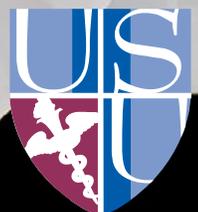


The Official USU Newsletter

the nurse

Volume 8, Issue 7 • May 13, 2013
www.usuhs.edu



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The Pulse is printed by USU's Duplicating Center.

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The Pulse is funded by the Department of Defense and published by the Uniformed Services University. It is authorized for members of the U.S. military services, USU alumni, faculty and staff. Contents of the Pulse are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the DoD or USU. Appearance of anything resembling advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, USU or Pulse staff members.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs. The editor reserves the right to edit articles to conform to DoD policy and Associated Press style. All photos are DoD photos unless otherwise indicated.

The Pulse will be published bi-weekly on Mondays. The deadline for submissions is at 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Submissions can be sent to christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu or 301-295-3338.



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

On the cover

White coats are symbols of the medical profession, and donning them is a way to formally recognize each students' commitment to a career in medicine with a focus on patient-centered care. (See photo essay, pp. 4-5.)



USU offers Faculty Development Certificate for Medical Educators

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

Dr. Brian Reamy, associate dean of faculty and co-chair of the Faculty Development Advisory Council, presented Diane Borst, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, with a Faculty Development Certificate in Practical Skills for Medical Educators.

Like the students they teach, instructors at the Uniformed Services University are learners, too. Which is why USU is offering a Faculty Development Certificate in Practical Skills for Medical Educators.

The program, developed by the Faculty Development Advisory Council, is designed to improve academic scholarship and teacher proficiency across several modules, including educator skills, feedback and assessment, research skills, career development and progression, and academic leadership.

“The key is to improve their skills as teachers,” said Dr. Brian Reamy, associate dean of faculty and co-chair of the Faculty Development Advisory Council.

In order to receive USU’s Faculty Development Certificate, faculty members must complete 30 hours of coursework for a Certificate in Medical Education, and 70 hours of coursework for a Certificate of Advanced Expertise in Medical Education. They must also take at least one course in every module to earn their certificate.

Each module targets a different teaching competency, and the curriculum is presented using various instructional methods, from

small-group discussions to case studies to seminars and lectures.

Although still relatively new, the program has been hugely successful already. USU faculty members have logged nearly 700 hours of instruction, and 12 certificates have been awarded.

“These sessions were informative and helpful. In addition, while attending the workshops, you meet other members of the USU community who share your interests,” said Diane Borst, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, who recently earned her certificate. “I encourage other faculty members to pursue this certification. The faculty development program provides the skills and motivation to become a better medical educator.”

The next faculty development course, which is open to all faculty, both billeted and non-billeted, is called “Research Skills: Writing Specific Aims,” and takes place on May 23 at 11:30 a.m. in Building A, Lecture Room C.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Brian Reamy at brian.reamy@usuhs.edu.

USU Researchers investigate perceived mental health disparities in pilot community

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Chris Willis

Researchers at the Uniformed Services University and the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center conducted research to see if any mental health disparities exist in the pilot community.

Military pilots have challenging jobs. That's why the armed forces choose only the very best officers to fill these coveted positions. Still, pilots are not infallible. Like service members in all professions, workplace stressors can weigh heavily on their mental wellbeing. This can lead to serious behavioral health problems, like anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

No flying group is exempt, either. Both land- and air-based pilots are diagnosed with mental health disorders every year. The degree and frequency between the groups, however, has become popular fodder in the press recently, with several news outlets reporting that drone pilots suffer more.

In an effort to better understand this health disparity, researchers at the Uniformed Services University and Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center investigated the problem. Their

retrospective cohort study yielded surprising results.

"There was no significant difference in the rates of mental health outcomes between remotely piloted aircraft and deployed manned aircraft pilots," said Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Bryant Webber, a graduate student in USU's General Preventive Medicine and Public Health Residency.

