

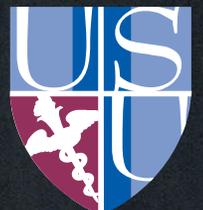
The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

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**USU alumnus among
NASA's 2013 Astronaut
Candidate Class**



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Courtesy photo

On the cover

Army Major (Dr.) Andrew "Drew" Morgan (bottom row, second photo) was among the eight individuals selected as NASA's newest astronaut candidates. Morgan is USU's first alumnus to be selected for the astronaut program. (See story on page 2)



To Infinity and Beyond: USU alumnus selected for America's newest astronaut class

By Sharon Willis, managing editor and deputy vice president for External Affairs

The late Space Shuttle Columbia astronaut Navy Capt. (Dr.) David M. Brown once said, "I remember growing up thinking that astronauts and their job was the coolest thing you could possibly do... But I absolutely couldn't identify with the people who were astronauts. I thought they were movie stars."

A lot of people hold today's astronauts in the same high regard. Within days of being named by NASA officials as one of America's newest astronaut candidates, USU alumnus Army Maj. (Dr.) Andrew "Drew" Morgan was already getting requests for his autograph.

Morgan, a USU class of 2002 graduate and Military and Emergency Medicine department assistant professor whose previous experience includes serving as an emergency physician and flight surgeon for the Army special operations community, was among the eight military and civilian astronaut trainees selected out of more than 6,100 applicants by NASA for their 2013 class.

"We are thrilled, but not surprised, that one of our graduates has been chosen on the basis of his past achievements and future promise," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D. "We are very proud of Drew's selection as a NASA astronaut candidate."

"I am very proud to represent USU, military medicine, Army medicine and the Special Operations medical community," said Morgan, who is the first USU alumnus and Army physician selected for the program. "Military service members make



Courtesy photo

Army Maj. (Dr.) Andrew Morgan, USU's first graduate and the first Army physician selected for the astronaut program, provides medical assistance to Afghan civilians during his 2009 deployment.

great astronaut candidates because we are taught discipline, perseverance, teamwork and coolness under pressure from the earliest points in our careers. In my class, six of the eight of us are either active duty or had extensive military backgrounds. That says a lot for the type of people in today's military and the experiences that it provides."

Morgan will report to Johnson Space Center in Houston in August with his fellow astronaut trainees and will receive a wide array of technical training at space centers around the globe to prepare for missions to low-Earth orbit, an asteroid and Mars.

"These new space explorers asked to join NASA because they know we're doing big, bold things here -- developing missions to go farther into space than ever before," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. "They're excited about the science we're doing on the International Space Station and our plan to launch from U.S. soil to there on spacecraft built by American companies. And they're ready to help

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USU takes part in Cancer Awareness Day

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, Writer



Photo by MC2 Brittney Cannady



Photo by Bernard S. Little

The John P. Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center hosted a Cancer Awareness Day, June 24.

The John P. Murtha Cancer Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center sponsored a Cancer Awareness Day, June 24. The event highlighted cancer research, education and patient care.

It also featured lectures from leading cancer experts, including an emotional talk from Dr. John McManigle, acting dean of USU's School of Medicine, who has a unique perspective on the disease.

"I'm a cancer survivor. I've lain in the hospital bed, sat in the chemo chair for six months, and now I'm in the recovery phase where the mantra is live life to the fullest," he said before imploring people with cancer to seek help from places like the Murtha Cancer Center.

Army Col. (Dr.) Craig Shriver, director of the Murtha Cancer Center and a professor of surgery at USU, also spoke at the event. Shriver shared some of the center's future goals, including receiving a comprehensive cancer center designation, which has only been granted to 41 cancer centers worldwide.

"The key to our success will be education and continued collaboration with USU and NIH," Shriver said.

The Murtha Cancer Center, which was named a Defense Center of Excellence in 2012, is moving toward this designation by offering patient-focused care, engaging in cutting-edge research, delivering an extensive array of patient education and collaborating with other agencies to offer cutting-edge resources to fight the battle against cancer.

USU is an integral part of Murtha's pioneering cancer work. The university is both the education and research arm of the center with several ongoing studies aimed at developing new cancer medication, improved diagnostics and other methods for improving survivorship.

This multipronged approach is designed to help servicemembers and military beneficiaries with cancer. Air Force Lt. Col. Corea Smith, a guest speaker at the event, is one of them.

Smith was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011 and began wearing wigs after she lost her hair during chemotherapy treatments. She wore a bright pink one to Cancer Awareness Day, and spoke about the importance of quality cancer treatment.

