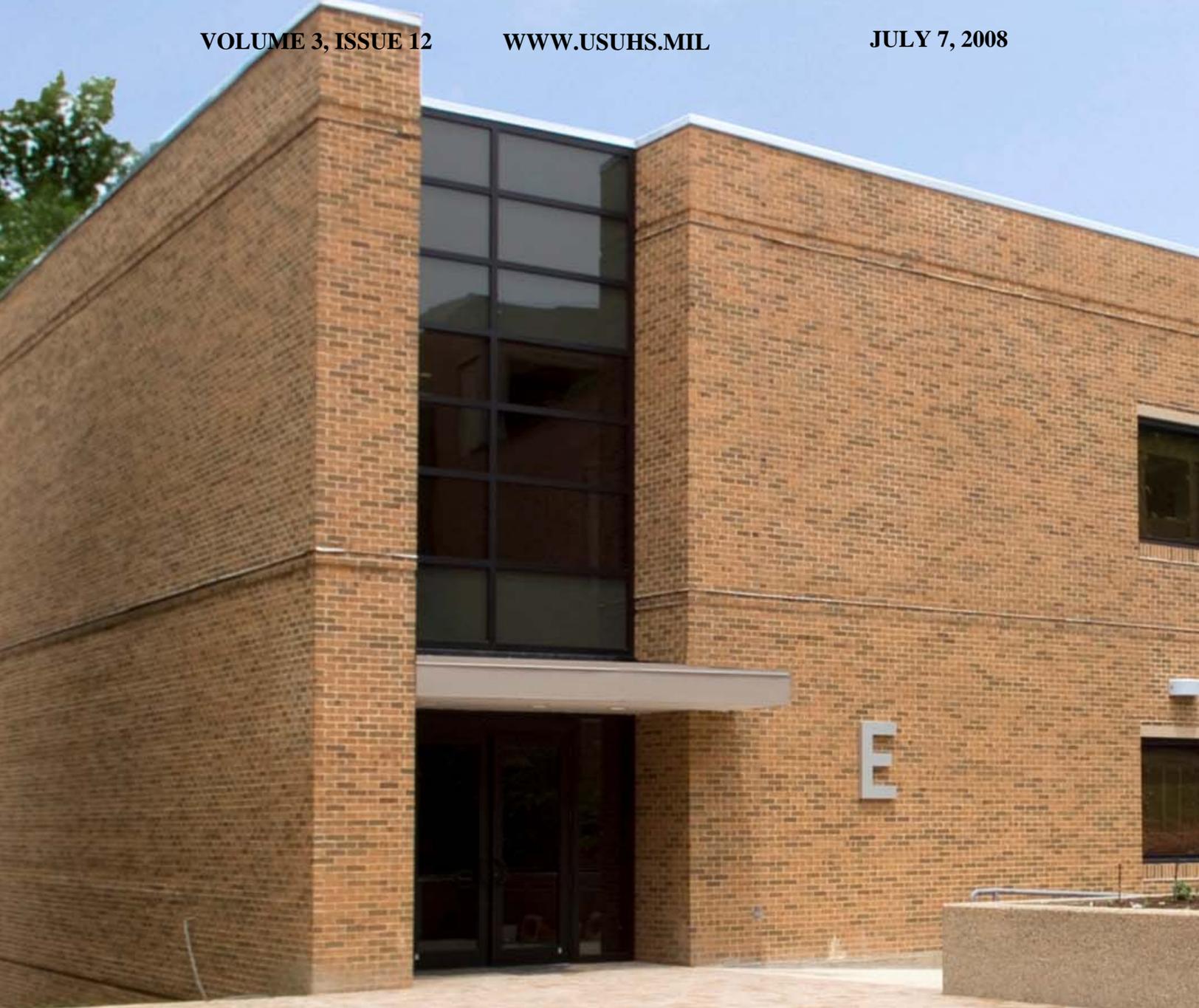


# USU Newsletter

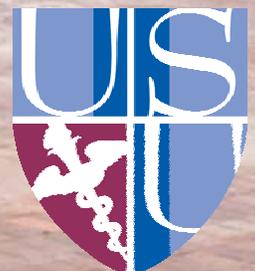
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

WWW.USUHS.MIL

JULY 7, 2008



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#### Production:

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Newsletter staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

#### Submissions:

The USU Newsletter will be published bi-weekly on Mondays and deadline for submission is Friday at 4 p.m. Submissions can be sent to usnewsleter@usuhs.mil or by calling 301-295-3925.

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Cover photo by  
HM2 Michael Oliver

## USU Senior VP Addresses Cafeteria Price Increases

By MC2 Jeff Hopkins  
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

Concern has been noted over the pending rise in prices of food offered in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) cafeteria. Below, Dr. Dale C. Smith, USU's Senior Vice President addresses some questions about this issue.

### Q) What is the current service in the cafeteria (who manages it)?

(A) The USU Cafeteria is currently managed by the US Navy's Morale Welfare and Recreation program. They are chartered by Congress to provide services on Navy bases that cannot be met by appropriated funds. USU cannot legally operate a dining facility directly as we would either transgress the competition with civilian economy regulations or we would break the rules concerning providing mess facilities for billeted personnel. If we were an Army base or Navy ship with assigned personnel, we could operate a galley but the assigned personnel would not get a basic allowance for subsistence, which is an allowance to purchase food.

