnel are encouraged to attend.

**March 27: LRC Keeping Up with the Literature:** From noon to 1 p.m. Ever feel inundated by the vast amount of literature available on your topic and wish you had a way to manage it? This class will highlight some tools available from the LRC's Electronic Resources catalog that will help you manage searches and have updates and tables of contents sent to you automatically. This will help you keep up with information effortlessly and astound your friends and colleagues.

**April 11-16: 20th Annual International Bethesda Spine Workshop:** USU, WRAMC, NNMC, HJF Joint Sponsors. April 19-20: seventh Annual Comprehensive Regional Anesthesia Workshop: USU, WRAMC, HJF Joint Sponsors.

**April 29: Sanford Auditorium- Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress/Neuroscience Program:** Amygdala, Stress and PTSD Conference, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Sanford Auditorium. Speakers include: Robert Adamec, Memorial University; Michael Davis, Emory University; Ron Duman, Yale University; Anthony Grace, University of Pittsburgh; Arieh Shalev, Hadassah University Medical Center; Regina Sullivan, University of Oklahoma.

**May 1: Lecture Room E - Practical Dermatology for Primary Care Providers Eighth Annual Course:** This educational activity is designated for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, medical students, independent duty medical corpsmen and dermatology nurses. No special prerequisites are required to attend this educational activity. The topics will be structure and function of the skin; common bacterial, viral, and fungal infections of the

skin; acne and rosacea; common rashes, eczemas, and dermatitis; benign growths and skin cancers; effects of sunlight; common cosmetic procedures; when to refer to a dermatologist. Preregistration is required. Attendance is limited to 140 applicants. Registration forms must be received by April 18. Cost: \$10 for medical students (military or civilian), nursing students, and enlisted attendees; \$35 for U.S. state, or local government employed (military or civilian) physicians, residents, nurses, nurse practitioners and physician assistants; and \$100 for non-government civilian health care professionals. Amenities: No charge for parking; coffee provided at breaks; and a box lunch is available at no extra cost, or lunch may be purchased at the USU Cafeteria in Building B. Questions may be directed to Katherine Hall, Dermatology Dept., USU, at (301) 295-9802 or by e-mail at [katherine.hall@usuhs.mil](mailto:katherine.hall@usuhs.mil)

**May 17: DAR Constitution Hall- Class of 2008 Commencement Exercise:** DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D. St. NW, Washington, DC. P.O.C. University Affairs 301-295-4796.

**June 6-8: Tom's Run 2008:** Tom's Run is a 200-mile team building fitness event in memory of CWO4 Tom Brooks, USCG (Ret.), who contracted amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in early 1999. Each year teams of runners relay from Cumberland, Md. along the C&O Canal towpath to Washington, D.C., and finish at USU. For sign-up information, contact SSgt Rogers at [mrogers@usuhs.mil](mailto:mrogers@usuhs.mil). For more information on the event, visit <http://www.tomsrun2008.com>.

**June 30: First USU/HJF Symposium:** Military and Civilian Medicine Joining Forces to Advance Research, from 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, Md. For more information, call 301-294-1218.

**August 4-5: Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting:** Committee of the Whole Meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Aug. 4. Quarterly Meeting from 8:00 a.m. - noon. in the Board of Regents meeting room Aug. 5.

**NNMC Police Targeted Enforcement:** During the week of 24 March, NNMC Security Department Police Officers will be specifically targeting pedestrian safety and crosswalk enforcement. A friendly reminder that when crossing a street, the pedestrian must be in a cross walk. All patrol officers, 24/7 during the enforcement period, will maximize enforcement of speed regulations as well. When operating your vehicle on the installation, ensure you comply with posted speed limits and stop signs. The maximum speed on base is 20 mph, with the following exceptions: Wood Rd., 15 mph (this road curves around front of the NNMC Tower to the North and South gates.); all parking areas, 5 mph; Perimeter Road, 10 mph (this road goes around the back of the base around the ball fields/picnic areas.)

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## Hometown News Release Program Available

The Hometown News Release program is a great way to raise positive awareness of the achievements of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) personnel while improving USU's visibility and public image.

The program is designed to increase national awareness of the activities of our staff, faculty and students by providing written stories and documented images about them to hometown markets. It is

open to all university personnel, military and civilian personnel.

