

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

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Photo by Thomas Balfour

On the cover

Navy Capt. Tanis Batsel Stewart returns the Brigade flag to Brigade Command Master Chief Clinton Garrett upon assuming command from Army Col. John (Jack) Wempe as USU Brigade Commander. Batsel Stewart is the first of USU's alumni to return as Brigade Commander.



Krulak, Lewin join USU Board

by Ken Frager



Photo by Thomas Balfour

U.S. Surgeon General Vice Adm. Regina Benjamin and other members of the USU Board, toured the National Capital Area Medical Simulation Center. The tour included a demonstration of the Sim Center's hand-immersive cricothyroidotomy virtual lab.

The USU Board of Regents officially added two new members recently.

General Charles Krulak, who served as the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Mr. Lawrence Lewin, an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science and an executive consultant for a variety of health care organizations across the United States, were appointed by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates to serve as members of the USU board.

"We are very pleased to have both General Krulak and Mr. Lewin join the USU Board of Regents. They both bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the board, and their wide-ranging experience will prove extremely valuable to the university," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D.

The former Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Krulak

currently serves as an executive consultant and a member of the board of directors for the Union Pacific Corporation in Omaha, Neb., and the Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Corporation in Phoenix, Ariz. Krulak was vice chairman, head of corporate development and acquisitions, and chief administrative officer of the MBNA America Bank, and chairman and chief executive officer of the MBNA Europe Bank, Ltd.

Founder of The Lewin group, a health care management and consulting firm, he was the firm's president and chief executive officer from 1970 through 1999. Lewin serves on a number of corporate boards, including H&Q Healthcare and Life Sciences funds and Intermountain Healthcare. Mr. Lewin previously served on the Department of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care.

Change of Command brings alumna home

by Ken Frager



Photo by HM1 M. Oliver, USN

Army Col. Jack Wempe is awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions as USU Brigade Commander. Wempe transferred to the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board.

With the passing of the Brigade flag from the Army to the Navy, Capt. Tanis Batsel Stewart, MC, USN, took the helm of the Brigade for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in February.

The two-time USU graduate – having completed her medical degree in 1993 and her Masters in Public Health in 2000 – will officially report in June.

Captain Batsel Stewart succeeds Col. Jack Wempe, who transferred to his new assignment at the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board in Colorado.

“Captain Batsel Stewart brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership to USU,” said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D.. “It is only fitting that she come back to the University as the first USU alumna to serve as Brigade Commander.”

“I really feel like I am coming home,” said Batsel Stewart, who is trained in general medicine and as a preventive medicine officer. “I loved USU as a student and I am looking

forward to the camaraderie and collegiality of the academic environment. I am excited to re-connect with friends and work closely with the students.”

Batsel Stewart said her most memorable time as a student was during her sub-internship in plastic surgery where she focused on wound closure and reconstruction.

“I recall working with a patient with metastatic cancer who was pretty badly disfigured following surgery. We were able to help this patient improve their quality of life by even moderately improving their sense of beauty. That one experience reminded me why my I chose the path that I had, but I never anticipated ending up back at USU. It is quite a thrill.”

Most recently as the Director, Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Support, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), in Washington, D.C, Captain Batsel Stewart was responsible for implementing a coordinated,

comprehensive strategy to guide Navy Medicine’s emergency management and public health emergency preparedness and response efforts. She also had responsibility for sourcing Navy medical personnel in support of contingency operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts worldwide, including the Navy’s response in support of the Haitian earthquake.

A former Navy line officer, Captain Batsel Stewart is board certified in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health. She holds a certificate in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from USU, and a master’s certificate in Homeland Defense from the University of Colorado, in Colorado Springs.

Prior to arriving at BUMED, Captain Batsel Stewart served in a variety of operational, research, policy development and leadership assignments, including Senior Medical Officer, Regional Support Group, Mayport, Florida; Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer, USS Spruance (DD-963); Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System Program Coordinator for South America while attached to the Naval Medical Research Center Detachment, Lima, Peru; Chief of Preventive Medicine, and deputy for the Joint Pandemic Influenza Team, U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; and Chief of Force Protection and Force Health Protection and Head of Preventive Medicine Policy and Programs, BUMED.

Service member of the year named

by Staff MC1 Chad Hallford

A Department of Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM) Sailor was selected as “2009 USU Service Member of the Year.” Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Daniel Freeland of MEM’s Human Performance Laboratory (HPL), was recognized as Service Member of the Quarter in the fourth quarter of 2009.

“HM2 Freeland quickly joined our ranks and proved himself to be a team player. A motivated Sailor, he identified, through his own assessment, areas or programs within the Brigade (not just Navy Division) that needed assistance or attention and stepped up to the plate to provide advice, leadership, and expertise,” said Brigade Command Master Chief Clinton Garrett. “Without a doubt, he will well represent the Brigade and University as Service Member of the Year.”