Webber and his research partner, Jean Otto, PhD, a senior epidemiologist at AFHSC, analyzed data on more than 5,000 Air Force pilots who flew aircraft – either while deployed to combat or remotely from U.S. bases. The data – adjusted for age, number of deployments, time in service and prior mental health problems – showed no statistically significant discrepancies for any mental health outcomes, including PTSD, anxiety disorders or depressive disorders, within the pilot community.

"Our study was impactful, because it cleared up a lot of misconceptions and tempered some of the media sensationalism surrounding this issue," said Webber. "The military gains from this research in others ways, too. It gives them a better purview of where their money and resources should go, which is toward understanding and solving legitimate health care problems in the DoD."

Although Webber helped dispel a common myth, his research also raised interesting questions, which could lead to new discoveries.

"Although the data haven't been adjusted, our research seemed to indicate that Air Force pilots as a whole are less likely to be diagnosed with a mental health problem than airmen in other occupations," said Webber. "It would be interesting to find out why."

Webber has a few theories already, but he's not assuming anything. After all, he's been surprised before.

USU celebrates White Coat Ceremony

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The White Coat Ceremony is an annual tradition at the Uniformed Services University. It represents an important milestone for USU students, who have completed their first year of medical school and have thereby earned the privilege to wear the coveted white coats of their chosen profession.



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

The Dermatones, USU's official a capella singing group, performed the National Anthem at the White Coat Ceremony on April 26.



Photo by Sharon Willis

Students recite the Oath of Hippocrates after donning their white coats for the first time.



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

At the event, Dr. Richard MacDonald, associate dean for Student Affairs at USU, shared the history and meaning of the White Coat Ceremony. "The White Coat Ceremony is a seminal moment in the process of professional formation for medical students, not only at USU, but across our entire nation," he said. "This ceremony was nationally developed by Dr. Arnold P. Gold, and the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine, where the accent and theme are intended to emphasize the importance of the very human and professional relationship between patients and physicians."



Photo by Thomas C. Barlow

Army Brig. Gen. (P.) (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, commanding general of U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, Maryland, was the keynote speaker at this year's White Coat Ceremony. During his speech, Carvalho—a member of USU's graduating class of 1983—offered important advice to the medical students participating in this year's event. "With everything you do, pour your heart and soul into it," he said. "You are the future of military medicine, and the nation is depending on you."



Photo by Thomas C. Barlow

Hundreds of family and friends attended this year's White Coat Ceremony.



Photo by Thomas C. Barlow

First-year medical students affix the Humanism in Medicine pin to their white coats.



Photo by Thomas C. Barlow

Word on Campus

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Uniformed Services University is home to many remarkable nurses who deserve special recognition, especially during National Nurses Week, which began on May 6.

Pulse staff members are thankful for your work and service. We also want to know why you chose a career in nursing.



“My mom was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma when I was six years old. It was the nurses who made a difference in my life and the quality of life for my mother. I still remember the name of one particular nurse who always addressed my sister and me. I knew from that point on that I was going to become a nurse. As a nurse, you never know the impact that you will have on someone’s life.”

Army Lt. Col. Michelle Munroe, *commandant and assistant dean for Student Affairs in the Graduate School of Nursing*



“I first got into nursing because it was the quickest way to get out of my parents’ house. Once I started nursing school, I knew this is what I wanted to do. I still can’t imagine doing anything else but taking care of those in harm’s way.”

Army Maj. Thomas Rawlings, *assistant director of the Clinical Nurse Specialist program*



“I was an armor officer, and through profound experiences in Desert Storm, I had some exposure to the medical community. That touched me more than what I was doing, and it exposed me to a different challenge that had personal meaning.”

Air Force Maj. Scott Christie, *student in the Family Nurse Practitioner program*



“As a child, I went with my mother, who was a University of Kansas nurse, to her job as an office nurse. I loved what she did and wanted to follow in her footsteps. She is 100 years old now and is still a role model for me.”

