

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

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Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

On the cover

Hospitalman Apprentice Matt Saunders and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Trayon Hill chop fresh herbs as part of a volunteer crew from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) at the D.C. Central kitchen.



Associate Dean clears 100-day hurdle

by MC1 Chad Hallford

USU School of Medicine Dean Larry W. Laughlin directed the creation of the Associate Dean for Faculty position last fall. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Brian Reamy accepted this new position, and his first ‘100 days of office’ have proved challenging and busy.

“First of all, I just want to get the word out that I am here for the faculty, to serve them. If they are having issues, I need to know about it,” said Reamy.

The position was established to provide an advocate in the Dean’s Office for the School of Medicine (SoM) faculty. Dr. Reamy’s efforts promote an academic environment that supports, enhances, and rewards the activities of all SoM faculty, at the USU campus and throughout the military medical treatment facilities around the world.

Some of the key issues the new associate dean will address include facilitating faculty appointments for those outside of USU who are involved



Courtesy Photo

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Brian Reamy

in teaching USU students, mentoring career progression for faculty, organizing and delivering faculty development, and working to maintain and enhance faculty morale.

Dr. Reamy not only says but insists that “communication is key, and my door is always open.”

Comfort deploys in support of Haiti earthquake



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

More than 600 medical and support staff and crew members departed Baltimore aboard the USNS Comfort on Jan. 16 bound for Haiti. Among those deployed for the disaster relief mission are two USU members, HMC Jeffrey Mueller, a preventive medicine technician and psychiatrist Cmdr. (Dr.) Janis Carlton.

Many USU alumni are also among those on board the hospital ship. (Left) Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Colleen Gilstad (USU, SOM '93) marks a deployment bag for her sister-in-law, Navy Capt. (Dr.) Elizabeth McGuigan (USU, SOM '90), a radiologist at NNMC who left for her second Comfort deployment. McGuigan’s brother, and Gilstad’s husband, Navy Cmdr. John Gilstad (USU, SOM '93) is currently assigned to AFRRRI as scientific research department head.

USU Sailors volunteer time, feed hungry

by MC1 Chad Hallford



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Lynette Lowery chops onions for the D.C. Central Kitchen as part of a USU Sailor-volunteer crew.

Nine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USU's, enlisted Sailors volunteered at the D.C. Central Kitchen, Jan. 11.

Assisting with the kitchen's mantra of "combating hunger, creating opportunity," none of the Sailors volunteering were rated as Culinary Specialists, but each one received some lessons on feeding not just the stomach, but the soul.

"It's important for our USU Sailors to get out into the community and volunteer their time. The military at USU are not only here for training and military missions, but to take care of our own community — that is part of our mission as well," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF/SW/AW) Jeffrey Mueller, USU Navy Senior Enlisted Adviser.

USU emphasizes humanitarian assistance throughout its curriculum. This same spirit of caring is an integral part of the mission of the D.C. Central Kitchen in their local war to end hunger.

"We're a community kitchen, dedicated to first help with the immediate need of hunger," said Jamie Schuman, partner relations manager for the D.C. Central Kitchen. "Over time,



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Bobby Grounds and Hospital Corpsmen 2nd Class Chephren Dialino, Marvin Gomez, and Tinsae Tekleab prepare apples as part of a USU Sailor-volunteer crew.

we teach lifelong skills of healthy eating, proper nutrition and give job training, for many of the hungry are jobless and, therefore, homeless. Many have thrived after being given a second chance."

Founded in January 1989, the D.C. Central Kitchen serves more than 4,000 meals a day with the help of nearly 11,000 annual volunteers. Approximately 100 agencies in the National Capital Region benefit from the services of ready-to-eat and ready-to-heat meals delivered by the kitchen.

"From the assisting of breaking down of stereotypes, myself included, to the harvesting of local produce, every concept and ideal practiced within the kitchen is designed as a long-term strategy to help others sustain themselves, and for the kitchen, to remain able to meet the needs of our patronage," said Schuman.

The kitchen recovers more than one ton of unused food daily and recycles it in to an attractive, delicious and nutritious

set of meals. But, this is just one of the sources available for the kitchen.

"By using local produce, we not only foster growth for local farmers, but our volunteers help keep costs down. This increases the viability of providing services in the future," said Gary Bullock, executive sous chef for the kitchen. "I would like to thank the (USU) volunteers who helped fulfill an important need within our community. I hope they take the opportunity to repeat volunteering with the kitchen."

"The most rewarding aspect of volunteering in the kitchen is the opportunity to give back to those who are in need," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Ayanfemi Ayanwale, a USU volunteer. "Also, I was very impressed for the seriousness and efficiency that all the employees in the organization give to their work. I am grateful for the opportunity and ready to help at anytime."

USU is no. 1 with a 0

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

As the calendar year closed on 2009, USU achieved a tremendous financial feat thanks to a zero.

The University has had zero government travel card (GTC) delinquencies since December 2008 when Citibank took over the Department of Defense Travel Card contract.