Since we are a tri-service institution, with diverse assignment patterns, we cannot operate a mess. Because there are a lot of state-side Department of Defense installations in the same situation, the MWR provides an alternative.

Another important difference is that the cafeteria must pay its own way, it cannot operate in debt, and it gets no direct operating expenses from the government. This means we cannot use our appropriated money to subsidize their operations. MWR also operates the NNMC's bowling alley snack bar and the Child Development Center's food service. They are the intermediary for the Main Street commercial franchise vendors in the hospital.

### (Q) Why did we choose to go with MWR? What advantages does having them as our service offer us? How are the MWR benefits fed back to the customers? Why not go with a for-profit vendor?

(A) A for-profit vendor has the problem of capitalization of their establishment, whereas our cafeteria is federally built and federally supported. As such, we cannot grant its use to a private, for-profit company. It is important to note that while we say "our" cafeteria, it really belongs, real estate-wise, to the Navy, as USU is a tenant in Navy buildings.

While we can ask for a different vendor, they must work through the federal laws. MWR then has the job of hosting whoever sells the food. By going directly with MWR we gain two advantages: first, MWR is not primarily profit or bottom-line driven and they reinvest in our morale activities. For example, the USU summer picnic will be held in a few weeks, an event that is subsidized by the MWR fund, which is partially fed by the gross receipts of the cafeteria. Second, another beneficiary of the gross receipts is the restaurant fund, which helps fund the non-essentials of the cafeteria. Things like the yogurt machine are purchased by the restaurant fund, not by MWR directly.

The biggest advantage however, is the motive

MWR brings to the task. Lunch and breakfast are not big revenue creators in the food service business, (they typically break even,) and USU does not have a dinner business, so a private for-profit vendor would provide limited service. The first thing to go would be hot food, then variety in the self-service lines, as these things are personnel-intensive and get in the way of profits.

MWR must show a profit but it does not exist for profit, so as long as they are not in the red they can give us variety. There are second order effects to the variety. The staff that prepares hot food also give us a catering capacity that is known to the Navy and meets government standards, which is essential if you are going to cater in a government building and on a closed installation. If we lose the hot food and catering then there is no incentive to keep the stoves and other kitchen things, and hot food becomes more expensive. If you do not have a standard, known caterer, the liability associated with alcohol is too great, so beer and wine go away. Using MWR allows USU the flexibility to have after-hour events and provides a richer variety in the meal service offered. If we go with a single breakfast/lunch vendor we will have a vendor, be it Subway, McDonalds, etc. All are good, but will eventually lack variety, and unlike the hospital with its thousands of personnel, we cannot support more than one for-profit breakfast and lunch vendor.

### (Q) Why are prices rising? When will the new prices become effective?

(A) As a ballpark figure, prices will rise around 25 percent July 7. The reason is, the current balance sheet shows a deficit of over \$30,000 for the fiscal year (October) to date. The deficit is the product of several factors, among them the fact it has been almost two years since there was a general price increase and raw food prices have gone up. Energy costs, both to deliver the food and to prepare the food, have also gone up significantly. Inflation has raised personnel costs, as the workers in the cafeteria need raises just like the rest of us need more to make ends meet.

The catering revenue has fallen this year as we have, as a community, used a wider variety of caterers for various events. The profits from catering are an important source of revenue for the MWR balance sheet, and as we exercise our independence and use other food sources, (e.g. enlisted hot dog sales, graduation pig roasts, and privately catered meetings we take money away from the MWR account. The university charges a fee, 10 percent of the external catering costs, to make up the loss to



Dr. Dale C. Smith  
USU Senior Vice  
President

See **CAFETERIA**, Pg. 3

the MWR and restaurant funds but we do not restore the profits to the MWR kitchen activity.

We as a community need to ask ourselves how much flexibility we want in catering, if the costs is significant increases in cafeteria for the whole community. Our instructions say the cafeteria has the right of first refusal for on-site catering, but we have not been enforcing the rule because each case seems to have merit. We must enforce the rule while we discuss the costs of our choices. We will ask the University Senate as well as other fora to give the administration the benefit of their wisdom on catering in the coming months, but right now we are going to have to get the balance sheet back to zero. We hope that we can get price adjustments with greater regularity in the future so we are not so far behind and see such large jumps. Right now we must make up for the liberality of choice and the lack of increases for the last couple of years, and the result is painful.

**(Q) What is the university doing about the rise in price? Is there anyway to avoid passing on the rise in cost to the customer? What else is being done to save money?**

**(A)** We are looking at catering revenue streams, but we do not have much flexibility when it comes to food costs. It is illegal to supplement the operation with appropriated funds and we do not have significant sources of undesignated, non-appropriated funds. The cafeteria managers are aware that some people will not be able to pay the increases and will bring their lunches, thus the cafeteria will lose some revenue. The prices take into account their best judgment of this variable, as they have opened their books, our financial management personnel have checked their

numbers, the costs are real, the deficit is real and the law is clear. The result is they must raise prices and there is little we can do, practically and legally, to help mitigate the impact.

