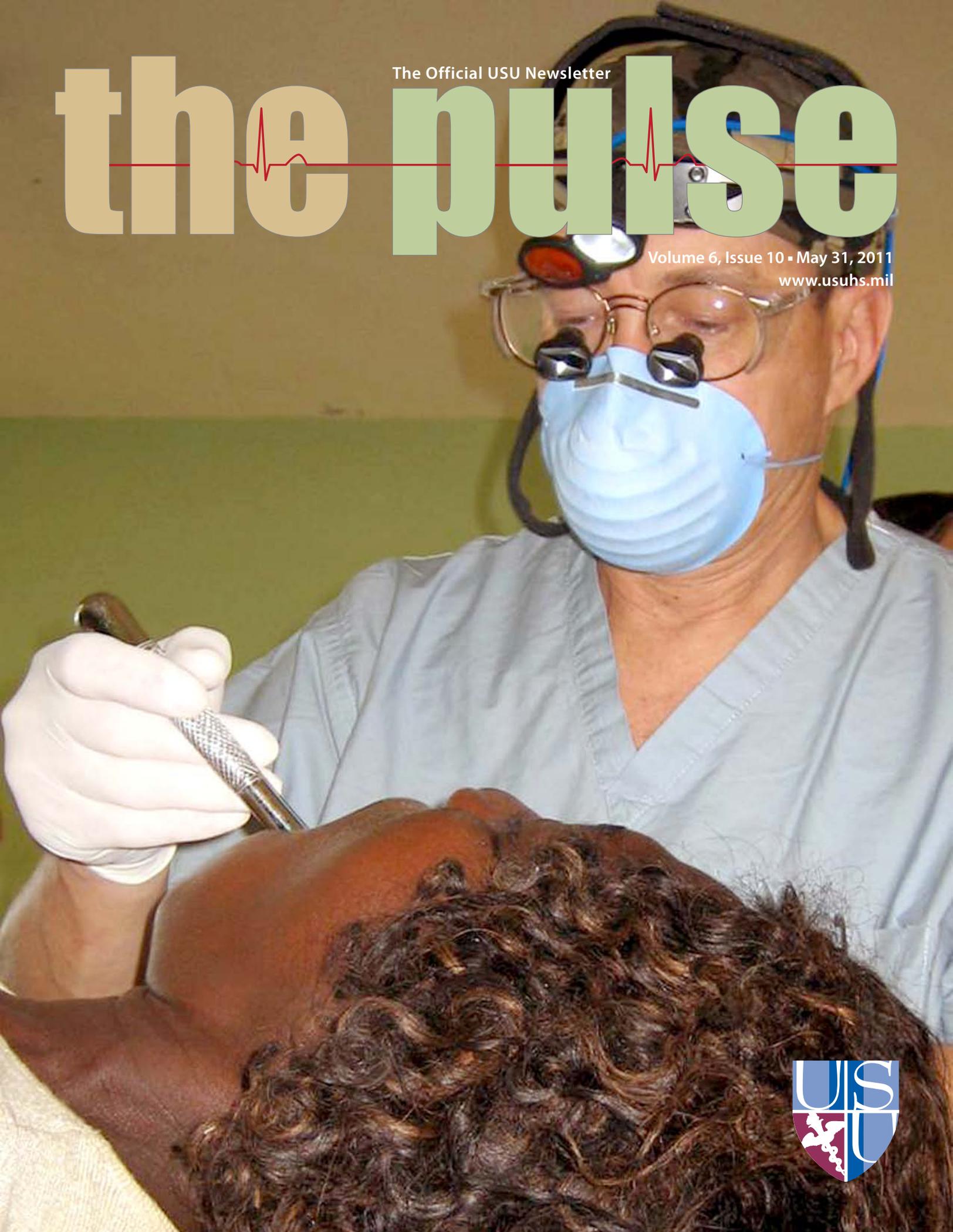


The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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**Sharon Willis**

Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

**Ken Frager**

Public Affairs Specialist

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine**

Production Editor

**MC1 Chad Hallford**

Writer

**Christine Creenan-Jones**

Contributing Writer

**Lori Fields**

Layout and Design

**Production**

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Courtesy Photo

**On the cover**

Air Force Col. (Dr.) Kraig Vandewalle, professor, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School, USU Postgraduate Dental College, extracts an unrestorable tooth during a recent humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic. (See story page 7)



# GSN faculty, students earn high honors

## Bibb named among 100 Extraordinary Nurses for 2011

by Ken Frager



Courtesy Photo

### USU faculty takes first place in Navy Wide Research competition

It's been a busy Spring for recognition at the USU's Graduate School of Nursing. Aside from the annual awards presented during the commencement exercises, there were awards from several external organizations honoring the efforts of faculty and students. According to Dr. Marguerite Littleton-Kearney, associate dean for Research in the GSN, "There were so many awards recently that we heard about, but we also know these are just the tip of the iceberg and that there are many we haven't given appropriate recognition yet."

Several USU nurse anesthesia students were awarded the Dean Hayden Student Research Grant from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation for their obstructive sleep apnea study that will be conducted at National Naval Medical Center. Congratulations to Lt. Cmdr. Robert Roadfuss, Lt. Martin Boese, Capt. Keith Denneny and Capt. Ryan Ransom.

GSN students, faculty and former faculty also were recognized at the Navy Wide Research Competition held recently. One of the research projects conducted by USU community members at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth won the Navy Wide Research Competition in the staff category. The project was

titled "The effect of intraoperative intravenous lidocaine infusion on the reduction of postoperative pain and return of bowel function in patients undergoing minor laparoscopic gynecological procedures." This project was conducted under the outstanding leadership of both USU's current research director at Portsmouth, Cmdr. Chris Oudekerk, and former research director Cdr. Greg Nezat.

Another project conducted at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, under the leadership of Cdr. Brent Bushey, placed second in the Navy Wide Competition in their category after previously winning the Navy Medicine-East competition. The research was presented by recent USU graduate Lt. Kevin Michel.

Lt. Cmdr. Jason McGuire (the GSN's newest faculty member) placed third in the Navy Wide Competition in his category after previously winning the Navy Medicine-West competition.

Dr. Sandra Bibb was selected as one of the 2011 "100 Extra-Ordinary Nurses in the Washington Metropolitan Area." This is the 20th celebration of this recognition sponsored annually by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Gamma Beta Chapter, Howard University. Recipients of this award

*Continued to page 3*

# Artino receives national literacy in research award

by Ken Frager



Photo by Thomas Balfour

USU President Charles L. Rice (left) congratulates Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Tony Artino, Jr. (Center), for receiving the 2011 RADM Charles R. Loar Award. Navy Cmdr. Glen Diehl, (Right) accepted the award for Artino at the ACHE meeting in Chicago recently.

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Tony Artino Jr., assistant professor in the USU Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, was

recently awarded the 2011 RADM Charles R. Loar award for excellence in professional and technical writing in healthcare leadership and

administration. Dr. Artino's paper, "Performance in medical school and internship: Does self-reported clinical experience matter?," focused on whether medical school admissions committees often look favorably upon applicants who report previous clinical experience. Dr. Artino's survey results suggested that applicants who self-report previous clinical experience may not be better candidates for medical school.

RADM Loar was director, Navy Medical Service Corps and assistant chief, Healthcare Operations, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, responsible for all Navy Medical facilities worldwide. He also had the distinction of being the first fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) in the Navy. The award, presented at the annual ACHE meeting, was established by the Lewis E. Angelo Professional Symposium to Promote Literacy Excellence.

## GSN honors...

Continued from page 2

are selected on the basis of established criteria that address excellence and extraordinary achievements in clinical practice, education, research, administration, publication or community service. The award was presented May 2, 2011 at Howard University.

GSN Class of 2009 alumni Lt. Cmdr. Julie Conrardy, Lt. Cmdr. Sandra Myers and Maj. Beth Brenek, won the 2011 AORN Journal Writers Contest award in the research category for their scholarly project publication: "Conrardy, J., Myers, S., & Brenek, B. (2010). Review of the literature to determine the state of the science for implementation of the joint commission universal protocol recommendations. *AORN Journal*, 92(2):194-207."

