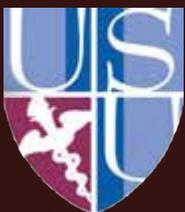


USU Newsletter

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USU Newsletter

Bill Bester

*Acting Vice President for
External Affairs and
Managing Editor*

Ken Frager

Public Affairs Specialist

Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Production Editor

MC1 Chad Hallford

Layout and Design

Christine Creenan

Contributing Writer

Production:

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Submissions:

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On the cover:

*USU alumni serve worldwide, including at the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.
(L to R) Col. Mark Koeniger ('92), 332nd EMDG Commander; Lt. Col. Donovan Tapper ('94); Maj. Christian Hanley ('00); Col. Andrew Marchiando ('85); Maj. Kurt Andreason ('98); Maj. Chris Wilhelm ('05); Col. Warren Dorlac ('89); Maj. Lee Wolf ('99); Maj. Doug Frenia ('99); Lt. Col. Sharette Gray ('96).*

In case you missed it while you were driving...

by Ken Frager

USU faculty, staff and students are not permitted to text while driving following an executive order signed by President Obama recently.

The order applies to civilian federal employees and military members while on official government business, driving government vehicles or using government equipment. Federal agencies are directed under the order to encourage their contract employees to observe the ban as well.

The order is aimed at curbing the rise in distracted driving and, therefore, reducing the risks of injury and death associated with the risky behavior. More than 5,800 people were killed and more than 515,000 injured last year in the U.S. as a result of distracted driving.

"As a trauma surgeon, I encountered all too often the very real consequences of not staying focused on the task at hand — driving a vehicle. While the number of motor vehicle accidents declined overall last year, the number of those directly attributable to distracted driving rose significantly," said USU President Charles L. Rice. "If you absolutely must read or send a text message while in your car, pull safely off the road and bring the vehicle to a complete stop before reading or responding to a text message."

Text messaging, or "texting," encompasses more than simply sending a text message via a handheld communication device. It also includes reading from any handheld or other electronic device,



graphic by MC1 Chad Hallford

including for the purpose of texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, obtaining navigational information, or "engaging in any other form of electronic data retrieval or electronic data communication," the order said.

The order defines driving as "operating a motor vehicle on an active roadway with the motor running." This includes the time the vehicle is temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic light or stop sign or other cause.

"It does not include operating a motor vehicle with or without the motor running when one has pulled over to the side of, or off, an active roadway and has halted in a location where one can safely remain stationary," according to the order.

You can view the entire executive order on the White House Web site at http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Executive-Order-Federal-Leadership-on-Reducing-Text-Messaging-while-Driving.

Navy celebrates 234th birthday



photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

USU's oldest and youngest Sailors, Capt. (Dr.) William Liston and HM2 Gregory Curtis, cut the birthday cake in Navy tradition. The university observed the Navy's 234th birthday with a ceremony featuring retired Master Chief Hospital Corpsman John Frankenburg as guest speaker.

Country United Symposium to feature USU expertise

by Ken Frager

USU faculty and alumni will participate as speakers in the Country United Partnership for Military Medicine Symposium, Nov. 6, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

The symposium is part of a two-day event, "Country United: Advancing Medicine from the Frontlines to the Homefront," sponsored by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF), the Tug McGraw Foundation (TMF), and hosted by multi award-winning artists Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

The symposium will feature a variety of timely topics aimed at encouraging public/private collaborations to accelerate advances in care for wounded, ill and injured troops and civilians, including PTSD and TBI, infectious diseases and humanitarian aid and disaster response.

General James F. Amos, assistant commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, will deliver the morning keynote address. The former Naval aviator and combat veteran has been actively involved in efforts to ensure the health of Soldiers related to the issues of post-traumatic stress, TBI and suicide.

