



Uniformed Services University  
of the Health Sciences

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**Have a Safe  
Labor Day**

# USU Newsletter

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Photo by HMI Jason Wright



Photo by TSgt. James Steele

## Presentation Assembly

Students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) gathered in the university's amphitheater Aug. 17 for the annual Presentation Ceremony. More than 160 medical students recited the Hippocratic Oath, which was administered by Larry Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM). The SOM students are enrolled as the Class of 2010. Eleanor Metcalf, Ph.D., associate dean SOM Graduate Education, also administered the Code on the Responsible Conduct of Science to the Biomedical Graduate Students.

## President Bush Appoints New Members to USU Board of Regents

By Sharon Willis  
Acting Deputy VPE

The Senate confirmed the Presidential appointments of two new members to the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Aug. 3.

Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., Nashville, Tenn., and C. Thomas Yarrington, Jr., M.D., Seattle, were each appointed to six-year terms on the Board. The Board consists of nine members appointed by President Bush who serve as advisors to the USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D., and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., MBA.

Dr. Conway-Welch has served as Dean and Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing since 1984. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a Charter Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Dr. Conway-Welch is a leader in advanced practice nursing curriculum, technology, women's health, global migration of nurses and emergency preparedness. She is the director of the International Nursing

Coalition for Mass Casualty Education and is interested in issues of communication and collaboration between military and civilian nurses in natural and man-made disasters.

Dr. Yarrington is a Clinical Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. He was previously Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Yarrington recently retired from the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, where he was a surgeon for more than twenty years, serving as head of Otolaryngology, and later, Chief of Surgery. He is a retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General, and is a visiting professor to several universities and learned societies in the United States and Europe.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Conway-Welch and Dr. Yarrington join the USU Board of Regents," Dr. Winkenwerder said. "The Board plays a very important advisory role and these two distinguished members bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge that can help USU assume a more prominent role among the nation's institutions of higher learning."

The two new members replace L.D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.M., of Norfolk, Va., and Ikram U. Khan, M.D., of Las Vegas, Nevada, whose terms recently expired.



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**Production:**

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Newsletter staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

**Submissions:**

The USU Newsletter will be published bi-weekly on Mondays and deadline for submission is Friday at 4 p.m. Submissions can be sent to usnewslet@usuhs.mil or call 301-295-3925.

# Integration As I See It...Recent Progress

By Vern Schinski, Ph.D.  
Special Assistant to the USU President for  
BRAC/Integration

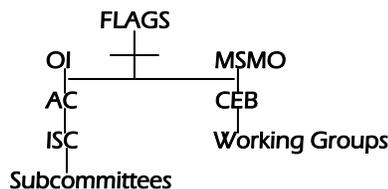
During the summer months Integration progress has often seemed slow, but much has been going on in the background. In May an Offsite was held here at the university where 150 "Change Leaders" were brought up to date. During the conference the Flag Officers provided four overarching objectives.

- Collective Decision Making
- Clinical Integration
- Selection and Role of Leaders
- Integrated MHS in the NCA

In June, the Flags approved the new Vision Statement.

*"We envision, and are committed to one integrated health system which leverages the assets of all DOD health care treatment facilities in the National Capital Area (NCA). The tri-service Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda together with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) will represent the core of this integrated health system. All tri-service facilities in the NCA and USU will serve as a premier academic medical system focused on delivering the highest quality care, distinguished health professional education, and exemplary clinical and translational research."*

During July a decision was made to formally develop Integration Teams at each of the military treatment facilities. This will allow the Integration Plan to move toward the second and third goals of including the bedded facilities and the other treatment facilities. July also saw a formal development of the decision making process via the subcommittees: the Integration Steering Committee (ISC), the Advisory Council (AC), and the Office of Integration (OI), or the Commander's Executive Board (CEB) and Multi Service Marketing Office (MSMO) to the Flags.



In addition the Pentagon gave final approval of the BRAC Business Plan. This included the basic building requirements and budget developed by BRAC/Integration teams. The Integration Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee worked to finalize an organizational plan for the new medical center and selection criteria for Department Chiefs and Directors.

In August, the Flags approved a 2006-2007 Strategic Plan for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Teams are hard at work planning for the next Offsite Planning Conference, "Our Road Map to Success," which will once again be held at the university Sept. 21 and 22.

