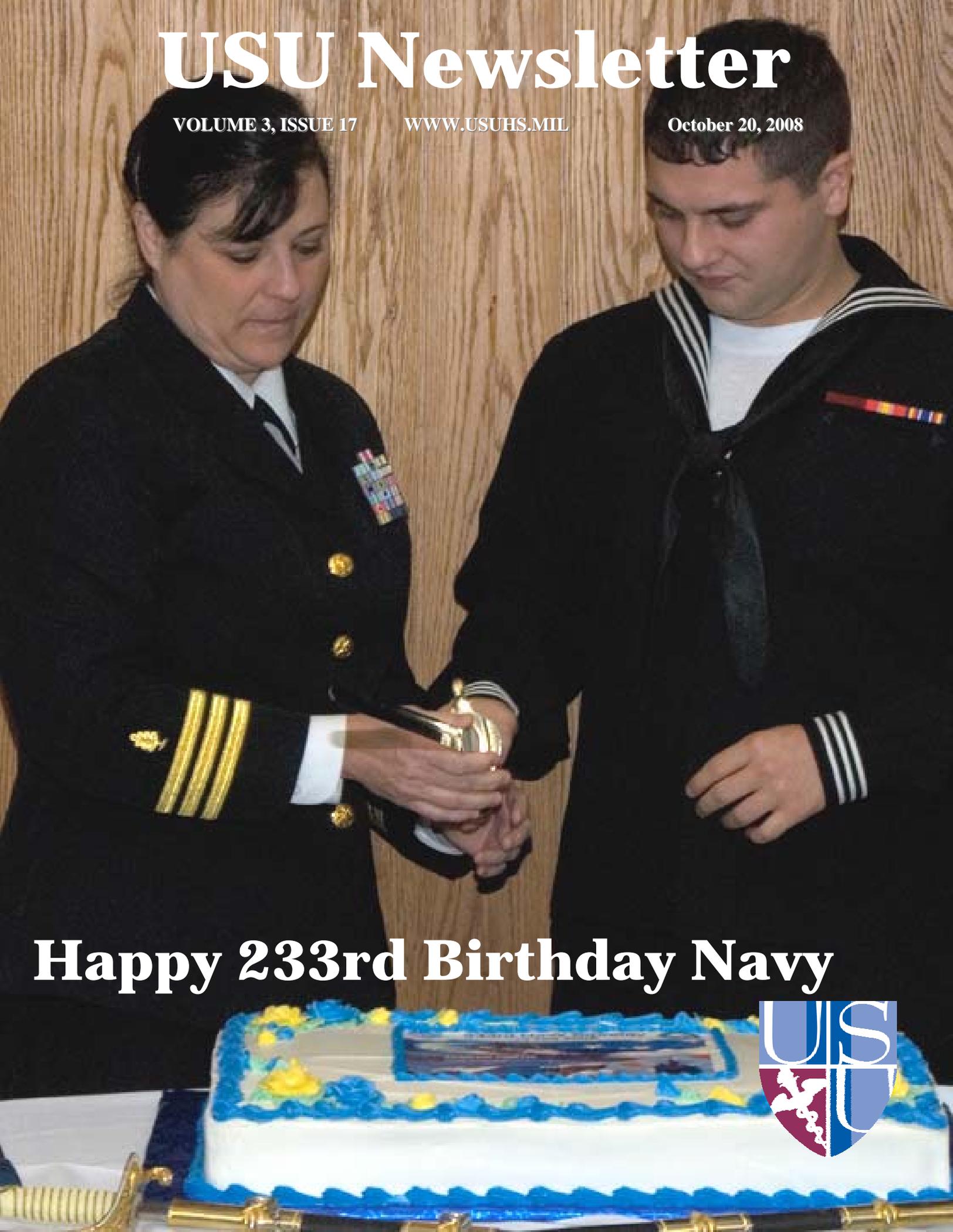


# USU Newsletter

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## Happy 233rd Birthday Navy



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Cover photo:  
HM2 Michael Oliver

# University President Urges Community to Support Those in Need

Dear USU Employees:

