

USU Newsletter

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Welcome Fall

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In This Issue:

Town Hall Meeting.....	2
USU Alumni.....	2
Ride for Kids.....	3
Service Award.....	3
Employee Awards.....	4
Air Force Birthday.....	4
CDHAM Initiative.....	5
ASM Chapter.....	5
Faculty Passing.....	6
USU Baseball.....	6
Dates to Remember...	7

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Town Hall Meeting: USU President Discusses Key Issues

*By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer*

The people of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) gathered for a Town Hall Meeting, and listened as President Charles Rice, M.D. and others took center stage to discuss important issues affecting the learning community Sept. 18.

The introduction was bittersweet. Dr. Rice welcomed the newest Board of Regents members, while expressing appreciation and gratitude toward the departing officers. Among them, Mr. Everett Alvarez, who has served the institution for more than 20 years, including two terms as chair, and Ms. Linda Stierle, whom has given much to the university in terms of guidance and support.

A topic of particular interest to many in the USU community—faculty salaries—was addressed. As part of his administration, Dr. Rice has been working diligently to raise educator salaries in order to recruit leaders of biomedicine and maintain the outstanding cadre currently in place. According to the USU president, progress is being made and he is optimistic future legislation will result in more competitive pay.

Next on the agenda—a discussion on the form and function of the new Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine. The university, in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health, will pursue advanced research in fields relating to: improved diagnostics, neuroregeneration, neuroplasticity, rehabilitation and evaluation, biomarkers and neural protection and modeling.

After looking toward the future, Dr. Rice took a moment to reflect on recent USU accomplishments. In particular, he focused on the successful inauguration of 'Education Day'. With Cindy Wilson, Ph.D., professor, Department of Family Medicine, at the forefront, the exchange provided thought provoking dialogue on a range of topics relating to health sciences education.

Moving along, Dr. Rice spoke briefly on changes in the government personnel system and the implementation of NSPS for select groups of employees. Training is underway for those currently under the new pay system and is available to those individuals soon transitioning to NSPS.

Before opening the floor to questions, Dr. Rice invited CPT Sean Tyler, GSN company commander, to speak about the Combined Federal Campaign beginning in early October. The national program aims to promote and support philanthropy in the workplace, allowing USU employees to donate funds to a range of diverse charities.



President Charles Rice, M.D.



Courtesy Photo

USU Alumni: Where Are They Now?

COL Michael Rave congratulates BG Joseph Carvalho at his promotion ceremony. Both of the physicians are USU alumni and are currently stationed together in Iraq. COL Rave is deputy surgeon for Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) and BG Carvalho is a surgeon for Multi-National Forces-Iraq and MNC-I.

USU Volunteers Join Grass Roots Campaign to End Pediatric Brain Cancer

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

Without a smidgen of hesitation, young Ethan Gumabay lowered himself into the sidecar, strapped on a helmet, and off he went. The smell of petroleum filled the air, revving engines competed with cheering crowds—and hordes of motorists began



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Brain cancer survivors enjoy chauffeured rides through scenic Howard County.

their course.

Gumabay's family, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) volunteers and others, helping or being helped by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTF), watched from the sidelines. For just a moment, the enormity of

their assembly gave way to sheer excitement as the boys and girls enjoyed the ride of their lives. The group was there for more than a scenic ride through countryside, though. With the help of some of America's motorcyclists, they were raising funds and awareness for pediatric brain cancer research and outreach programs.

CDR Rene Hernandez, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Military and Emergency Medicine, is a longtime advocate of PBTF, and through word of mouth, enlisted the help of nearly twenty USU friends and coworkers to help facilitate the local chapter of PBTF's Ride for Kids program Sept. 21.

"Ride for Kids is a grassroots experience and very personal," said Hernandez. "I meet the children and families that have been helped by the money raised each and every year, and happily I've seen some of the young children grow up over the past 10 years that I've been involved. Sometimes there isn't a happy ending, but I know that my participation and the money I brought in can help create more happy endings."

Like Hernandez, others from USU felt a personal connection to the cause. HM2 David Baumbach, for example, knows all too well the devastating effect cancer has on young patients and their families. His son is a leukemia survivor, and through his volunteer efforts at Ride for Kids, the con-

cerned father is making a difference by supporting the development of innovative treatments and new therapies that better



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

CDR Hernandez shares a moment with Ride for Kids participants.

the lives of children.

The organization, after all, is the largest non-governmental source of funding for childhood brain tumor research, and has already raised more than \$34 million. The success of PBTF, however, can not be measured in dollars alone. Consider, young Ethan Gumabay, as he rounded the last corner, eyes bright with stories to tell and a toothy smile that gives away the happy ending of his Sunday adventure.

