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the pulse

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Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

On the cover

Second-year medical students at the Uniformed Services University took part in a unique field-training exercise designed to teach advanced military medical skills. Read more about their training on page 4.



Kellermann named new dean of medical school

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

Dr. Arthur Kellermann, a senior policy analyst at the RAND Corporation in Washington, D.C., has been named the new dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University following a year-long search.

Kellermann will be responsible for the undergraduate medical education of more than 640 uniformed medical students and more than 240 military and civilian graduate students each year.

“The search committee was extremely thorough in its efforts to find the best candidate to lead the School of Medicine, and Dr. Kellermann rose to the top of a very competitive field,” said Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU. “In addition to being one of the nation’s leading experts in emergency medicine and public health, Dr. Kellermann is a recognized expert in health policy. His vast experience will be invaluable to the future of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, and to USU, and we are very pleased that he will be joining us.”

Kellermann is equally enthusiastic to join the USU community.

“I am humbled and excited by the opportunity,” he said. “In many regards, USU is America’s medical school – it has a unique mission, an exceptional faculty and an amazing group of students from across the United States. I am honored to join the team.”

Kellermann’s career is anchored in academic medicine and public health. Before joining RAND, a nonprofit research organization where he is the Paul O’Neill Alcoa chair in policy analysis, he was a professor of emergency medicine and public health and an associate dean for health policy at the Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta. He founded Emory’s Department of Emergency Medicine and served as its first chair from 1999 to 2007. He established the Emory Center for Injury Control, and holds “Excellence in Science” awards from



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Arthur Kellermann

two organizations: the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services Section of the American Public Health Association.

A two-term member of the board of directors of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Kellermann was subsequently given ACEP’s highest award for leadership. Elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999, Kellermann co-chaired the IOM Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance, which issued six reports between 2001 and 2004. He also served on the IOM’s Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health System and the Committee on Effectiveness of National Biosurveillance Systems: BioWatch and the Public Health System.

Kellermann currently serves on the IOM’s Governing Council. A clinician and researcher, he practiced and taught emergency medicine for more than 25 years in public teaching hospitals in Seattle, Atlanta and Memphis, Tenn. His research has addressed a wide range of issues, including health care spending and information technology, prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury, the synergy between emergency care and public health, and disaster preparedness.

Shopping trip turns into trauma management practicum for military medical students

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



Navy Ensign John Hunt and Army 2nd Lt. Wells Weymouth practiced the life-saving techniques they recently learned in class at the Uniformed Services University during a trip to Sam's Club, after an elderly man drove through the store wall and injured several bystanders.

A seemingly routine trip to a local store became an extraordinary test of skill and character for two Uniformed Services University medical students when a terrible accident left a wake of destruction and several lives in the balance.

Army 2nd Lt. Wells Weymouth, from Tampa, Fla., and Navy Ensign John Hunt, from Cypress, Calif., had recently completed their first year of medical school and decided to take a combat medical skills course as their summer operational rotation. The class – focused primarily on the kinds of trauma management skills military healthcare providers need in a combat theater of operations – is one example of the specialized courses USU offers as part of its unique curriculum, and the second such course the pair had taken within the previous four months.

Weymouth and Hunt had just begun the second phase when they volunteered

to make a run to a nearby Sam's Club in Gaithersburg, Md., to pick up hot dogs that were going to be used for a lesson on wound debridement.

The officers made their purchases, stopped at the concession stand for a quick bite to eat, and made their way toward the exit when they heard a loud explosion. Their first thought was that a bomb had gone off. Instead, they turned to see that a car, driven by a 77-year old man, had crashed through the store's exterior wall. The car stopped in front of the concession stand, where Wells and Hunt had purchased their lunches minutes earlier.

"We heard this giant explosion and we looked over and there was just dust coming out of the concession stand and then we see a car coming at maybe 20-30 miles per hour into Sam's Club," said Hunt. "We heard screaming and a lot of noise, and then the car eventually stopped against a

pallet of Gatorade. I saw two people go down immediately."

For a brief moment, the students looked at each other, stunned by the scene they'd just witnessed. But their hesitation didn't last long. Weymouth and Hunt ran over to the vehicle to see if they could help. Once the dust settled, they saw two casualties.