As we enter the final quarter of 2008, we again begin the University's Combined Federal Campaign and while these are uncertain times, we have many reasons to be thankful. There are many people in the National Capital Area and the country who aren't as fortunate. Some people are stricken by illness, worried about how they will ever pay exorbitant medical bills, or just hoping for a hot meal and a warm place to sleep. Still others may be faced with the fact that they are missing a fallen hero, who will never celebrate another holiday with their family. Many of us understand that often these people need our help and would like to help. The Uniformed Services University Combined Federal Campaign (USU CFC) is a convenient way to support these people in need. The CFC is the only annual fundraising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace. No other annual employee-giving program raises as much money for charity.

Last year, USU employees generously pledged \$174,000 to participating charities. I would like to



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Pat Guild (left) and CDR Gina Trotter admire Dolby, a Portuguese mix, during the CFC Kick-off celebration. Guild was advocating on behalf of the American Rescue League.

thank those of you who participated in that very successful campaign. In continuing the USU tradition of generosity, I would like to invite you to participate once again. For those of you who weren't able to donate in the past, might I suggest that perhaps this year could be a better year to do so. Donating can be completed either by payroll deduction or by making a one-time gift in the form of cash or check.

When an official USU CFC Key-worker visits you, please take your time to look through the 2008 Catalog of Caring and select a charity to which you have an affinity and donate. There are almost 4,000 approved charities in this year's catalog. For less than the cost of a cup of coffee per day, you can significantly affect someone's life for the better. Please remember, when you give through the Uniformed Services University Combined Federal Cam-

paign, you become a star in someone's life. The help and hope we offer through donations has an immeasurable impact on those in need. Please give.

Charles L. Rice, M.D.  
USU President

## University Security Battles Parking Woes

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Fighting through metropolitan traffic, you make it to work with just moments to spare. Enter the university garage and through the maze you go. There isn't a single space available and soon you will be late for work.

This scenario has become increasingly familiar to members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) community. As a result, university security is working diligently to ensure commuters are following USU protocol. For instance, officers tour the garage several times daily, making certain parked vehicles are outfitted with appropriate decals. And according to the USU

Web site, automobiles are not to be parked overnight, unless otherwise authorized and denoted by special parking permits.

"We don't want folks to diminish the severity of parking illegally," said Director of Security Louis Loman. His words certainly ring true because failure to abide by university guidelines may result in ticketing by National

Naval Medical Center police, heavy fines and a blemished driving record.

For more information about USU parking guidelines, visit <http://www.usuhs.mil/sec>.



Courtesy Photo

# Understanding TBI: USU Stands Up New Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Our troops understand all too well the consequences of war. In Iraq and Afghanistan, battle scars weaken even the bravest of soldiers and recovery demands the expertise of extraordinary medical professionals.

There is a special place that teaches aspiring physicians and advanced practice nurses how to care for these wounded warriors. It is here: the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU)—you will find the cadres responsible for healing our Nation's heroes. Graduating physicians and advanced practice nurses are well equipped to treat the obvious afflictions: explosions marring the human body and bombs claiming soldier's limbs. Sometimes though, injuries are hidden and treatment requires teams of experts, revolutionary thinking and cutting edge technology. Such is the case when diagnosing and caring for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and USU is responding by standing up a new Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine.

At the center, subject matter experts from across the spectrum, including professionals at the National Institutes of Health and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, are mobilizing science to develop better outcomes for what has been dubbed a "signature injury" of war.

Vice President for Research Steve Kaminsky, Ph.D., admits jumping the TBI field requires new ways of thinking. USU, therefore, will "go after the kinds of experiments that wouldn't get funded without a center like this."

The center is still in the developing stages though, and in order to gain the knowledge that will lead to better diagnostic tools and regenerative therapies, USU is bringing together professionals from diverse backgrounds. Consider, more than 200 scientists are convening weekly to move TBI understanding forward.