## Americans, Hondurans team to fix broken bones



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Meares

By Senior Airman Mike Meares  
Joint Task Force - Bravo Public Affairs

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Eric Ritchie (left) and Staff Sgt. Jolie Zygulski wrap a cast molding around the leg of a patient after successful surgery Aug. 15 at the Hospital Esquela in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. A medical team of eight people from Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio and Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, treated more than 200 people and operated on more than 60 individuals during its two-week training exercise Aug. 5 to 19.

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AFPJ) –** A medical team of eight people from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, treated more than 200 Hondurans during a two-week training exercise Aug. 5 to 19.

The team of eight medical professionals, led by Lt. Col. (Dr.) Eric Ritchie (Class of 1992), spent two weeks at Hospital Esquela during an orthopedics medical readiness training exercise Aug. 5 through 19, where they treated more than 90 patients in the operating room.

They were joined by members of the medical community from Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, and Honduran resident doctors at the hospital for a "subject matter expert exchange of information."

See **ALUMNI**, page 6

# The People Behind the Pen

*Contributed by the Office of External Affairs*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Newsletter is published biweekly by the staff members in the Office of External Affairs (VPE). Five journalists in the office contribute material to the newsletter, and three are responsible for the layout and design.

Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson is the editor for the newsletter, and says he feels privileged to be working on the USU news team.

"Helping to create the USU Newsletter is an interesting and time consuming job," he said. "It requires a lot of organization and time-management skills, but the great thing about it is you get to see a product from beginning to end. As journalists, we are given the opportunity to learn what other people around the university are doing and report on it."

Sharon Willis, USU, acting deputy of external affairs, says writing for the USU Newsletter gives her a chance to do something she has always wanted to do.

"I grew up wanting to be a writer, so it's something I enjoy doing, despite having so little time to do it," Ms. Willis said.

The three sailors in the office started their military careers in different professional fields, but due to the Navy's recent job-merging, they all now share the same role as mass communications specialists (MC). The merger combined the rates of journalist, lithographer's mate (graphic-design), photographer's mate, and illustrator-draftsman. As a result, those who have gone through the school for their specific rates must now learn how to perform their new duties as MCs on the job.

Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Kory Kepner has been working on the newsletter since its inception and reporting for USU since November, 2004. He enjoys writing articles, giving tours of the USU campus to prospective students, and taking photos. MC2 Kepner is also the writer for the "Gracie the Grey Goose" column in the newsletter.

"Since we started the newsletter, I've really enjoyed my job, because it gives us a way to let the entire university know what's going on around campus," he said. "Before, we would just send around e-mails that people probably didn't open."

Seaman Apprentice Raul Zamora, a staff

writer for the newsletter, went through the Basic Lithographer's course at the Defense Information School (DINFOS) at Fort Meade, and said it has been interesting to work on the newsletter.

"I've never done anything like this. This is the first time I've ever done any journalist and photography work, so I'm learning a lot. I was trained in graphic design," MCSA Zamora said.

Seaman Apprentice Jeff Hopkins, who is the newest addition to the newsletter crew, is a California native fresh out of journalism school, and says he's very excited to be working on the USU newsletter team.

"It's really pretty cool to see something I wrote actually appear in a newsletter. I just spent three months in training, and it's great to see that I actually learned the basics of journalism and public affairs," he said. "I think I really lucked out with my first station. Everyone in the office is great; it's really a good team to be working with."

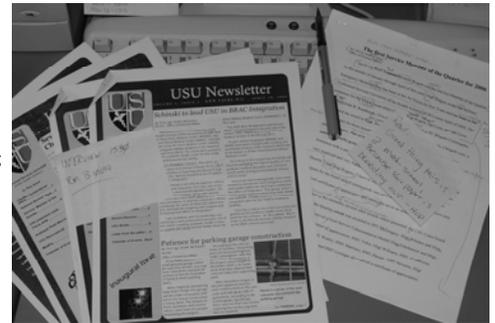
The staff is always interested in hearing from the USU community about possible story ideas and encourage all input. The newsletter is used to highlight the people and work being done here at USU and the VPE staff is excited to help get those stories out.

The VPE staff is committed to meeting the needs and expectations of the university community.

Story-writing for the USU newsletter is rather formulaic. The staff writers collect possible story ideas from several sources, typically by word of mouth from readers, staff members, students and faculty. Ideas can also be e-mailed to the newsletter staff at [usunewsletter@usuhs.mil](mailto:usunewsletter@usuhs.mil). Ideas are considered for stories by determining the angle, or focus of the story; typically the story should revolve around something occurring at the university, or about the people of the university.