Hunt and Weymouth asked the first victim, a man in his 30s, how he was doing. The man pointed to his chest, so they quickly assessed his condition, checked his pulse and for any blood loss. He appeared to be stable, so they turned their attention to the second victim, 76-year-old Dimas Chavez.

Chavez was conscious and spoke to them in Spanish. Weymouth reassured him in Spanish that things would be okay, and they were there to help. Soon after, the students discovered that Chavez was hemorrhaging and that one of his legs was nearly severed in the crash.

Their course work at USU suddenly became more relevant than ever. Hunt and Weymouth removed their belts and used them as tourniquets to stem the bleeding. It didn't stop, so they requested additional belts from nearby shoppers and were eventually successful in slowing the blood loss.

"We maintained pressure on the wound and used our belts and other people's belts as makeshift tourniquets before the paramedics and firefighters arrived," says Weymouth.

One of the pair continued to apply pressure while the other called for scissors or a knife to cut the man's clothing to check for additional injuries.

"He was breathing fine," Weymouth continued. "We just went through the mental checklist of lifesaving procedures that we could accomplish during that time."

Soon after, emergency crews arrived on scene. Hunt and Weymouth

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Realistic field training resonates with medical students

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Photo by Thomas C. Ballfour

During field training, students had the opportunity to perform a variety of surgical procedures on live patients using Cut Suit technology, a system that simulates traumatic injuries and allows role players to react to their battle injuries in a realistic fashion.

The tranquil woods surrounding the Uniformed Services University became a makeshift battlefield as “war fighters” grappled with life-threatening injuries under a canopy of densely wooded ferns this summer. They were shot, impaled, and blown up – and only USU’s second-year medical students could save them.

The harrowing simulation – designed to replicate common injuries of modern-century war – was part of the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine’s innovative field training known as FTX 201.

“As the country’s only military medical school, we think it’s important for our students to know advanced combat medical skills,” said Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Craig Goolsby, an assistant professor in MEM and the Combat

Medical Skills course director. “This exercise was designed to give them a realistic frontline experience with exposure to the kind of combat trauma that has been prevalent in theater operations for the past 10 years.”

Creating authentic lesson plans has always been a priority for MEM, and this year faculty members pushed battlefield realism to a new level with Cut Suit technology. The specially-designed suits are equipped with broken bones, skin lacerations, arterial hemorrhages and blocked airways. During FTX 201, teaching assistants wore them so USU’s medical students could perform real procedures on human “patients” in a field environment.

“Sitting in a classroom and practicing on a dummy doesn’t utilize

leadership and teamwork skills like working on a screaming, writhing patient in a simulation,” said Ensign Allison Coates, a second-year medical student, who took part in the summer field training exercise. Her classmate, Army 2nd Lt. Daniel Lammers, agrees.

“The ability to work with real patients and “live” tissue is something that is unparalleled by anything else. The feel, sounds and movements are all components of the uncertainty real patients bring forth that simply cannot be mimicked by any sort of mannequin. Not only that, the ability to look your patient in the eyes and directly communicate with them also develops a bond that strengthens your commitment to fight for the patient,” he said.

Although the tactile lessons during FTX 201 resonated with Coates and Lammers, it was only part of MEM’s innovative training. The two-week training session also included lectures and demonstrations. MEM’s manifold approach for teaching advanced military medical skills impressed top military leaders, including Dr. Eric Schoemaker, a scholar in residence at USU, who also served as surgeon general of the Army.

“I was very impressed with the students, some of whom were key teaching assistants and who effectively managed the pace and tasks required at each casualty site while the student-practitioners self-organized into small teams of a leader and well-informed “subordinate” team members. This permitted them to maintain a global view of the casualty while dividing up the individual components of the resuscitation sequence,” he said. “Taking opportunities like this one to build spontaneous and effective joint medical teams was an important feature of this field exercise, was mirrored in classroom phases of the course and is replicated throughout the four-year curriculum both in the classroom and on the field at USU.”

Shopping trip turns into trauma management practicum...

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continued their efforts, working alongside the fire and police personnel until the victims were taken from the scene and sent to local area hospitals. Chavez was airlifted to the University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. The other victim was taken to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, and a third person, who sustained only minor injuries, was taken to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Gaithersburg.

