



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences

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Inaugural Issue



USU Newsletter

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Schinski to lead USU in BRAC Integration

*By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has partnered with Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), and Malcolm Grow Air Force Medical Center (MGMC) to integrate military medicine in the National Capital Area (NCA). The University is poised to be the academic health center for this newly integrated world-class facility.

USU's President, Charles L. Rice, M.D., recently appointed Vernon Schinski, Ph.D., USU's Vice President of Teaching and Research Support, as the "Special Assistant to the President for BRAC Integration."

"Dr. Schinski is not only an expert in military research and education, he is also one of the university's most knowledgeable leaders," Dr. Rice said. "He is tasked, along with several members who have been appointed to various sub-committees, to lead the University's efforts, coordinate the work of other USU administrators, and lead this ongoing and complex task of moving from BRAC to integration."

"I am confident, with his leadership, our University is well positioned to become one of the nation's leading academic health centers to support the newly formed Walter Reed Na-

tional Military Medical Center (WRNMMC)," Dr. Rice said.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations became law in November 2005, requiring the integration of medical services in the NCA by 2011.

As part of that integration WRAMC and NNMC have been charged with creating one world-class medical center located in Bethesda, to be known as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

According to NCA leadership the facility will focus on providing the highest quality of care, graduate medical education and clinical research while serving as a worldwide military referral center.

Several decision-making bodies have been formed to oversee the NCA Integration vision, and leaders within the NCA have established the Office of Integration. That group, which is led by senior representatives from both NNMC and WRAMC, is responsible for developing an integration plan for the medical treatment facilities.

"USU has a critical role in the successful integration as the academic health center focal point for this venture," Dr. Rice added. "But in order to do that we must be actively involved as the BRAC process proceeds."

Patience for parking garage construction

*By Tech Sgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC
Office of External Affairs*

If you have parked in the underground garage within the past few months, you may have noticed the blocked off sections or felt the frustration of trying to find a parking space.

Many might be wondering how much longer the garage will be under renovation and when the actual construction is being done. The answer to those questions and several others came from the people overseeing the project.

According to the USU Director of Facilities, Cheryl King, and Civil Structural Engineer Todd Cunningham, with Naval Facilities, the purpose of the project, which began in December 2005, is to repair areas that have deteriorated concrete slabs and supporting joists.

After demolition began, it became apparent that the steel reinforcement in the concrete was not up to code requirements, according to Mr. Cunningham. Specifically, there was less than two inches covering the reinforcing steel bars as required.



Photo courtesy of USU Facilities

Above is a photo of the steel corrosion discovered in the parking garage.

See **PARKING**, page 7



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President's Open Door Program available for all USU members



Dr. Charles L. Rice, USU President

The Open Door Program has been created for all members of the Uniformed Services University (USU): faculty, staff and students, to bring issues to my attention and I welcome those inputs.

USU is an extraordinary institution and I am deeply impressed by the commitment, integrity and imagination of the members of our community. Each of us become experts at our jobs and we all develop ideas and opinions about our work and our workplace. While I know there are many mechanisms in place for open communication, and I am committed to helping maximize all of them, I have inaugurated an "Open Door Policy" to provide an additional, user friendly option to allow members of this community to bring issues to my attention.

This program is not meant to replace the Brigade Open Door Policy, DOD hotline, the Faculty Senate, various committee meetings, discussions with colleagues, subordinates and supervisors (formal and informal), or any other existing methods of reporting, but rather to provide an alternative. In fact, it is of the utmost importance that we all commit ourselves to strengthen these methods. While the chores of meetings and the courage to be candid with our peers may be time and energy consuming,

they are the foundation of our academic community.

Nevertheless, I understand that in an organization this large and this complex, it is unrealistic for me to expect people to simply "come through my door informally" to bring me information.

Further, I understand that even if people were to "come through my door," they might be reluctant to tell me some things in such a "face-to-face" setting. Clearly each of these factors limits my access to potentially important information.

I intend this program to compensate for those limits by providing members of the USU community with an efficient, effective, and "safe" environment to bring me information they believe I should have in order to properly evaluate and improve operations of the university.