Dr. John McManigle, acting dean of the School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, discusses his battle with cancer during Cancer Awareness Day at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"We as patients appreciate the care because it helps us focus on the other things going on when you're diagnosed with cancer. I look forward to the awesome things that the Murtha center is doing," she said.

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More than 40 students graduate from USU's Postgraduate Dental College

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

June was an exciting month for students in the Postgraduate Dental College at the Uniformed Services University. More than 40 military dentists earned a Master of Science in Oral Biology after completing rigorous two- and three-year training programs in comprehensive dentistry, endodontics, oral and maxillofacial pathology, periodontics, orthodontics or prosthodontics.

Since the PDC is comprised of three separate Army, Navy and Air Force schools at satellite campuses across the country, the graduation ceremonies

were held on various military installations throughout the month of June.

Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU, conferred degrees at ceremonies held at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and Fort Bragg in North Carolina. Dr. Patrick Sculley, executive dean of the PDC, officiated at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Maryland and Fort Hood and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

"It was a real honor to be a part of the graduation ceremonies for the Postgraduate Dental College. All of USU's dental programs are extremely

challenging with strong didactic, clinical and research components woven into every curriculum. Meeting these benchmarks is difficult, but USU's newest alumni achieved this feat through hard work and dedication. It's a big accomplishment for them, but an even greater benefit for military medicine as a whole, since America's warriors and their families benefit from USU's graduate education programs, as well," said Sculley.

Currently, 72 military dentists have graduated from the PDC, which fell under USU auspices in 2010.

USU alumnus receives second star

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Courtesy photo

Army Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, Jr.

Army Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, Jr., commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, is the Uniformed Services Univer-

sity's newest alumnus to wear two stars. He was promoted to major general on July 2.

Carvalho's promotion comes on the heels of many successful leadership roles. After graduating from

USU's medical school in 1983, he eventually became the chief of cardiology at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. Carvalho went on to serve as the deputy commander for Clinical Services at Womack Army Medical Center in North Carolina, the commanding general for Great Plains Regional Medical Command in Texas and the commanding general for Northern Regional Medical Center in Virginia.

Furthermore, Carvalho, a certified nuclear cardiologist, also completed several operational medical tours in the U.S. and abroad and deployed to Iraq on two separate occasions. During his second deployment to

Iraq, Carvalho was the surgeon for both Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

His accomplishments – which earned Carvalho the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal – are the result of a strong early foundation, including the formative training he received at USU.

"I cannot possibly repay USU fully for what she – an institution comprised of passionate and compassionate military medicine leaders – has done for me. I couldn't have asked for a better launch for my Army Medicine career. I will be forever proud of my alma mater," said Carvalho.



Save the Date
August 15, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.

Festival of Cultures

The festival will include food and beverages, music, face painting, clowns and other family-friendly activities.

GSN seeks USU input for CCNE accreditation

Courtesy of the Graduate School of Nursing

The Graduate School of Nursing is pleased to invite members of the Uniformed Services University to submit written comments to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as part of the GSN's accreditation process.

In 2012, the GSN admitted its first class of Doctor of Nursing Practice students and is making application for initial accreditation of this program. The GSN will host a visit of the CCNE accreditation team from September 25-27.

The CCNE is officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency, and it is an autonomous agency that specifically accredits baccalaureate and graduate degree nursing programs. The CCNE accreditation evaluation consists of a review of the program's mission, goals and expected outcomes. It assesses the performance of the program

in achieving the mission and goals through the most effective utilization of available resources, programs and administration. CCNE's evaluation process also includes a review of evidence concerning the application of these resources in assisting the students in attaining their educational goals, as well as a review of comments from the program's community of interest, which includes students, faculty, advisory board members and staff members.

Over the past year, GSN faculty have been conducting an internal self-study by evaluating and comparing the curriculum of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program to CCNE advanced practice nurse accreditation standards, and national education standards for the Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner programs. The GSN will submit this self-study to

CCNE in August as part of the accreditation process.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to submit comments directly to CCNE as a member of the GSN's community of interest. CCNE will share these comments with the members of the accreditation team, who will consider the comments in each review of the DNP program. However, at no time during the review process will the comments be shared with the GSN. Written and signed comments regarding the quality of the GSN's DNP program, mission, goals, curricula, outcomes and qualifications for accreditation will be accepted by CCNE until August 26, 2013 at:

*Catherine Sneed
Accreditation Coordinator
Commission on Collegiate
Nursing Education
1 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530
Washington, DC, 20036*

USU alumni nearly sweep awards during Research and Innovation Week

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Several graduates from the Uniformed Services University won prestigious awards during Research and Innovation Week at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center recently, nearly sweeping the competition.