Director Regina Armstrong, Ph.D., said, "I am talking a lot of science with a lot of people." And the collection of voices—spoken by neurologists, psychiatrists, molecular scientists, clinicians, and others—are discussing topics like improved diagnostic tools, new approaches to increase neuroplasticity and the use of regenerative medicine to address brain injury at the organ, cellular and molecular level.

This center, still in its infancy, is garnering much enthusiasm, and university President Charles Rice, M.D., believes these collective pursuits will enhance the academic environment and change the face of military medicine. "We are absolutely convinced good research informs good teaching," he said. "It's important we create the next generation of researchers who will move this work forward."

**"We are absolutely convinced good research informs good teaching."**

*President Charles Rice, M.D.*

## USU Alumnus Provides Candid Glimpse Into Battlefield Trauma

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

For nearly four decades, USU alumni have gone on to hold various illustrious titles and have advanced biomedicine in many capacities. Among the cadre: physicians serving on the White House medical detail, leaders in overseas military opera-

tions and medical ambassadors providing support during national and international disasters. Sometimes though, alumni pursuits take on a more literary role.

In addition to the care he provided as a medical officer in the U.S. Army, retired COL, (Dr.) Stephen Hetz broadened knowledge of military medicine by co-editing

"War Surgery in Afghanistan and Iraq." Conducted in the vortex of raging battle, the text provides a sobering view of combat trauma. The cases are vivid characterizations of the challenges uniformed medical personnel face while treating the spectrum of trauma that exists on battlefields today.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

### ***Fair Winds and Following Seas***

**CAPT Joseph Lopreiato, M.D., retired from the U.S. Navy Sept. 26, after more than 30 years of career service to the Nation. Family, friends and USU community members attended the ceremony, celebrating his many personal and professional accomplishments. Guest speakers recalled CAPT Lopreiato's adventures in the USU Department of Pediatrics as well as the work he advanced at the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center. At the culmination of his career, CAPT Lopreiato served as Associated Dean for Simulation Education.**

# USU Alum Goes Distance to Find Cure for Cancer

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer



Courtesy Photo

Triathlon participants navigated the arduous course on water, bike and foot.

Ask physicians why they chose medicine and the reasons are certain to run the gamut. Always though, there is the unifying motivator among those who take the Hippocratic Oath: doctors want to help the sick. For Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) alumna Jane Ward, that drive has permeated nearly every capacity of her life and she is using her mind and body to promote well being.

In addition to her pursuits as an ophthalmologist, the Texas-physician also relies on physical strength to cure disease. A real powerhouse—Ward recently completed the Nation's Triathlon, running, swimming and biking her way towards a cure for blood cancers.

Hardly an adventure for idle

bodies, Ward treaded more than 50 kilometers of land and water, in the midst of a sultry mid-Atlantic summer. The sweat, blisters and aching limbs paid off in a big way, though. The triathlon raised more than \$3 million for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Having lost loved ones to cancer, Ward is deeply invested in the mission and she enjoys the athleticisms that accompanies this type of fundraising, enthusing, "Participating in any event with the Nation's Triathlon is a great experience for patients, families and friends of blood cancer patients and just folks who want to get exercise in a group setting with great coaching and a bigger than personal goal."

Ward finished the course in less than four hours and "right in the middle of the pack for women over 50." Her journey, inspired by a desire to help and a little goading from Ward's athlete-daughter, is a testament to the distance one USU alum will go to make a difference.



Courtesy Photo

USU alumnus Jane Ward, M.D. finished the race in just under four hours.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

The USU community came together in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Gilbert Muniz, Ph.D., deputy director of the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center, was the keynote speaker. In his address, Dr. Muniz described the innovative technologies offered at the Simulation Center, including the immersive virtual reality area and high-fidelity human patient mannequins. These cutting-edge technologies prepare students for service careers in the medical and nursing corps. In his address, Dr. Muniz also engaged audiences by sharing inspiring personal stories of triumph. A high school dropout, he enlisted in the Army and described wonderful experiences traveling the world and serving his country. Dr. Muniz, however, came to understand the importance of education, went back to school and eventually earned a Ph.D. Today, Dr. Muniz is universally recognized as a leader in military medicine, medical education and medical simulation technology.



