

The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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**Submissions**

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*Photo by Thomas Balfour*

**On the cover**

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses CHAMP conference attendees at USU, Dec. 10.



# School of Medicine to reform curriculum

More than half of American schools have undertaken major revision of their curricula in the last decade. USU School of Medicine (SOM) Dean Larry Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., determined that the SOM will revise the structure of its curriculum for the class entering in 2011. He made this decision after a six month period of discovery in which he reviewed the changes made in many other U.S. schools, and outlined the plans for the process during a faculty meeting in December.

“Curriculum is the blueprint for a physician. Our school forms a very unique military blueprint; it’s time for a renewal of the blueprint,” said Laughlin.

Laughlin appointed Alison O’Brien, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and Louis Pangaro, M.D., chair of the Department of Medicine, to lead the faculty in this comprehensive effort. In the new curriculum, Laughlin has requested a tighter linkage between basic and clinical sciences in all four years of medical school; that the clinical clerkships in which the students work closely with hospital faculty in caring for patients should begin before the third year of medical school; and, that careful attention be paid to assessing students’ growing competence in all four years.

Between November 2009 and October 2010, O’Brien and Pangaro will lead the development effort to determine the overall structure of the new curriculum. To reflect the nature of the proposed changes in the curriculum and its foundation in the unique environment of the military, the pair has entitled the venture, “Molecules to Military Medicine.”

An advisory committee, chaired by associate dean for Faculty Col. (Dr.) Brian Reamy, was formed which includes Val Hemming, M.D., former dean of the SOM; Brian Cox, Ph.D., former chair of Pharmacology; Saibal Dey, Ph.D., associate professor of Biochemistry; Cmdr. (Dr.) Patricia McKay, USU Class of 1993 and SOM commandant; and Edward Mitre, M.D., an assistant professor, active



*“The Molecules to Medicine symbol illustrates the curriculum will be founded on an understanding of how the basic building blocks of life — molecules, such as those that make up DNA — contribute to biological processes with the goal of producing physicians who have expertise in medicine in general and in aspects of medicine that are unique to the military,” said Alison O’Brien, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.*

in both basic research and clinical teaching. Michael Johns, M.D., a member of the USU Board of Regents and chancellor of Emory University, will serve as an informal advisor to the group.

The Military Health System is unique to the U.S. in having its own medical school dedicated specifically to creating a physician corps to care for its warriors and beneficiaries. The comprehensive curricular reform effort at USU will have faculty and students work with patients, leaders of graduate education and the leaders of the MHS to identify outcomes that will be important for the coming decades.

“We need a curriculum adaptable, creative and innovative in its approach to the lifelong pursuit of mastering medicine,” said Laughlin.

# Joint Chiefs Chair visits USU

## Navy Admiral Mullen addresses Total Fitness Conference

by Sharon Willis

Defining and addressing total fitness for today's troops was the topic of discussion during a recent three-day conference sponsored by USU's Consortium for Health and Military Performance (CHAMP).

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Admiral Mike Mullen visited the USU campus on Dec. 10 to address the conference attendees. Mullen was the first CJCS ever to visit the university.

According to CHAMP directors, Army Col. (Dr.) Fran O'Connor and Dr. Patricia Deuster, the consortium was tasked by Mullen's office four months ago to develop a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (CJCSI) on total fitness because none currently exists. Mullen sees a gap in total fitness guidance and the ability to measure total fitness across the force. As the senior U.S. military leader, it is Mullen's responsibility to take the steps necessary to address this gap. He said that leadership needs to "stay ahead of the bow wave" when it comes to addressing the stressors and challenges that will come when the operational tempo eventually slows down.

"In the past, 'fitness' was defined as 'physical fitness,'" said retired Army Brig. Gen. Mike Rounds, director of the Human Performance Resource Center (HPRC) and a new member of the CHAMP staff. "Now it's more complex. We have to look at a broad range of indicators to define fitness of the force and determine whether they are capable of executing their assigned mission."

O'Connor said that Mullen asked them to develop a new paradigm recognizing mind, body and spirit. CHAMP subsequently partnered with the Samueli Institute and the Institute for Alternative Futures to host a conference and make total fitness reality. More than 90 military and civilian fitness, social, behavioral, psychological, nutrition, environmental, spiritual and medical



Photo by Thomas Balfour

*Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discusses the need to deliver timely instruction on the complex concept, "total fitness of the force."*

experts — representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Reserve components — met over a three-day period to share ideas and develop a framework to articulate the chairman's vision of defining total fitness. The framework will include holistic total fitness guidance and identify metrics to measure the effectiveness of the guidance. A central element of the concept of total fitness is taking care of the military family, Rounds said.

