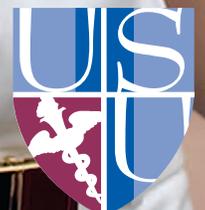


The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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# Surgery Chair receives top military award

by Ken Frager

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Photo by Thomas Balfour

Army Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker presented Army Col. (Dr.) David Burris, Chair, USU Department of Surgery, with the Legion of Merit medal recently. Schoomaker, the 42nd Surgeon General of the Army and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, was the presiding officer for the award ceremony. He also served with Colonel Burris, who has been associated with USU since his own graduation from the University in 1982.

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Eric Schoomaker presented Col. (Dr.) David Burris, Chair, USU Department of Surgery, with the Legion of Merit medal in a special ceremony in June. The Legion of Merit is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

“You are a symbol of Army medicine,” said LTG Schoomaker, addressing Dr. Burris, his family and the crowd of supporters gathered for the presentation. “You are someone we all can take great pride in here at USU as I know you speak with pride about your place and your service to the university and this country. You are a great soldier and medic and you are quite deserving of this honor.”

Burris has been associated with the USU since his days as a medical student, graduating in 1982 from the

F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. Among his military service awards, Col. Burris has received the Joint Meritorious Service, Army Meritorious Service with oak leaf cluster, Joint Achievement Medal, Army Achievement with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, and Parachutists Badge.

“It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the nation’s warriors and their families for 31 years,” said Col. Burris. “This award comes as a well appreciated surprise. It is not due to just my efforts, however, and I thank my Lord for the opportunities He has given me, my family, colleagues, students, patients and friends for their support. A special thanks to Lt. Gen. Schoomaker for thinking this important enough to support, and reminiscing on what a true soldier physician is.”



Photo by Thomas Balfour

## On the cover

Jennifer Markol assists her fiancé, Navy Ens. Matt Hall, during the annual “white coat ceremony” that signifies the progression from first to second year for medical students. See story on page 4.



## Letter to the USU Family

*Wasn't the Legion of Merit Award Ceremony for Dr. David Burris and his family a true tribute to one of the University's giants? One could not help but be awestruck by the outpouring of USU family members to recognize a man and what he has given to the Army Medical Department and this great University. General Schoomaker's presence and his humble remarks said mountains about his own personal professional relationship with him, and the Army Medical Department's appreciation for what Dave Burris, the soldier, has given to his country, to the military services and to our terrific University. It was clear to everyone in the audience that Colonel Dave Burris is a true leader, an authentic patriot, and a model for those who will follow in his footsteps.*

*But I saw something else today, just a small wonderful indication that we, as a family, are on the right path in developing Dr. Burris' protégés. Just before the beginning of the ceremony I observed a simple, but powerful, message from the student body present at the ceremony. I watched many of them stand up, move to the side rails, and offer the senior faculty and staff an opportunity to sit in the comfort of a chair. Perhaps to some this might have gone unnoticed, but for me it said a lot about the spontaneous and symbolic recognition and respect that our students demonstrated for their faculty, the staff and the importance of the USU as a family unit.*

*To Dr. Burris and his family may I add my personal thanks.*

*To the students, your awesome recognition of Dr. Burris and all the USU faculty and staff did not go unnoticed. Thank you.*

— Stephen Henske, Assistant Vice President for Accreditation

## O'Connor named AMSSM President



Courtesy Photo

Army Col. Francis G. O'Connor, M.D., M.P.H., accepts the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine's presidential gavel from outgoing president, Dr. Kim Harmon, during the AMSSM conference. O'Connor became the organization's new president in April. He is an associate professor of Military and Emergency Medicine and medical director for the USU Consortium for Health and Military Performance.

## Class of 2013 don their white coats



The Annual White Coat Ceremony, according to Larry Laughlin, M.D., Dean of the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at USU, recognizes "humanism in medicine." In her address to the class of 2013 on 28 May, Inger Lerra Rosner, MD (USU SoM '97), a urologist at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, reminded the students, their families and other attendees that medical education is not an "individual" effort. "The families, friends and classmates here today and that you will interact with during your time at USU will last a lifetime," she said. "These are the people who will help you throughout your career in medicine and through life. When you are caring for your patients, remember those who are closest to you and try to treat your patients with the same level of care and compassion."