The actual program uses software licensed and maintained (at a cost that is below that of a desktop computer) by EthicsPoint, a company dedicated to providing a safe reporting environment for universities and public corporations. By using it, the USU community can electronically send information to me at a time convenient to them without making an appointment or finding me in the halls or dining area. Additionally, my staff or I can request and receive additional information so I can provide users with a thoughtful response thru a confidential e-mail. If the person using the system believes it's necessary, they can even choose to remain anonymous.

Please use this new tool to let me know what we are doing well and who is doing it, what we are doing that you feel could be done better, and what we are doing that you feel we should not be doing. As always, whenever appropriate, I encourage you to report information through your management chain, or to one of the other offices available within the university prior to using this program.

How to file a report by phone:

Call the toll free number, 1-866-294-9317, available 24 hours a day. You will speak with a compliance specialist who will collect your information, and process your report through the system.

Once you have completed your report, the compliance specialist will issue you a user name that will allow you to return to the system and monitor progress.

How to file a report using a USU computer:

1. First go to the USU website at www.usuhs.mil and click on the "Open Door Program" link on the bottom left.
2. Click on the button marked "Click here to file a report."
 - a. From here users are automatically redirected to a secure server maintained by EthicsPoint.
 - b. Follow directions on the site.
3. Choose only one of the categories available when submitting a report.
 - a. What are we doing right, and who is doing it?
 - b. Are we doing anything that is foolish or wasteful?
 - c. Are we doing anything that seems wrong, or in need of correction?
4. Once you have completed your report, you will be issued a user name that will allow you to return to the system and monitor progress.

How to file a report using a computer outside of USU:

Using any internet service provider you can access this program by logging onto <http://www.ethicspoint.com>. Click on "File a report."

At this point, instructions are the same as indicated above in items three and four.

Again, this program is designed to be an alternative for you to voice your ideas, and I hope to hear from anyone who wishes to bring them forward.

Branding: What is it and why is it important?

When people think of Nike they can probably picture in their minds the Nike Swoosh, when they see a Coke can it's easily identifiable without even seeing the words. It's all in the brand.

Many colleges and universities have an official seal and a separate logo. The seal is typically reserved for formal use while the logo is used on all other occasions.

The Uniformed Services University currently uses the official USU seal, which was created by the Institute of Heraldry, as its "brand." The presentation of the seal has varied with use and is often intermingled with other official seals or organizational logos. Sizes and fonts vary with personal preference, and there is no standardized representation of materials to the public. Additionally, the USU seal loses its detail as image sizes are reduced.

A Branding Committee was established to design a logo that will represent USU with a professional look while maintaining the

uniqueness of the university. In the near future you will see guidance on the use of the logo versus the official shield (which is not changing) along with pre-developed templates for use in presentations, fliers, posters and even business cards.

Our effort is to portray a unique university in a unified manner.



NEW USU LOGO



USU SEAL

Women's History Month...Risks to women around the world

By JO3 Kory Kepner
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

A Dean from the University of Pennsylvania spoke to members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) on the "Risks to women around the world" at USU as part of the Women's History Month observance.

Afaf I. Meleis, Ph.D., who is the Margret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and a Professor of Nursing and Sociology, spoke to the crowd on five risks that women face: work, marriage, violence, pregnancy, and a lack of resources. She stated that gender makes women more vulnerable to these risks.

"In addition to the many years of researching women's situations, my practice as a nurse, my life experience as a woman, though privileged with educational opportunities, I will never claim to know through first-hand experience what it is like to be abused, harassed or violated. I can look at these experiences from an outsider's perspective and, somewhat, an insider's position and understand and relate to these experiences," Dr. Meleis said.

The first risk Dr. Meleis spoke about was work, mainly that women's work is devalued around the world. She stated that men go to work and are considered the breadwinners whereas women stay at home, take care of the family and crops, but this is not considered work in most countries.

"Women's jobs are considered care giving, not actual work," said Dr. Meleis. "Nursing is care giving."

She stated that the problem lies in the nature and definition of what is considered work and that there are limited studies in the hazards of women's work.

"Women are self-employed or are in unpaid labor which causes women to be considered unproductive by economists and development experts," she said.

The second major risk to women is marriage according to Dr. Meleis. She said it is a worldwide phenomenon that women are defined by marriage, and are always under enormous pressure to 'be found' by a husband.

Women are violated and killed because marriage may bring things such as bridal burning in India, abuse and battering by husband and in-laws, and the burden of caring for in-laws.

