

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

Volume 9, Issue 15 • August 18, 2014
www.usuhs.edu



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Pulse staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions

The Pulse is published biweekly 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 by calling 301-295-3338.

First-year students take part in ACME course

by MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer and photographer



Photo by MC2 Brittney Cannady

First-year medical students at the Uniformed Services University triage a critically wounded patient during a simulation exercise called the Advanced Combat Medical Experience, Aug. 12.

First-year students at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine are currently participating in a course that tests their ability to provide care under fire. The Advanced Combat Medical Experience, or ACME, focuses on enhancing necessary medical skills vital to personnel in combat zones.

“The goal of ACME is to develop and reinforce the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to perform effective pre-hospital assessment and stabilization of combat-wounded casualties. The students go through a series of Combat Medical Skills laboratory sessions during their first year of medical school,” said Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Craig Goolsby, ACME course director. “ACME is a chance to synthesize the knowledge and skills they have learned in an intensive, realistic, simulated casualty care environment.”

Over the course of the exercise, students must work together in teams of four and are tasked with providing medical support while

under fire from aggressors. Volunteers in cut suits play wounded patients and faculty and staff instructors evaluate each team on their ability to treat casualties, prevent further casualties and complete the mission – all important steps of the tactical combat casualty care sequence students learn at the Uniformed Services University.

Some of the medical procedures USU students practice include performing tracheostomies and inserting IVs in simulated combat environments. Working in teams, they also practice crisis communication techniques, develop strategic plans and implement pain management strategies.

“The team that worked on me definitely communicated back and forth with each other and told me what was going on with my injuries. I think they did a good job as a team and were knowledgeable,” said Army Sgt. Laura Kephart, a cut suit volunteer.

The ACME course ends August 20.



Photo by MC2 Brittney Cannady

On the cover

First-year students at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine practice life-saving medical procedures in simulated combat environments during the Advanced Combat Medical Experience. Read more about ACME on page 2.

Dr. Stephanie Petzing: A civilian trailblazer in military medicine

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Stephanie Petzing – a post-doctoral fellow at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University – has been living and breathing science for as long as she can remember. As a young girl, trips to the family farm doubled as her first biology lessons, and treks through Washington, D.C., museums were fodder for an ever-growing curiosity about worldly phenomena.

As time wore on, Petzing's passion for science intensified and eventually morphed into a career goal that gained major traction when she was accepted into USU's Emerging Infectious Disease Program in 2005 and joined the lab of Dr. Christopher Broder.

"I was very excited to come to USU because the mission is so unique and important here. The idea that I could help protect service members and civilians through science resonated with me on a personal level because my father and grandfather, a brigadier general, served in the Army, and I've always been incredibly proud of my military roots," she said.

As both a USU student and fellow, Petzing parlayed this pride into novel research while studying Cedar virus, a close cousin of the deadly Nipah and Hendra viruses. However, unlike its relatives, Cedar virus appears to be harmless to people and animals.

"We're studying the differences between Cedar, Nipah and Hendra viruses with the hopes of learning more about what makes the latter viruses so dangerous. Unfortunately, Nipah and Hendra outbreaks are fairly common in Australia and Southeast Asia, and



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Dr. Stephanie Petzing, a postdoctoral fellow at the Uniformed Services University, was recently awarded a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

since we have a strong U.S. military presence in these parts of the world, getting a handle on these deadly viruses is paramount," she said.

Although Petzing has been deeply invested in henipavirus research for the better part of a decade, she'll soon chase a new breakthrough after being awarded a coveted Science and Technology Policy Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science earlier this year.

As an AAAS Fellow, Petzing will use her scientific acumen to inform policy for the Department of Defense at the Pentagon while learning more about evidence-

based decision making at the federal level.

"Even though I'm really excited to turn a new scientific leaf, I'll definitely miss USU. I learned so much here. In fact, a large portion of my selection as an AAAS Fellow can be attributed to the skills and perspectives I gained here," said Petzing. "USU is well known as a military health sciences university, and the excellent civilian researchers who train and work here are a big part of that, too. I'm humbled to be a part of this exceptional peer group, and I know my USU education has prepared me well for the next phase of my career. I can't wait to get started."

Brigade enlisted “chat” with CMSAF Cody

by MC3 Laura Bailey, writer and photographer

Brigade staff members at the Uniformed Services University participated in a live “CHIEF Chat” with Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody at Defense Media Activity, Ft. Meade, Md., July 30.

CHIEF Chat, created by Cody, is an opportunity for airmen across the globe to have a direct connection to the CMSAF.

Of particular interest during the chat was the new Airman Comprehensive Assessment, a system introduced in July that will help implement the Weighted Airman Promotion System changes. The new ACA provides a tool and process to improve communication between supervisors and subordinates. With the numerous changes happening due to force restructuring, the CHIEF Chat also benefitted members from other services.

