

USU Newsletter

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Tom Balfour

Secretary of Defense Appoints New Members to USU Board of Regents

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, announced the appointments of Dr. Ronald Blanck, Dr. Haile Debas, Dr. Michael Johns, Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu and Dr. Gail Wilensky, to serve as members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Board of Regents, Sept. 12, 2008.

Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU President, thanked the Secretary of Defense and extended the university's welcome to its five new Board members.

"I am deeply gratified by the appointment of these new members to the university's Board of Regents," Dr. Rice said. "Each brings a wealth of experience in academic medicine and all have an extraordinary commitment to public service. I look forward to working with them and benefiting from their advice and guidance."

Two of the new appointments are replacing Regents whose terms have expired. The departing members, Mr. Everett Alvarez, Jr. and Ms. Linda Stierle, were appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

"We are grateful to Mr. Alvarez and Ms. Stierle for their years of dedicated service to the university," Dr. Rice said. "Their guidance and wise counsel have seen the university evolve to its current position as a world leader in military and public health medicine. They have been a key force in helping shape the university and guiding it in establishing a flourishing Graduate School of Nursing."

"The new members of the Board have significant and varied experience in academic medicine, government and public service and will play critical roles in guiding the university and the Department of Defense in the next era of military and public health medicine," said Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Their advice to the university will be especially critical as the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is stood up on the Bethesda campus and as USU plays an increasingly important role in academic medicine and biomedical research as each relates to the needs and aspirations of the uniformed services."

Dr. Ronald Blanck, appointed as Chair of the Board

Dr. Blanck currently serves as Vice Chairman and partner of Martin, Blanck & Associates. Previously, Dr. Blanck served as President of the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth from 2000 to 2006 and remains a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. He was Surgeon General of the Army from 1996 to 2000. Dr. Blanck received his BS from Juniata College (1963) and a DO from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medi-



cine (1967). He completed his internship at the Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital and his residency in internal medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

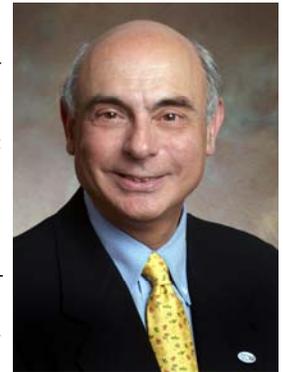
Dr. Haile Debas

Dr. Debas is the Executive Director of Global Health Sciences at the University of California-San Francisco. He is also the Maurice Galante Distinguished Professor of Surgery and holds hospital appointments at the University of California Medical Center and the Mount Zion Medical Center. Dr. Debas was Dean of the UCSF Medical School and Interim Chancellor. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. Dr. Debas received his BSc in Biology from Addis Ababa University College (1958) and an MD from McGill University (1963).



Dr. Michael Johns

Dr. Johns is the Chancellor of Emory University, a position he has held since 2007. Previously, Dr. Johns served Emory University as Chief Executive Officer of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Emory Healthcare, and Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology. He was Dean of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. He received his BS in Biology from Wayne State University (1964) and an MD from the University of Michigan Medical School (with distinction, 1969).



Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu

Dr. Moritsugu is currently Vice President, Global Strategic Affairs for LifeScan Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company, and Chairman, Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute. Prior to his current position, Dr. Moritsugu was the Acting Surgeon General of the United States from July 2006 to his retirement from the Commissioned Corps of the United States



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Public Health Service in September 2007 after 37 years of active duty. He received his BA in Classical Languages from the University of Hawaii (with honors, 1967) and his MD from George Washington University (1971). Additionally, Dr. Moritsugu holds a MPH in Health Administration from the University of California-Berkeley (1975).