Photo by Thomas Balfour

# USU hosts Pediatrics, Surgery symposium

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

The USU Departments of Surgery and Pediatrics hosted the 24th Annual Pediatrics/Pediatric Surgery Symposium and the 11th Annual C. Everett Koop Distinguished Lecture in Sanford Auditorium, June 10.

More than 100 people attended the event, which highlighted four visiting lecturers along with former Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop and his wife.

The educational event is geared towards pediatricians and pediatric surgeons.

Michael L. Nance, M.D., spoke about mild traumatic brain injury in pediatric populations. Nance is the Josephine J. and John M. Templeton, Jr. chair in pediatric trauma at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Pa., and an associate professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine.

The featured lecturer, Joseph J. Tepas III, M.D., presented, "Sarah Jane and the iPhone: Who is in control of childhood traumatic brain injury?" Tepas is a professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine and a clinical associate professor of Surgery at USU.

To show the effects of TBI, Tepas focused on the story of Sarah Jane. Born perfectly healthy, she was shaken badly by a nurse, which caused three broken ribs, a broken collar bone and a TBI. Sarah Jane lost 60 percent of the rear cortex of her brain. At age 3, she could not sit up, eat solid food, and could not speak or understand words.

Tepas highlighted the fact that TBI is the number one killer of U.S. children ages zero to 14. He also spoke about the National Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury, or PABI plan, which was an effort begun by Sarah Jane's father, Patrick, and a national push to address the more than 1.5 million new brain injuries that occur every year domestically. He also discussed the importance of treating TBI, citing the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

Former Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop speaks to the audience following the 11th Annual C. Everett Koop Distinguished Lecture at Sanford Auditorium.

military's successes in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"The survival rates from OIF and OEF are remarkable," Tepas said. "The military is an astounding example of how things can be done and should be done."

The all-day program also included Stacy J. Suskauer, M.D., who presented, "Disorders of Consciousness after

Pediatric Brain Injury: Definition, Assessment and Treatment," and Barbara Craig, M.D., FAAP, who highlighted the number two leading cause of death in children – "Non-Accidental Abdominal and Thoracic Trauma."

Koop, a pediatric surgeon and retired Public Health Service Admiral, underscored the importance of understanding and education concerning TBI. "This will be one of the landmarks that will change our understanding of TBI in the years to come," he said.

Koop told the audience he suffered from a brain injury during his sophomore year in college. The injury left him with double-vision, which has affected the rest of his life.

Dr. Koop also offered praise for the University's symposium.

"I hope you know how much I appreciate being represented by this distinguished lecture every year," he said. "One of the driving factors that helps keep me motivated is USU. I cherish my relationship with you and your predecessors. If I were a young man again, as I advise many young people to do, I would go to military medical school. God bless you."

## Debas presents Research Week lecture



Haile T. Debas, M.D., a USU Board of Regents member, receives a USU memento from Dr. Charles L. Rice, USU president, after his Research Week lecture on global concerns. Debas is the executive director for global health sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. "There are enormous challenges and unmet needs in global health," he said. "But there are unprecedented opportunities for United States universities to redefine a more effective role in global health."

Photo by Thomas Balfour

# NOC branch chief graduates from Executive Potential Program

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

A USU senior-level civilian recently graduated from the Executive Potential Program.

Network Operations Center branch chief Steve A. Davis completed the year-long competency-based leadership program that is designed to develop senior-level public service employees into more effective leaders.

“The program was wonderful,” he said. “It is designed to improve you as an individual leader. It forces you to bring out your leadership.”

The EPP is based on the Office of Personnel Management’s Executive Core Qualifications or ECQs and the Graduate School’s Leadership Effectiveness Inventory or LEI.

Students engage in classroom discussions, group exercises, learning teams and independent studies. The curriculum for the EPP is based on learning by experience. It is supported by classroom instruction.

The individual components of the program include:

- A 360-degree feedback assessment Leadership Effectiveness Inventory (LEI)
- A leadership development plan
- Action Learning Teams/projects
- Senior executive mentor
- Four one-week residential sessions
- Developmental work assignments
- Senior executive interviews and shadowing assignments, and
- Benchmarking

The EPP places students into teams and gives them a variety of tasks and projects that need to be completed.