The presentation of this award took place during the 58th AORN Congress

in Philadelphia recently, where more than 10,000 perioperative nurses were in attendance from around the world.

This is the third year a GSN student group received this award (2011, 2010, 2008). The 2009 AORN National Research Excellence Award also went to a USU group for their research poster.

Additionally, several perioperative clinical nurse specialist alumni were selected to present 90-minute podium presentations:

- Cmdr. Vivian Devine—Creating a New Culture: When Large Organizations Merge
- Lt. Cmdr. BradLee Goeckner—Threats to Safe Medication Use in Ambulatory Surgery
- Lt. Cmdr. BradLee Goeckner—Hot Topics: Medication Safety in Perioperative Care - The Nurses Role

Several perioperative clinical nurse specialist alumni also were selected to present posters during the Congress:

- Maj. Denise Moultrie—Customer Service Focused Approach for the Perioperative Team
  - Maj. Gregory Lara—Implementing a Surgical Safety Checklist
  - Lt. Cmdr. Sandra Myers—Aseptic Technique in Afghanistan
- Maj. Moultrie's poster won the clinical excellence award, beating out more than 215 posters selected for presentation at this year's AORN Congress.

Dr. Littleton-Kearney also said that while the individual awards are important, it is the people behind the recognition that should be credited for making things happen. Among those is Cmdr. John Maye, who recently accepted the directorship of the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program. "We will miss his research leadership at USU, but congratulate him on an outstanding opportunity that keeps him close to the USU."

# AFRRI Turns Half a Century Old

by Col. Mark A. Melanson, AFRRI Director



Photo by MC1 Chad Hallford

*Dr. Thomas S. Tenforde, President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, (left) receives a plaque recognizing his role as keynote speaker for AFRRI's Formal Establishment banquet, from AFRRI director Army Col. Mark Melanson.*

On May 12, 2011 the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) officially celebrated its "Golden Jubilee."

Born under the ominous cloud of the Cold War between the United States and her allies, and the Soviet Union, AFRRI was established to conduct important research into the

biological effects of ionizing radiation and its impact upon military operations. Its original mission was "to conduct scientific research in the field of radiobiology and related matters that are essential to the medical support of the United States military services, to national welfare, and to the well-being of mankind."

Early research focused on the effects of radiation on the nuclear battlefield to our troops and this research still continues. Today AFRRI's research programs include Radiation Biodosimetry, Radiation Medical Countermeasures, Radiation and Combined Injuries, Internal Radiological Contamination and Metal Toxicity, and Late Radiation Effects.

Currently, AFRRI is actively involved in support of Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. response to the tsunami and resulting nuclear reactor accidents in Japan. First, the AFRRI Medical Radiobiology Advisory Team marked its first-ever deployment in direct support of the Commander, U.S. Forces Japan and was one of the first Defense Department teams to arrive in Japan. Second, AFRRI has been tasked to lead the DoD effort to develop a comprehensive strategy to assess and effectively communicate the risks to U.S. military personnel and their families stationed in Japan during the nuclear crisis.

Now is a very exciting time for AFRRI. We are in the middle of a yearlong celebration of AFRRI's Golden Jubilee. This commemoration includes different scientific symposia along with a 50th Birthday Banquet held May 12.

Renovations of the Institute's laboratories and supporting infrastructure steadily continue. Additionally, AFRRI has expanded its applied research portfolio to include basic research in radiation effects on health. Finally, plans are underway to finish the establishment of a doctoral program in radiobiology that will bring in both new faculty and students to the Uniformed Services University.

So, please join me in wishing AFRRI a very happy 50th Birthday and sincere hopes for another half a century of scientific leadership and excellence.