The selection process for service member of the year includes facing a board of senior enlisted leaders who

ask the nominees a series of questions ranging from general military knowledge to current events. However, much of the selection criteria is based on the nominees’ contributions and achievements.

Freeland arrived at the University, a Fleet Marine Force Warfare-qualified Sailor, after a tour as a preventive medicine petty officer. While on his tour, he maintained more than a 95 percent readiness status for his Marines, while providing medical services for nearly 1,100 Marines, allowing these Marines to be deployed at a moment’s notice.

Freeland is essential to many of the University’s core training functions. During Operation Kerkesner, he mentored more than 175 first-year medical students and was responsible for their tactical movement and extract training.

Freeland also played a vital role in the University’s Basic Life Support (BLS) classes, instructing more than

400 personnel in life-saving skills. He is also Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support certified.

Freeland was assigned as safety officer for the 2009 Combined Multi-Agency Mass Casualty Exercise for the National Capital Region. During the event, held at National Naval Medical Center last fall, Freeland helped to triage 50 patients with multiple injuries.

Freeland has supported the research of HPL, including three heat stress tests, two maximum stress tests and one step test.

In his free time, Freeland is working towards his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

“HM2 Freeland has been a wonderful addition to the HPL,” said Stacey Zeno, HPL research assistant. “Between his corpsmen skills, recruiting, and administering heat tolerance tests, Freeland has become an invaluable member of our team.”

AFRRI receives historic landmark designation



Jack Touhy (right), executive director of the American Nuclear Society, and Army Col. Donald Hall, deputy director of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, unveiled a bronze plaque designating the Institute a nuclear historic landmark. “This plaque marks 50 years of important research in the field of radiobiology,” said Touhy, addressing AFRRI employees and guests last month. Such research, he said, is important to providing a sound scientific basis for decisions critical to protecting the public and to advancing nuclear technology. AFRRI is among some 70 sites and facilities that have been recognized by the Society.

Photo by HM1 M. Oliver, USN

Rodrick, Rodriguez named USU Junior, Senior Employees of the Quarter

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Melisa L. Rodrick

The USU recently named two of its outstanding civilians as the Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter.

Melisa L. Rodrick, a program support assistant with the Department of Medicine was named the Junior Employee of the Quarter.

Harrison Rodriguez, an information technology specialist with Civilian Human Resources was named the Senior Employee of the Quarter.

These awards were based on the recipients' outstanding support and excellent service of the USU mission.

Rodrick, who has been at the University for five years, has become a hands-on expert with the administrative actions and procedures for a wide-range of departments. Her in-depth knowledge in financial management, research administration and logistics has allowed her to help improve the operational efficiency of the Department of Medicine.

Rodrick's administrative prowess has also made her a valuable asset to her direct supervisors. When potential problems arise, Melisa seizes the initiative to solve these issues and is able to quickly and effectively coordinate with different departments and subject matter experts to help provide



Photo by Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Harrison Rodriguez

her leadership with valuable information and insight. This allows leadership to make good, well-informed decisions quickly and effectively.

Despite the important high-pressure assignments that she handles on a regular basis, Rodrick makes these tasks as part of her regular routine. As this "cool-headed" professional deals with the various personalities, missions and the inevitable changes, she keeps the mission moving forward and helps maintain on-time work schedules while coordinating updates and changes between all working parties.

While excelling in the professional environment, Rodrick has also set and achieved her own goals for self-advancement, taking many training courses and seminars at USU to help further her personal development.

"Melisa has not had the benefit of the mentorship, guidance, and education that many of us here take for granted. If anything, she has had to deal with peers who have questioned her attempts to better herself and her daughter, Stacia, urging her to set lower goals, or no goals at all," said Dr. Don Sellitti, research associate professor for

the Department of Medicine. "In spite of this pressure, Melisa has persevered, seeking out opportunities for advancement here at USU.

Rodriguez, who has been with the University for more than nine years, works diligently and expertly as the department's information technology specialist. He fully supports the development and implementation of information technology programs, as well as resolving questions and concerns with hardware, software and communications. Rodriguez also provides assistance to department management and senior leaders in planning and executing the Department of Defense's and the CHR's policies, plans and programs.

Rodriguez provides full technical support to staff and customers. His advanced technical know-how and operational savvy have made him a vital part of the department's daily operations and mission efficiency.

Rodriguez has also made several highly specialized contributions to the CHR and USU, including his work with NSPS. He was a critical part of USU's successful conversion to TMA and the National Security Personnel System. This conversion directly impacted not only his department, but the entire USU community. Due to his countless man-hours and heavy overtime workload, the conversion was a seamless success for its users.