"I felt like we did the best we could. We were given great training and we just acted on instinct," said Hunt. "We just got in there really quick. I felt confident enough to get in there. Before this training, I probably couldn't have done that, at least not in the time that I did."

The manager of Sam's Club, Mark Sohm, praised the two officers. "Where other people didn't know or react, their military training immediately went into effect. It was a good reflection to the community, to everyone shopping here, about the military itself, and a pretty heroic action."

USU's leadership agreed.

"2nd Lt. Weymouth and Ensign Hunt are excellent examples of the caliber of students we have here at USU, and are a testament to the education and training offered at this university," said Dr. Charles Rice, president of USU. "In fact, two additional members of their medical school class also recently responded to emergency situations, using their newly-acquired knowledge and skills to help provide medical care and to save a life. We are extremely proud of 2nd Lt. Weymouth and Ensign Hunt, and all of our students."

After giving police officers their statements, Hunt and Weymouth returned to class to learn more life-saving techniques.

PDC expands with the addition of two new dental programs

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Dr. Patrick Sculley, executive dean of the Postgraduate Dental College at the Uniformed Services University, presented a USU-affiliation plaque to faculty members at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi.

The Uniformed Services University will begin awarding master's degrees in oral biology to officers who complete Comprehensive Dentistry and Endodontics programs at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi in 2015. In recognition of this new partnership, Dr. Patrick Sculley, executive dean of the Postgraduate Dental College,

presented a USU-affiliation plaque to faculty members at Keesler Air Force Base, Aug. 5.

"Keesler has a long history of providing quality postgraduate-level education to high-achieving military dentists. We are proud to maintain this tradition at USU as we welcome two new programs into our Postgraduate Dental College," said Sculley.

Trivia Answer #2: Graduate School of Nursing 20th Anniversary



Congratulations to Navy Capt. Mark Stephens, chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Uniformed Services University, for answering last issue's trivia question first: Can you name the charter dean of the Graduate School of Nursing?

His response, Dr. Faye Abdellah, is correct.

USU holds Festival of Cultures

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer

The Uniformed Services University community took time away from their typical work day to celebrate diversity at the third annual Festival of Cultures, Aug. 15. The event, held in the breezeway and courtyard of the university, included various forms of entertainment throughout the day. Those attending were treated to a variety of international foods, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, and face painting and a moon bounce for families with children.

“It’s important to learn about our different cultures and discover through food, art and socializing that we have so much in common,” said Edmund Burke, a program support specialist at USU and Festival of Cultures planning committee member. “The Festival of Cultures gives us all an opportunity to globe-trot like Anthony Bourdain by sampling international food, enjoying international entertainment and learning a little bit more about lands near and far.”

Several members of the USU community volunteered as cultural ambassadors during the festival and showcased different customs from around the world. Members of the Hawai’i State Society Ukulele Hui of Washington and students from the University of Maryland’s Filipino Cultural Association also performed traditional dances and songs during the festival.

Those who took part in festivities tasted several different cuisines such as tamales, pupusas – a Salvadorian dish made from tortillas filled with pork, cheese or beans – roasted cassava, pot stickers, tea eggs and fried plantains.

The university’s brigade commander, Air Force Col. Kevin Glasz, was the festival’s guest speaker and took the opportunity to share his thoughts on embracing different cultures.

“When I first was asked to deliver words about diversity I was



Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

The annual Festival of Cultures at the Uniformed Services University celebrated the university’s diversity and showcased rituals, sports and forms of entertainment from around the world, including a tae kwon do demonstration by a local martial arts club.

excited. I began to reflect on my own background,” said Glasz, whose father and wife both immigrated to the United States. “This festival is about respect and respecting others. I encourage everyone to learn about someone different than themselves.”

Glasz also discussed his command philosophy: taking care of the mission, team and self as it relates to diversity. “I believe we are a stronger nation because we are a melting pot. Not everyone here is a scientist, doctor or researcher, but everyone contributes to the team,” he said. “Today we must renew our vow to break down barriers to inclusion and become more culturally intelligent.”