"We have another area that's changed and I don't think we understand it well enough yet... the impact of families," said Mullen during his address to conference participants. "Our readiness to be able to carry out our mission as the United States military is directly impacted, fully integrated, by how our families are taken care of, paid attention to, and that is a fundamental readiness issue."

On the first day of the conference attendees met in a combined forum to discuss the framework of total

fitness and the eight total fitness domains. The second day, each domain (physical, social, behavioral, psychological, nutrition, environmental, spiritual, medical) met separately, then came back together on the third day, following Mullen's visit. Rounds said that a number of good programs are currently available, but exist in a "stovepipe" environment. He said that almost every case is best addressed by looking at multiple domains and integrating the programs.

A team from the conference participants met Dec. 22 to begin the process of drafting the CJCSI, with an initial goal of Feb. 1 for completing the first draft and publishing the CJCSI this fiscal year.

"This is a fairly compressed timeline, but it's consistent with the Chairman's emphasis that the CJCSI needs to be finished quickly," said Rounds. "There is a real need to get this guidance to the force."

# Property management program 'cleans house'

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

After 16 weeks of hard work and dedication, the USU Logistics Division's property management program has cleared more than 1,300 items from both the campus and AFRRRI.

The program identified and removed hundreds of items, including computers, desks, file cabinets, biological hoods, microscopes, animal cages and other small laboratory equipment, and was considered a major success by university leadership.

"The key here was that there was no individual that made this program a success," said deputy director of Logistics Gregory Kuhn. "Everyone involved had a hand in making this program work."

The program began in the Summer of 2009 with the Inventory Management Team of Larry Richardson, Christi Roth, David David and Ester Joyes conducting three property management training sessions for more than 100 attendees from the University and AFRRRI.



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Once this training was complete, the 16-week program began in earnest. After the program launched, the Chief of Property Management Branch, James Blackledge, AFRRRI Logistics Team Leader, Niclous Howard, and the Work Leader for Relocation Services, Leon Channel, engaged with the program's relocation team. This team

of Mario Martinez, Louis Lacroix, Donald Taylor, Blaine Heinonen and Jeremy Belk did the day to day "heavy lifting."

"And, of course, Environmental Health Services (EHS) played a critical role," Kuhn said. "Their effort was instrumental in cleaning and decontaminating items that had been in chemical, biological or radiological laboratory environments to ensure proper disposal."

The program also had benefits that were not anticipated. As the items were collected, the team realized many items could be recycled rather than thrown out. The team established a centralized re-utilization station and were able to reuse cartloads of books, publications, computer monitors and office supplies.

"This success is really a collaborative effort," Kuhn said. "All deserve credit, from the University departments to property management, to the faculty and staff and the EHS group — everyone pulled together to get the job done."

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## ACOG Award named for USU Professor

by Sharon Willis

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Committee on American Indian Affairs has established an award in honor of a USU faculty member. The "William H.J. Haffner American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Women's Health Award" was named for USU's former Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) chair and associate dean for faculty development.

The award recognizes an individual who has made a major contribution to raising the level of health and/or improving AI/AN women's health care. Dr. Haffner was chosen as the epitome of "dedication and exceptional service to AI/AN women's health care."

Dr. Haffner, a retired U.S. Public Health Service medical officer, was chair of the Department of OB/GYN at USU before his subsequent selection as associate dean.

He began his Public Health Service career with the Indian Health Service in 1971 when he served in OB/GYN leadership roles in Gallup, New Mexico. He later served as OB/GYN Consultant for Indian Health Services (IHS). Haffner then was transferred to the National Capital Area of IHS and served in a variety of consultative roles, including serving as chief medical officer of the Public Health Service for four years.

According to the committee, "Dr. Haffner had a long career with the IHS

and has been involved with the ACOG Indian health programs from the beginning. In many cases, he has been the link between ACOG and the IHS in the establishment of the long history of cooperative efforts to improve the health and welfare of AI/AN women. While Dr. Haffner enjoys recognition and service within the College through his years of service on many committees, he also brings recognition and legitimacy to the role that ACOG has played within the IHS. He is someone who has and does move between both worlds with ease."