## Some of AFRRI's Significant Accomplishments

- ▶ Discovery of cytokines and vitamin E as radiation medical countermeasures
- ▶ Development of the Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons Course (Now the Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation (MEIR) Course)
- ▶ Establishment of the Medical Radiobiology Advisory Team (MRAT)
- ▶ Discovery of the enhanced lethality of radiation and combined injuries
- ▶ Establishment of the "killing dose curves" for anthrax spores in response to the anthrax terrorist attacks of 2001
- ▶ Development of the Biodosimetry Assessment Tool (BAT)

*The Human Performance Resource Center Health Tips is a new column intended to provide the USU community with information to help develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Check out the HPRC website at: <http://humanperformanceresourcecenter.org>.*

### **Pistachios: A heart-healthy snack**

If you are nuts about nuts, the good news is that pistachios are good for you, even if you are trying to lose weight.

Pistachios contain the “good fat”—unsaturated (polyunsaturated and monounsaturated)—which can help blood cholesterol levels and decrease risk of heart disease. They are also a good source of antioxidants, vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

### **Getting too little or too much sleep may make the brain age faster**

The importance of getting the right amount of sleep was recently stressed by a study that showed getting either less than six or more than eight hours actually aged brain function.

A recent article published in *Sleep* journal and highlighted in *Science Daily* demonstrated that getting more or less than six to eight hours of sleep can negatively impact memory, vocabulary, reasoning, and mental state. The effects of either resulted in adding the equivalent of four to seven years in age to brain function.

## USU students reach finals of professional society challenge

by MC1 Chad Hallford

A group of USU students participated in Doctor’s Dilemma, a “Jeopardy-style” contest sponsored by the Maryland chapter of the American College of Physicians, which took place in Baltimore recently.

The students competed against eight other teams from hospitals in the Baltimore area, finishing in the final round, or in the top three teams. ACP’s national medical Jeopardy-style competition, ACP Doctor’s Dilemma™, is held each year at the scientific Internal Medicine meeting. Up to 40 teams of residents from around the nation compete for the title of national champion.



Courtesy Photo

*The Governor of the Maryland ACP Chapter, Dr. Dobbin Chow (center) posed with several team members of the USU team, including Jacob Berry, Faith Murray, Jason Weiner and Lavanya Viswanathan.*

USU team members included Navy Ensigns Jason Weiner and Joe Spinelli and Air Force 2nd Lts. Faith Murray and Jacob Berry. The team operated under the guidance of coordinators, Navy Ensign Jacqueline Edwards (Fircher) and Air Force 2nd Lt. Lavanya Viswanathan.

## External Affairs Profile:

### *In support of the Board of Regents*

by MC1 Chad Hallford

The USU Board of Regents is comprised of nine civilian members appointed by the Secretary of Defense and six ex-officio members, including the four Surgeons General of the Uniformed Services. As advisors to the University leadership, Regents advocate for excellence in education, research and responsible public service.

USU is accredited by 17 professional organizations and most educational oversight bodies require a Board of Regents to attain and maintain accreditation. By law, the Board meets quarterly and is charged with ensuring that the University’s policies remain in tune with the highest standards of academia. For each meeting there are tremendous administrative needs to be met to ensure proper procedures are followed, and that the time donated by Board Members is used wisely. These

administrative functions are provided primarily by the Office of the Vice President for External Affairs.

Jan Taylor, a 12-year USU employee, provides most of this support. Each meeting Mrs. Taylor notifies Regents, the University and the public; prepares reference materials and meeting agendas; and prepares the meeting’s formal minutes. Recordkeeping and serving as an efficient liaison for the members and to the Pentagon also fall under her purview.

“It’s an honor to work with the extremely talented and generous members of the Board who have accomplished so much in their respective careers,” said Mrs. Taylor. “Additionally, knowing that the work I support enhances the education of USU students also adds to the meaningfulness of my job.”

# Against the Odds, at the Top of the Heap

by Ken Frager



Photo by Ken Frager

USU's championship team displays the 2011 Naval Support Activity MWR Spring Football trophy

In true USU fashion, a group of first- and second-year students, along with a bit of faculty assistance, ran away with the 2011 Naval Support Activity MWR Spring Football Championship recently. And they did it in their first year as a team.

"Our team had to grow together, we had to learn to overcome how other teams would take advantage of our female players and overall lack of size," said Lt. Edward Jones, a graduate student and assistant professor in Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics. "This was a joint-service team, playing with men and women (the only team in the league with female players) and really showed what

makes this university special. Going into the playoffs we were not favored to win at all. We proved that brains over brawn is a true statement!"