Grammy award-winning artist Faith Hill will present the luncheon keynote address. Ms. Hill, who has been an active and vocal supporter of many different community charities, will give the address along with Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, Army Lt. Col. Gregory Gadson. Gadson was the first amputee to be outfitted with a next-generation prosthetic knee that features artificial intelligence and sensor technology.

Among the USU faculty and alumni participating in the symposium are Dr. Kevin Yeskey, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, Department of

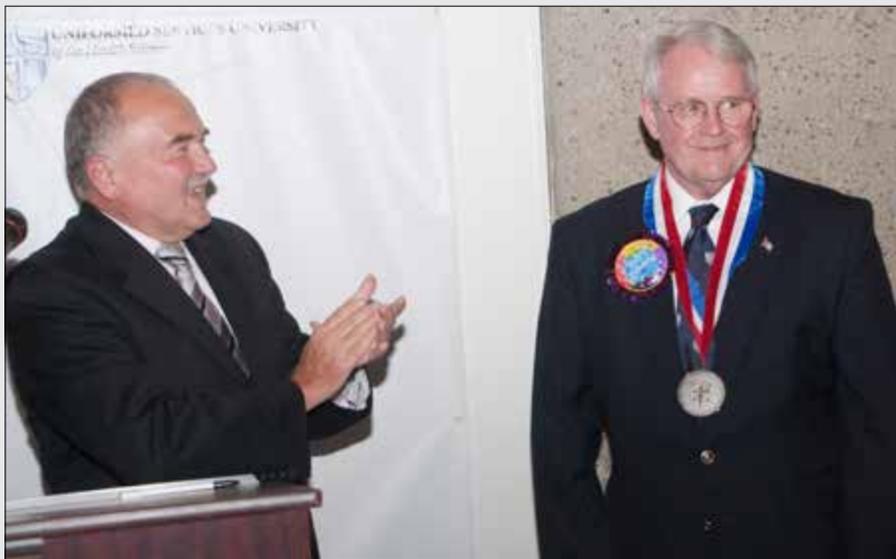


graphic courtesy of HJF and Tug McGraw Foundation

Health and Human Services, USU class of 1983; Dr. Robert J. Ursano, Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, USU, and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress; Dr. Stephen Cozza, Director, Child and Family Programs, USU's Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress; Captain (Dr.) Gregory Martin, U.S. Navy, Program Director, USU's Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program; Captain (Dr.) Tanis Batsel Stewart, Director, Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Support, Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, USU SoM class of 1993/MPH class of 2000; and Dr. Don Roberts, professor emeritus of Tropical Medicine, USU's Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics.

This program is sponsored by a non-federal entity. It is not a part of the DoD or any of its components and it has no governmental status. This announcement is for information only and does not constitute approval or endorsement by the University.

USU brickholder receives University medal



Long-time USU employee Mr. George Holborow was presented with the University Medal by School of Medicine Dean Dr. Larry Laughlin during Holborow's retirement ceremony. Mr. Holborow was recognized for his more than 33 years of service to the University, beginning in May 1976, and for establishing the University's Anatomical Teaching Laboratory and its programs during his tenure.



photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

AFRRI leaders, other research reactor experts convene

by AFRRI Public Affairs Staff

Leaders from research reactor facilities across the United States convened in Bethesda recently, including those from the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), a co-sponsor of the National Organization of Test, Research and Training Reactors (TRTR) annual conference.

The October 13–16 meeting addressed nuclear reactor operations and maintenance, security and safety, educational programs, regulatory issues, and other topics. Presenters included AFRRI scientist G. David Ledney, Ph.D., and representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Attendees also were invited to tour the AFRRI TRIGA reactor facility.

“AFRRI is pleased to have played a role in an important gathering of experts from the nation’s government organizations, universities, national laboratories, and industries,” said Steve Miller, head of the AFRRI Radiation Sciences Department and TRTR treasurer.