She stated that violence is the third major risk because there are laws that actually condone and support domestic violence under the pretense that this is a family matter and there is a social pressure that forbids women from disclosing and reporting violence. In some countries it is unacceptable for a woman to disclose information about being raped and in other countries a woman who has a child out of wedlock can be subjected to stoning.

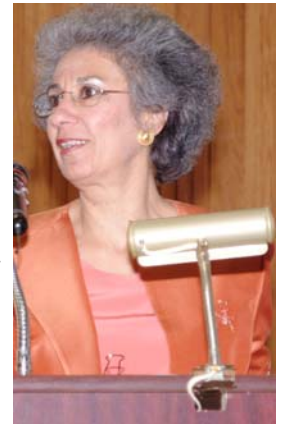
Dr. Meleis said that the fourth risk to women is pregnancy. Some of these risks are due to: unintended and unwanted pregnancies; high risk of maternal mortality in Africa; and prejudices against women who choose to give birth to daughters.

The lack of resources is the fifth risk

women face around the world, she said. Health care is one of the major resource problems because of issues with distance, transportation, length of wait, availability of personnel, cost of medicine, cost of transportation, and the many other responsibilities women have.

There are structural and policy factors that can reduce these risks and make the world safe for women such as changing conceptual framework, developing explicit policies to value caring, redefining work, micro-financing for women, making women's health a part of foreign policy, being vigilant, and education.

Dr. Meleis is also the director of the School's World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership. Prior to coming to the University of Pennsylvania, she was a professor on the faculty at the University of California Los Angeles and the University of California San Francisco for 34 years. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; a member of the Institute of Medicine; Trustee of the National Health Museum and serves on the board for several other organizations.



Dr. Afaf Meleis





Alumni
in the News

"They're very professional and they're very caring and they're very willing to learn. But they just do not have the specialized skills my doctors and nurses have."

Lt. Col. Bruce Schoneboom

Field hospital taking on littlest patients in Afghanistan

By Anita Powell
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — An Army field hospital seems an unlikely place to find seriously ill children.

But, a new partnership between Salerno Hospital and the local ministry of health has transformed the tiny tent hospital into something of a pediatric intensive care unit.

Through the new program, which is just weeks old and does not have a name, the hospital treats patients whose cases local doctors have determined to be too difficult or intensive. The hospital's doctors also work with local doctors to teach them how to treat such cases in the future.

So far, in three weeks, all three cases have been children, said Lt. Col. Bruce Schoneboom, detachment commander for the 14th Combat Support Hospital at Salerno.

That was "a little unexpected," said Schoneboom, a nurse anesthetist. "Nobody told us we'd be taking care of so many kids."

Schoneboom said doctors have treated a range of severe and difficult ailments, including a hereditary blood disorder that causes massive engorgement of the spleen and severe burns that require skin grafts. The staff at the hospital say the unusual experience has touched them deeply.

"We get a real sense of satisfaction," said Maj. Elizabeth Vinson, a registered nurse. "We actually get to see the benefits of our work."

Patients and their families seem equally pleased with the care, which is provided for free.

"They treated us very well," said 18-year-old Anwar Khan, who sat by the bedside of his nephew, Arsala, 5, who was grumpily convalescing after surgery on his enlarged bladder.



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Bruce Schoneboom (left), a nurse anesthetist (2000 Neuroscience), recently took command from fellow USU alum Lt. Col. (Dr.) David W. Barber (1994). Barber, an orthopedic surgeon who commanded the 249th General Hospital, Salerno Detachment, for the past year. That hospital was relieved by Schoneboom's detachment.

Initially, the family took Arsala to a local doctor, but later "decided to take him to the American hospital because of the better treatment," said Khan, who is studying to be a doctor.

For local doctors, Schoneboom said, the partnership offers an opportunity to improve their medical skills.

"They're very professional and they're very caring and they're very willing to learn," Schoneboom said. "But they just do not have the specialized skills my doctors and nurses have."

Dr. Bashir Ahmadzai, a Pakistan-trained doctor from Logar province who works at the clinic as a translator, said local doctors

have learned much from the partnership.

"We are so impressed," he said in English. "Many of the serious problems have been treated very well here."

But the partnership has also caused some heartache.