Post Doctoral Fellow Awarded National Research Service Award

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

If people make an organization great, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) reputation as a world class center of excellence is in large measure the result of its outstanding cadre of faculty, staff and students.

Take for example, Derek Fisher, a post doctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (MIC). He was recently awarded a National Research Service Award by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a highly competitive grant, providing full stipend support as well as travel and supply funds for three years of research training experience.

For more than a year now, Fisher has been analyzing Chlamy-

dia's pathogenic lifestyle, in the lab of Dr. Anthony Maurelli, professor, MIC. His investigations, according to NIH, have grounded him with the potential to become a productive, independent investigator.

Fisher hopes this promise will continue to see fruition in the academia setting. He enjoys advancing research in a medical school environment, calling USU "very open and supportive of scientific discussion."



Derek Fisher



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Employees Honored for Dedicated Service

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

Famed American biologist, Jona Salk once said, "The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more." And while there's plenty of hard work to be continued at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), Microbiologist Jeannette Whitmire and Program Support Assistant Lisa McTigue are being recognized for their enduring commitment to excellence with respective honors as Senior and Junior Employees of the Quarter.



Jeannette Whitmire

Whitmire has been with the university for eight years, performing laboratory bench work and administrative duties in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (MIC). In her pursuits, Whitmire goes "above and beyond," according to supervisors, Dr. Alison O'Brien, Ph.D., professor and chair, (MIC), and Dr. D. Scott

Merrell, Ph.D., assistant professor, chair, Research Policy Committee.

Humbled by her nomination, Whitmire remarked, "I am honored



Lisa McTigue

the people I work with thought of me in such high regard. Over my years here at USUHS, I have truly appreciated my fellow employees, and I could not perform my duties without them." McTigue, though in a very different role, advances the USU mission with the same dedication and fortitude. She manages third-year medical student support programs, addressing the needs of more than

170 students at various locations across the country. According to supervisor, Dr. Richard MacDonald, M.D., associate dean for Student Affairs, McTigue's performance is "exceptionally timely" and "without error" and "her commitment to quality work is shown in all she does."

For their service to the university, both Whitmire and McTigue will receive a \$250 saving bond and reserved parking spaces.

Happy Birthday Air Force



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver



Courtesy Photo

Col Charles Beadling, USAF, MC and Ssgt. LaToya Carr, USAF, kick off the celebration of the Air Force's 61st birthday by cutting the first slices of cake (left). On Sept. 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington was sworn in as the first secretary of the Air Force with the new Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal in attendance (right). After many years of planning, an independent air arm was formed, an equal to the Army and Navy. Based on achievements in air superiority, the Air Force became the "first line of defense" in a post-war world. Shortly after taking office, Symington said: "In this day when a powerful counterattack is America's only real answer to aggression, there can be no question that we need the world's first Air Force. It is only through the global, flashing mobility of the Air Force that we can hold our counterattack poised ... we feel, with deep conviction, that the destiny of the United States rests on the continued development of our Air Force."

Medical Personnel Advance Humanitarian Mission in Chad

By Col Charles Beadling, M.D.
Director, CDHAM

Many people might have difficulty locating Chad on a map. However, it occupies a strategic location that is critical to the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative and regional stability in central Africa. That, in combination with a variety of natural resources, makes it an ideal location for using health care diplomacy. When DoD Directive 3000.05 was signed, there was a significant change



Courtesy Photo

As part of the CDHAM initiative, USU staff members provide guidance on how to care for victims of landmines.

in our mission: stability operations were given a priority equal to combat operations.

A team of medical personnel from the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) has been involved in a mine victim assistance program in the

Republic of Chad for over three years. The CDHAM is part of the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). Col Charles Beadling, MC, USAF, a graduate of USU and Director of CDHAM, leads this humanitarian mission.

This program, funded initially by US European Command and now US Africa Command, provides assistance to the government of Chad in the form of sustained training, materiel resources and

technical guidance. A curriculum for First Responders in Austere Environments was adapted to the target audience of deminers and translated into French, the official language in Chad. Using French and Arabic translators, they trained over 225 individuals in how to stabilize victims from accidental explosions. Students learned the concepts of stabilizing casualties in classrooms and were provided hands-on experience controlling hemorrhage with tourniquets and pressure dressings, splinting extremities, and packaging patients for evacuation.