“A couple of brigade sailors and soldiers also attended the CHIEF Chat,” said Senior Master Sgt. Bon-

nie Sanchez, the superintendent of the Department of Family Medicine at USU. “It was important for them to hear what future changes are expected in our Air Force. Due to our tri-service environment at USU, we have many Air Force personnel who are supervised by sister service members and it is important that they are aware of these changes as they will have a direct impact on their subordinates’ careers.”

Members of the audience were invited to ask questions and voice their concerns which presented a unique opportunity for USU audience participants.

“I think this event was beneficial as it dispelled all of the rumors that are going around,” said Tech. Sgt. Rondriceaus Barlow, the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge in the Department of Psychiatry at USU. “We all know that changes are coming and most people fear

the unknown. It was very beneficial to hear what the changes are and the expected outcome of these changes directly from the source. It’s refreshing to know that they’re going to reward airmen for their performance, to learn that those people are going to be recognized who are actually going above and beyond as opposed to getting the same rating as their counterpart who didn’t do as much. That was by far the biggest take-away for me.”

Overall, CHIEF Chat was a positive experience for everyone involved.

“I felt so much pride in our organization,” said Sanchez. “...having our airmen, sailors and soldiers in attendance representing the Uniformed Services University in front of Air Force senior leadership, was our way of displaying unity and camaraderie as an integrated tri-service organization.”



Kelly receives Distinguished Service Award from ACCP

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Army Col. (Dr.) William Kelly, director of the Internal Medicine Clerkship at the Uniformed Services University, was lauded by the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) with a Distinguished Service Award for his leadership and contributions to the society recently.

Kelly – who serves as CHEST’s vice chair and chair-elect for Education – was recognized by the ACCP for developing games for medical education. These teaching platforms engage scholars at all levels through immersive computer technology. Kelly was also commended for producing the annual CHEST Challenge, a medical knowledge competition for fellows-in-training, now played internationally

“It’s been a privilege being able to serve with and learn from my colleagues in the CHEST organization ever since my own fellowship and I am grateful for Associate Dean Lisa Moore’s mentorship,” he said.

GSN receives maximum accreditation from CCNE

by MC3 Laura Bailey, writer

The Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University received the maximum allowable accreditation for its Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree programs earlier this year.

The rigorous accreditation process requires a self-study to ensure national standards are met in addition to an on-site evaluation and report conducted by an external committee. Those findings are then submitted to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education to determine whether or not the school meets the standards and then to decide the number of years for which the accreditation will be awarded.

Receiving the maximum accreditation speaks volumes about the DNP nursing programs at USU.

“The reviewers told us that our approach was impressive in terms of involving the faculty,” said Dr. Carol Romano, the ex officio of the Self-Study-Accreditation Committee and associate dean for Academic Affairs at the GSN. “We formed a task force of faculty so that the faculty took ownership of articulating how the program did or did not meet the standards. In the GSN shared governance model, faculty own the curriculum, and they are in the best position to evaluate it against the national standards.”

Carol Ledbetter, an expert panel member at the American Academy of Nursing and a past chairman on the Board of Commissioners for



Photo by Thomas Ralfour

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree at the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing received the maximum allowable accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

the CCNE, was brought onboard to mentor USU through the arduous accreditation process.

“When I met with the faculty, they were completely engaged,” said Ledbetter. “I think that’s one of the reasons they really did so well. They were able to tell the story of what’s going on now at the GSN and what they are aspiring to do in the future. A continuous improvement process is in place and they’re very actively participating in that part of the accreditation process.”

Accreditation by CCNE is a voluntary, self-regulatory process that ensures the integrity of more than 1,000 programs across the

U.S.

“Accreditation is a non-governmental process and it is conducted by members from post-secondary institutions and professional groups,” said Ledbetter. “This is the top level of peer review for a graduate school of nursing and for the programs they offer.”

Overall, the hard work that went into the accreditation paid off.

“They (the GSN) did everything just absolutely by the book,” said Ledbetter. “They really worked together under their model of self-governance to really bring their self-study and the on-site visit to fruition and did a beautiful job.”

What do you want to read about? Pulse staff members are always looking for suggestions. Submit your story ideas to Christine.Creenan-Jones@usuhs.edu.

New Junior, Senior Employees of the Quarter Selected

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Nikki Shird-Oyola and Erin Quiko were selected as the Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter at the Uniformed Services University, respectively. Both were commended for their outstanding work performance across multiple domains.

For Shird-Oyola, a travel assistant in the university's Administrative Support Division, this includes processing overseas clearances, disseminating mass transit subsidy information and handling all passport and visa requirements for official USU travel. Recently, her efficiency and expertise even contributed to USU passing a Passport Acceptance Facility Inspection by the U.S. State Department, thus allowing necessary, mission-essential travel to continue without interruption or hindrance.