The article's author will then research the story to determine who would best be able to answer questions about the event, or the subject-matter experts (SME). The author will then schedule interviews with several SMEs and if possible, arrange to take photos for the event or something to facilitate the story.

With interviews and photos done, the story must then be written. The USU Newsletter typically runs two types of stories: straight-news stories and feature stories. A straight-news story focuses on delivery of facts, and is written to inform the reader. A straight-news story delivers facts in descending order of importance; the most important information comes first, and is



*Photo by MCSA Jeff Hopkins*

followed by secondary facts. Examples of a straight-news story would include award stories, retirements, and new technology developments/updates.

A feature-story is written to engage the reader, to get them to feel a certain emotion, or consider a view-point. When a story about a student's triumph over a particularly difficult situation arises, or an unusual physical training activity like Frisbee-football, a feature story can be written. Feature stories can contain lots of visually descriptive writing, and try to put the reader in with the action.

The VPE office is also charged with putting out news releases and advisories. A news release is a statement, usually from senior leadership, about something that has already happened, such as an appointment, research finding, or installation of a new program. An advisory announces an event either before or after it happens, and is also used to invite people to attend an event.

Someone in the office will receive information that is important to get out to the public, so a release or advisory is generated. The decision to write a release/advisory comes from the president or the vice president of external affairs. The release is then sent to Newswise.com, a website that distributes the release to hundreds of publications.

The VPE office has two special edition newsletters in the works to inform both USU alumni and external groups about what is happening at the university: the Alumni Newsletter, and a General USU Newsletter.

The Alumni Newsletter will be published semi-annually according to Ms. Willis, and it aims to keep graduates informed about happenings around the campus and in the USU community.

The USU Newsletter is also available online at: [www.usuhs.mil/uao/newsletter.html](http://www.usuhs.mil/uao/newsletter.html).





## DOD kicks off “Check It” Campaign

The Department of Defense launched the “Check It” Internal Management Controls Program Awareness Campaign in July to emphasize the importance of internal management controls. The message is: *“Everyone has a job to do, and every job is important.”*

Internal management control is the plan of organization, methods, and procedures adopted by management to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of the Federal Manager’s Financial Integrity Act are met.

Internal controls are everyone’s responsibility, as we rely on each individual to ensure that what should happen does happen. These controls are in place to improve effective and efficient financial management and encompass every aspect of the university’s operations. Effective monitoring helps us meet our mission of “Learning to Care for Those in Harm’s Way.”

Throughout the campaign, there will be a specific focus on areas that will change monthly. These messages will be sent out by the Office of Review and Evaluation, which is responsible for the overall Internal Management Control Program. The messages are intended for all members of the university and should be viewed by all faculty, staff, and students. Information will also be included in the USU Newsletter.



*Graphic courtesy of DOD Comptroller*

It is important that everyone takes the necessary steps to increase awareness of internal controls and to protect our assets so that we can continue to meet our mission.

Posters, which are available through the Office of Review and Evaluation, can be displayed throughout your department so all employees receive this important message.

As the campaign goes forward, more messages/updates will be sent throughout the university.

*Charles L. Rice, M.D.*

*USU President*

## USU Regent member also named as Regent to UC System

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of William C. De La Pena, M.D. and Bruce D. Varner, M.D., to the Board of Regents for the University of California.

*As products of the renowned UC system, William and Bruce uniquely understand the vital role our public universities play in giving students a world-class education so they are trained for the 21st century economy,”* Governor Schwarzenegger said. *“These men are both highly respected in their fields and will be a tremendous asset in ensuring the UC system remains affordable - because an investment in our students is an investment in California’s future.”*

Dr. De La Pena has served as ophthalmologist and medical director of De La Pena Eye Clinic since 1984. Previously, he was director of the Department of Ophthalmology for Santa Marta Hospital

from 1984 to 2003 and the Doctor’s Hospital of Santa Ana from 1986 to 1990, an instructor of Ophthalmology for the University of California, Irvine from 1984 to 1990 and assistant clinical professor of Ophthalmology for the University of California, San Diego in 1982. He is chair of the Latin American and American Societies of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons as well as the



**Dr. William C. De La Pena**

*See BOR, page 5*



Photo by MCSA Raul Zamora

## Interfacing with USU

Nancy B. Morell, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Learning Resource Center (LRC) reference librarian and user education specialist, explains the features of the LRC's USU Electronic Resources Interface (USU ER) to Col. (Dr.) Brian Unwin (Class of 1988) at the third annual LRC Faculty Open House. The USU ER is a web-based catalog of research material in the LRC which contains medical databases, full text journals, books, and other medical education resources. The open house is held to introduce new faculty and staff to the LRC, as well as inform current USU members about the resources available.