USU  
A Traditional Academic University with a Unique  
Focus



# Faculty Profile: Dr. John Cross

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

A long, narrow table divides his laboratory in half. Weighing down the sturdy structure is a mound of paperwork, text books and several instruments of scientific inquiry. From the corner, an old radio quietly broadcasts political commentary of sorts, but the discourse becomes background noise as the seasoned professor settles into conversation. Out come three jars, containing various worms—and suddenly, Dr. John Cross is in his element.

You see, the former corpsman and now professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, has spent much of his career studying parasites, traveling the world and eventually ending up at the Uniformed Services University of the Health

Sciences (USU). On the Bethesda-campus, Cross teaches aspiring military doctors about diseases such as rat lung worm, malaria and leishmaniasis.

A favorite among students, his lectures are engaging and sprinkled with personal anecdotes. And Cross doesn't hold back one bit, even telling students about the time he contracted cyclosporiasis while conducting research in Nepal. "I kept it for a few weeks because I wanted teaching material," he offers bluntly.

His dedication to education appears to transcend infection even, perhaps because the USU professor feels the weight of his charge. He is willing to cross many boundaries to advance science, traveling to highly endemic areas and bringing back the knowledge that prepares the young men and women in his class to take on a broad

range of medical challenges and succeed in any environment.



Dr. John Cross

# Student Profile: Amy Alexander

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Ensign Amy Alexander always knew she wanted to be a doctor. As far back as the young sailor remembers, her ambitions lay firmly grounded in the sciences. That resolve carried through her formative years of high school, extended beyond graduation from the Naval Academy and continues to motivate her daily at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU).

Now she is deeply enthralled in the first year of medical school, and excited to be a part of honored academia and military traditions. Like most of her classmates, the Idaho native chose medicine because she wants to make the world a healthier place.

Before healing can begin, she must first navigate the rigors of medical school, and USU is steeped in academic and scientific

excellence. And though Alexander is well prepared, having excelled in all of her scholastic pursuits thus far, the tiniest hint of trepidation underscores her exposure to a challenging USU curriculum.

"They said we are going to learn 50,000 new terms," she sighed before quipping, "I'm going to need an external hard drive for my brain."

Alexander is not one to shy from hard work or discipline though, tackling coursework with a kind of bravado that sets her

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**"Every second you are trying your hardest."**

*ENS Amy Alexander*

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apart from many scholars. "I'm going to shoot for all A's," she mused, with decided conviction.

Fortitude seems to be a framework by which she lives. In addition to her intellec-

tual capabilities, Alexander is a talented athlete, who pushes all sorts of physical boundaries.

"I was exposed to sports early on," she casually mentions, before describing adventures in skiing, gymnastics, soccer, white-water kayaking and most recently, triathlons. Her pursuits are more than leisurely undertakings though; she recently won a silver medal at the Toyota U.S. Open Triathlon, placing second among the elite women.

"Every second you are trying your hardest," remembers Alexander. "It feels so good coming through the finish line. I was thinking—yes, I'm done!"

Perhaps four years from now, when the threshold of graduation looms imminent, Alexander will feel the same exalted relief. But for now, the physician-in-training is enjoying the lessons of medical school and childhood aspirations realized.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## Happy Birthday Navy

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences celebrated the Navy's 233rd birthday Oct. 13 with a cake-cutting ceremony on campus grounds. Guest speaker, Force Master Chief Lillian Martinez (pictured), described some of the wonderful contributions made by our nation's sailors. The celebration recognized the Navy's rich history, which began when two vessels armed by the Continental Congress in 1775 were dispatched to fight in America's war for independence. Still it would take Congress more than 20 years to establish a Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798.

# Letter from the Editor

By TSgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

As you all know by now, the USU Newsletter is published bi-weekly on Mondays.

Anyone who would like to submit an article can do so by e-mailing it to [usunewsletter@usuhs.mil](mailto:usunewsletter@usuhs.mil). Articles need to be received by Friday at 4 p.m. a week before the scheduled publication date of the newsletter.