Dr. Gail Wilensky

Dr. Wilensky is an economist, and a Senior Fellow at Project HOPE, an international health education foundation. She is a Commissioner on the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of health, co-chaired the recently completed Department of Defense task force on the Future of Military Health Care, is the Vice Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission and serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mineworkers of America and the National Opinion Research Center. She is a Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine. Dr. Wilensky was recently appointed to the Defense Health Board, advising the Department of Defense on health matters. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

(Source: USU News Release)



USU's Board of Regents

The Board of Regents, was established to assist the Secretary of Defense in an advisory capacity in carrying out the Secretary's responsibility to conduct the business of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The Board of Regents is composed of fifteen members:

Nine persons outstanding in the fields of health and health education who are appointed from civilian life by the Secretary of Defense;

The Secretary of Defense, or his designee, who shall be an ex officio member;

The Surgeons General of the uniformed services, who shall be ex officio members; and

The President of the university, who shall be a non-voting ex officio member.

The terms of office for each member of the Board (other than ex officio members) shall be six years except that:

Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and

Any member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until his successor is appointed.

One of the appointed members of the Board shall be designated as Chairman by the Secretary of Defense. The Chairman shall be the presiding officer of the Board.

Faculty Senate Celebrates USU Professors at Inauguration of Education Day

*By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated the inauguration of "Education Day" Aug. 22. It's debut theme: *Best Practices in Health Sciences Education*, was chosen to showcase the considerable experience of USU faculty in teaching learners across the spectrum of health sciences education.

More than 145 participants registered for the event, sponsored by the Faculty Senate and moderated by multidisciplinary teams. Audiences enjoyed the interactive, sequential sessions that covered topics

such as, Teaching in a Small Group Setting, Operational Medicine, and Clinical Bedside Teaching, among others.

"The most important component of what we do here is the education of the next generation," President Charles Rice, M.D., explained before adding, "To organize a session devoted to teaching and the joys of education is particularly important."

Developing the forum was no easy task and facilitators debated the merits of bringing in guest speakers, but in the end, relied in large measure, on the expertise of USU faculty.

"We had stars in our own crowd," said event coordinator, Dr. Cindy Wilson, Ph.D., professor and faculty development director in the Department of Family Medicine. "We have people in this faculty that are internationally and nationally known. They are invited and paid to teach at other places, because they are the experts. We decided what we wanted to do was showcase our own first."

Speakers touched on the strengths of the university—the faculty's unique ability to prepare students for the dual roles they will take on, both as medical professionals and military officers; while also noting challenges—the need to engage in small group teaching sessions, for instance.

According to Dr. Wilson, the forum was conceptualized to address a needs assessment she conducted some years back, as well as peering into the looking glass and realizing problem areas for educators. "Education Day" is a welcome beginning to improving an already stellar program.

The event, which culminated in a guided tour of the National Capital Area Simulation Center, was tremendously successful, and audiences and special guests alike, shared their enthusiasm.

"Congratulations on doing this. This is something that is not universally accomplished, at least in my experience at teaching institutions. I think as an opportunity to both have an interchange and an engagement, it is superb," said Lt Gen James Roudebush, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General, MC.

Event organizers were particularly gratified to have Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, as well as General Roudebush and MG George Weightman, MC, USA, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

In the end, President Rice thanked the Faculty Senate and Dr. Wilson, in particular, for beginning what is certain to become a USU tradition.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver, USN

Dr. Charles Rice, USU President, attends a lecture during the university's first Education Day.

Faculty Senate Research Policy Committee Seeks to Enhance Research, Scholarship Opportunities

By Christine Greenan
VPE Staff Writer

Joseph De Soto, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.I.C., was recently appointed chair of the Faculty Senate Research Policy Committee by Faculty Senate President Andrew Bauer, M.D. Through his volunteer post, De Soto is working to enhance communication between administration and faculty while simultaneously advancing scholarship and research opportunities at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).

The former Army combat medic is very clear when discussing USU's role in the military health system. "The most important mission we have is to continuously improve research and scholarship so we can improve the lives of our service men and women," he said. "We want to provide the kind of care the people who put themselves in harm's way deserve."

De Soto believes the best way to affect positive change is by engaging in open, honest dialogue at all levels. So far this approach appears to be quite effective, as the committee receives

much support and collaboration.