For two weeks, 26-year-old Zainab sat by her daughter's side, watching her tiny, frowning face and the third-degree burns that covered her arms, legs and chest.

A month ago, a pot of cooking oil toppled over 1-year-old Malala, covering almost 30 percent of her body. Her parents rushed her to the local hospital, where doctors determined that her injuries, which would require multiple skin grafts, were beyond their scope. They referred her to Salerno Hospital.

During Malala's stay, hospital staff doted on her constantly.

"She's our baby," said Vinson one day last week, tenderly rearranging Malala's bandaged limbs. "It'll be a sad day when she leaves."

Two days later, Malala died in her sleep of unrelated causes. Doctors believe she may have choked on the contents of her feeding tube. She was to be discharged the next day.

"We were very shocked by that," Schoneboom said. "She was supposed to go home today. She was doing great. She was doing absolutely great. We were all very upset."

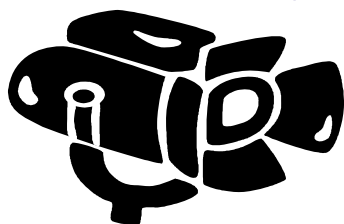
Her parents, he said, were gracious through their grief.

"At the very last minute, as they were walking out, they were appreciative," he said.

He said the hospital staff will work through the tragedy to help more patients.

"Part of who you are as an American is to make a difference," he said.

University Spotlights



Faculty Honors/Awards:

William H.J. Haffner, M.D., was elected president of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Navy Capt. Joseph O. Lopreiato, received the 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics Outstanding Service Award.

Louis N. Pangaro, M.D. – The Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine Award (CDIM) for Outstanding Educational Program Development has been renamed the CDIM Louis N. Pangaro, M.D., Educational Program Development Award.

Ryung Suh, M.D., received the 2006 Leadership Award from the American Medical Association.

George C. Tsokos, M.D., was elected to the prestigious rank of active member of the Association of American Physicians.

Robert J. Ursano, M.D., was named one of the Best Doctors in America by The Best Doctors in America organization.

Publications:

Michael Feuerstein, Ph.D., and **Patricia Findley, Ph.D.**, published "The Cancer Survivor's Guide."

Promotions:

The following Army personnel were recently selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class (E-7): Staff Sgts. **Kevin Hayes**, **Shon McManus**, **Malisha Palmer**, and **Cliffon Williams**.

Hails and Farewells:

Air Force Col. Melissa Fries, retired March 30; **Navy Capt. John Pomerville**, retired March 30; **Navy Capt. Terry Puckett**, departed for Bureau of Medicine and Surgery March 31; **Army Master Sgt. Everett Byre**, retired April 6

New or competitively renewed faculty grants

<i>Principal Investigator</i>	<i>Grant Title</i>	<i>Grant Sponsor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mitchell, Chad	Fieldable In-vivo EPR Biodosimetry	DTRA	\$267,419
Muldoon, Sheila	Genetic Testing for Malignant Hyperthermia	University of Pittsburgh MC	\$10,691
Anders, Juanita	Optimization of Light Therapy Parameters for Translation to Treatment of Human Acute Spinal Cord Injury	Photothera	\$25,000
Bowyer, Mark	Scientific Educational Validation Study of Rapid Fire/Sma (CRADA)	Verefi Technologies, Inc.	\$20,000
Liu, Alan	A Hybrid Simulator for Intracranial Hematoma Training	Verefi Technologies, Inc.	\$50,057
Namboodiri, Aryan	Acetate Supplementation as Therapeutic Approach to Canavan's Disease	Jacob's Cure	\$25,000
Cantilena, Louis	Phase I Resource Center (PIRC)	NCCAM	\$2,498,571

In the Department of Radiology **Lt. Cmdr. Chad Mitchell** has received funding for a new program on technologies to evaluate radiation exposure. He will examine electron paramagnetic resonance changes in tooth enamel using new dosimetry equipment to evaluate levels of radiation exposure.

Dr. Sheila Muldoon, in the Department of Anesthesiology, received a subcontract from the University of Pittsburgh to provide genetic testing for malignant hyperthermia. Malignant hyperthermia is a disease of the skeletal muscle intercellular calcium concentrations that can be life threatening situations when these patients are exposed to volatile anesthetic.