We can, with the management team, make some modifications in pricing that will limit future problems. We will probably see the hot line close for six weeks in the summer when the population is down, and this will allow greater flexibility in vacation personnel management in the cafeteria and keep personnel costs down. Low profit items will vanish, half sandwiches are a classic case – it takes as much time to make a half sandwich as a whole one and there is some wastage of ingredients, so the profit is low. We will see a reduction in the variety of sizes in some things, especially drinks, as a cost control measure. In the fall we will have a university committee work with the cafeteria management team in an effort to explore other options.

**(Q) Is there a forum available for the USU Community to weigh in on the issue?**

**(A)** If you have a money-saving idea, send a note to the President's Open Door, and we will get it to the committee. If you want to express an opinion, send a note to the USU Newsletter editor at USUNewsletter@usuhs.mil. Some will be published or consolidated for general consideration, especially if you have ideas we have not considered. Take your ideas to the University Senate, they can collect and develop data and options, or you can stop in and see me, and we can talk. If you just need to tell someone you don't like the price increase and wish someone would do something, come see me. I'll agree with you and as we talk, an idea of what we might do could come to one of us, but it will need to be legal and at least a little bit practical to get implemented.



*Photos by HM2 Michael Oliver*

## Service Birthdays

The U.S. Army and the Hospital Corps of the U.S. Navy celebrated their birthdays with cake-cutting ceremonies in the Building B Lobby, June 13. The Army was officially established by the Continental Congress June 14, 1775, to fight Great Britain. The Navy Hospital Corps was officially established by Congress, June 17, 1898, as part of an ongoing effort to provide adequate medical care at sea. Service birthday cakes are typically cut by both the most senior and most junior service member. At left, COL William Campbell, MC, USAR, and SPC Romeo Satsatin, USA, cut the Army birthday cake. Right, Hospital Corpsman Chief Rodrigo Foronda, USN, and Hospital Corpsman Third Class Gregory Curtis, USN, cut the Hospital Corps birthday cake.

## Tim McGraw Entertains Troops: USU Students, Staff Volunteer

By Sharon Willis  
Deputy Director, Office of External Affairs

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) students and staff members spent their Father's Day backstage at Nissan Pavilion as volunteers for the Tug McGraw Foundation.

The Tug McGraw Foundation was established by former Mets/Phillies pitcher, Tug McGraw, in 2003 to raise funds to enhance the quality of life of children and adults with brain tumors and their families by stimulating and facilitating research that addresses the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual impact of the disease. He later died of a malignant brain tumor.

Tug McGraw spent six years in the Marine Reserves. His son, Tim McGraw, the well known country music star, is the honorary chairman of the Tug McGraw Foundation and a strong supporter of the military and of the military's efforts in brain injury research and patient care. The foundation is also working in collaboration with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine to advance military medical research, and as a result of that tie, the McGraw Foundation donated tickets to a number of USU students, along with wounded soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and their families, to attend Tim McGraw's concert at Nissan Pavilion in Northern Virginia. The foundation later requested volunteers from USU to help backstage to assist the soldiers during a private concert given by Tim McGraw. Recording artists Lance Miller and Catherine Raney opened the performance.

Afterwards, Tim McGraw invited the students and soldiers to meet with him and his band, the Dance Hall Doctors, privately to express his gratitude for their service to the nation. He also recog-

nized them as VIPs during the concert.

"It was a great honor to represent USU at the concert," said MS-1 ENS Grace Landers. "Everyone was kind and polite. They treated us like celebrities. Mr. McGraw and his band were thanking us for being their guests."

In addition to ENS Landers, the USU students and staff who volunteered were ENS Andrew Kung, 2LT Paul Schunk, 2LT Douglas Farmer, 2nd Lt Regan Lyon, 2nd Lt Jennifer Stierwalt, ENS Elizabeth Polfer, SSgt. Rachel Broussard, SFC Michele DeSouza, SSgt Michelle Rogers, SGT Benjamin Lowry, and Ms. Leeann Ori.

During the concert, the Dance Hall Doctors drummer, Billy Mason, wore a USU t-shirt that had been presented to him earlier in the day, projecting the university's logo on the venue's giant TV screens in front of approximately 25,000 attendees. "I wore the shirt because I was so proud of the men and women I met, and didn't meet, that serve our country," he said.



Courtesy Photo

**USU students pose with Tim McGraw at the singer's concert at Nissan Pavilion, June 15. Several students acted as volunteers to the Tug McGraw Foundation, assisting wounded Soldiers during a private concert.**

## From Retired Reservist to Brigade Commander to MTN Director... What Lies Ahead for LTC Maurer

By TSgt. Andre Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

Most people come on active duty and then retire, but the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Military Training Network director did just the opposite. However, LTC John Maurer, MSC, USA, is not like most people and his career path has proven it.

After serving 30 years as an Army Reservist, Maurer retired in July 2001 and was enjoying life with his family in Minnesota. Little did he know, that would not be the last time he put on the Army uniform.

Just months after his retirement, the country was shaken to its core by the events of 9/11 and Maurer immediately received a call from the Army Human Resources Command asking him if he would come back into the Army if they needed him. However, a few more years would pass before the actual call to come back was received.