Meetings, which are held on the third Monday of every month at 3 p.m., regularly engage 15-20 active members, but are open to all USU faculty. De Soto is encouraging an even stronger turnout though, pointing out, "We are interdependent on each other to complete this mission."

As research continues to grow, so too will the reputation of USU, and eventually rank the university among the outstanding top ten schools, according to De Soto. Clearly, the new chair is ambitious, hard working and proud to be a part of the USU leadership community.



Joseph De Soto, M.D., Ph.D.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

USU Presents

Students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences gathered in the university's amphitheater Aug. 21, for the annual Presentation Assembly. The students took the Hippocratic Oath, administered by Larry Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. After taking the Oath, the students are now welcome to the study of medicine.

Staff Profile: Dr. Susan Rasmussen, Program Development

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

Dr. Susan Rasmussen fashioned a childhood hankering for science inquiry into a satisfying career as director, in the Office of Program Development at the Uniformed Services University (USU). Her primary duty is to assist faculty in obtaining the funding necessary to begin research, but her experience in the laboratory left an indelible impression on the Texas native and provided her with a unique perspective on the enormity of her charge.

Rasmussen first came to USU as a laboratory manager, working alongside Dr. Alison O'Brien, Ph.D., chair, professor, Department of Microbiology, analyzing the mechanisms of bacterial pathogenesis in the urinary tract. This experience gave her keen insight into the frustrations that often accompany investigator pursuits, and therefore is now diligently working to enhance the USU intramural research program.

The most rewarding aspect of her job is "knowing that instead of taking three months to get the paperwork through the pipelines, it only took a third of the time."

Acknowledging USU faculty are engaging in dynamic research, she is proud to play a hand in the fruits of their labor. "When the faculty gets recognition, it reflects well on the university," Rasmussen admits, "and that makes me feel good."

She has a deeper connection to the university though, reaching back to a childhood, spent in a rural town near Ft. Hood, Texas. The daughter of a soldier and sister of a sailor, USU's focus on excellence in military medicine, resonates with her upbringing

and her values.

The university's vision and extraordinary group of researchers drew her to the university six years ago, and she hasn't looked back. "I love it here. My work is very enjoyable," Rasmussen said.

Truly a "Jill" of all trades, this scientist-turned-administrator, also fancies herself a bit of a chef. When away from the office, Rasmussen enjoys spending time with her husband and son, as well as testing out new recipes learned in the cooking classes she frequently attends. Baking is her forte and she sometimes brings desserts into the office, making the newest director a sweet addition to the Office of Research.



Susan Rasmussen, Ph.D.



Photo by Leeann Ori

Anesthetists Alumni

On Aug. 12, faculty, students and alumni of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Nurse Anesthesia Program gathered for a luncheon at the annual American Association of Nurse Anesthetists meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. The event was hosted by the Office of Alumni Affairs and the USU Alumni Association.

From Mentor to Medical Student

By TSgt Andre Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

Just weeks ago the next generation of military physicians began to grace the corridors of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) as they became first year medical students. Among this matriculating class is one student who knows first-hand what the university has to offer.

Tara McCluskey, a recent graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., participated in the Science, Service, Military and Mentoring Program (S2M2) as a junior in college and has become the first student from that program to matriculate into USU.

The mentoring program helps broaden the minds of students interested in a science related field, but are having a hard time deciding on a concentration. The office of Recruitment and Diversity sponsors the program and reaches out to students all over the country.

"I'm honored that I had the opportunity

to participate in this program," she said. "Part of what I did was to help mentor the high school students who were enrolled in the program. We were able to shadow faculty members here at the university and also do volunteer work at the National Naval Medical Center, and it was an incredible learning experience."

McCluskey took her commissioning oath into the U.S. Navy this past summer administered by CAPT Cynthia Macri, MC, USN, vice president of Recruitment and Diversity and the program director of S2M2.

McCluskey feels excited about joining the Navy and attending USU. She said she is well aware that one day she may be called to duty to care for wounded warriors who have been placed in harms way.