Dr. Juanita Anders from the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics received a grant to optimize light therapy as a treatment of acute spinal cord injury. Her research will establish a specific set of laser light parameters that will translate to effective treatment of human acute spinal cord injury.

Col. Mark Bowyer, from the Department of Surgery and the Simulation Center, developed a CRADA with Verefi Technologies, Inc., to compare two virtual reality laparoscopic simulators. Skills for minimally invasive surgery are difficult to acquire and Dr. Bowyer is assessing computer-based simulation training as a feasible means to acquire these skills and may prove to be superior to conventional training approaches.

Another CRADA with Verefi Technologies, Inc., was developed by

Dr. Alan Liu, in the Department of Surgery and the Simulation Center, to build a simulator for training medical professionals in methods of relieving intracranial pressure.

Intracranial pressure due to battlefield injuries is a growing problem for the military and if, left untreated, is life threatening. Dr. Liu is developing a simulator that will allow an individual to be trained in treatment of intracranial hematomas using a virtual computer environment.

In the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, **Dr. Aryan Namboodiri** received a grant from the Jacob's Cure Foundation to look at acetate supplementation as a therapeutic approach to Canavan's Disease. To date, he and others have shown that this genetic disease has associated low acetate levels which may have a role in the defective myelin synthesis.

He believes that infants born with this disease are normal at birth but once myelin synthesis accelerates after birth, the genetic manifestations begin. In this grant he will supplement the diet of an animal model of Canavan's Disease with acetate to define whether the supplementation prevents the development of the disease.

Finally, **Dr. Louis Cantilena**, in the Department of Medicine, received a contract from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine with the objective of establishing infrastructure for a Phase I Resource Center to conduct early phase clinical trials for NCCAM-sponsored botanical dietary supplement materials.





Alumni
Featured in the
News

"When I stop at a checkpoint for several hours, I may get 45 minutes of sleep after spending several hours taking care of the dogs. If we stop twice a day that ends up being two 45-minute naps."

*Maj. (Dr.)
Thomas
Knolmayer*

Air Force doctor finishes Iditarod with flourish

By Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown
3rd Communications Squadron

NOME, Alaska — After finishing last year's Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Maj. (Dr) Thomas Knolmayer, USU class of 1994, said it would be his one and only running of the 1,150 mile race across Alaska's wilderness. But anyone who knows the 38-year-old surgeon stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, knew better.

After getting the blessing from his wife, Tina, the major threw his name in the hat to compete in the 2006 race.

"I still had all the dogs and they can't just sit around doing nothing," he said, referring to his kennel of 21 Alaskan Huskies.

After a good training season of running the sled dogs for three to four hours, four to five nights a week, Doctor Knolmayer felt good about the team this year.

"The dogs are running strong and I have a lot more experience going into this year's race," Doctor Knolmayer said. He was also fortunate to have a co-worker, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michelle Prevost ('), running half his team with him after work, cutting his training time in half.

Having one of his strongest dogs healthy this year also helped. Last year, Tomahawk, a 7-year-old lead dog, was injured two weeks before the Iditarod and had to sit out, but this year he was raring to go.

With an upcoming assignment and having to leave Alaska, Doctor Knolmayer said he knew this would be his last Iditarod. That made this year's race just that much more special.

That wasn't the only thing that made it special. This year he ran with a bigger purpose — a 10-year-old girl with cancer was cheering him on.

Katie Powell, the daughter of Senior Master Sgt Chris Powell, a KC-10 Extender boom operator at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., has Ewing's Sarcoma, a bone cancer. Her mother told USU alumnus Col.

(Dr.) Peter Chenaille (1983), chief of pediatric oncology at David Grant Air Force Medical Center at Travis and Katie's doctor, that they were thinking of taking Katie to see the start of the Iditarod because of Katie's love for Huskies. Doctor Chenaille emailed Knolmayer to see if he would be able to show Katie his dogs if the folks at Travis could get her up to Alaska. Doctor Knolmayer readily agreed, saying "The answer to your question is not only yes, but I would be honored to spend some time with this girl."

Doctor Chenaille then led efforts to take up a collection in the pediatrics clinic to help pay some of the family's expenses. Through the generosity of the clinic and several units at Travis, she fulfilled her dream of meeting an Iditarod musher and his team of sled dogs. Doctor Knolmayer spent several days with Katie and her family. She was also the major's personal guest at the start of this year's Iditarod after riding with him on the sled during his last training run that lasted more than an hour.