“They make you step out of your comfort zone,” Davis said. “It was really good because it provides very good insight into how government works across the board. Another good thing about the program is that you get to interview five senior executives and travel to interact with civilian leaders. They show you a whole different world.”



*The USU Network Operations Center branch chief Steve A. Davis poses with Vice Admiral Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States and USU Board of Regents member. Davis worked as the chief technology officer for the Surgeon General’s office while completing the year-long competency-based Executive Potential Program.*

*Courtesy Photo*

The small town Arkansas native was able to interact with several prominent senior leaders in government including the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the mayor of Kansas City and Vice Admiral Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States and USU Board of Regents member.

Students are required to complete two 60-day assignments. One of Davis’ assignments was with the USDA. His second assignment was as the chief technology officer for the 18th Surgeon General of the US’s office, an assignment that was set with assistance from his mentor, retired Gen. Bill Bester, acting president of USU.

“I was able to provide them with my years of experience and they ran with it,” he said. “They did not just take me and my experience at face value, they used it.”

Davis, a retired Army Sergeant 1st Class, has been in the computer “business” for more than 25 years. He started as a computer programmer.

Having completed the EPP, Davis attributes much of his success over the past year to his home here at USU, especially from General Bester.

“Your mentor is everything,” Davis said. “They are the ones who motivate you and really keep you going. General Bester really made sure I had every opportunity to succeed.”

Davis also interacted with Dr. Steve Kaminsky and interviewed Dr. Dale Smith. Dr. Charles Rice even offered to have the NOC branch chief come to the Pentagon to speak with him since he was unable to be at the University campus.

It was this human element of the EPP that Davis found to be the most rewarding.

“The best part of this course is the meeting and greeting with people in the class,” he said. “Everyone shares in the leadership and the work. We became a real tight family in that year.”

With this senior-level leadership course complete, Davis is fully prepared and confident to take on a more senior leadership role here at USU.

“Now, I have a better understanding of the role senior leaders play in the big scheme of things here,” he said. “They have to do a lot more than ‘just doing their jobs.’ They interact outside of the University to keep it alive and well. Their job is to keep our jobs alive. It was an incredibly valuable experience to me to be able to see both sides and understand that all of our jobs go hand-in-hand.”

“It was a great pleasure for me to work with Mr. Davis throughout his time in the EPP,” said Bester “I believe the vast array of experiences he encountered during his time in the EPP will be extremely beneficial to him professionally and will greatly enhance his leadership skills in his important roles here at the University.”

# USU alumnus inducted into elite Army medical order

by Ken Frager

Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Travis (USU SoM '86), 59th Medical Wing commander, received the Army's prestigious Order of Military Medical Merit (OMMM) Award June 4 during the annual San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium graduation ceremony at the University of Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas.

General Travis, who leads the Air Force's largest medical wing, was inducted as an honorary member in the Order by retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sculley, the senior vice president for University Programs at USU and president of the Order, and Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, Jr., (USU SoM '83) Brooke Army Medical Center commander, for his exemplary accomplishments in merging Air Force and Army medical resources in San Antonio.

General Travis was noted for his organizational leadership role in working with his Army counterparts to join Air Force and Army medical services while upholding the roles of each service, culture and ownership.

One of the few Air Force pilot-physicians with more than 1,800 flying hours, General Travis said he was "very surprised and extremely moved."

"I've always appreciated how much OMMM recipients have accomplished for Army medicine in their careers," General Travis said. "So to receive this as an Airman, at a time when we are establishing a joint medical team here in San Antonio that is unsurpassed anywhere in the world, is particularly meaningful."

The OMMM is a unique, private organization founded by the commanding general of U.S. Army Health Services Command in 1982 to recognize excellence and promote fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department personnel.

Members of other military services who have made



Courtesy Photo

Army Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, right, commanding general Brook Army Medical Center, and retired Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Sculley, Sr, the vice president for University Programs USUHS and president of the Order of Military Medical Merit, confer honorary membership in the Order upon Air Force Maj. Gen. Thomas Travis (center), commander of the 59th Medical Wing. The ceremony took place during the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium, or SAUSHEC, graduation at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center San Antonio.

distinguished contributions to the Army Medical Department can be recognized as honorary members.