University graduates competed against military and civilian researchers for Robert A. Phillips and Bailey K. Ashford Awards, which recognize research excellence in several different categories. USU's winners include:

Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) Kevin O'Meara, a class of 1999 graduate, who earned the RAP Laboratory Fellow Research Award for his presentation, "Adaptive Cellular Response to Chronic Inflammation in the Gut Mucosa Stem Cell Compartment;"

Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Candace Percival, a class of 2005 graduate, who earned the RAP Clinical Fellow Research Award for her presentation, "Obese Adolescents and Allergic Disease: Is there a Role for Adipokines?;"

Army Capt. (Dr.) Ashleigh Pavey, a class of 2011 graduate, who earned the RAP Clinical Resident Research Award for her presentation, "Birth and Early Infant Outcomes in Families with Intimate Partner Violence;"

Army Capt. (Dr.) Elizabeth Polfer, a class of 2009 graduate, who earned the RAP Clinical Laboratory Resident Award for her presentation, "Development of a Rat Model for Post-Traumatic Heterotopic Ossification;"



Courtesy photo

Alumni from the Uniformed Services University walked away with eight of the 11 awards given during Research and Innovation Week at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Shana Miles, a class of 2012 graduate, who earned the RAP award for her poster, "Utility of Field Expedient PCR for Diagnosis of Travelers' Diarrhea Caused by Enterotoxigenic Escherichia Coli;"

Army Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Tracy, a class of 2008 graduate, who earned the BKA Award for his poster,

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Astronaut class...

Continued from page 2

lead the first human mission to an asteroid and then on to Mars.”

Morgan’s journey towards space began shortly after the final Space Shuttle launch in April 2011. After the launch, many Americans, including Morgan, felt there was some uncertainty about the future of the program, particularly when or if a new class of astronauts would be fielded.

“I always had an interest in space and dreamed of becoming an astronaut . . . but I realized that it wasn’t a realistic goal that I could plan my career around, so I never thought it would really happen. I took my son to the last Shuttle launch in Florida, and I said to him ‘I don’t think I’ll get to be an astronaut, so maybe you can make it instead.’ But within a couple of months, NASA sent out an announcement seeking applicants, so I applied,” Morgan said. Active duty members were directed to apply through their respective service, while an announcement was simultaneously placed on USAJOBS.gov.

It took NASA more than nine months to cull through the thousands of applications they received. They eventually narrowed the field to 120 and Morgan received a phone call letting him know he had made the cut. Morgan’s background in emergency medicine and Special Operations, along with his diving, airborne, military freefall, and flight surgery qualifications and experience were instrumental in helping his packet stand out above so many others.

The applicants were divided into two groups for interviews. Morgan was among the second group and during the three-day process he underwent psychological testing, cursory medical testing, and interviews before a panel made up of astronauts and other NASA employees.

Three more months went by without word. In the meantime, Morgan was finishing his civilian

deferred sports medicine fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University/Fairfax Family Practice, led by USU alumnus (’84) Thomas Howard, MD, and had received orders for his new duty assignment in Germany.

In February, 2013, Morgan got another phone call letting him know that the applicants had been further reduced to 50 and that he was among the finalists. He reported to Johnson Space Center in Houston again, this time for a full week of testing – more psychological and medical tests, along with language aptitude testing and an extensive physical examination.

Afterward, Morgan once again returned to Virginia and resumed his fellowship training, again hearing nothing for more than four months as NASA officials went through the daunting process of narrowing the field down to a mere eight astronaut candidates. He and his family focused on their upcoming move to Germany, but Morgan held out hope for a change in plans.

“My family knew I was applying to the astronaut program,” he said. “I told them, ‘we’re moving to Germany, but there is a small chance we could be moving to Texas.’”

In mid-June, he was standing in the hallway of a local area high school having just finished teaching a class on physical examination skills when he got a phone call. It was veteran astronaut and director of NASA Flight Crew Operations Dr. Janet Kavandi, who had served as the chair of the selection board.

“She said, ‘I want to know if you want to come down to Houston to be a part of our team.’ I got a little choked up and said, ‘Absolutely!’”

Morgan then turned off his phone so that he would not be tempted to call anyone and went home to break the news in person to his wife, Stacey, and their four children.

“They were excited about going to Germany, so I said, ‘I have bad news and I have good news. The bad news is that there will be no three-year “vacation” in Germany. The good news

is that I’m going to be an astronaut and we’ll be moving to Texas and not have to move again for a really long time!” Morgan said his wife shed tears of joy and his son simply smiled and gave him a “that’s cool” look.