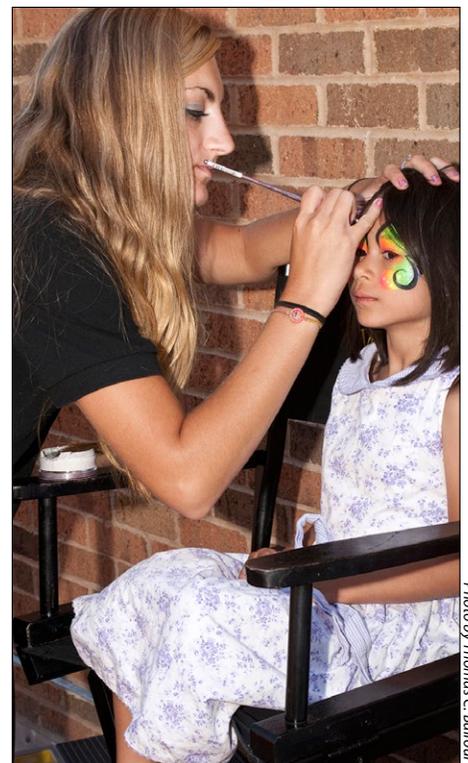


Photo by Thomas C. Balfour

The Festival of Cultures was a family-friendly event with diverse activities for participants of all ages.

Renowned USU faculty member donates Vietnam War Medical Collection to local museum

Courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Medicine



Photo Courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Medicine

Dr. Adrienne Noe, director of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Dr. Norman Rich (center), founding chair of the Department of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University, and Alan Hawk, the Historical Collections manager at NMHM, stand next to some of the Vietnam War-era objects donated by Rich to NMHM.

Ranging from a display board featuring bullets and fragments from explosive devices once embedded in the limbs of service members, to a Vietnamese pharmaceutical kit, Dr. Norman Rich, the founding chair and namesake of the Uniformed Services University's Department of Surgery, is in the process of donating the last of his impressive collection of Vietnam War-era medical items to the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Md.

Rich, a renowned vascular surgeon and career U.S. Army Medical Corps officer, set up a small medical museum within the 2nd Surgical Hospital in An Khe, Vietnam, while serving as chief of its department of surgery during the Vietnam War. The idea to create the museum occurred to Rich while reading "Wound Ballistics," a World War II and Korean War review of ballistics and wounding power. After

he finished reading the book, Rich decided to collect similar information for surgeons treating wounded service members in Vietnam.

Rich began asking for donations of bullets and other objects retrieved during surgery. When word spread of the project, Rich soon had enough items to begin compiling his medical museum. All branches of the American military services contributed, he said, and each item was saved, identified and catalogued. Reports were also made with a detailed description of the wound and the origin of the wounding object.

Rich's collection also includes several punji sticks – a type of wooded stake made of sharpened bamboo and primarily used in booby traps. Rich noted that he saw more than 200 punji stick wounds while serving at the 2nd Surgical Hospital.

After completing his tour of duty in Vietnam, Rich arranged for many of

the items he collected in Vietnam to be shipped to the National Museum of Health and Medicine, which at the time was called the Armed Forces Medical Museum and was an element of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, so the objects could be viewed by the public. A soldier's boot that was punctured by a punji stick is on display today in an exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Army Medical Museum, which is today's NMHM.

Rich also donated a mortar base, two flechettes, an M-79 grenade and thermometer bearing the words, "Made in the USSR." He chose to give his items to NMHM because Rich believed they would find a good home at the museum.

Alan Hawk, the collections manager for the Historical Collections division at NMHM, said Rich's collection and his establishment of a medical museum in Vietnam is similar to the Army Medical Museum's own founding.

"Dr. Rich's collection is in the tradition of the Army Medical Museum during the Civil War, preserving the wounding agents of war to inform contemporary and future military surgeons," Hawk said. "It is a very important collection, and we are glad to have it and be able to preserve it."

A graphic with a white background and a light blue border. At the top is the Twitter logo. Below it is the word "Twitter" in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath that is the text "Follow us at" in a smaller, bold, black font, followed by the URL "https://twitter.com/usuhspao" in a black font. At the bottom are four yellow stars.

Final Frame



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Incoming medical students were issued dozens of text books by the Multidisciplinary Laboratory staff, Aug. 21. The load was so large, most students brought suitcases to haul their books away.