"I received a call from HRC in February 2006 to come on active duty as the Execu-

tive Officer here at USU," Maurer said. "So my wife and I flew here and met with (former brigade commander) CAPT Jack Rumbaugh. We then went back home and talked about it, and needless to say, a few months later I was reporting to the university as the new XO."

Now, nearly five years after his initial retirement, Maurer stepped into the brigade XO position July 24, 2006 and found himself back in the Army uniform. But just as unpredictable as it may have been for him to find himself back in the service, it wouldn't be long before he was presented another unexpected opportunity.

"I think I had been in the XO job for maybe a month, I was just getting my feet wet," he said, "but due to some unforeseen circumstances, CAPT Rumbaugh was asked to do a temporary assignment at the Pentagon to fill a critical opening, but that meant I would now become the brigade commander in his absence."

Initially Maurer's new job as interim brigade commander was supposed to span 90 days, but turned out to be permanent

for the next year until the current Brigade Commander COL John Wempe, MC, USA, arrived in July 2007.

"I must say that everything happened so quickly and this was my first experience working in a tri-service environment, but I couldn't have been more thrilled with the level of support I received from everyone," Maurer said. "Throughout my



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

**LTC John Maurer, MSC, USA, director of the Military Training Network and former USU Brigade XO and Acting CO, enjoys a ride in a Stryker Armored Combat Vehicle during the 2007 Operation Bushmaster/Kerkesner Exercises.**

See MAURER, Pg. 6

# MTN Staff Pumps Life into Cardiovascular Conference

By TSgt André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

A plan to improve the resuscitative medicine and trauma training programs proved to be a winning bet for members of the Military Training Network (MTN) who recently traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., for the 2008 Emergency Cardiovascular Care Update, an International Educational Conference and Exposition.

The bi-annual conference is an opportunity for a group of CPR and resuscitation instructors, practitioners and researchers to celebrate the art and science of resuscitation. This year marked the 15<sup>th</sup> ECCU conference and MTN staff members in conjunction with the American Heart Association, were responsible for coordinating attendance and participation of their 335 training sites worldwide.

"The MTN staff did a remarkable job coordinating everything," said LTC John Maurer, MSC, USA, MTN director. "This year we had more participation than we had in previous years and our staff members, Ruth Sullivan; SSgt (Katina) James, USAF; ENS (Iain) Gould, USN; and all the program managers were instrumental in



making this a successful event for the Military Training Network."

During the conference, HM1 Trudy Carmichael and (T) Sgt Rachel Broussard presented changes and updates to both the Pediatric Advanced Life Support and the Advanced Cardiac Life Support programs; TSgt Tuyen Tran and HM1 Joe Monsivais presented changes and updates to the Basic Life Support programs; and LTC Maurer and SFC (P) William Vernon discussed new programs and tools available to all the training sites.

"One of the things we promoted is that the sites should do a lot of transition training because there is always a high level of turnover," Broussard explained.

MTN is organized under the Office of Continuing Education and its mission is to develop and implement policy guidance and ensure compliance with curriculum and administrative standards for resuscitative and trauma medicine training programs for uniformed service members and Department of Defense affiliates worldwide. It consists of a tri-service staff who provide specific service expertise, central record keeping, worldwide coordination of programs and ensures national resuscitative and trauma medicine organizations are aware of military medicine's unique require-



Photo by MC2 Jeff Hopkins

## Student Spouses Lend a Hand

As part of their annual charity donation, The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Student Spouses Club donated \$400 to the Wounded Warrior Project, June 13. The WWP is a non-profit organization that raises awareness and enlists the public's aid for the needs of severely injured servicemembers by providing programs and services which meet their needs. Above, Melissa Martin, a Defense Travel administrator and member of the SSC, presents Casey Destefano, an intern at the WWP, with the SSC's donation check.

# GSN, CHE Relocate from Silver Spring to Building E

By Jessica Dinneen  
Assistant to the Office of External Affairs

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Continuing Health Education and Graduate School of Nursing are in the final stages of completing their move into the newly finished Building E on campus.

Constructed to provide extra classroom and office space for the CHE and GSN, Building E allows for improved communication between formerly offsite staff and the university. The building also features a 100-person lecture room as well as smaller classrooms featuring partitions for subdividing classes to provide for the increased number of degree-granting programs.

Though the move from the leased space on Colesville Road in Silver Spring to the USU campus does not possess the "minimal distractions," as described by COL Bruce A. Schoneboom, NC, USA, associate dean for Academic Affairs for the GSN, the new location augments the interaction between students and faculty. Schoneboom explained that the GSN feels more like a "part of the USU community."

Schoneboom added the partition-



Photo by MC2 Jeff Hopkins

**COL Bruce Schoneboom, NC, USA, places a book on his bookshelf in his office in the newly completed Bldg. E.**



Photo by MC2 Jeff Hopkins

**HM1 Trudy Carmichael, USN, works diligently in her new office space in Bldg. E.**

and a little hectic."

TSgt Tuyen Tran, program manager for MTN's Army/Air Force Basic Life Support Program, said the new location is particularly convenient with its increased access to the USU Brigade and the Bethesda Naval Campus. The only drawback, he said, is the decreased storage space. He said he will simply, "figure out how to work smarter."