The league schedule had each of the six teams playing each other at least once during the regular season, followed by a double-elimination playoff round. "We beat each of the teams at least once, including the best team from NNMC that had gone undefeated in the regular season."

The team's nearly 4 feet tall championship trophy will be on display in the trophy case on the second floor of C building, by the elevators near the conference room rear entrance.

# Internal medicine residency honors

by Ken Frager



Photo by Ken Frager

Capt. (Dr.) Dodd Denton

The Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM), part of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, has named Navy Capt. (Dr.) Gerald (Dodd) Denton to its leadership council. Denton is clerkship director and associate professor of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine at the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. Last year he received the CDIM Charles H. Griffith, III, MD, Educational Research Award, which is presented annually to a CDIM member who has contributed greatly to educational research.

Also within the department of Internal Medicine, the USU residents at San Antonio's Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC) selected Internal Medicine as the Best Teaching Department at San Antonio Military Medical Center-South! Air Force Maj. Temple Ratcliffe, who is billeted to USU but stationed in San Antonio, was selected as the Best Teacher, the only person in the history of the training program at WHMC to win the best teacher award for three consecutive years. In fact, winning it in 2010 made him the first ever to win consecutive awards. Additionally, John Peterson received the Paul Brewster Award for the Best Clinic Attending and Bridget Fiechtner the Humanism Award, which will now always be in her name.

# Air Force faculty awarded Legion of Merit



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Bruce Green visited USU recently to surprise Col. (Dr.) Arnyce Pock, Director, Office of Curriculum Reform, with a Legion of Merit award. According to Col. Pock, "It caught me completely off guard but I was so pleased."

The Legion of Merit was awarded as a reflection of Col. Pock's five year tour at the Air Staff, where she served as the Director of the Air Force Medical Corps and as the Chief, Medical Plans, Programs and Integration.

# General Dentistry Residents Provide Humanitarian Care

by USU Postgraduate Dental College, Col. Kraig S. Vandewalle, USAF, DC

As part of the military-unique curriculum, the residents and staff of the two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD-2) residency program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, have been actively involved in humanitarian missions. The AEGD-2 residency program is designed to prepare general dentists to comprehensively treat patients and is part of the newly-accredited U.S. Air Force Postgraduate Dental School.

The Postgraduate Dental School is a unique collaboration between the Uniformed Services University and the 59th Medical Wing at Wilford Hall Medical Center, a part of the San Antonio Military Medical Center. The humanitarian missions, called MEDRETES (Medical Readiness Training Exercises), deliver medical and dental care to underserved populations around the world, while providing unique training to medical and dental providers. The missions often take place in remote areas of the country in harsh working conditions, typically without electricity or running water.

Recently, the residents and staff of the AEGD-2 residency program joined medical providers for two-week missions in Haiti and the Dominican Republic directed by the U.S. Southern Command. During the most recent mission to the Dominican Republic, the six-member dental team (three dental officers and three enlisted technicians) completed more than 1,100 dental procedures on more than 800 dental patients at three sites. The dental team served with other medical providers (e.g., family practitioners, dermatologists, optometrists, pharmacists) who provided medical exams, eye glasses, medications, and minor surgical procedures to more than 8,000 residents.

“Although the heat was oppressive at times, delivering dental care to the Dominican residents was truly a rewarding experience,” stated Col. Kraig Vandewalle, the dental team



Courtesy Photo

Hundreds of local residents wait in line for examination.

commander. “The majority of dental care consisted of extractions of unrestorable teeth in patients with pain,” said Maj. Kurt Kobes, an AEGD-2 resident. “The US military creates goodwill with local countries, while providing valuable medical and dental training in the field.”

“The staff of the AEGD-2 residency program is committed to supporting future deployments to continually train general dental residents to manage nearly any dental condition in any environment,” added Col. Vandewalle.



## USU Faculty Senate Education Day 2011

*Tools for Transformation: How to be a better educator*

*Thursday 16 June 2011*

**For more information visit, [www.usuhs.mil](http://www.usuhs.mil)**



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