"Ms. Shird-Oyola is conscientious about the quality of services she provides to customers. It is not unusual to find her working diligently at her desk to finish a project or to catch up on a backlog. When asked to perform a last minute task, she does so without delay or hesitation," said Karen Moore, director of ASD, in her nomination letter.

Quiko, a program support specialist in the USU Department of Medicine, received similar praise from Dr. Louis Pangaro, chair of the Department of Medicine at USU.

In his nomination letter, Pangaro lauded Quiko's ability to coordinate clinical clerkship experiences at Naval Medical Center San Diego. As part of this work, Quiko facilitates essential curricular and faculty activities with USU's non-billeted, national



Nikki Shird-Oyola



Erin Quiko

faculty and support staff at NMCSD. Her thoroughness and ability to multitask benefits several clinical departments and more than 200 medical students each year.

"Mrs. Quiko's work ethic serves as a role model for the department, and her tireless assistance given to students is an embodiment of the core departmental and university mission. Her efforts are an integral part of delivering a consistently high-quality curriculum and are critical to the successful clinical clerkship programs at NMCSD. Just as importantly, she demonstrates a genuine concern for the well-being of USU students, and strives to ensure their needs are being met, whether academic or personal," said Pangaro.

As part of their awards packages, Shird-Oyola and Quiko will receive a cash award and reserved parking for the duration of the award quarter.

Back to School Trivia Question #1

Name three occasions where medical students at the Uniformed Services University recite the Hippocratic Oath.

The first person to e-mail their correct response to Christine.Creenan-Jones@usuhs.edu wins a large coffee and doughnut courtesy of the USU Cafeteria.



USU curriculum changes spur MDL renovations

by MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer

The Multidisciplinary Laboratories are currently undergoing renovations in support of recent curriculum changes at the Uniformed Services University.

“About three years ago, the university began its curriculum reform for students, which added more labs but not spaces, which we had to make. We did that by splitting the existing rooms into quadrants,” said MDL Director Willie Allen.

Once the renovations are complete, small groups instruction can take place in a laboratory quadrant, thereby freeing up the remaining space for other educational activities. This will give university faculty the flexibility to host multiple classes simultaneously in spaces that have sound-proof dividers and new projector screens, computers



Photo by MC2 Brittney Cannady

The Multidisciplinary Laboratories are undergoing renovations to meet the changing academic needs at the Uniformed Services University.

and flat screen monitors.

“When we first started, we had to make sure that as much of the lab could be used as possible. What we envisioned for the rooms was for them to be used for small groups in a divided mode, which

will allow teaching to be done without the use of the entire room,” said Allen.

All major MDL projects are expected to be completed before the end of the year.

Archives brings USU history to life with new showcase

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

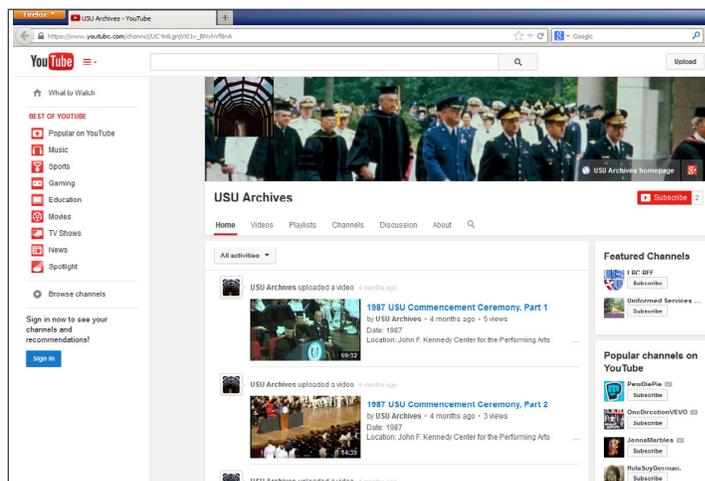
A new exhibit called the “USU Archives Audiovisual Showcase” is currently on display at the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center.

The showcase includes digitized audiovisual footage from past commencements, early recruitment videos, Congressional hearings about USU and other historically significant events.

These artifacts were chosen because they represent important milestones in the university’s heritage while also providing a retrospective look at campus life.

“We hope visitors will get a glimpse of the history of USU through audiovisual materials in a way they can’t through just paper or photographic documentation. It will be a thrill for visitors to actually see pivotal moments of the university’s history in action,” said Emelie Rubin, an institutional archivist at the LRC.

The “USU Archives Audiovisual Showcase” can



The Learning Resource Center at the Uniformed Services University is showcasing a new exhibit that can also be viewed on YouTube.

also be viewed online at www.youtube.com/channel/UC4mLgVX1v_BNvhVf8nA.

Final Frame



Photo by MGS Laura Bailey

Incoming medical students at the Uniformed Services University were fitted for helmets as part of their inprocessing, Aug. 6.