Overall, the three-levels of the new structure are a welcome addition to the campus, though Tran lightheartedly insisted that the move will mean "a lot of people from the brigade are going to come find me." Turning back to the boxes left piled outside his cubicle, he said, "but we like each other."

capable spaces are a convenient way to share space according to class sizes.

"The new building's classrooms provide the faculty with the flexibility to design a classroom with the needs of the class itself," he said.

"Moving," according to HM1 Trudy A. Carmichael, USN, program manager for MTN's Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program, "is always a little chaotic



Photo by MC2 Jeff Hopkins

**TSgt Tuyen Tran, USAF, moves files from boxes to shelves in MTN's new room in Bldg. E.**

From MAURER, Pg. 4

career I've been blessed, fortunate, lucky, however you'd like to describe it. I've always had a superb NCO Corps who looked out for me and that was no different here. I especially have to say thank you to SFC Peña, Chief Heath, SFC Gould, SFC Abrams, SFC Harris and the Military Personnel Office crew who really kept me out of trouble."

Maurer is also just as appreciative of the support he received from the entire brigade staff and specifically CDR Gina Trotter, Lt Col William Boyce, LTC Wanda Jenkins and Col Ken Tashiro, who were extremely helpful and key to his survival as the commander.

"I also have to give a huge thank you to Dr. Rice and his staff who have mentored me along the way, Mr. Steve Henske, Dr. Laughlin, Dr. Kaminsky, Dr. Smith, and a fellow Minnesotan, (former GSN acting dean) Brig. Gen. Bester," Maurer said.

But Maurer's assignment at USU didn't end as the brigade commander, he soon found himself filling in as the director for the Military Training Network, a function under the Office of Continuing Education. In this capacity, he was responsible for a smaller network of people but with a mission that was no less important.

"The work that this staff at MTN does is just incredible," he said. "I'm really just here for administrative oversight as the staff handles all the resuscitative care programs throughout the Department of Defense and they do it so well."

So what's next for LTC Maurer? Originally, retirement number two was the plan but the Army has a need for a site commander at Fort McCoy, Wis., in a medical unit that is responsible for conducting medical examinations for mobilizing units.

"So it looks like I'm heading to Wisconsin for a tour there,"

Maurer said. "My family will remain in Minnesota and I'll just commute on the weekends to see them for the next year or so."

As Maurer reflects on his time here, he said he would probably stay forever if he could and if his family was here with him.

"This is just a gem of a place, with a tremendously important mission, executed by very dedicated people," he said. "The USU community made my wife and I feel so welcome. A special thanks to the Graduate School of Nursing for giving my wife a part-time position while she was here. It made her feel part of the USU family as well."

Maurer said he learned several things during his time here but being away from his family made him really appreciate what deployed troops who are away from their families must go through.

"I have a wife and three sons back in Minnesota and being away from my family for this long makes me appreciate them even more," he said. "The sacrifices being made by our young servicemembers on a daily basis is remarkable and should never be forgotten."

"All the best to those who train the best."



Photo by Tom Balfour

**LTC Maurer poses at the lectern in the Indian Treaty Room in the East Wing of the Old Executive Building during MTN's visit to the White House.**



**USU**  
**A Traditional Academic University with a Unique Focus**



## Preventive Med, Biometrics Hold Masters Programs Graduation

The department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics hosted its 2008 Masters Programs Graduation Ceremony, June 13.

The ceremony featured keynote speaker Ellen Embry, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Force Health Protection and Readiness in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

**Graduates of the Master of Public Health Program include:**

Matilda Beadling  
Kris Belland  
Michael Bowens  
Erin Bohan  
David Brett-Major  
Rodney Brittain  
Kevin Brown

Mark Chappel  
Naili Chen  
Scott Cherry  
Jared Cooper  
Glenn Dowling  
Sheena Eagan  
Val Finnell  
David Greenburg  
Joe Haines  
Cherise Harrington  
Nidal Hasan  
Paul Lang  
Megan McKenzie  
Rupal Mody  
Thomas Moore  
Stephanie Morrison  
Carmen Mundaca

Kevin Payne  
Blaine Powell  
Mark Reynolds  
Patcho Santiago  
Cecili Sessions  
Eric Sherman  
Lloyd Sloan  
David Tarantino  
Hongyan Wu

**Expected to graduate by fall from the Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene program are:**

Randall Freeman  
Devin Wiles  
Diego Gonzales

**Graduating from the Master of Science in Public Health was Jeffrey Delzer.**



Photo by HM2 Careese Charles

## In Memory

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Joint Service Color Guard performed the "Parading of the Colors" at the 35th Annual Maryland Anatomy Board Memorial Ceremony at a dedicated gravesite on the grounds of the Springfield Hospital Center in Sykesville, Md., June 13. Each year, the MSAB holds a memorial ceremony for the people who, through the Anatomical Gift Program, donated their bodies for the use of furthering medical education.

## USU Professor Awarded \$5.6M NIH Grant for Deadly Virus Therapeutics

Researchers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) have been awarded a \$5.6 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to develop and test vaccines and treatments for the Nipah and Hendra viruses.