TRTR members include managers and directors of research reactors, educators, administrators, regulators, and research scientists and engineers. Its mission is to promote education, fundamental and applied research, application of technology in areas of national concern, and improvement of U.S. technological competitiveness around the world.



photo by D. Morse

AFRRI researcher G. David Ledney, Ph.D., presents information on the AFRRI TRIGA reactor and applications in mouse studies at the TRTR annual meeting.



graphic courtesy of JTF CapMed

Strength through Unity and Honor

2009 Joint Holiday Ball sponsored by Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical and tenant commands.

Date: Dec. 12, 2009

Place: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Ave.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Ticket Price: To be determined

The event takes place from 1800 to 2400 hours. The social hour begins at 1800 hours. Dress for the occasion is formal for civilians and formal or military dress for military.

POC: Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Woods
295-9562

Health Affairs senior enlisted advisor visits USU

by MC1 Chad Hallford

Army Sgt. Maj. Robert Wojtaszczyk visited USU, toured campus facilities and spoke with faculty and staff Oct. 2.

Wojtaszczyk is the current senior enlisted advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the TRICARE Management Activity.

“Sergeant Major Wojtaszczyk spoke with USU President, Dr. Rice, about some overarching matters. Wojtaszczyk communicated on how TMA engages with USU; how that engagement supports military personnel and family members, operational readiness, threat reduction, disaster relief and winning the heart and minds of peoples, as well as peace,” said USU Command Master Chief Clinton Garrett.

This was Wojtaszczyk’s first visit to the campus. Through his visit, he gained a better understanding of what University students experience— from the classroom to the joint field exercise.

Additionally, the Sergeant Major was able to see the partnership between USU and the AFRRRI in action.



photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Sergeant Major Robert Wojtaszczyk speaks with USU enlisted staff on the impact their roles have with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and on TRICARE Management Activity issues.

“Wojtaszczyk saw how USU and AFRRRI collaborate both within and with other DoD organizations and commands, government and non-governmental agencies to make strides in research, training positively impacting

military medicine across the spectrum of health care need and fostering global support of operations and care,” said Garrett, “...and to see how our NCO support is critical to many aspects of success the University enjoys.”

Diwali Festival Celebrated



photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Diwali, a five-day festival in Indian faiths and culture, occurs between the end of September and early November and was celebrated on the USU campus with a luncheon hosted by a number of USU staff and faculty members.

USU pharmacologist honored

by Newsletter staff

Dr. Anton Dmitriev is being honored by *The Spine Journal* and the North American Spine Society (NASS) Nov. 10-14 for an outstanding paper he co-authored.

The Spine Journal and the NASS Outstanding Paper Award selection committee chose Dmitriev’s paper, titled *BMP-2 used in spinal fusion with spinal cord injury penetrates intrathecally and elicits a functional signaling cascade*.

Dmitriev and his co-authors will be honored in San Francisco as part of the NASS 24th Annual Meeting. Dmitriev has been asked to present the paper on Nov. 12.

The Department of Pharmacology Graduate Education student has also received a request to have the paper published by *The Spine Journal* at a future publication date. This publication is a multidisciplinary journal of spinal disorders and is the official journal of the NASS.

USU Alumna assumes AAFP leadership role

Courtesy of the AAFP

Lori J. Heim, M.D., FAAFP (USU SoM class of 1986), a family physician in Laurinburg, N.C., assumed the role of president of the American Academy of Family Physicians Oct. 14. Previously, she served three years as a director on the AAFP Board of Directors and one year as president-elect. The AAFP represents more than 94,600 physicians and medical students nationwide.

A practicing family physician for 20 years, Heim currently serves as a hospitalist at Scotland Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg, N.C., where she manages the inpatient care of adult patients referred by primary care physicians in the community. Heim is the first family physician to serve as a hospitalist at Scotland Memorial Hospital. As president of the AAFP, Heim advocates on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system.