By recruiting the best performers in each class as assistant instructors, the knowledge will be spread to small villages and towns throughout Chad and increase self-sufficiency. "The ability to treat the victim of a land mine accident can be used to treat casualties of any trauma, such as motor vehicle accidents, greatly increasing the host nation capacity," Col Beadling said.

Working with the National High Commission for Demining (HCND), the Chad government agency responsible for eliminating Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and victim assistance, the CDHAM team also provided computer equipment and training in basic computer operations. Another course in leadership and management was developed for senior and mid-level HCND staff. The goal is to assist them to build capacity and become more self-sufficient.

Future efforts involve establishing two regional HCND offices, a prosthesis facility and a rehabilitation clinic in eastern Chad. Hostilities with Sudan and the adjoining Darfur region have created an enormous threat to the civilian population from ERW. Col Beadling described this program as, "an excellent opportunity to use health care diplomacy to win hearts and minds, or gain access and influence, in a crucial part of the world. Our security at home is increasingly dependent on global and regional stability and it starts in places like Chad."

USU Finds Student Chapter of American Society for Microbiology

By Andrew Hickey
MPH, Ph.D. Candidate, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

The general assembly of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) recently voted in favor of establishing a student branch of the organization at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).

Students from the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Graduate Program began gathering support for establishing a student chapter at USU earlier this year. After receiving the official endorsements of the USU Graduate Education Office (GEO) and the local Washington D.C. ASM branch, a proposal to found a new student chapter was submitted to the national ASM office. The proposal to formally recognize the USU student chapter of ASM was brought before and approved by the national ASM general assembly at the most recent meeting this past June.

As the largest and oldest life science organization in the world, ASM represents over 43,000 members. At a minimum, members of the organization must hold a bachelor's degree or experience in one of the microbiology related disciplines represented by the organization, including: bacteriology, virology, parasitology, immunology, mycology and numerous others.

Striving to advance microbiology and general scientific thought, ASM pursues and disseminates scientific knowledge. The society fulfills these endeavors by supporting education and

training of members and students, hosting scientific meetings, promoting and recognizing scientific achievement, and publishing 11 microbiology related journals.

Recognizing the necessity of involving students in the local and national organization, ASM encourages the creation of new student chapters around the country. The goals of student branches are to promote scientific forums for undergraduate and graduate students, involve students in the planning and activities of the local and national ASM organizations, promote regional peer networking activities, and to further the goals of ASM within the local community.

Numerous students expressed interest in becoming members of the new USU student chapter and the initial functions of the organization shall begin in the mid fall quarter. Membership in the USU student chapter of ASM is open to all students in good academic standing with the university at the time of joining the chapter as well as all faculty interested in supporting the chapter and its activities.

The student chapter will focus on fostering community interest in microbiology and science through outreach activities with local schools, fostering the academic and career development of members, cultivating positive relationships with peers at Washington D.C. region universities, promoting the educational goals of USU, and encouraging membership in the local and national ASM organizations.

Death of Long-time Contributor to Pharmacology Education at USU

*Courtesy of
Department of Pharmacology*

Jurgen von Bredow, Ph.D., LTC(ret.) USA, a regular contributor to the pharmacology course at USU over a period of 30 years, died at Johns Hopkins Medical Center on July 6, 2008.

Dr. von Bredow was recruited in 1978 by the founding chair of pharmacology at USU, Dr. Lewis Aronow, to contribute as an extramural lecturer to the pharmacology course for second year medical students. He was asked to develop a lecture appropriate for students in a military medical school on chemical warfare agents, and the ways in which their effects could be mitigated.

LTC von Bredow served as chief of the Pharmacology Division at Aberdeen Proving Ground and as Assistant to the Director of the Division of Experimental Therapeutics at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research until 1993. His work in these positions was fundamental to the development of pyridostigmine as a protective agent

against poisoning by nerve gases, a protective therapy that has been deployed widely by the military in recent conflicts.

Since that initial invitation in 1978, over a period of thirty years, Dr. von Bredow presented annually a lecture to 2nd year USU medical students, covering the history of chemical warfare from the initial extensive use of chemical agents in World War I, the development of nerve gases and potential protection and treatment strategies. He covered the use of nerve gases in the Iran-Iraq war and by terrorist groups as in the Tokyo subway attacks.

His lectures combined a clear understanding of the basic pharmacology and toxicology of early chemical agents and organophosphates with a detailed coverage of the treatment of casualties and a helpful discussion of the practical issues relating to troop protection against chemical agents under battlefield conditions.