"The sled ride was great," Katie said. "It lasted a long time, but seemed like it was only a few minutes."

Since she had to head home the Monday after the start, she planned on using the Internet to track the major's progress.

"I'll keep track of him on the computer," she said.

The race is a mental and physical challenge. The mushers face sleep deprivation and have to spend a large amount of time caring for the dogs.

"When I stop at a checkpoint for several hours, I may get 45



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

Maj. (Dr.) Thomas Knolmayer and his dog team head to the finish line of the 2006 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, March 17 in Nome, Alaska. Doctor Knolmayer finished the 1,150-mile race across Alaska in 11 days, 22 hours and 13 minutes. It was 47 hours faster than his time last year.

minutes of sleep after spending several hours taking care of the dogs" Doctor Knolmayer said. "If we stop twice a day that ends up being two 45-minute naps."

Besides the lack of sleep, extreme weather also takes its toll when the teams face temperatures as warm as 40 degrees and as cold as 45 below zero. The warmer temperatures are hard on the dogs and can reduce a dog's ability to pull long distances, to sitting during daylight hours waiting for the cooler temperatures of the dark Alaska night.

Alaskan Huskies have the almost unbelievable ability to withstand temperatures of 45 degrees below zero for days on end with little affect. Doctor Knolmayer was also thrilled when the temperatures were well below zero.

"It's much easier on the team. They feel great and just want to keep going," he said.

Trail hazards also make the race a challenge. Stumps in the trail and sharp turns can send a musher into the trees; being on ice in high winds is also a risk.

"At one point, the wind was sending the sled and the dogs sideways across the ice. All I could

See **IDITAROD**, page 7

USU President hosts grads, faculty at annual meetings

By Sharon Willis

Director, Alumni Affairs

More than 200 USU graduates and faculty members joined President Charles L. Rice recently for events he hosted at the annual Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians (USAFP) and the Uniformed Services Pediatrics Seminar (USPS) meetings in early March.

Dr. Rice met with more than 100 members of the university community in Chicago at the USAFP meeting March 5, where he introduced himself and outlined his vision for the future of the university. He was later joined by USU's Family Medicine Department Chair, Air Force Col. (Dr.) Brian Reamy and Maj. (Dr.) Pamela Williams, family medicine clerkship director, to present an award for Outstanding Family Medicine Clerkship Preceptor to Lt. Cmdr.

(Dr.) James Keck (1998). Keck is assigned to the family medicine department at the Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla., and was receiving the award for the second consecutive year.

In Portsmouth, Va., Dr. Rice and approximately 130 pediatricians with ties to the university gathered for dinner at the Renaissance Waterfront hotel March 13. Rice again discussed his vision for the future of the university, and USU's role as the academic medical center for the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Dr. Ildy Katona, USU's chair of pediatrics addressed the audience as well regarding issues and changes in military pediatrics.

Dr. Rice will travel to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., later this month to meet with USU alumni and faculty at David Grant Medical Center.

IDITAROD, Continued from page 6

do was crawl on my hands and knees trying to get control of the sled and team," the doctor said.

Even with all the challenges of the Iditarod trail, Doctor Knolmayer set his goals high and found a way to succeed. After finishing the race last year with a respectable time of 13 days and 22 hours, he knew he could lead his team to a better finish this year.

So, as usual, Doctor Knolmayer set what seemed to be a goal impossible to meet: finish the race in less than 12 days. Waiting in Nome, his wife and the rest of his sup-

porters tracked his progress online and estimated a Friday finish around 4 p.m., a finish that would be two hours short of his goal.

Doctor Knolmayer crossed the finish line at 1:10 p.m., meeting his goal of a finish under 12 days by just one hour. It was a finish that was 47 hours better than last year.

After all the pomp and circumstance of the race, greeting his wife and 15-month-old son, Zane, and getting the dogs bedded down, the major finished one last task. He posed under the arches at the finish line with a poster that said, "We did it for you, Katie Powell!"