Morgan’s relatives, colleagues, friends and acquaintances, as well as strangers, also thought it was cool. NASA made the public announcement on June 17 and Morgan started receiving calls and emails of congratulations and autograph requests from all over the country. His new celebrity status hasn’t gone to his head, though. Once he’s reported for duty at Johnson Space Center, Morgan said he’ll be surrounded by dozens of current, veteran or former astronauts serving in a number of different capacities.

The new class of astronaut candidates reports to the space center in August to begin their two-year training program to become Mission Specialists. The program consists of language immersion (primarily Russian since all of the missions are now flown on Russian spacecraft), robotics, space walking, and flight training. Morgan said the non-pilots, like himself, will be sent to Pensacola to go through the Navy’s flight training curriculum and they will use the T-38 Talon twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet to train. The astronaut class will do most of their work at Johnson Space Center, but will also spend time at Kennedy Space Center and Goddard Space Center in the U.S., and with their international partners in Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan.

After the initial two-year training is completed, Morgan will be assigned to a NASA directorate as a “full-fledged astronaut” until it’s his turn to go into space. He estimates about 8-10 years before he’ll make his first flight. NASA plans to send this newest crop of space stars beyond low Earth orbit, surpassing Skylab, the Space Shuttles, and the International Space Station to explore an asteroid or Mars...to infinity and beyond.

Trivia Answer #1 Graduate School of Nursing 20th Anniversary

Congratulations to Kristen Brown, a paralegal in the Office of General Counsel, who correctly answered last issue's trivia question:

Do you know which GSN program was the first to enroll students?

Brown's response, the Family Nurse Practitioner Program, is correct. The first group of FNP students enrolled in the Uniformed Services University in 1993.

Research Awards...

Continued from page 3

"Exploration of a Novel Therapeutic Target in a Murine Model of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Targeting Sphingosine-1-phosphate (S1P) Receptors;"

Army Maj. (Dr.) Gary Levy, a class of 2006 graduate, who earned the BKA Award for his poster, "Liarazole inhibits transforming growth factor-beta 3 mediated extracellular matrix formation in human 3-dimensional leiomyoma cultures," and

Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Bryant Webber, a class of 2010 graduate, who earned the BKA award for his poster, "Prevalence of and Risk Factors for Autopsy-Determined Atherosclerosis among U.S. Service Members, 2001-2011."

USU alumni made a huge impression at WRNMMC's research competition, walking away with eight of the 11 awards given during Research and Innovation Week.

"The results of this research competition further demonstrate the talent and ingenuity of our graduates. They stand out among even the brightest minds, and USU is proud to have played a role in their education," said Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU.

FMIG's Apollo Society holds "Open Mic" session

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer



Photo by Navy Ensign Brian Andrew

Medical students, Navy Ensign Jeffrey Spiro, Air Force 2nd Lt. Solomon Tong and Air Force 2nd Lt. Hakeem Hindi, formed a group called Love Triangle. They performed a number called "Untitled Break Up Song" during an Open Mic event held at the Uniformed Services University, June 25.

Students, faculty and staff stopped by Lecture Hall E to watch the people of the Uniformed Services University show off a different set of skills during an "Open Mic" event, June 25.

During the "Open Mic," several members of the USU community performed original pieces, popular songs, short stories and other creative expressions. Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Stephens, chair of the Department of Family Medicine, recited poetry, including an inspiring work called, "An Ode to Uncertainty."

Air Force Lt. Col. Jackie Killian, a student in the Graduate School of Nursing, sang Martina McBride's hit song, "Independence Day," which has a nostalgic meaning to her.

"My mom and family in San Antonio like me to sing this song during karaoke, so I hope you guys like it," she said.

Other singing performances included renditions of Billy Joel's "And So it Goes," and Goyte's "Somebody That I Used to Know," performed by

the Dermatones, an acapella singing group at USU. Love Triangle – an original band formed by three medical students – also sang "Untitled Breakup Song," a number they wrote a week before the event.

The Open Mic event, which also included a hand-crafted jewelry display, was sponsored by the Apollo Society of USU's Family Medicine Interest Group to highlight art and science. It was formed by Navy Ensigns Colin Smith and Brian Andrew.

"We enjoyed talking to each other about literature, movies and our own writing, and we were curious whether other members of the USU community were also interested in the arts. Since there was not a humanities interest group yet founded at USU, we submitted a proposal to found the Apollo Society," said Andrew.

The Apollo Society plans to continue hosting regular "Open Mic" sessions in the future and have already begun planning one for September.

Final Frame



Photo by MC2 Brittany Kennedy

Dive physiology labs are part of the Uniformed Services University's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine curriculum. This unique training includes cold water immersion to help students understand how the human body functions in extreme environments.