“We maintain a policy of zero tolerance delinquencies, and that policy is supported and enforced by everyone, from Dr. Charles Rice, our president, on down,” said Jim Wolff, the USU financial services officer and GTC program manager. “We require cardholders to

file their voucher within five days of returning from their trip. If they file properly and split-disburse the amount owed, their bill will be paid on time.”

In 2009, USU spent \$8 million through the travel card program. Approximately \$4 million went on the University’s government travel cards. But, despite managing more than 900 accounts, USU managed a perfect record through the entire year.

There is no “secret” to USU’s successful program management. It is a joint effort by many who work hard toward achieving their goal.

“I can’t emphasize enough how important it is to have senior management’s support when pursuing a policy of zero delinquencies – as well as their willingness to back it up.

“The absolute key to the University’s success is the effort from the company commanders, first sergeants and supervisors,” Wolff said. “They are able to contact the individuals who are getting close to becoming delinquent.”

As the next year begins, USU is looking forward to another year of success with the travel card program.

Revitalized Postdoctoral Fellows Association making progress

by Ken Frager

When the USU Postdoctoral Fellows Association was re-born in June 2009, the intent was to revitalize a group that had lost its focus over the last few years. The PFA was originally established in 2002 by Cathy Jozwik, Ph.D. and her colleagues at the time, who have since moved to permanent faculty positions. With the direction of Judy Fontana, Ph.D., and with the guidance of Dr. Jozwik and Dr. Eleanor L. Metcalf, the USU Graduate Education Office has committed University resources to support the revived PFA.

Open to anyone affiliated with USU (including AFRRRI and CPDR) who has a Ph.D. or equivalent degree (M.D., D.V.M., etc.) and is not a principal investigator or faculty member, the PFA made significant strides in its first eight months. The group has worked diligently to establish bylaws and a mission statement, elect officers and leaders and establish processes for communicating with members.

The PFA recently presented their first Presentation Conversation Research Seminar, which drew approximately 35 attendees and featured two postdoc speakers

- Smita Menon, Ph.D., from the Biochemistry Department and Steve Zumbrun, Ph.D., from Microbiology and Immunology. The PFA also will host the Postdoctoral Symposium, Wednesday, May 12, during USU Research Week 2010 and is working with the Graduate Student Council to set up Career Day, scheduled for the Monday of Research Week.

Now more than 100-strong, with representation from USU, AFRRRI and WRAIR, the PFA holds monthly General Assembly meetings, which last year included a holiday party in December to cap off the year. Additionally, the group produces and disseminates monthly minutes and newsletters to postdocs on their contact list to keep them abreast of the happenings of the USU PFA, events around the USU community, and other relevant opportunities (job announcements, calls for abstracts, seminars, etc.).

The PFA also elected its first executive committee, which includes:

Co-Presidents: Melissa Wilson and Dimple Khetawat

Secretary: Taiza Figueiredo assumed the position Jan 1, 2010, completing Jennifer Tobin’s term

Treasurer: Steven Zumbrun
NIH Fellows Committee Representative: Sarah de la Motte

Based on a survey of members, the PFA determined members were interested in several specific areas. To meet the specific needs, nine standing committees were established, including: ByLaws Committee; Seminars and Career Development Joint Committee; Information Clearinghouse Committee (which helped design the USU PFA website <http://www.usuhs.mil/pfa/>); Scientific Training Committee; Postdoc Orientation Committee; Networking Committee; Faculty & Administration Liaison Committee; Community Outreach Committee; Public Relations Committee.

Appointed department representatives also serve as liaisons between the USU PFA and each postdoc-containing department. Additionally, the PFA has taken full advantage of social media, establishing networking mechanisms on LinkedIn <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=1957916> and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=151604872441>.

USU Radiologists deconstruct medical myths

by Ken Frager



Dr. Smirniotopoulos

Courtesy RSNA

The 95th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) kicked off in December with a special packed session where attendees gathered to hear “Medical Mythbusters” challenge — and “bust” — some popular myths in radiology practice.

Led by James G. Smirniotopoulos, M.D., professor of Radiology, Neurology, and Biomedical Informatics and, director, Diagnostic Imaging Program in the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, the session featured different perspectives on some common radiologic and medical conditions.

“Some of the most cherished medical ‘facts’ are actually unproven or proven to be untrue,” said Smirniotopoulos. “Simply saying that something is may not be the best approach to evaluating medical information. Critical thinking should always be used.”

Based on the popular “Myth-Busters” television show, the session deconstructed several common maxims about radiologic findings.

Among the myths “busted” by Dr. Smirniotopoulos and his team of presenters, which included Dr. Vincent Ho, USU professor and head of the integrated Department of Radiology of the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) and Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), and Lt. Col. Alice B. Smith, chief of Neuroradiology at USU, related to whether intraaxial edema around an extraaxial meningioma predicts a malignant histology. “That can’t possibly be true because the vast majority of meningiomas are nonmalignant,” Dr. Smirniotopoulos said.

Dr. Smirniotopoulos noted, however, that it is plausible that intraaxial edema predicts a poor prognosis, adding that edema seems to be related to resectability, and to what degree the meningioma will “stick” to the underlying brain.