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

Doctor Knolmayer poses after finishing the 2006 Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Katie Powell, the girl in the message, is the 10-year-old daughter of SMSgt. Chris Powell of Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

PARKING, Continued from page 1



Photos Courtesy of USU Facilities

Structural damage as seen here was found throughout the parking garage.

The American Concrete Institute requires the steel be covered by at least two inches of concrete. At two inches the expected

life of the structure is 64 years. At one inch covering the expected life drops to 40 years. After demolishing some of the worst areas of the slab, it was found that the concrete cover was well under one inch.

"The steel reinforcing bars should be covered by at least two inches of concrete to prevent rusting," Mr. Cunningham said. "Concrete neutralizes any acids that might corrode the steel. This concrete protection is diminished due to contaminated run-off

from the road, especially calcium chloride, which is used to de-ice roads. The steel expands as it rusts, which cracks the concrete. As the cracks grow, more steel is exposed to run-off, and the rate of corrosion increases."

The other problem that was identified is that the quantity of steel utilized was less than what is required to limit cracking. Reinforcing steel carries the tensile load of the beam; the steel stretches slightly under the tension, and this elongation causes the concrete to crack. Although there is adequate steel to support the gravity loads, extra steel must be included to limit the elongation and control cracking.

The repairs are a lengthy and noisy process, so to decrease the amount of noise from jack hammering and drilling, the majority of the work is being done from 5:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., according to Ms. King. The work is being done in phases and there are several phases that still need to be completed. Phase one dealt with those areas in the garage identified as requiring immediate attention. Documentation has been completed for the next phase and has been submitted for funding.

Although completing the construction in a timely manner is important, "the safety of our university family is always top priority," said Mary Dix, Vice President for Administration and Management.





Briefs

Packard Lecture

Each year, the USU Faculty Senate sponsors the David Packard Lecture series. This year's address will be given by David Rutstein, M.D., Capt., U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and he will speak on, "Interagency Collaboration During Public Health Emergencies: A New Paradigm."

Captain Rutstein will draw on his personal experiences following the Indonesian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, during which there was close collaboration between the USPHS and the Department of Defense.

The Packard Lecture is April 20 at 4 p.m. in Lecture Room D, Building C. There will be a reception before the lecture starting at 3 p.m. outside the lecture room.

Research Day

The annual Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Research Week is May 16 -18. The theme for this year's event is "Global Public Health: The Changing Role of Military Medicine." All USU faculty, staff and students are invited to register and submit abstracts on the Research Day website: <http://www.usuresearchday.hjf.org/>. The closing date for submitting abstracts is April 17, 2006.

Dr. Alan Leshner, Chief Executive Officer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will be the Plenary Speaker May 18 at 3:30p.m. Visit the website for a detailed list of activities.

Minority Health Month Program

USU's Center for Health Disparities Research and Education will host the 2nd Annual National Minority Health Month Program, April 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the USU Cafeteria. The guest speaker is Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., Past President of the National Medical Association. Dr. Maxey is a nephrologist and national leader in health care disparities.

The Center is comprised of a diverse and engaged staff with a mission to promote health-related change and ultimately reduce health disparities. For more information about the center visit: www.usuchd.org/.

Government Travel Card

The Bank of America government travel cardholders at USU have achieved zero pay delinquency status for the 11th straight month. This is an exemplary accomplishment within the Department of Defense, and reflects well on the leadership and cardholders at USU.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Avian Flu display

Linda Spitzer, Chief, Reference and Interlibrary Loan, in the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center showcases the "Avian Flu: Pandemic Watch" display. Avian Influenza (commonly known as Bird Flu) is caused by a virus that occurs naturally in birds. The H5N1 virus (or Avian Flu) is highly contagious among birds. While this virus does not normally affect humans, cases of the virus have been reported. For more information on the virus visit:

<http://www.lrc.usuhs.mil/guide/avianinfluenza.htm>.

The USU community is encouraged to stop by and take a look at the display as well as utilize some of the many resources available in the LRC such as: Remote Computer Services (RCS), PubMed and EndNote classes which are presented monthly.

A new exhibit series, "Researcher of the Month" will debut in May.

USU's 29th Annual Dining-In

The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 2009 is hosting this year's Dining-In at the Wyndham Hotel in Washington D.C., April 21. The event is open to military students, faculty, and staff in the SOM and Graduate School of Nursing. Tickets are now on sale during lunch in front of the cafeteria. Dress is Service/Mess Dress.