A member of the AAFP since 1985, Heim served as a delegate to the AAFP Congress of Delegates from 2000 to 2004. She served on the Commission on Health Care Services and on the Task Force of Linkages to Practice Improvement. In addition, she held the offices of president, vice president, and member of



courtesy photo

the board of directors of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians. Heim earned her bachelor's degree with honors from Portland State University, Oregon, and was then commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and earned her medical degree at USU. She completed her residency at the Family Medicine Residency, Andrews Air Force Base, Md. She then completed a fellowship in faculty development and research from

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Heim is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and has the AAFP Degree of Fellowship, an earned degree awarded to family physicians for distinguished service and continuing medical education.

Heim's appointments with the Air Force included staff physician, clinic chief, residency director, assistant professor and university health center director at USU, chief of the medical staff and commander. She was stationed internationally in Turkey and domestically in Washington, D.C., Florida, North Carolina and Washington state. She retired as a colonel from the Air Force after 25 years of service.

Heim has lectured worldwide and her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals. She participated in humanitarian missions and volunteered in medical clinics in underserved communities. She has received numerous decorations including the Air Force Meritorious Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal. Her awards include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Humanitarian Service Award and the National Defense Service Award.

Sciuto elected to AAFP Board of Directors

Courtesy of the AAFP

Air Force 2nd Lt. Brooke Sciuto, (USU SoM class of 2010) has been elected to a one-year term on the board of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Sciuto was elected by the National Congress of Student Members and was confirmed by the governing body of the AAFP, the Congress of Delegates.

As the student member of the board of directors, Sciuto is responsible for representing the interests and opinions of the National Congress of Student Members to the AAFP Board of Directors and Congress of Delegates. In

addition, she will advocate on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system.

Sciuto graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2003. During her assignment as an acquisitions officer at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., she was awarded the U.S. Air Force Achievement Medal and the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for meritorious service.

"I really look forward to my next year on the AAFP board, especially getting to work with Dr. Ted Epperly (Board Chair and former USU faculty) and Dr. Lori Heim," Sciutto said.



courtesy photo

USU Briefs

Joint Holiday Ball car wash:

The Joint Holiday Ball Committee will be having a car wash at the Citgo Service Station next to the Pentagon from 0900-1600 hours on a rescheduled date to be determined.

The committee is asking for at least 25 volunteers for each multi-hour shift (0900-1200 and 1200-1600).

The committee is also looking for donations such as:

- Soap
- Sponges
- Towels (3 per volunteer)
- Buckets
- Hoses (Pressure washer x 2)
- Clothesline
- Coffee Can Collection Box
- Squeegees
- Clipboards

For more information, contact Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Woods at 295-9562.

Using Computer Resources:

Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices:

Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network including MDL and lecture hall spaces; connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system.

Personnel must not permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games and social engineering sites.

Helpdesk Closure:

The UIS helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m.

During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or email help@usuhs.mil.

If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

Stronger Female Physicians:

Submissions are now being accepted for the Building Stronger Female Physician Leaders for the Military Health System.

This award honors outstanding female physicians who have made significant contributions to the practice of medicine and/or who have served as exemplary role models for other female physicians.

Completed submissions must be received by Oct. 30.

Additional information at www.health.mil/People/docs/FemaleLeadersAward.doc.

Military Awards Nominations:

The next military awards panel will convene November 24. Nomination packages will be due through the chain of command no later than November 17. Any award with higher precedence than the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be submitted 150 days prior to presentation. Contact HM2 Sylvia McBee at 295-9654 or sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil with questions.



photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Caption contest

Test your skills and write the best caption for this photo to win this edition's gift certificate for a free large coffee and doughnut courtesy of William III. Submit your caption in writing to the office B1009, or to USUNewsletter@usuhs.mil. The best caption wins and the top three, as judged by the USU Newsletter staff, will be printed in the next edition.

The Votes are in!

The votes have been cast and a winner has been chosen for the new name of the USU newsletter.

Following the recent University-wide survey and Online voting, the field of more than 120 entries came down to one.

The new name will be released in an upcoming newsletter.

Thanks for your participation and for your continued support and readership.

-The USU newsletter staff





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