Celebrate Nurse Anesthetists Week



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

Jan. 24-30 marks 2010’s National Nurse Anesthetists Week — “We Never Miss a Beat.” Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) have been providing anesthesia care in the U.S. for nearly 150 years and practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered. Annually, millions of patients receive their anesthesia from CRNAs. (Pictured above)

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Adrienne Grant Hartgerink, USU Nurse Anesthesia Program Director, demonstrates how to do a fiberoptic intubation on a difficult airway to Air Force Capts. (clockwise from lower left) William Clark, Teresa Sellers, Annette Patton and Joshua Lindquist, students in the Nurse Anesthesia class of 2011.

A Profile in Leadership: CW2 Ed Carnine

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine



Photo by Ken Frager

Army Chief Warrant Officer two Ed Carnine

Army Chief Warrant Officer two Ed Carnine recently joined the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as the Military Personnel Office officer-in-charge.

Prior to his arrival, CW2 Carnine was the chief military personnel/systems technician at Fort Hood, Texas. While he was assigned there he stood up the Army's first Warrior Transition Brigade (WTB) and deployed with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to Camp Taji, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now here at USU, CW2 Carnine is looking forward to the change of pace and the unique challenges of the university.

"The Army created this position for me. But, slowing down is not something I'm used to," he said. "I'm looking forward to a challenging and hopefully very rewarding assignment."

Despite being the first warrant officer assigned to this position, the 14-year Army veteran is not thinking about being a historical "first" on campus. Instead, he is focusing on the mission at hand — helping MILPO better meet the needs of USU.

"I don't really have a feeling about (being the first chief warrant officer) either way," he said. "Chief warrant officers are the no-joke 'fix it people' in the Army. And that is what I'm here to do."

The Illinois-native entered into the Army as a 98C Signal Intelligence Analyst and later reclassified to the 75C Personnel Specialist career field.

Now a part of the USU family, this "die hard" Chicago Bears and St. Louis Cardinals fan is ready to succeed and has both short-term and long-term plans for success.

In the short term, CW2 Carnine is trying to establish working relationships with offices outside MILPO such as finance, evaluations, awards and decorations.

In the long term, he is trying to make MILPO more proactive and improve the proficiency of interactions between the services. This means better rating schemes, better understanding of personnel systems and properly updating MILPO to meet the needs of its customers — USU Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

And one of the biggest goals CW2 Carnine is hoping to achieve is a Joint Standard Operating Procedure.

"With a tool like that, anyone new coming in here should be able to do my job and have no problem," he said.

Of course at his core, CW2 Carnine hopes more than anything to help improve the careers and lives of USU Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.

"When you can fix personnel issues you are helping a Soldier," he said. "I treat everything like it was my own. That's what I do for you (the customer). To actually help a Soldier, to make a difference in their lives, that is the real reward for me. I just love it."

Among his other accomplishments, CW2 Carnine has a bachelor of science in education from the University of Louisville graduating Magna Cum Laude, and a master of arts in Business Administration from American Military University, graduating with honors. He has been happily married for 18 years and is a proud father of three daughters, Bailey, Alex, and Jada.

Surgeons General senior enlisted visit USU



Photo by HM1 Michael Oliver

Three of the Uniformed Services Surgeons General Senior Enlisted Advisors speak with USU brigade enlisted, praising them for their efforts and emphasizing the important role enlisted play in the training of young doctors to be leaders in military medicine.

USU Briefs

USU 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.

Helpdesk Closure:

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

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

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

Military Awards Nominations:

The next military awards panel will convene Feb. 23. Nomination packages will be due through the chain of command no later than Feb. 16. Any award with higher precedence than the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be submitted 150 days prior to presentation. Contact HM2 Sylvia McBee at 295-9654 or sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil with questions.

CFC extended:

The deadline for soliciting donations to the Combined Federal Campaign has been extended through COB Jan. 28. As of Jan. 15,

USU is short of the \$165,000 goal by only \$5,000! There are 4,000 worthy charities participating this year, and many of those are charities in need of assistance following the tragic earthquake in Haiti.

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.

Tech Watch: Information Awareness Year in Review

Security incidents continue to drain limited USU Information Assurance manpower.

"Resolution of these issues, from the time of the incident until the incident is closed, can take anywhere from one hour to three days, depending on the severity of the incident," said Joel Robertson, USU IA manager.

Examples of security incidents include virus infections, use of unauthorized software, injection of malicious code, intruder attempts and internally reported events.

"On the USU network — 1,090 security incidents for calendar year 2009 cost the IA branch an estimated 6,400 man-hours to correct," said Robertson. "In addition, the defense network protection services informed us of 5,150 defense level-malicious logic reports and 11,000 spyware reports generated by USU users."

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.

"Please review the annual online IA training and abide by the rules and guidelines established," said Robertson.

The address is <http://iase.disa.mil/eta/index.html#onlinetraining>.

Mark your calendars for the next USU Town Hall meeting



In the Cafeteria

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 • 3 p.m.



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