BRAC Information Update

USU will be emphasizing the National Capital Area Integration on its BLOG. The web address has changed to <http://cim.usuhs.mil/ncainfo/>.

Letter from the editor

It is with great pleasure that we bring you our inaugural issue of the USU Newsletter. This publication can and will be used to highlight the extraordinary people and work being done at the university.

Much time and debate has gone into this product to ensure it displays a professional look while still maintaining the uniqueness that is the Uniformed Services University.

This newsletter is for every member of USU to use as a tool to receive information about what is taking place around the university as well as provide information to our staff so we can recognize those people who are much deserving.

We welcome constructive criticism of this publication because our main objective is to produce a newsletter that reflects the mission of this university, the people who make up the university, and

the fruits of your labor.

We will strive to incorporate as much about individual recognition and accomplishments as possible, but if we don't know about it we can't include it. Therefore, it's imperative that you submit information in a timely manner and in the most detail possible to prevent a misunderstanding. The president, managing editor and editor will make the final decision on editorial content.

As editor, I truly look forward to hearing from you and receiving your input. It's my hope that you will be pleased with the USU Newsletter, which we aim to publish bi-weekly on Monday mornings.

You will be able to find the newsletter on news stands around the university as well as online at: www.usuhs.mil. Please send comments and submissions to: www.usunewsletter@usuhs.mil.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson

USU prepares for its 27th Commencement Exercise

The 27th USU commencement will be held May 20 at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall at 11 a.m. The Hall is located in Washington, D.C. at 18th and D Streets N.W. Doors will open to the graduates and their guests at 9:30 a.m.

Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU President, will preside at his first USU commencement and give the "President's Address."

The USU Graduate School of Nursing

(GSN), the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM) Graduate Program, and the SOM M.D. program will present diplomas to 268 graduates.

This year's ceremony has been streamlined and should last approximately two hours. Some speeches have been eliminated or shortened, and some award presentations have been eliminated from the ceremony but will be presented in other venues, including the SOM award cere-

mony May 12 at 1 p.m. and the GSN award ceremony May 16, at 4 p.m., both ceremonies will be held in Sanford Auditorium.

With the exception of the students' "Esprit De Corps" awards, which will be presented on stage, all student awards will be announced as the student crosses the stage to receive their diploma.



Look Who's Talking...

Where is the best place you've been on vacation or where would you like to go on vacation?



"I would like to go to Germany for the World Cup. I love soccer and I've heard it's a beautiful country."

Julio Gonzalez
Cafeteria Line Cook



"The best place I've been to is London. The British Museum had everything in the world under one roof."

Claire Wernly
Graduate Student



"Italy has beautiful art and great wine. The people are friendly and everyone called me 'stupido touristo' which I'm sure means handsome American."

Maj. Stephen Lettrich
Military and Emergency Medicine



USU Calendar of Events



APRIL	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Ticket Sales begin for the 29th Annual Dining-In sponsored by the SOM. Last day to register for the 5th annual Asian Pacific American Federal Career Advancement Summit		Presentation by Arnold J. Levine, Ph.D., at CPDR, 11 a.m. Toastmasters Meeting at noon in Rm A2015 USU Neuroscience Seminar 3:30 in Lecture Room A			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	LRC Training Pub-Med Basics, noon in LRC Computer Training Area	LRC Training - End-Note Basics, noon in LRC Training Area "Exercised-Induced Asthma" Lecture, noon in Lec. B	2nd annual National Minority Health Month program, 9 a.m., sponsored by Center for Health Disparities Toastmasters Meeting, noon at AFRR! Small Conference Room			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Microbiology and Immunology Seminar, 11:30 a.m. Lecture Room C	Pharmacology Seminar, 11:30 a.m. Lecture Room C	Admiral Madhvendra Singh, Chief of Naval Staff, of the Indian Navy, visit	USU Packard Lecture, reception at 3 p.m., lecture starts at 4 p.m. in Lec. D	USU Dining-In, 7-9 p.m., Wyndham Hotel, Washington, D.C.	
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Toastmasters Meeting, noon at AFRR! Small Conference	Antietam Road March, Antietam Battlefield, MD, 5 a.m. Department of Pediatrics Research Conference, 9-10 a.m., Lec. C		