Dr. Christopher C. Broder, USU professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the university's interdisciplinary program in Emerging Infectious Diseases, is the principal investigator of the grant from NIAID. The grant was awarded to further develop the vaccines and therapeutics for Nipah and Hendra that his group has been working on for the past several years.

The award will support a continued collaboration with investigators Lin-Fa Wang, Ph.D. and Deborah Middleton M.V.Sc, Ph.D. of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Livestock Industries, Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Center (AB-CRC) in Geelong, Victoria, where there is a high-level biosafety and security facility for testing the vaccines and therapeutics against deadly viruses in appropriate models.

Hendra virus and Nipah virus are recently emerged paramyxoviruses that are highly pathogenic and can cause lethal infections in several animals and in humans. Since their initial discovery in Australia and Malaysia, sporadic Hendra outbreaks have been reported from 1995 to 2007, while Nipah has caused at least nine outbreaks between 1998 and 2008. The majority of these episodes have occurred on a regular basis in Bangladesh and India, with human case fatality rates approaching 75 percent along with evidence of human-to-human transmission. The most recent appearance of Nipah in 2008 claimed the lives of several children. Studies have demonstrated that the natural reservoirs for Hendra and Nipah viruses are bats, primarily several different species of large fruit bats commonly referred to as flying foxes.

The first steps in countering infections caused by these viruses were to develop a vaccine that was both safe and effective, and also to find antibodies that could neutralize them. In earlier work, also supported by NIAID through the Middle-Atlantic Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (MARCE), a subunit vaccine for Nipah and Hendra, composed of a piece of the virus known as the G glycoprotein, was developed by Dr. Katharine Bossart, a former graduate student of Broder's laboratory. Recent experiments by Dr. Bossart and colleagues have shown the vaccine to be very effective in preventing Nipah virus disease.

Antibodies on the other hand are proteins that are found in blood or other bodily fluids of animals and humans that are used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign molecules, including bacteria and viruses.

The neutralization of an invading virus is the process by which an antibody can specifically bind and block its infection, and in other recent MARCE-supported studies carried out by Broder's group in collaboration with Dimitar S. Dimitrov, Ph.D., of the National Cancer Institute's, Center for Cancer Research in Frederick, Md., and Zhongyu Zhu, Ph.D., of Dimitrov's group, a very potent Nipah and Hendra virus neutralizing human monoclonal antibody (m102.4) was developed as a potential therapeutic that could be administered to people infected by these viruses.

"We now have the critical resources needed to evaluate the therapeutic potential of both vaccines and perhaps more importantly a potent human antibody against both Nipah virus and Hendra virus, that could help control outbreaks in geographical regions susceptible to these emerging viruses, and result in a real benefit to those people at risk of infection and disease caused by these deadly agents," said Broder. "Our success in obtaining these new critical funds is also evidence of the success of NIAID's Regional Center of Excellence program," Broder added.

This NIH award will also support and bring together the expertise to structurally characterize the interaction between the Nipah and Hendra virus and the receptor proteins on cells that serve the gateway for virus infection, led by Dimitar B. Nikolov, Ph.D., and Kai Xu of Nikolov's team at the Structural Biology Program of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, in New York. Information from these additional studies may lead to the discovery of new therapeutics targeting the virus-host cell infection process.

NIAID supports basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose and treat infectious diseases, influenza, tuberculosis, malaria and illness from potential agents of bioterrorism. It also supports basic immunology research, transplantation and immune-related disorders, including autoimmune diseases, asthma and allergies.



**Dr. Christopher Broder**  
Professor and Director,  
Emerging Infectious  
Diseases Graduate Program

## MedPix Website passes 100,000,000 visit-mark

*By Jessica Dinneen*

*Assistant to the Office of External Affairs*

Medpix, an online database of medical images, provided more than 19 percent of all continuing medical education credit hours granted by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) last year.

This included more than 5,000 hours of American Medical Association Physicians Recognition Award Category 1 credits from more than 21,000 CME visits in 2007 alone.

The database, created in 1996 and patented in 2006 by Dr. James G. Smirniotopoulos, chair of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at USU, and Henry Irvine, a USU graduate and NCC radiology resident, functions as a training system and imaging atlas. With high resolution JPEG images, the database allows for viewing of specific and relevant images without need for a diagnostic-quality monitor.

In combination with an archive of past uploaded images, a

"Clinical Case of the Week" features two to three questions for a review of medical literature. Certified since 2003 by the USU Continuing Health Education office, physicians and students are also able to take tests and receive scores using an automated system. Since September 2000, there have been more than 100,094,113 logged visits.

Though the site is not intended for computer assisted differential diagnosis, Smirniotopoulos said the Web site does possess the potential.

With more than 230,000 visits in a month from approximately 160,000 visitors, MedPix has achieved a milestone in shared medical imaging.