In fact, over the past two years Rodriguez' involvement with NSPS has only been increasing. One of the fundamental tasks has been to visit NSPS employees at their work site to assist with data assessments into the system. He has also served as the pay pool panel's IT data administrator. Rodriguez has also directly assisted several rating officials and senior leaders in the correct rating changes involved within the system.

The consummate professional, Rodriguez has received several

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Migration may bring safety hazards

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

As the Spring season arrives at USU, so do the Canada Geese that share the campus with faculty, students and staff.

This annual migration also presents a unique potential safety hazard for the USU community.

In late March and early April, especially in this area, the geese will be selecting nesting sites and laying eggs. During this period of their reproductive cycle the geese can and will become very defensive and overly aggressive if their nests are disturbed, or if they feel the nest is threatened.

In the past, some people at USU have been attacked and injured by geese trying to defend these nests or their goslings.

Should any geese happen to make a nest in the public areas of the USU campus, to include the courtyard,



walkways, planters or shrubs, the Environmental Health and Safety office is reminding people to give them plenty of space and avoid confrontation.

"We just wanted to remind people about the very real safety hazards here," said John Pomerville, the assistant vice president for Environmental Health and Safety. "In past years, a few of our coworkers have had unfavorable encounters with geese at

this time of year. With a little awareness and mutual respect, the geese can nest undisturbed, no one gets injured and we can all safely share our beautiful campus."

If these nests should develop and become a problem on campus, an animal control specialist will be notified. If it is necessary, the nest will then be humanely relocated to a better location.

Graduate program Open House draws an interested crowd



More than 50 prospective doctoral program graduate students visited the USU campus on March 1 to tour, interview and learn more about opportunities available at the University. Dr. Johnnan Kaleeba, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, enjoyed a more informal conversation with two prospective students during the wine and cheese party to close the days activities.

Rodrick, Rodriguez

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comments from customers for his courteous and helpful attitude despite heavy workloads and unexpected projects that require his expertise. The unexpected AD general pay increase (GPI) and the AD group bonus for the School of Medicine are a couple of examples of major projects that were successfully completed on time due to Rodriguez's work ethics, commitment and teamwork.

"He continues to respond to the ongoing needs in the CHR community. His patience, kindness, and prompt response to our needs have helped the HR Specialists accomplish our mission and has made working with him a pleasure. He is sought after as a successful problem solver," said Theresa Spriggs, CHR training officer. "Mr. Rodriguez's performance denotes commitment, dedication and ability in abundance. He possesses the talent and proficiency to provide the excellent customer service this University needs to succeed."

Briefs

Mark your calendar for Education Day 2010

USU will sponsor Education Day, June 25, 2010. The theme, "Obstacles and Opportunities in Curriculum Change," was chosen to showcase the experience of the USU faculty in teaching learners across the spectrum of health science education.

Deadlines are:

- Submission of poster or demonstration abstracts, midnight, April 16, 2010
- Nominations for Innovation in Teaching Award, midnight, April 16, 2010
- Participation and presentation, midnight, June 18, 2010

Authors whose abstracts are accepted and Teaching Award nominees will be notified around May 1, 2010. Additional information will be available in future issues of The Pulse and on the USU Web site.

Faculty senate members needed:

The USU Faculty Senate is looking for faculty volunteers to fill upcoming faculty senate positions in the upcoming year.

The Faculty Senate is a representative body providing the faculty a way to participate in the governance of the university.

The senate is an advisor to the president of the university and may pass resolutions and recommendations on issues such as education, research and faculty welfare.

The following positions will be open this coming year:

- Three positions representing the clinical department
- Four positions representing the basic science departments
- Secretary of the Faculty Senate
- President Pro-tempore of the Faculty Senate. In accordance with the USU constitution, this year's selection must be from the basic science department.

The deadline for candidacy nomination is May 10 and elections will be held in June.

Faculty interested in filling one of these positions should contact their current Faculty Senate representative or a member of the Elections and Nominations committee.

Professional activities:

The Department of Defense and USU policy requires that all employees, both military and civilian, receive approval for engaging in any activity outside their work environment, which involves their professional expertise or government occupation, and involves compensation.

This approval is required prior to engaging in the activity.

In order to get approval, any employee can complete a USUHS Form 1004. This completed form must be approved and signed by each department chair or activity head.

These forms are available in the General Counsel's office or online at the USU OGC Web site.

Completed forms must be turned in to the General Counsel's office. The form will be routed to the appropriate dean, brigade commander or USUHS president.

Once processing is completed, a copy of the approved form will be returned to the employee for the employee's records.

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.

Using Computer Resources:

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

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

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

Helpdesk Closure:

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

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

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



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