*BOR, from page 4*

World Federation of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

In addition, he serves as a Regent for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. De La Pena, 52, of Whittier, earned a medical doctorate degree from Autonomous University of Guadalajara, Mexico, a Bachelor of Science degree from the American School Foundation in Mexico City and performed his medical internship and residency at the University of California, Irvine.

These positions require Senate confirmation and there is no salary.

The Regents of the University of California are entrusted with

the management and operation of the University of California system which includes more than 201,000 students and 160,000 faculty and staff, with more than 1.2 million alumni living and working around the world. The University's fundamental missions are teaching, research and public service. There are 26 Regents including the governor, who serves as president, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the Assembly, the superintendent of public instruction, the president and vice president of the University of California Alumni Association, the president of the University, one student, 2 faculty members (non-voting) and 18 public members appointed by the Governor to 12-year terms. As required by law, the Governor has submitted the names of his nominees to the Regents Selection Advisory Committee.



## MedPix™ Receives Long Awaited Patent

The culmination of seven years of work at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has resulted in the first patent for MedPix™. Patent number 7,080,098 was assigned to MedPix™ by the U.S. Patent and Trademark office July 18.

MedPix™ is a medical image database of more than 29,000 images from more than 7,000 real-life cases. The web-based teaching file was developed to be a centralized focal point of peer reviewed radiographs, where radiologists anywhere can contribute and view cases.

From 1999 to 2006, and more than a decade of earlier work, James Smirniotopoulos, M.D., Radiology and Radiological Sciences Chair at USU and others worked on developing the MedPix™ schema for classifying images. Since Sept. 3, 2000, it has delivered more than 39,000,000 Web pages.

MedPix™ has more than 21,000 registered members from all around the world. The primary audience include: residents and practicing physicians, medical students, nurses and graduate nursing students, as well as other post-graduate trainees.

The MedPix™ COW (Case of the Week) provides free Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) for physicians and Continuing Education Units for nursing professionals, and is used by hundreds of healthcare professionals every week. MedPix™ CME is linked to the "Radiology Corner" of Military Medicine. This is a new feature that presents an



Photo courtesy of Dr. James Smirniotopoulos

**Col. (Dr.) Les Folio, U.S. Air Force, USU Department of Radiology, and Lt. Col. (Dr.) David Earl-Graef, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Georgetown University, take a look at some of the images on MedPix™.**

unknown radiology case with each issue.

New features include the "Diagnostic Image Atlas" that allows you to match a known case from the database, with a clinical case at the workstation. This can be used for resident teaching, as well as to assist in developing a differential diagnosis, much like a textbook, but with all of the searching advantages of a computer.

### ALUMNI, from page 2

"The fractures we see here are a lot worse than (what) we see in the states, because they are falling from much greater heights," said Dr. Ritchie, the chief of pediatric orthopedics at Wilford Hall.

Some families in Honduras make a living off the mangos, cherries and bananas harvested from trees. As soon as some of these children are old enough to climb, they are helping their families earn a living by harvesting the fruit.

"That's their livelihood," said Staff Sgt. Jolie Zygulski, orthopedic technician. "There are a lot of elbow fractures that never heal."

A 6-year-old Honduran boy, who was hit by a taxi cab in the streets of Tegucigalpa, had two screws placed into his tibia by doctors from Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, to repair the

open fracture caused by the incident.

Not all surgeries were due to injuries sustained from falling out of trees or being hit by cars. In the case of 11-year-old Karen, the weight of her body is enough to break her fibulas because she suffers from a rare brittle bone disease – osteogenesis imperfecta.

"This is a life-changing event for most of them," said Dr. Ricardo Aviles, a JTF-Bravo medical officer. "These are injuries (or illnesses) that have been plaguing them for some time."

The Honduran doctor said medical professionals from Honduras have limited resources to repair the broken bones of children, especially for families who cannot afford medical care. That is why people go to Hospital Esquela when something happens. The medical care is free, even when the U.S. servicemem-

bers join the ranks.

"I'm learning a lot from their techniques," said Dr. Ritchie. "They have to do a lot more without the benefit of technology and they do it very well."

Once surgeries are finished, the young patients are transferred from the operating room to the recovery room where they are laid on a bed with well-used padding. Maj. Liz Cooley, a recovery room nurse, works with them in the recovery room to ease their pain as best as possible while preparing them to be transferred to the children's ward. Upon arrival in the ward, they are lucky if it is not full and there is a bed with padding available.