The first Haffner Award will be presented in May 2010, at the annual ACOG clinical meeting in San Francisco.

# Durning completes term as prestigious chair

Dr. Steven J. Durning, professor of Medicine and Pathology and director of the Introduction to Clinical Reasoning course in the USU Department of Medicine, recently completed his term as chair of the Program Planning Committee for the Research in Medical Education Conference (RIME) at the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Boston, November 2009.

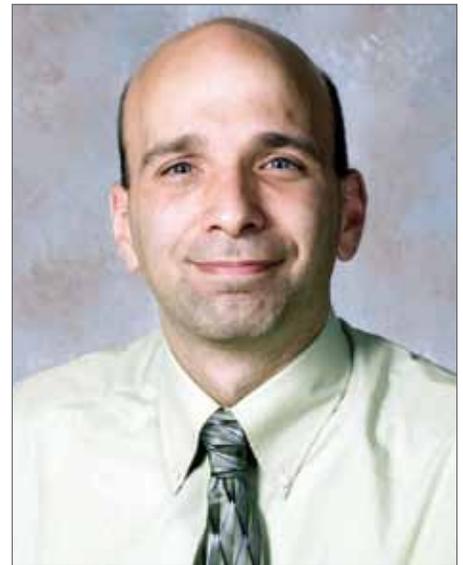
“Steve is incredibly well organized and his attention to detail and his thoughtfulness are beyond compare,” said M. Brownell Anderson, senior director, Educational Affairs for Academic Affairs of the AAMC. This year represented the 48th year of the RIME conference.

Durning oversaw a review process that also involved peers from throughout the world. He coordinated the development of themes for papers and abstracts presented at the

meeting, ensured each session was led by a moderator and discussant, and that each session was reviewed and rated by experts for organization, content and conformity with established standards.

The RIME conference is the largest international medical education research conference. As chair of the Program Planning Committee, Dr. Durning coordinated a planning committee of international medical education experts, reviewing more than 100 research manuscripts and 250 research abstracts for inclusion at the annual meeting. The research articles are published in the November supplement to the AAMC publication, “Academic Medicine.”

“Steve has a unique combination of abilities that allow him to organize and manage the committee, to accomplish an impressive amount of work in a very short time, and to make everyone involved feel



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Steven J. Durning

pleased with their contributions to the final product,” said Anderson. “I have never worked with anyone who committed so much time and energy to each task he took on.”



Photo by Navy Ensign Samuel Frasier

## Wounded Warrior 5K Fun Run

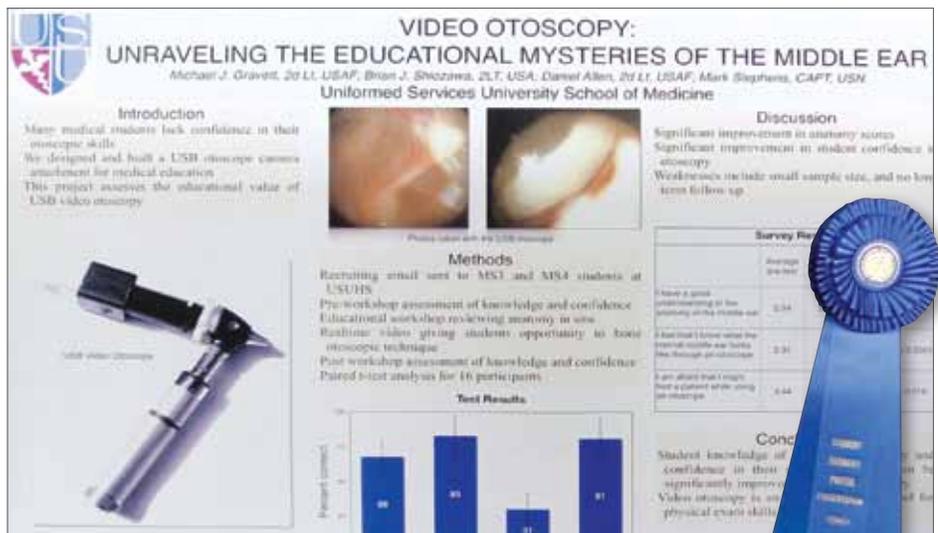


Photo by Navy Ensign Samuel Frasier

More than 400 people from Maryland and Virginia participated in the Healers Helping Heroes Wounded Warrior 5K Fun Run at Meadowbrook Park. More than 20 USU medical student volunteers helped organize and execute the event, which raised more than \$10,000. This money was donated to support the wounded warrior detachments of NMMC and WRAMC.