**Dr. James Smirniotopoulos**  
Chair, Radiology and  
Radiological Sciences



Courtesy Photo

## Racing for the Cure

**A team of servicemembers from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) participated in the 19th Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a five-kilometer run/walk held in Washington D.C., June 7. The team, named “Betty Boobs”, raised approximately \$800 for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation, the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to breast cancer research and awareness. Plans for next year’s Race for the Cure are already on the table for the team, incorporating logos from USU’s tri-services among them. Pictured here, back row from left, are: (T)Sgt Troyann Ernle, USAF; SSG Sacha Moore, USA; SSG Sherry Kwasnik, USA; (T)Sgt Rachael Broussard, USAF; and SSG Pauline Sedano, USA. Front row from left are: RP2 Maria Rajas, USN; (T)Sgt Stacey Fusco, USAF; and SFC Michele Desouza, USA.**

## Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress Introduces “Resources for Recovery”

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) has introduced a new health communication campaign, *Resources for Recovery*, addressing the impact of combat injury on our nation’s military children and families.

CSTS is part of USU’s Department of Psychiatry, and a partnering center of the Defense Center of Excellence. Each installment of *Resources for Recovery* will provide an electronic fact sheet for providers, civilian and military, as well as for the military family, to educate them about important and timely topics that span the trajectory of care from recovery to return to home.

The title of the first installment of *Resources for Recovery* is “The Combat Injured Family: Guidelines for Care.” This groundbreaking information was developed in collaboration with the Workgroup on Intervention with Combat Injured Families, a group of national experts and leaders in child psychiatry, trauma and military medicine brought together by Dr. Stephen J. Cozza, M.D, COL (ret), U.S. Army. Cozza, a former chief, Department of Psychiatry at Wal-

ter Reed Army Medical Center, is an associate director of CSTS, and oversees its Child and Family Program that serves as a component site of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. In addition to his research and scholarly writing in child and family trauma Dr. Cozza provides his expertise on the effects of deployment and combat injury on children to public education projects such as Sesame Workshop’s “Talk, Listen, Connect” DVDs that help children understand and cope with the challenges of deployments, homecomings and parental changes.

Future installments of *Resources for Recovery* will cover the principles of communicating about injury, both within the family and between family members and health care/community service providers, understanding child and family distress as a result of combat injury, and sustaining parental availability during the recovery process. *Resources for Recovery* will be available on the CSTS website, [www.cstsonline.org](http://www.cstsonline.org) or at [www.usuhs.mil/csts](http://www.usuhs.mil/csts), as well as through distribution to a number of DoD sites and organizations involved in the health and care of our military community.

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# Much Ado About USU: Jan Continues to Observe

By Jan Clark

Director, Government and Community Affairs

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June marks my fourth month as the director of Government and Community Affairs at USU.

Thus far, I have met with many of our faculty, staff and students and have been fortunate to be involved in activities like the School of Medicine Graduation Awards Ceremony, the Building E Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and USU's 2008 Commencement Ceremony.

Venturing out into the community, attending functions and meeting many who did not know USU existed, as well as those who did but believed the university belonged to the National Naval Medical Center, tells me I have my job cut out for me.

One discovery that has inspired me in my explorations of the university and community has been our student organizations. I was surprised to discover the numerous community outreach programs in which our students have been involved.

I observed members of the Family Medicine Interest Group working alongside CAPT (sel) Mark Stephens, MC, USN, associate professor for the Department of Family Medicine, as he treated underserved patients with competency and compassion as a volunteer with the Mobile Medical Clinic. It was heartwarming.

The FMIG also recently worked with the United Bethesda Methodist Church on a Rock Creek Park cleanup initiative. I met with them on a Sunday afternoon and watched their progress in turning a neglected dumping area into a beautiful site.

During April, the FMIG also came out in force with their "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit" program at a local elementary school. The campaign demonstrated the importance of exercising and eating right to the school's 5th grade students. Watching the children step forward to ask questions and perform various exercises with enthusiasm was a joy to see.

The Pediatric Interest Group spent March 19 at the John F. Kennedy High School in Silver Spring, Md., as guest lecturers on medical careers and taught two classes explaining the journey to acceptance into medical school.

The PIG hosted students from JFK at USU, May 30. The students toured the campus, received lectures on laboratory medicine and participated in a hands-on session on medical exam skills.

Most recently, members of the USU community participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. This nationwide event covered 34 miles over two days. USU representatives walked the course,

and USU medical student volunteers treated blistered feet and other injuries.

I recently learned of events sponsored by the Christian Medical Association. Working with members from other special interest groups, they served dinner at Christ House, a Christian-based homeless shelter in Washington, D.C., which they have done in the past.

The CMA served a Valentine's Day dinner at another homeless shelter in the National Capitol Area. Teaming up with students from Georgetown University, dinner was served to the ladies of the shelter and white athletic socks were given to the men staying there. Following dinner, two MS-Is played guitar and lead a time of worship. Is it any wonder I'm inspired?

I now have a list of all of the student organizations. If there is more to discover, I need our students to lead the way.

Why am I observing activities at USU? To better understand USU and be able to tell our story to other government agencies and the various community group members, to function as a contact for community groups who are seeking information and to strengthen ties between USU and communities while improving relationships and connecting USU to local resources.

I continue to communicate with the Montgomery County Base Realignment and Closure coordinator and the director of the Bethesda and Chevy Chase Regional Services Center and attend the BRAC county and Board of Advisors monthly meetings. I also meet monthly with Dr. Jeff Longacre, Liaison for Joint Task Force Cap-Med, director for USU's Medical Education and Associate Chair, Department of Pediatrics, and USU JTF cell representatives to discuss BRAC and integration issues and concerns. As information becomes available, I will pass it on to you.