Ada Sue Hinshaw, PhD, *dean of the Graduate School of Nursing*



“When I was nine years old and standing in the pulpit of the Baptist church I grew up in, one of the deacons asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I said a nurse. I always knew that I was predestined to help mankind, but when I declared my specific contribution to serving mankind, in one of the most precious places in my church, to one of the most loved deacons, my destiny was set.”

Sandra Garmon Bibb, *DNSc, associate professor and associate dean for Faculty Affairs in the Graduate School of Nursing*



“I want to take care of people and help them. Also, I was enlisted

before, and the Air Force helped pay for my education in a field I love.”

Air Force Capt. Michelle Tibetts, *student in the Family Nurse Practitioner program*

Contract specialist pursues challenges on and off duty

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Courtesy Photo

Stephen Enokida, a contract specialist at the Uniformed Services University, is an avid snowboarder, and even attended a week-long camp for extreme athletes.

Stephen Enokida, a contract specialist at the Uniformed Services University, is a great business advisor. His tough negotiation skills and keen ability to find good deals save Uncle Sam thousands of dollars every year.

These talents keep him very busy. Enokida's office awards thousands of contracts for new computers, office furniture, stethoscopes, text books, virtual-reality technology, and every other big and small item that USU needs to run smoothly.

Although Enokida's work is demanding – especially toward the end of the fiscal year, when purchase requests come in daily droves – he enjoys being challenged.

"I love my work," Enokida said. "We're really busy, and there's always a lot to learn, especially at a place like USU."

But, Enokida's business acumen – good as it may be – doesn't transcend Fridays. Instead, his weekends are spent snowboarding and surfing, his favorite activities.

"There's nothing else I'd rather do," he said.

For Enokida, riding waves and mountains are freeing experiences. Solicitations, end users and requisitions don't exist when he's on a surf or snow board. A smooth ride and nailing

the next daring stunt are the only things that matter.

He's good, too. Enokida is an expert rider, who can do all kinds of tricks, including roundhouse cutbacks and getting barreled on his surf board and a backflip and nose press on his snowboard.

Enokida has taught some of these tricks to less experienced riders, as well. Before coming to USU, he worked as a surf instructor in Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. He also competed in local surf competitions,

and even placed 8th in the highly competitive Chesapeake Surf and Skate Annual Cold Water Classic.

Still, Enokida hasn't reached his peak performance, yet. The former teacher recently became a student at a snowboarding camp for extreme athletes in Oregon, where he spent a week developing new skills and testing his limits.

"I got to ride snow in April, and learn some new tricks," Enokida said. "It was pretty incredible."

Back at work again, Enokida has stowed his boards away, and he's ready to keep USU moving. He's got a dozen requisitions that need to be researched and turned into contracts. It's a tall order, but Enokida's business side has taken over...for now.



Courtesy Photo

Enokida enjoys surfing in his free time.

Countdown to Commencement Trivia Question #2



The Uniformed Services University's commencement has been held at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall more than any other place. However, it hasn't been the only venue to host graduation.

The first person to correctly identify two additional venues wins a large coffee and doughnut courtesy of the USU Cafeteria. Responses can be e-mailed to Christine.Creenan-Jones@usuhs.edu.

Save the Date Research Days Celebrating Excellence in Research June 11, 2013



Research Days 2013
May 14th - 15th



Celebrating
Excellence
in Research



The Presidential Lecture:
Harvey V. Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D.
President, Institute of Medicine
"Doctors as Decision Makers: Coping with
Uncertainty and Human Nature"
Wednesday, May 14th



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
of the Health Sciences

Final Frame



Courtesy Photo

The archives at the Uniformed Services University is celebrating the life of Dr. Kenneth Kinnamon, former USU professor, associate dean for Operations, and director of several departments, through an exhibit currently on display in the Learning Resource Center. Kinnamon was a member of the USU community since its founding and in 2004 served as editor of "The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences: First Generation Reflections, a history of USU." Kinnamon passed away in December of 2012.