For example, today's newsletter, which

was published Oct. 20 should have had all articles submitted Friday a week prior, which was Oct. 10. Some articles that are submitted require a rewrite by our staff to put into the correct format. We do not change article content, just the format in order to make all writing consistent and understandable by our audience, which includes faculty, staff, students, spouses, and visitors who might just be looking to find out information about the university.

Articles should have a tie to the university or the people who make up the university. It is not a publication to market personal business endeavors. As the editor, and with the guidance of the managing editor, it is my job to screen articles and

photos to ensure they meet the standards of good taste and are grammatically correct. Since the USU Newsletter is not the size of most newspapers, we do not have the space to publish articles that are extensive in length. Articles should be between 500 – 750 words (or 1 ½ - 3 pages single spaced), 12 point, times new roman, in a standard Microsoft word document.

The newsletter staff strives to present the newsletter in a professional, but creative manner, while following the rules of layout/design.

Thank you for reading the newsletter. We are open to suggestions and are always looking for contributing writers and ideas for news articles.

## Writing 101: To Capitalize or Not to Capitalize

By TSgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

Styles of writing are as varied as the people who write, so it's not surprising that consistency in writing depends on what a person is writing about and, probably more importantly, who is actually doing the writing.

No matter the subject, writing comes down to the basic elements of grammar, which were instilled in many people at a young age. Although people might not think about them often, they've heard of them before....nouns, verbs, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives and the list could go on. From here you could go into the structure of sentences or how to form paragraphs. But this article is not about the basics of writing as much as it is to explain some rules of writing and why Department of Defense (DOD) journalists write the way they do. I'm often asked why don't we capitalize a title, or why do we write ranks a certain way.

Journalist training stems from the Defense Information School (DINFOS), Fort Meade, Md., which is a joint service school, and provides training to all Department of Defense public affairs journalists, photographers and other print related career fields. It is during these months of training that DOD journalists are taught to write in a unified style, but for a varied audience.

One way to do that is by following the rules of the Associate Press Stylebook. This manual makes a story written anywhere understandable everywhere. Along with others manuals, it provides the guidance for journalists from things such as how to write military ranks and courtesy titles, to what should and shouldn't be capitalized. A perfect example of this is writing the military ranks.

Each military service has a certain style of writing their ranks, i.e...the Navy abbreviates captain as CAPT, and the Air Force abbreviates it as Capt. Although a Navy captain is an O-6 and an Air Force captain is an O-3, DINFOS trains its writers to write them all the same. So it will appear as Capt. John Doe. In a joint service environment like that of the Uniformed Services University journalists write things of this nature in a "uniform" manner (the USU Newsletter staff writes the ranks as each respective service prefers).

Capitalization is something that is over used by most people and should be done sparingly. Most people are taught to always capitalize a person's job title, but DOD journalists are taught to only capitalize the title if it's written before the name of a person, not after, i.e...Chief Operating Officer Jane Doe versus Jane Doe, chief operating officer. Also, capitalization of names that are not the proper or official name are not capitalized. An example of this is when writing an article about USU, one might say the university or a university. Many people would write it as the University versus a university since USU is the only one in existence as opposed to a university which could refer to any school. DOD guidance is to write it as the university no matter which way it is used because it isn't the official name of the university. The exception to this rule and several others is if a local style guide of writing has been established.

There are several rules of writing and going into them would be a laundry list of dos and don'ts that many people don't understand or probably even care to know, but the purpose of this article is to simply shed some light on the method behind the writing madness.



### Road Closure

**Palmer Road South will be the site location for the annual Collaborative Multi-Agency Exercise Oct. 30. No vehicles will be allowed to drive on Palmer Road South in front of USU from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also, pedestrians will not be permitted to use Palmer Road South to enter the University. Pedestrians will have to enter the campus through the parking garage entrances. There will be multiple police, fire, ambulance vehicles, simulated mass casualty victims, simulated smoke, media and observers in the area. However, it should be noted, the USU gate off of Jones Bridge Road will be open that day from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accommodate USU employees and visitors who normally use Palmer Road South to enter the USU garage.**

# USU Briefs

**PFT/PFA/APFT Notice:** The fall 2008 Physical Fitness Test for all services is scheduled for Oct. 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 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. 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.