Which leads me to the question, "what's next?" I'm not sure, which is why I continue to seek your guidance. When I last wrote, I asked you to "tell Jan where to go." I was sincere. I need direction, and will take your advice to heart.



Jan Clark  
Director, Government  
and Community Affairs

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## University Media Services' Customer Service Center Offers Assistance

By Christine Creenan

Web Writer, Office of External Affairs

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The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) University Media Services opened the doors to its new Customer Service Center earlier this year, and have been assisting with the multimedia needs of the people of the Uniformed Services University ever since. From the creation of posters for Research Week to event documentation, the expert staff incorporates a wide range of communication technologies into product development.

"It is exciting to be a part of the team that advances the name USU and it is tremendously gratifying knowing our services support the university's overall mission," said Chief of Multimedia Design Division, Cathy Hemelt.

The center is located in G070 and is open from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm and accepts customers by appointment or on a walk-in basis. For more information call 295-3337.



# Dates to Remember

**July 13 – 25 : 2008 Field Exercises** - Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted July 13-25 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 7-11, 21-25 : Transition Assistance Program** - The staff at the NNMC Fleet and Family Support Office has developed a week long TAP class for transitioning service members. The next classes will be held July 7-11, 21-25, and Aug. 18-22. Classes start at 8 a.m. and the location will be sent out to the registered service members. To register for the, class call the Career Development Office at (301) 319-4896.

**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](http://www.afrrri.usuhs.mil) for registration and information. CMEs/CNEs will be offered.

**Sept. 21 : 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 non-profit 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](mailto:rhernandez@usuhs.mil). You can also log onto: [www.pbtfus.org/rideforkids/calendar/2008/baltimorewashington08.html](http://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](http://www.navy5miler.com). Contact FC2 Race at 295-9637 or email him at [arace@usuhs.mil](mailto:arace@usuhs.mil) to join the university's team.

**Oct. 10-13 : U.S. Annual Armed Forces 49<sup>th</sup> Open Chess Championship** - National Naval Medical Center, will be the site event for the 2008(49TH) Armed Forces Open Chess Championship, which will take place on Oct. 10-13 (Columbus Day Weekend) at 8 a.m. in the Galley of the National Naval Medical Center. The tournament is open to all Active Duty, Reservists, Military Retirees, Cadets, Midshipmen and ROTC personnel who have a USCF membership. Please enter in advance by sending an e-mail to [Erick.Toribio@med.Navy.Mil](mailto:Erick.Toribio@med.Navy.Mil). Please include rank, name, USCF ID number, current rating and branch of service. Come and participate regardless of your chess experience. For more information please contact PS3 Erick Toribio at (301) 295-5805 or visit [www.usmilitarychess.org](http://www.usmilitarychess.org).

**Oct. 15 – 28 : PFT/PFA/APFT Notice** - The Fall 2008 Physical Fitness Test for all services is scheduled for Oct. 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 28 at 7 a.m. and noon. All military personnel are required to select the time and date they will take their test. 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. If there are any questions please contact your senior service advisor.

**USU Color Guard** : The Brigade color guard will not be accepting requests for ceremonies or flag set up due to preparation for the upcoming field exercise. Business will continue as normal beginning Aug. 1. If there are any questions please contact HM2 Charles, USN, at 295-9451 or [ccharles@usuhs.mil](mailto:ccharles@usuhs.mil).

## USU Briefs

### New GSN Program Welcomes First Students:

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Graduate School of Nursing's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program welcomed its first four students in May.

Directed by MAJ Robert Arnold, NC, USA, and LCDR Pamela Herbig, NC, USN, both psychiatric clinical nurse specialists, the program is designed to prepare students for military environments.

### Four Faculty Receive 2008 Maher Awards:

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Department of Medicine recently announced that four

faculty members received the 2008 John F. Maher Award for excellence in the field of peritoneal dialysis.

The 2008 recipients include: Teodor-Doru Brumeau, M.D. associate professor, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology; Mary A. Marovich, M.D. associate professor; LCDR Erich F. Wedam, MC, USN, assistant professor, Division of Cardiology; and Xiaoming Zhou, M.D., Ph.D., research assistant professor, Division of Nephrology.

The award, given every two years by the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis, honors the contributions of those selected to the field of PD and their distinction in either scientific, medical or nursing aspects. Judged on the basis of the excellence in research, clinical attributes in PD, publications, patient impact and recognition at national and international level, the awardees will present their findings to the

ISPD Congress.

### Surgery Professor Earns ASA Award:

Steven A. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), received the 2008 American Society for Microbiology Abbott Laboratories Award in Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology during the 108<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the ASM, June 1- 5. The Abbott Laboratories Award recognizes a distinguished scientist in clinical or diagnostic immunology.

### Join the FDA Team:

The Food and Drug Administration is currently recruiting for hundreds of professional positions located throughout the United States. To learn more about career opportunities with the FDA, visit <http://www.fda.gov/jobs/hiringinitiative08.html>.



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