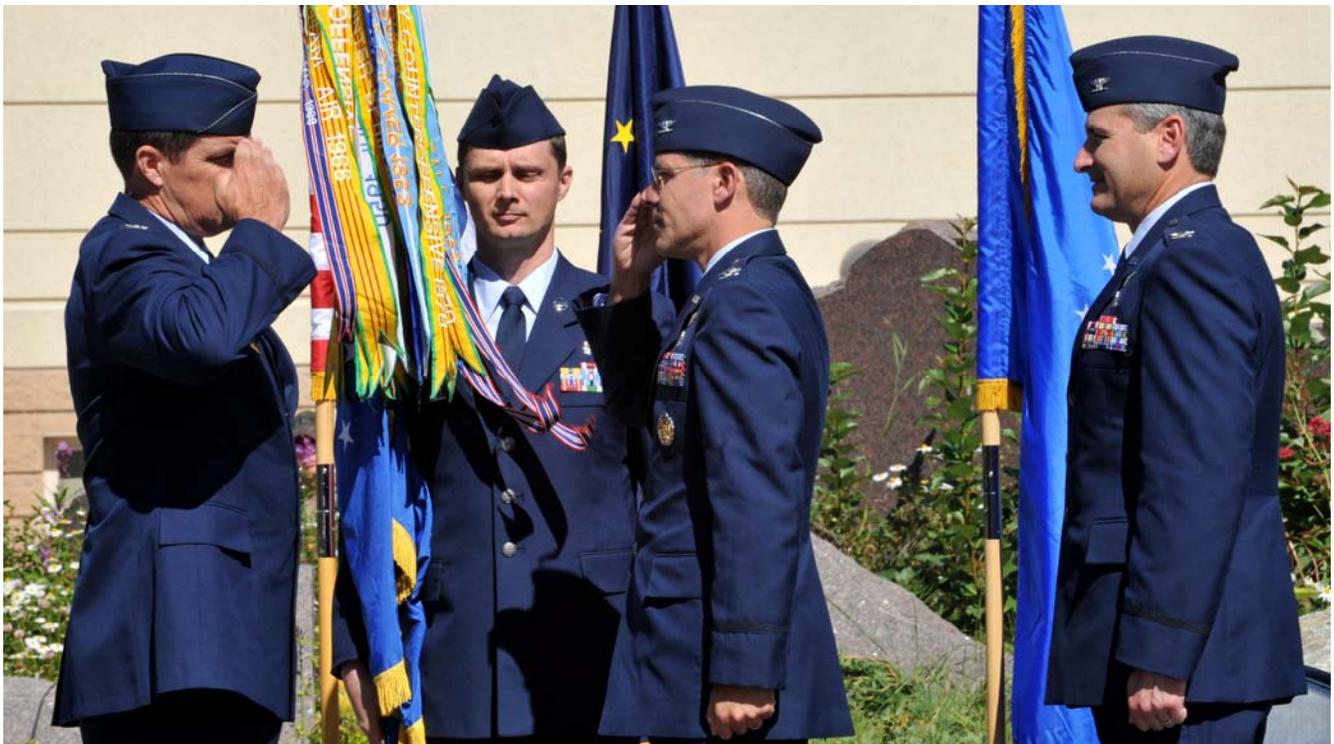
Obstetrics and Gynecology is the field that McCluskey is interested in pursuing, but said she is open to many possibilities as she makes her way through the challenges of medical school.

Macri said the S2MS program definitely has an influence on the students who participate and helps them decide on careers in health care.



Photo by TSgt Andre Nicholson, USAF

CAPT Cynthia Macri, MC, USN, vice president of Recruitment and Diversity, program director of S2M2, administers the commissioning oath to Tara McCluskey, who is the first student to matriculate into USU from the S2M2 program.



Airman 1st Class Tinesse Treadwell, USAF

USU Graduate Takes Command

On Aug. 28, Col Paul Friedrichs, USU Class of 1990, (second from the right) became commander of the 3rd Medical Group at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Above Col Friedrichs delivers a salute to departing Commander, Col Richard Walberg, at the change of command ceremony.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 24: Dr. Narayan Nair Lecture—Dr. Narayan Nair, CDR, USPHS, will give a lecture entitled *"The Medical Reserve Corps and Disaster Response"* Sept. 24 at 11:45 a.m. in Lecture Room C. Dr. Nair is the senior program manager, Deployed Operations in the Office of the Civilian Volunteer, Medical Reserve Corps.