In the mid-1990s, we asked Dr. von Bredow to serve additionally as an instructor in our small group teaching sessions on autonomic drug pharmacology. He accepted enthusiastically and continued to serve in

this capacity as well for at least fifteen years. The faculty of the pharmacology department cannot recall a single occasion over the 30 years of his service to the medical school in which he missed these classes for any reason. His knowledge, experience, and the clarity of his presentations have been recognized and appreciated by medical students throughout this period.

Dr. von Bredow left the Army in 1993, and joined the FDA Veterinary Division where he continued his public service until his last illness. He published a series of papers on issues relating to drug use in veterinary practice and on the passage of drugs from mother to fetus or infant. He was an active member of federal committees addressing the potential vulnerability of US agriculture and animal husbandry to terrorist attack. He was elected president of the FDA Chapter of Sigma Xi from 1990-1992 and served for many years on its executive committee.

USU medical students and military medical education have benefited enormously from the dedicated service of this devoted public servant. We will miss him.

USU 12 Wins Base Championship



Photo by Megan Fitzgerald



Photo by Melissa Martin

The USU 12 beat out the Slammaholics and the Navy Chiefs before facing off against DPAL Thunder—and ultimately winning the base championship. The team ended the season with a 5-1 playoff record. No doubt, the success of USU 12 was in large measure the result of outstanding team camaraderie. Players Jeremy Stick and Anthony Intravaia support their teammates from the sidelines (right). As part of the victory celebration, Coach Fabio Sanchez-Batista presented Melisa Martin with the MVP award (left).



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USU Briefs

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 7:00 a.m. and noon. All military personnel are required to select the time and date they will take the test. All Sailors must complete the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire and Physical Health Assessment annually. Navy weigh-ins must be conducted between 10 days and 24 hours prior to the Physical Readiness Test scheduled for noon on Oct. 17. If there are any questions contact your service specific fitness coordinators. Air Force contact: (T)Sgt Ernle at 295-3281; Navy contact FC2 Race at 295-9637; and Army contact SSG Rogers at 295-3720.

2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): USU will host its 2008 CFC kick-off celebration on Oct. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the university amphitheater. Detailed information to follow. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. For more information about the CFC visit www.opm.gov/cfc as well as www.cfnca.org. To volunteer at this year's campaign efforts contact the USU CFC committee at USUCFC@usuhs.mil.

U.S. Annual Armed Forces 49th 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 8:00 a.m. in

the Galley, 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 by sending an e-mail to Erick.Toribio@med.navy.mil.

MILPO Hours of Operation: Now in effect, the Military Personnel Office (C 1016) will be open at the normal time of 7:30 a.m., but will be closed during the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Tuesdays and Fridays). Monday, Wednesday and Thursday MILPO services are available during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). If you need assistance from MILPO please plan accordingly.

Jiu-Jitsu Training: For the month of September there will be informal jiu-jitsu training for all who are interested. The training will take place in the Comfort Zone on Thursdays from 1200-1400. If you have any questions please contact 2Lt Lobato, USAF (STU) at Carl.Lobato@usuhs.mil.

Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week is a United States initiative for the prevention and education about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. The first Red Ribbon Celebration was organized in 1985 by an organization of parents concerned about the destruction caused by alcohol and drug abuse. Red Ribbon Week this year is the week of Oct. 18-26. There will be multiple events throughout the week involving the university community. For all uniformed personnel there will be a stand-down formation on Oct. 24.

Voting: The 2008 Presidential Election is on November 4, 2008. 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>.

USU Presents Outstanding Service Medal



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Special Assistant Mary Dix presented LCDR Sabrina Golden with the USU Outstanding Service Medal, for her exceptionally meritorious services as director, Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division, Officer in Charge of Construction.

From groundbreaking ceremonies in 2006 through building completion in 2008, LCDR Golden guided the university through a myriad of processes involving the construction of a 55,000 square foot Academic Program Center known as Building E.

According to a letter signed by President Charles Rice, M.D., Golden and her staff represent the ultimate in customer service and quality oversight.

"It was an honor to receive the Outstanding Service Award from USU. I was surprised and touched by the gesture. The success of the Building E project was a team effort including Mary Dix and the USU team and my dedicated staff," said LCDR Golden.

**Request for Applications (RFA)
FY09 Intramural Research Funding
Pilots & Standards Only**

Applications are being accepted for Pilot and Standard grant awards from USU billeted faculty.

New applications only

Research in all areas (basic, clinical, and behavioral)

Due Date: October 17, 2008

In addition, graduate student & clinical fellow research grants are also currently being accepted.

**Office of Program Development (OPD)
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A1032**



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