According to the OMMM website, individuals inducted into the elite group have clearly demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence, served in the Army Medical Department with selflessness, and made sustained contributions to the betterment of Army medicine. These members are generally considered to be in the top 10 percent of their corps and field.

General Travis was also recognized for his successful integration of all military graduate medical education in San Antonio with two major training sites at Wilford Hall and Brooke Army Medical Centers and a close partnership with UTHSCSA.

"His selection to the Order was the best way to recognize his unwavering commitment to excellence of SAUSHEC's Graduate Medical Education programs," said Dr. Kenneth

Torrington, dean of SAUSHEC, who nominated the general.

Dr. Torrington said the general's legacy will be the "highly successful integration of internal medicine, orthopedic surgery, general surgery and transitional year programs, which together train approximately 190 Army and Air Force residents."

"His support benefitted every single Air Force and Army physician training in San Antonio," said Dr. Torrington.

General Travis is also the Department of Defense senior multiservice market manager for TRICARE San Antonio. He oversees seven medical treatment facilities in the San Antonio metropolitan area and directs a \$1.2 billion budget providing healthcare for more than 218,000 beneficiaries.

## Army Birthday



Photo by HM1 Michael Oliver

As the youngest Soldier at the ceremony, Army Sgt. Matthew Baine, right, cuts the Army's 235th birthday cake June 14 with the help of Army Command Sgt. Maj. Donna Brock, who represented the oldest Soldier. Baine is a supply NCO in USU's Military and Emergency Medicine, and Brock is the Senior Enlisted Leader, Army for the Joint Task Force - National Capitol Region Medical.

# Briefs

## Upcoming Classes

The USU James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center will be holding several upcoming classes in the month of July.

The following classes will be offered at the LRC:

- **EndNote Web** will be held July 6 from noon to 1 p.m.
- **EndNote Basics** will be held July 14 from noon to 1 p.m.
- **Advanced EndNote** will be held July 15 from noon to 1 p.m.
- **Power of PubMed** will be held July 20 from noon to 1 p.m.
- **Gaggle of Googles** will be held July 21 from noon to 1 p.m.
- **Tech Buzz: Ownership & the Web**
- **Copyright & OA** will be held July 28 from noon to 1 p.m.

People interested in attending these classes may sign up for them online at [http://er.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/training\\_reg.php](http://er.lrc.usuhs.mil/content/training_reg.php).

Classes will be held in the LRC's computer classroom on the first floor.

A Common Access Card, or CAC, that is enabled for domain login is required to use LRC computers.

## 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 (whether or not compensated), as well as any activity that involves compensation. This includes serving on the Board of a Non-Federal Organization.

This approval is required prior to engaging in the activity. In order to get approval, any employee can complete a USU 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 USU president.

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

## RCR Education Conference:

Registration is now open for the Sept. 28th Responsible Conduct of Research Educational Conference being held at the USU's Sanford Auditorium.

The conference is being sponsored by the USU Office of the President and the Graduate School of Nursing in partnership with the new Navy Medicine Institute for the Medical Humanities and Research Leadership and the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Sponsored Projects.

The free conference, entitled "Promoting the Global Good: The Social Responsibility of Scientists and Researchers," will address an emergent subject in RCR Education—the social responsibility of scientists.

This was recently included in new NIH RCR education requirements. The conference may be able to assist individuals with completing RCR education requirements.

Full registration information, including directions, are available for download at: [http://www.thechiefinformationgroup.com/conference/usuhs/index.php?c\\_id=15](http://www.thechiefinformationgroup.com/conference/usuhs/index.php?c_id=15)

## 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 NOC; 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 NOC 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.

## 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 Bushmaster/Kerkesner:

The USU field exercises, Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be held July 6 through July 23 at Fort Indian-town Gap, Pa.

Advance personnel will deploy July 6. The main body of personnel will deploy July 10.

Only emergency leave will be granted during this time frame as there are over 145 uniformed personnel, not including evaluators, needed to support this mission.

For further information contact Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wilson by phone at 319-8207.



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