Sept. 28: Navy Five Miler—The event will be held in Washington D.C., covering mostly flat terrain. For more information, visit www.navy5miler.com or contact FC2 Adam Race at arace@usuhs.mil to join the university team.

Sept. 29: Seminar, "Minotaur and Chiron: Tales of Two Zoonotic Pathogens"—Speaker will be Alfredo G. Torres, Ph.D., assistant professor, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston's Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Lecture begins at 11:30 a.m. in Lecture Room B.

Sept. 30: PBS Film Screening—The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress invites audiences to view "Herbert Hauptman: Portrait

of a Laureate" in the small dining room, Bldg. B, beginning at 4 p.m.

Oct. 16: Combined Federal Campaign—The CFC is looking for volunteers to help out as key workers, or to assist with different committees. This year's campaign will include poster, slogan, photography and video contests. For questions or information about volunteering, contact CPT Tyler at 295-9561 or sean.tyler@usuhs.mil.

Oct. 18-26: Red Ribbon Week—Red Ribbon Week is an initiative aimed at preventing and educating audiences about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. USU will sponsor multiple events throughout the week, including a stand-down formation.

Nov. 4: 2008 Presidential Election—Absentee voters should request ballots at least 60 days before the election. An online version of the Federal Post Card Application (SF-76) can be obtained at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.pdf>. For assistance contact LCDR Kemper at 295-9434 or mkemper@usuhs.mil or IT2 Woods at 295-9800 or gwoods@usuhs.mil.

Arrivals/Departures

Arrival:

USU welcomes (Ret) Chief John Rauckhorst, food service manager. Over the past couple of months, Rauckhorst has been increasing the responsiveness of the food service program. With more than 20 years of experience, his portfolio includes tours aboard the USS Independence, USS Abraham Lincoln and the USS Ross as a chief culinary specialist. Additionally, Rauckhorst has

served in the galley at Submarine Base San Diego as well as a tour in the White House galley staff. Most recently, before joining the USU community, he was employed as the assistant manager of Panera Bread in Rockville, Md.

Departure:

CAPT Joseph Lopreiato, MC, will retire from the Navy after 31 years of honorable service to our Nation on Sept. 26, 2008. All are invited and encouraged to show their support for this outstanding service member from 1 to 2 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium, followed by refreshments in the small dining room.

USU Announces Addition of Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) expands its research into the field of neuroregenerative medicine with the addition of the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine. The center will establish a cooperative research environment in order to study the affects and treatments for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The university will focus the research and practice efforts of the center on six primary areas:

- Neuroregenerative Medicine to restore neurological function
- Neuroimaging to improve the diagnosis of TBI
- Neuroplasticity as a tool to improve TBI therapeutic outcomes
- Rehabilitation Medicine for TBI and PTSD
- Neuroprotection and Modeling TBI
- Biomarker tools for TBI diagnosis and treatment

The expansion of USU efforts in regenerative medicine is to establish a strong network with the existing labs in the National Capital Area that have ongoing research efforts in the area of

neuroregeneration. Specifically, USU will establish a consortium between Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Defense Center for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health (DCOE), the Army Medical Research Command (MRMC) Labs, and Navy Labs. This network will work with USU as the coordinating center to accelerate regenerative medicine programs across these institutions so that fundamental studies are moved to translational laboratories and, in turn, this science will migrate quickly to advance development in a clinical setting.

In this model USU/WRNMMC will be at the hub of the network activities and have direct contact with all the associated labs. The relationship will be to build a cooperative research environment across the labs and to encourage idea exchange to move concepts into medical applications. The focus of the network will be to enhance brain cell and tissue preservation, repair, and/or replacement as appropriate across the spectrum of brain injury.



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A Traditional Academic University with a Unique Focus





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