When an individual at the university has done something they feel is newsworthy, (e.g., selected as Jr./Sr. Employee of the Quarter, Service member of the Quarter, earned an award, etc.) they can stop by the Office of External Affairs (VPE) annex, Room B-1009 and fill out the required form. The form then goes to headquarters for distribution to local media and newspapers

in the individual's hometown.

Students participate in the program twice during their education here at USU, during matriculation and again at graduation, but VPE would like to see an increase in utilization of the program. Supervisors, if one of your subordinates has done something exemplary, encourage them to participate in the program.

You are the university's pride, and we want to show you off!

# USU Briefs

**Service Member of the Quarter:** SMOO nominations are due through the chain of command to the Senior Enlisted Leader by COB April 1. The SMOO board will be held April 11 beginning at 1 p.m. in Room A2052. The SMOO will receive a \$50 gift card, a reserved parking space, a 72-hour liberty pass, a Certificate of Appreciation, and a chance to compete for the Service Member of the Year. For further info, please contact HMCM Garrett, USN (BDE).

**Navy Uniform Shift:** All Naval personnel within the Naval District Washington area will shift to summer uniforms April 7. For E-7 and above, the uniform will be summer whites or khakis; for E-6 and below, the uniform will be service dress whites or summer whites. BDUs will be worn with sleeves up.

**PFT/PFA/APFT Notice:** The Spring 2008 Physical Fitness Test dates for all services are: April 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 17 at 7 a.m. or noon. There will be one make up date April 18 at 7 a.m. only. All military personnel are required to select the time and date that they will take their test immediately. There is more than ample time to prepare both mentally and physically for this mandatory testing. All Sailors must complete the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire and Physical Health Assessment annually, and Navy weigh-ins must be conducted between 10 days and 24 hours prior to the Physical Readiness Test.

**Brigade Awards Ceremony:** The next USU Brigade Awards Ceremony will take place April 18 at 8 a.m. in Sanford Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize the Enlisted Service Member of the Quarter, as well as other military personnel for their contributions to the organization. All department heads, chairs, supervisors, and directors are encouraged to attend this important occasion to show their support.

**Antietam Road March:** The annual Antietam Road March will take place May 1 beginning at 7 a.m. This march is an important lesson in medical history that allows students, faculty and staff the opportunity to witness the medical practices of the Civil War. Mili-

tary faculty, staff and students are to adhere to their service specific uniform regulations for backpacks, and it is preferable that all who attend this function wear only black backpacks. Further guidance will be disseminated as the date draws near.

**2008 Field Exercises:** Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted from 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.

**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 and location.

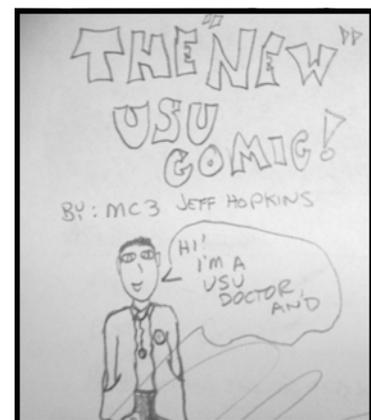
**USU Softball Team:** University personnel are forming a softball team for the upcoming spring season. Two to three teams are planned, ranging in levels of competitiveness. Anyone who wishes to play please contact SSgt Batista Sanchez in the Military Personnel Office. Those who wish to be assigned to a less competitive team, contact MSgt Huntington at stephen.huntington@usuhs.mil.

**New Director of the Molecular and Cell Biology Graduate Education Program:** After a national search and the unanimous recommendation of USU's academic search committee, Mary Lou Cutler, Ph.D. has been appointed as director of the Molecular and Cell Biology Graduate Education Program. Dr. Cutler is a nationally recognized cancer research scientist, basic science educator and academic community contributor.

**No Air Force MILPO Representation:** Air Force representatives will be unavailable for customer service from 7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. March 27 and April 15, 24 and 29 due to mandatory, and very necessary, MPF training at Andrews AFB. Please plan accordingly so the Air Force MILPO staff can meet the customer service needs of our faculty, staff and students.

## Big Shoes to Fill

By MCSN Raul Zamora and MC3 Jeff Hopkins



Oh, forget it...



# UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