**Voting:** The 2008 presidential election is on Nov. 4. 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>.

**2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):** 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.

**Learning Resource Center (LRC) Classes:** Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007 Class will be held Oct. 23 at 2 p.m.. You will be taught

how to create and manipulate a workbook in Microsoft Excel 2007. This hands-on workshop will review the new interface of Excel 2007 and review how to navigate a workbook, cell references and simple formulas. PDA Basics & Medical Information Class will be held on Oct.28 at 11:30 a.m. Come to the first half-hour to learn the basic skills you'll need to use your handheld device (palm or pocket PC). Then stay for a full-hour demonstration of the medical tools that provide disease, drug and treatment information in the palm of your hand. To register and find a complete list of LRC classes, follow this link:

[http://www.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/training\\_reg.php](http://www.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/training_reg.php)

**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. All uniformed personnel are required to be at the stand-down formation Oct. 24 in the Sanford Auditorium at 8 a.m. There will be multiple guest speakers from various outside agencies.

**National Disability Month:** USU requests your attendance at the annual USU National Disability Month Program on Oct. 28 from 10 a.m. – 11a.m. in the USU Cafeteria. Dr. Sharon L. Juliano (APG) will be the guest speaker. This year's theme is, "America's People, America's Talent...America's Strength!" Refreshments will be provided.

## CPDR Researchers Provide New Insights Into Common Alterations of ERG Oncogene in Prostate Cancer

*Courtesy of  
Center for Prostate Disease Research*

In the past three years, ground-breaking discoveries in the prostate cancer field have highlighted that alterations of ETS related genes (predominantly ERG), as a result of a fusion between male hormone receptor regulated gene promoters (predominantly TMPRSS2) and ETS transcription factors, represent one of the most common oncogenic defects in prostate cancer. Researchers at the Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) had originally shown frequent overexpression (60-70%) of the ETS related gene ERG in the epithelial cell transcriptome of prostate cancers. In their continued quest to understand the functional role and clinical utility of ERG alterations in prostate cancer, CPDR researchers have now defined new features of ERG function and expression which will further enhance the potential of

ERG as promising biomarker and therapeutic target for prostate cancer.

Using cell culture and animal models and prostate cancer specimens from patients, the multi-disciplinary group co-lead by Dr. Shiv Srivastava, Dr. David G. McLeod, Dr. Isabell A. Sesterhenn and Dr. Albert Dobi shows that inhibiting ERG expression in prostate tumor cells induces markers of prostate differentiation and inhibits tumor cell growth in mice. This study also highlights the role of the C-MYC oncogene in mediating ERG functions in prostate cancer cells. Taken together, these novel findings strongly implicate causal roles of ERG in prostate cancer at least in part by affecting cellular differentiation. Moreover, this study underscores promising potential of ERG and C-MYC in developing new targeted therapy for a large percentage of prostate cancers with ERG overexpression (60-70%). The second innovative CPDR study, co-lead by Dr. Shiv Srivastava, Dr. David G. McLeod, Dr. Isabell A. Sesterhenn and Dr. Gyorgy

Petrovics, defines full length transcripts and proteins encoded by common TMPRSS2-ERG fusions in prostate tumors. This study for the first time has led to the discovery of two major types of ERG products (type I: full length and type II: without ETS domain) in prostate tumors. Surprisingly, they found an abundance of type II products in tumor cells. Although the functional role of the type II products is unclear, early data suggest that ratios of type I and type II products in prostate tumor cells may provide prognostic indicators for disease progression. New information from this study has promise to enhance future strategies for utilizing specific ERG products as biomarkers or as therapeutic targets. Further studies are also warranted that would address the role of specific ERG products in overall ERG functions in prostate cancer. Towards these goals the CPDR team has been recently awarded a three year grant from the DoD-Prostate Cancer Research Program.



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





# UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