During the two-week MEDRETE, Americans and Hondurans repaired the lives – and bones – of more than 200 patients.

## Look Who's Talking...*If you could be anyone in the world for one day, who would you be and why?*



**Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Melisa Witter  
Audio Visual**

"I would want to be my husband. I think that if I really knew what his daily stresses were, I would relate to him better. However, realistically, I think it would take more than a day to make a difference being someone else."



**Chris Jodrie  
Office of Review  
and Evaluation**

"UFC Champion Chuck Liddell because he is the best at what he does. Otherwise, I'd want to be the boyfriend of Jessica Alba, Salma Hayek, or Halle Berry."



**Patricia Kraus  
Military Internal  
Medicine**

"I would be a homeless person. I think walking in the shoes of someone less fortunate would help me appreciate life, cherish my loved ones, and be grateful for everything that I have been blessed with."

## A unique form of physical training

*By MC2 Kory Kepner  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs*

The round white disk floated above the earth in the morning sun as a group of people gathered below in anticipation of its landing.

No, this is not a Sci-Fi story, it's Ultimate Frisbee and it is one of the ways faculty and staff at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) get their physical training (PT) Thursday mornings.

Spc. Reagan Walker said that he used to play Ultimate Frisbee at Fort Carson and Maj. Steven Mog used to play at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and they decided it would be a good idea to do an alternative type of PT.

"We got together and decided to incorporate a fun day into our training," Specialist Walker said. "That way the training isn't boring and you still get a great cardiovascular workout."

The rules to Ultimate Frisbee are pretty simple. Teams advance the Frisbee by running up and down the field and passing the Frisbee back and forth. Players are not allowed to run with the Frisbee. When a player catches the Frisbee in the opposing team's

end zone a point is scored. If a player fails to catch the Frisbee, the other team gains possession.

Specialist Walker said they normally play for an hour and the games are usually very competitive and close.

"These games help build a lot of cohesion between USU and AFRRRI because it's one of the few times we can get together and work as a team," Specialist Walker said.

Spc. Nancy Meadows added, "It also helps the enlisted-officer relationship; it's nice to get to know people outside of the office."

Everyone who played agreed that having regular games is great for camaraderie and building morale.

"When we first started playing it was just people from AFRRRI," Spc. Walter Cruz said. "Now people from all around the university come out. We normally have 20 to 25 people... It's great to come out and see people that you normally never get to work with."

Specialist Walker said that everyone is welcome to come out at 6:30 a.m. on Thursdays to join the fun and get some exercise, and if you have cleats be sure and wear them.

"It's one of the few times someone can rough up an officer or NCO without getting in trouble," a laughing Spc. Jareh Kelly said.

## From the General Counsel's Office *Awards, Honorary Degrees*

An employee may accept gifts, other than cash or an investment interest, with an aggregate market value of \$200 or less if such gifts are a bona fide award or incident to a bona fide award that is given for meritorious public service or achievement by a person who does not have interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties or by an association or other organization the majority of whose members do not have such interests.

Gifts with an aggregate market value in

excess of \$200 and awards of cash or investment interests offered by such persons as awards or incidents of awards that are given for these purposes may be accepted upon a written determination and approval by the Designated Agency Ethics Official.



For additional information on Government Ethics visit:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/ogc/faq.html>.





# USU Calendar of Events



	<b>September</b>	<b>5</b> Senate Constitution Committee Meeting 3 p.m., Rm C1026 All faculty are invited	<b>6</b> USU Toastmasters Meeting noon–1 p.m. Rm A2011	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> USU Toastmasters Meeting noon–1 p.m. AFRRI Small Conference Room	<b>14</b> CDHAM Ground Rounds Weather and Health Conditions noon–1 p.m. Lec Rm D  LRC Training Introduction to Power-Point 1–2 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Faculty Development Grand Rounds The Academician's Toolkit Part 2 9–11 a.m. LRC computer lab	<b>20</b> USU Toastmasters Meeting noon–1 p.m. Rm A2011	<b>21</b> BRAC/Integration Offsite Planning Conference  Navy-wide testing USU Cafeteria 6-11 a.m.	<b>22</b> BRAC/Integration Offsite Planning Conference  Navy-wide testing USU Cafeteria 6-11 a.m.	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> USU Toastmasters Meeting noon–1 p.m. AFRRI Small Conference Room	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>