# USU student research takes first place

by Sharon Willis



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Michael Gravett

Fourth-year USU medical students Air Force 2nd Lt. Michael Gravett, 2nd Lt. Daniel Allen and Army 2nd Lt. Brian Shiozawa, took top honors for their presentation at the American Academy of Family Physicians scientific assembly poster session in Boston, Oct. 14-17.

The poster, “USB Video Otoscopy: Unraveling the Educational Mysteries of the Middle Ear,” won first place in the medical student research division.

According to Gravett, the lead author, the poster was a summary of

research done over the past two years using a USB-compatible video otoscope as an educational tool to teach first- and second-year medical students — the otoscope portion of the physical exam. Gravett and Allen designed and built the camera as a project during their first year at USU.

The authors concluded student knowledge of middle ear anatomy and confidence in their middle ear exam can be significantly improved

using video otoscopy and that video otoscopy is an attractive teaching tool for physical exam skills.

“Students, in particular, appreciate the ability to have faculty verify what they are seeing when they perform an otoscopic exam. Previously, we used a ‘picture and a prayer,’” said Capt. (Dr.) Mark Stephens, who served as the faculty advisor and co-author for the winning research project. “Now, it is possible to verify that the student can visualize and articulate the structures of the middle ear.”

## Staff Awards



HM1 Michael Oliver

2009 Outstanding Staff Members George Harriss (MDL) and Mary Kay Gibbons (OPD) received award certificates from Faculty Senate President Neil Grunberg at the December 10 Faculty Senate meeting. Harriss and Gibbons were recognized for their outstanding support to the faculty and for maintaining the culture of collegiality and professionalism at USU. Their names will be engraved on the Appreciation Award wall plaque displayed in the Building B lobby.

## Research Results



Courtesy Photo

Navy Capt. Jacqueline Rychnovsky, clinical instructor of Pediatrics and adjunct assistant professor, USU Nurse Practitioner Program, and Army Capt. Laurel Cofell, a fourth year clinical psychology doctoral candidate in USU's Clinical Psychology graduate program, display their research poster at the recent Association of Military Surgeons of the United States meeting. Capt. Rychnovsky is currently a fellow in the office of Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.

# USU Briefs

## License plates:

The USU Alumni Bookstore still has USU organizational license plates available for purchase.

Most of the first 50 license plate numbers have already been assigned.

For more information about reserving your USU Maryland license plates, call the bookstore at 295-3686.

## 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](mailto:help@usuhs.mil).

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

## Military Awards Nominations:

The next military awards panel will convene January 26. Nomination

packages will be due through the chain of command no later than January 19. 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](mailto:sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil) with questions.

## CFC extended:

The deadline for donations to the Combined Federal Campaign has been extended to Jan 15.

The deadline was extended to provide more time for people to select and decide on their contributions.

For more information, contact your department's key worker.

## Exercise/Fitness Areas:

Physical Fitness training should be conducted in designated areas.

The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060.

The campus' Student Community Lounge area is also authorized, but only during specified PFT testing dates or times.

## 2010 Antietam Medical Staff March:

The Department of Military and Emergency Medicine will conduct the Antietam Medical Staff Walk at the Antietam National Battlefield on April 29, 2010. The Medical Staff Walk, a component of Military Medical Field Studies, is designed to give the student an appreciation of how historical lessons learned have shaped modern and future military medicine. This year's medical walk will retrace a Civil War casualty's evacuation route from the battlefield to supporting hospitals within the area, highlighting military medical lessons learned along the way.

# the pulse

*This issue (Jan. 11) is the first issue of the USU's official newsletter, The Pulse! During the 2009 publication year, the newsletter held a contest to find an official name with the results of that contest being announced in conjunction with the first issue of 2010.*

*The Pulse staff is proud to recognize Army Maj. Robert R. Arnold, assistant professor and program director of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program at the Graduate School of Nursing for his submission of "The Pulse." Congratulations to Major Arnold!*

*—The Pulse staff*

The Pulse graphic by Lori Fields

Mark your calendars for the next  
**USU Town Hall meeting.**



*Wednesday, February 3, 2010 • 3 p.m.*



# UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

